



San Diego and Phoenix meeting of Choctaws

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BISKINIK P.O. Box 1210 Durant OK 74702 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD AUTO U.S. POSTAGE PAID **CHOCTAW NATION** 

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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

March 2013 Issue



# Trail of **Tears Walk** to be held in Spiro

The Choctaw T-shirt Nation will be order honoring ancesform tors who made on the long journey **Page** from Mississippi with a commemorative Trail

of Tears Walk on Saturday, May 18, at Spiro. An opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the historic Skullyville Cemetery and the approximately 3.5-mile walk will end at the Choctaw Community Center at 19400 Aes Road off Highway 9 in Spiro.

Please park at the community center where buses will be available to transport participants to the cemetery. Drivers will begin taking passengers at 9 a.m. Lunch will also be shared with everyone following the walk. The Choctaw Nation invites everyone to join in on this special day.

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#### **The Mission** of the Choctaw **Nation of Oklahoma**

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

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



Partnership to benefit

# **Native** veterans

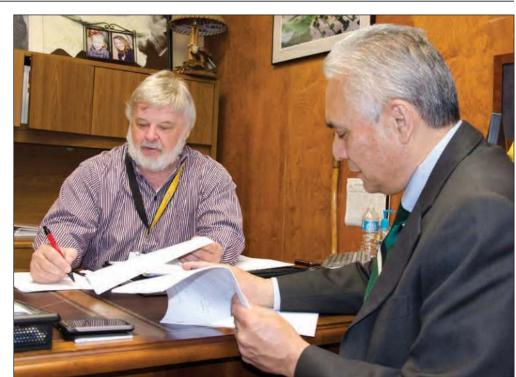
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Department of Veterans Affairs enter Reimbursement Agreement

American Indian veterans will soon have increased access to health care services closer to home following a recent Choctaw Nation and Department of Veterans Affairs joint agreement.

"Native Americans have served in the military at a proportionately high rate compared to other groups," said Chief Greg Pyle. "The Choctaw Nation is committed to improving access to care for our Native veterans, as earned by their service to our country."

As a result of the agreement entered on March 1, the VA is now able to reimburse the Choctaw Nation for direct care services provided to eligible American Indian veterans seen at Choctaw health centers and at its hospital. VA co-payments do not apply to direct care services provided by the Nation to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans under this agreement.

"The Choctaw Nation and the VA have worked for many months to come to an equitable agreement that would ensure access to quality health care would be made available to our veterans living in our communities,



Choctaw Nation Health Services Executive Director Mickey Peercy, left, and James Floyd, medical center director of the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee, sign a historic agreement on March 1 that allows for improved access to medical treatment for eligible Native American veterans.

particularly in rural areas," said Mickey Peercy, Choctaw Nation Health Services executive director.

This agreement implements a critical provision in the recently reauthorized Indian Health Care Improvement Act, passed as part of the Affordable Care Act, allowing this partnership for reimbursement.

Perspective on the issue...

Native American veterans are more likely to lack health insurance and to have a disability, service connected or otherwise, than veterans of other races, according to a 2012 VA special report.

# YAB leading the way

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

It is an ongoing effort, supporting and encouraging the youth of a society, to rise from childhood and become productive members and leaders within their communities. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Program is an invaluable asset in that ongoing quest from adolescence to adulthood.

"I've learned a lot about leadership," says Alice Stephens, a junior at Howe High School and four-year member of YAB. She, along with hundreds of junior high and high school students across the Choctaw Nation, has access to a program that can utilize current leadership talents as well as encourage and facilitate the development of new skills.

"Our goal for YAB'sters is to help them find the leader in themselves, reach their full potential and teach them how important it is to be a servant leader," states Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment Director Martina Hawkins.

This goal is reached by hosting community outreach events such as fun runs and coat drives, as well as working with national charities and non-profits such as Salvation Army and Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT). The students are placed in roles in which they can lead such events to success, all while under the guidance of Choctaw Nation outreach specialists.

Through the YAB program, communities across the Choctaw Nation are benefiting from the efforts of the motivated youth. From elementary students learning that violence in not the answer with project Falvmmichi, to the environment seeing improvements through recycling efforts, the YAB program has made a positive impact on communities throughout Choctaw Nation.

The true merit found in YAB is not only the benefit the community receives from the work of the youth, but also the advantages the youth receive from their work with each other.

"It brought me out of my comfort zone," states Alice, who says she use to be shy, but has since learn to be outgoing and involved. Alice is the secretary of her YAB chapter, and as such has acquired the duty of keeping the chapter organized. She keeps the minutes at monthly meetings, plans dates from various events and attends meetings outside her chapter, including Choctaw Nation's Tribal Council meeting.

Alice is particularly proud of her contribution to the Pink Zone project, where her YAB group cooperated with Howe and Cameron schools to host a breast cancer awareness fundraiser. As secretary, she took responsibility for accumulating T-shirt orders from students, fans and athletes, and assuring the merchandise was ordered in the correct amount.

Her time in YAB began in the eighth grade, when both her big brother and her YAB sponsor, Shonnie Hall, encouraged her to jump into the action. She was reluctant in the beginning, but after participating in her first event, a Halloween trail of treats, she was hooked.

She has grown to be a source of encouragement and a social butterfly during her time in YAB. "She is very much an uplifter," Shonnie states, speaking highly of Alice's



Morgan Moffit and other YAB members make sure the seniors stay safe and hydrated during a senior citizen walk-a-thon.

ability to make everyone feel included and encourage new members to be active.

Though only her senior year remains as a YAB student, Alice plans to continue her service to YAB after graduation, helping in any way she can. "I don't want it all to stop," she exclaimes. "When I think of YAB, I think of happy memories and fun," she continues.

One such memory she holds in high regard is the annual YAB retreat in Grapevine, Texas. "It was hands on... a really great time for all of us," says Alice.

Attending the same conference was four-year YAB member and Stigler High School senior, Jana Fagg, who also remembers the event well, speaking of how she enjoyed meeting YAB students from many places.

Just like Alice, Jana has been active in many YAB events, hosting a senior citizens dance and working hard with the Falvmmichi program. In the Falvmmichi program, she works with second-graders teaching them about non-violent ways to deal with conflict. "They get really excited," she says as she tells of how the children enjoyed the visits from the YAB students.

Jana is also the secretary of her YAB chapter and is known as someone on which the group can depend. "I try to volunteer at everything I can," mentiones Jana, expressing how she is always sure to keep things running smoothly, ensuring that if something needs done, there is someone to do it or she is there to complete the task

Jana made note of how much YAB has got her involved with her peers and community, stating before YAB she did

See YAB, Page 8

# **Tribal Council** meets in regular February session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on Feb. 9 in Tvshka Homma. Council members voted to:

• Approve application for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance Program

• Approve application for the Native American Basic Grant

 Approve application for the Coordinated Tribal assistance Solicitation Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning.

 Approved application for the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment (Cycle III) Grant

• Approved application for the Native Youth and Culture Fund

 Approve application for the Senior Farmers' Market **Nutrition Program** 

 Approve application for the Demonstration grants for the Indian Children **Program** 

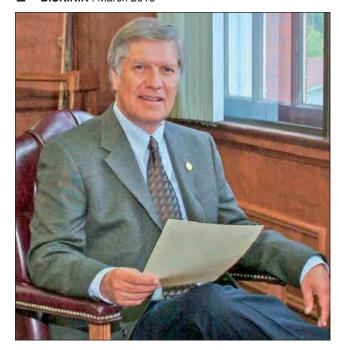
 Approve application and proposed acquisition and Holding of Title to Parcel in Trust by the United States for the Benefit of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Antlers, Heavener and Mc-**Curtain County)** 

· Approve funds and budget for Assets for Independence Grant Program (CAB2)

 Approve the articles of incorporation and by-laws of Choctaw Defense Services

 Approve the Choctaw Defense Services Inc. to authorize the submission of an application for certification as an SBA 8(a) Business Development Program participant

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



# Making investments in our people

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Choctaw Nation continues to grow with pride, hope and success. The most important growth is shown by the investment we are making in our #1 resource - our people.

We want to continue to create employment opportunities for as many tribal members as possible. Some of these opportunities are through business development and expansions at Choctaw Nation, and some opportunities are career growths made possible through education and vocational training programs.

The many education services offered by the Choctaw Nation provide citizens of the tribe with tools for success.

Head Start classes, higher education scholarships, and career development certifications are just a few of the ways we are investing in the future of tribal citizens.

Heritage and culture of the Choctaw Nation are of optimal

importance. With the help of the School of Choctaw Language, we are making sure tribal staff are all learning some basic words in our Native tongue. On a regular basis, the school issues a "word of the day" with an audio link so we can hear the word or phrase as well as see the written word. Choctaw words are available on choctawnation.com!

The next time you call into the headquarters or visit one of our offices, expect to be greeted with "Halito!"

Pride in heritage is obvious when I see several generations teaching each other the art of basket weaving, pottery and beadwork. A recent public cultural awareness meeting had rapt attention for storytelling and Choctaw dance. Stickball games have had a tremendous comeback in recent years. People are participating in events at cultural meetings in record numbers, wearing their traditional dress. I am thankful to see people of all ages proudly proclaiming their Choctaw heritage!

Our Nation now is over 200,000 Choctaws strong, and our future looks bright! Chahta Sia Hoke!

# The life and power of the Gospel

Easter is the commemoration of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

My favorite Choctaw Hymn on Easter is Choctaw Hymn No. 47. It is entitled, "Christ Bled for Me." This hymn describes the Gospel. I translate only the first verse of three verses: "Jesus, my Savior Who gives life, was nailed to the Cross, He suffered as He hung there, He shed His Blood, He died in my place."

This Hymn is precious for those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin.

The Bible is a Book of Blood. We soon learn that as we read the Bible. And it is only the Blood that gives life to our teaching and power to the Word of God. The Blood is the life and power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News described in Paul's letter in First Corinthians 15:1-4.

The Bible claims for itself it is a "Living" Book, and the only living Book in the world, and is able to give life to those who will believe with their hearts what it teaches. We read in Hebrews 4:12:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The word translated from the Greek word "quick" in this verse, is "living" or "alive." The Word of God is a Living Word, wholly distinct from all other books for just one reason, that is, it contains blood circulating through every page and in every verse. Without the blood in the Bible it would be like any other book, for the Bible plainly teaches that the life is in the Blood. This truth is given to us in Leviticus

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

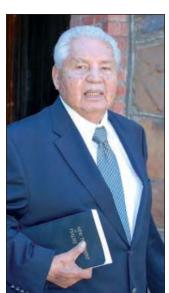
Life, God said, is in the blood of the flesh, so that there can be no life without the blood. No man ever dies until his blood stops circulating.

All this is true of a physical body and it points to a greater spiritual truth. The Church of Jesus Christ is called His body, and born again believers "are members of His body" and members one of another.

In this body Jesus Christ is the head and all believers are the members. These members are related by the blood of Jesus Christ. The life of each member depends on His blood and is dependent for life, nourishment, cleansing and growth upon the blood of the Lamb of God for "the Life is in the Blood." These members may be separated in the body like the hands and feet.

So it is with the body of Christ the Church. They may differ in other ways but all who have trusted Jesus Christ, the head of the body, are brothers by blood – the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Chaplain's Corner



REV. BERTRAM BOBB Tribal Chaplain

When Adam ate of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, he sinned, he died. He died spiritually and eventually he died physically. Since life is in the blood, when man sinned, something happened to the blood. Sin affected the blood of

For this reason sin is not in the flesh, but in the blood. And flesh can only be called "sinful flesh" because it is nourished and fed and sustained by sinful blood. And sin is transmitted through the blood to all of Adam's descendants. "For in that one sinned all have sinned."

You remember how Adam and
Eve after their sin had tried to make
fig leaf aprons to cover their shame.
That is the history of man, instead
of realizing that sin needs not
covering but to be taken away, man
has ever after been trying to save
himself by the work of his own
hands

Adam and Eve failed and man will always fail when they try to save themselves by the work of their own hands. After Adam and Eve's sin and failure to cover their sin by

their own works God came to them and we read in Genesis 3:21: "Unto Adam also and unto his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

In this first record of sacrifice, we have the whole story of the blood. Notice three things about this act of God which was a preview of His Plan of Salva-

First, it must be God's work and not man's. God made the coat of skins. Salvation must be all of the Lord

Second, salvation must be by death of an innocent substitute. Since these coats were made of skins an animal had to die to provide the covering a substitute.

Third, it must be the shedding of blood, for the animal must be killed to give its skin and in this sacrifice the blood must be shed. Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

The teaching of blood shed in this first sacrifice runs like a scarlet line all through the Bible. Today we see on the Cross God's perfect Lamb of which all the other lambs sacrificed were a picture and a type and we see the One who met the three conditions of the Father.

Have you seen the uselessness of saving yourself by your own efforts, your own good works?

In closing, I ask, "Have you been washed in the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ?" Repent means to turn around, change your mind and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You can pray, "Lord, I realize I am a sinner. I trust Jesus Christ as my Savior." Will you do that?

Thank you for your prayers. Pray for our Nations and for its leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in our Armed Forces.

# Growth in tribe leads to economic success

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Commerce development projects are vital to the Choctaw Nation for many reasons. Businesses provide jobs, and also provide revenue to fund services for citizens. Successful economic development ventures of the Choctaw Nation, such as the gaming operations, travel plazas, print services, manufacturing, global staffing contract services and shopping center, also provide revenue that helps construct new facilities. Growth you will see in the

Growth you will see in the near future includes several new wellness centers in districts across the tribal boundaries, to help with the goal of a healthier lifestyle for our citizens. Plans are also on tap for additional Independent Elderly Homes to alleviate the need to housing for our senior citizens. They are living longer, healthier lives, and we want them to be in an affordable, nice home they can enjoy.

The Choctaw Nation leadership is



working hard to ensure continuation of services to Choctaw people regardless of the federal sequestration. Being self-reliant through business revenue is vital to continue meeting the needs of citizens of the Choctaw Nation. The leaders of our tribe take honor in being fiscally responsible for this generation and generations to come. We have an ongoing hope that our tribe will continue to grow and prosper. We are growing with pride, hope and success!

# Salt pork and the pursuit of sweet tea

Vonna Shults Guest Columnist

Bacon. Bacon is everywhere. We see bacon on our breakfast plates, on our cheeseburger at lunch, wrapped around a filet mignon for dinner, and we may enjoy bacon-flavored ice cream for dessert. Folks love the flavor of bacon, have their

preference for the wood used to smoke it, and have a favorite brand.

Chahta people love to gather together with friends and family to socialize with each other and more often than not, food is shared. One of the most popular Choctaw foods can easily be described as "bacon on steroids" and we call it salt pork.

My first experience with salt pork came many years ago in the heart of Jayhawk country in Lawrence, Kan. I had traveled there with a group of fellow Choctaw Nation employees to attend a community meeting with nearby Choctaw families.

While we were there, a local Choctaw group invited us to eat a traditional meal at their church. I was so excited because I never had the pleasure of enjoying a traditional Choctaw dinner before.

As I watched them prepare the food, I noticed one gentleman carefully watching over a Dutch oven and ever so often he would very carefully remove some sort of fried food. I was not close enough to tell exactly what he was preparing, so I assumed by the size of the portion and the hot grease that he was preparing fried catfish for all of us to enjoy. I love to eat catfish, as most Oklahomans do, and I was thrilled to enjoy one of my favorite foods for dinner.

Finally, we were called over to eat. We were instructed to go through the line to fix ourselves a plate. I stacked plenty of this "catfish" on my plate.

As I took the first bite, I noticed right away that it was very salty and tasted a lot like bacon! I made the comment to my co-worker about how my "catfish" tasted and she immediately burst into laughter at my ignorance. She quickly let me know that I was not eating catfish, but salt pork.

I felt like a fool, but I was a happy fool because in my mistake I had gotten plenty of this delicious creation for myself. I ate and savored every

After our dinner, we then greeted all of the guests that had traveled to come

to re m or p w or th

to the meeting. My responsibility at the meeting was to take photos of anyone who wanted a photo with Chief Pyle. We would then print the photo out for you to take home that evening.

It was at the beginning

of the photo session when I realized my mistake in eating so much salt pork – it makes you very thirsty.

Desperately, I searched to see if I had any sweet tea left to drink. It was empty. I then searched to see if my co-worker had any tea remaining. Her glass was also empty. At this point I am desperate. My thirst had made my mouth feel as dry as C-3PO's joints as he crossed the Tatooine desert.

I wondered why my fellow co-workers had not warned me as they sat next to me at dinner about the perils of eating too much salt pork. I made a mental note to question them thoroughly, but right now finding something to drink was my number one priority.

I turned to check on my waiting guests, the thirsty part of me hoping for a small line of people who were willing to wait their turn with Chief. No such luck, the line is out the door of the church.

Finally, the last photo is taken and printed. I sprint from the sanctuary of the church and used their kitchen faucet as a drinking fountain. Never has there been a time that tap water tasted as good as what I was drinking directly from the faucet, using my hand as a cup. Did I even bother to wash my hands? I do not know, nor did I care.

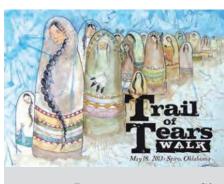
As I was leaving the meeting, I felt much better. As we walked out of the church, I thanked the elders for the meal they had worked so hard to provide for us and told them next time I would only eat two small slices of salt pork.

I told them what had happened to me earlier and how much salt pork I had eaten. They were very gracious and did their best not to laugh out loud at me. We then bid each other "chi pisa la chike."

I knew after that evening that salt pork, in small portions, was a very delicious addition to a meal. It is a true delicacy of the Chahta people. Only now I needed to learn how to

prepare it for my family...

Watch the Biskinik for Vonna Shults' next column on how to cook salt pork.



## Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt Order Form

2013 T-shirts are blue.
Sizes available are:
Children – (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) and (14-16)
Adults – Small, Medium, Large,
X-Large, 2X, and 3X

May IS	2013 Spiro, Oklahoma	A Largo, LA, and OA					
Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price				
T-shirt – \$10 ea.							
7 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2							
Cap – \$10 ea.							
Name							
Address							
City/State/Zip							
Phone Number							
E-Mail							
Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and 3X sizes. To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:							

Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt

P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210

# **NOTES** TO THE NATION

#### **Choctaw Nation Health Services** has high level of professional care

I was recently in the care of Choctaw Nation Health Services. The level of professional care and attention I received was well beyond my expectations and far exceeded my prior experiences elsewhere. From the director to the driver, everyone made me feel as though my every need really mattered to them, and it certainly assured me each day. I want to convey my sincere gratitude to all of the wonderful and kind staff who helped me recover. I will always be grateful for the many healing hands that touched my heart and body. With deep appreciation and my warmest regards to all of you.

**Gena Tyner-Dawson** 

#### Career Development contributes to community, citizens

I would like to take the time to express my appreciation to the Choctaw Nation and especially the Choctaw Career Development for their contribution to their community and its citizens. I am an educator new to the southeastern part of our state and was recently afforded the opportunity to work in conjunction with the Choctaw Nation and Choctaw Nation Career Development Counselor, Renee Cox, in providing continuing education courses at the Kiamichi Career Technology facility in Talihina. I was tremendously impressed with the Choctaw Nation's willingness to provide courses for its tribal members and employees and to even open the doors to these classes to their fellow citizens in the small communities that reside side by side with the Choctaw Nation. I am appreciative and feel fortunate to be working with an organization that is dedicated to this type of collaboration for the community.

**Carrie Kirkes** 

#### Member address updates needed

With the 2013 Choctaw Nation Tribal elections quickly approaching all members need to ensure the Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership office has a current address on file. If you need to update your address, please complete a new Tribal Membership/Voter Registration application. Also, if you have reached age 18 and do not yet have an adult membership card you will need to complete the application for one. These applications can be obtained online at www.choctawnation. com or through the Tribal Membership office at 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280.

## **Arrowhead Pow Wow**

April 20 • McAlester Expo Hwy. 270 West of McAlester

Gourd Dancing: 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Grand Entry: 6:30 p.m.

Honor dance for Choctaw Nation District 11Councilman Bob Pate

> Choctaw Nation Color Guard Emcee: Archie Mason

Head Singer: Michael Whitecloud - Cheyenne Arapaho/Choctaw Head Man: Michael Roberts - Choctaw/Chickasaw Head Lady: Evelyn Kasworm - Southern Cheyenne Head Gourd: Ira Kaulay Jr. - Kiowa Arena Director: Bill Takeshorse - Crow

Adults (1	All princesses			
Fancy/Grass	\$300	\$200	\$100	welcome. Contestants'
Tradition/Straight Fancy Shawl/Jingle	\$300 \$300	\$200 \$200	\$100 \$100	registration
Buckskin/Cloth	\$300	\$200	\$100	closes at 6 p.m. Contestants <i>must</i>
Junio	be in Grand Entry.			
Fancy/Grass	\$75	\$50	\$25	Craft booths: \$35/
Tradition/Straight	\$75	\$50	\$25	table space and do-
Fancy Shawl/Jingle	\$75	\$50	\$25	nation of craft item.
Buckskin/Cloth	\$75	\$50	\$25	McAlester Expo
Tiny Tots (	will have the only concession.			

Contact information: Dena Cantrell 918-423-1016 or 918-421-0368

Gregory E. Pyle

Chief

Gary Batton Assistant Chief

No drugs or

alcohol allowed.

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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.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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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° 2013

#### Chahta class held in Tulsa

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

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

#### Tishomingo gospel singing

The 34th annual gospel singing at the Tishomingo Community Center, located across from the Indian clinic, will be held at 7 p.m. on March 23. All singers and listeners are welcome to attend. Due to limited seating, please bring your lawn chairs. Concession will be available.

#### Outreach to hold Idabel community event

Choctaw Nation's Outreach Services are holding a community event 5-7 p.m. on March 19 at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel. Information will be available on Outreach Services and other Choctaw Nation programs. There will also be an Easter egg hunt for youth ages 0-4, 5-8 and 9-12.

#### Writing workshop preserves Choctaw history

The "Writing Workshop: Historical Fiction, Preserving Choctaw Removal Stories," a workshop for Choctaw writers led by author and storyteller Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer, will be held March 23 at the Choctaw Community Center in Durant. The workshop is supported by the Artist Leadership Program of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The workshop offers participants to learn key skills in writing true stories in fiction form, while preserving their cultural and historic integrity. The workshop is open to all Choctaw writers. Attendees receive a syllabus containing research resources compiled in Washington, D.C., with sensory details to help bring settings and characters to life. Those attending the workshop will have the opportunity for publication in a special anthology of Choctaw removal stories.

Registration is free of cost, and pre-registration is required; space is limited. For questions or to register, contact Sarah Elisabeth at me@sarahelisabethwrites.com or 903-567-5024.

#### Ribbon cutting ceremony in Antlers

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. on March 26 to celebrate the opening of the new Choctaw Community Center in Antlers. The new facility is located on Southwest "O" Street across from the food warehouse.

#### Coalgate appreciation dinner scheduled

District 12, Coalgate and Crowder, will be holding an appreciation dinner for Councilman James Frazier on April 11 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Coalgate Community Center. All are welcome to attend.

#### Phase I Choctaw language class in Muskogee

Choctaw Nation language instructor Abe Frazier will be holding a Phase I Choctaw language class each Monday at 6:30 p.m., located at 1100 Eufala St. in Muskogee at the Fife Indian United Methodist Church. Those interested in learning the Choctaw language, feel free to attend.

If you have any questions concerning the class, call Frazier at 918-685-0058.

# 45th Annual Talihina Festival Pow Wow

**April 13, 2013** 

**Gateway to Talimena National Scenic Byway** 

Talihina School Gymnasium, located on Hwy 1 and 271 Schedule of Events 2 p.m. - Gourd Dance

5 p.m. - Supper 6 p.m. - Gourd Dance 7-10 p.m. - Grand Entry and Intertribal Dances Tiny Tots contest - 6 and under, sponsored by Terry Ragland

**Head Staff** MC: Vernon Tehauno (Comanche), Shawnee Head Singer: Reuben Tehauno (Comanche/Choctaw), Shawnee Head Man Dancer: Presley Byington (Choctaw), Idabel Head Lady Dancer: Shauna Bushiey (Cherokee), Joaquin, Texas Head Gourd Dancer: Dusty Billie (Seminole), Tulsa Arena Director: Bill Takes Horse (Crow), Colbert Honor Guard: Choctaw Nation Color Guard

Club Princess: Landry Danielle James Little Miss Club Princess: Haylee Brooke Himes Honoree: Harry James, veteran of World War II and Korea

All veterans are invited to be honored. · Arts and Crafts ·

• Food Concession • 50/50 •

· Raffles ·

· Cake Walk · • Door Prizes •

The public is welcome and admission is free. Bring lawn chairs. All princesses, clubs and drums are also welcome.

For information or arts and crafts booth space, contact Carol James at 918-567-2539. \$30 booth spaces plus an item donation.

Tables and chairs are not provided. We are not responsible for accidents/thefts. No firearms, drugs or alcohol are allowed.

This event is sponsored by the Talihina Indian Club with assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

#### Welcome to Choctaw Farms The Choctaw Casino & Resort offers a wide variety of delicious Choctaw Farms items in its gift shops! Experience the very best in

gourmet gift items including handcrafted jams, preserves and cheeses, all available at the Choctaw Casinos in **Durant. Pocola and Grant.** 

Now available online too! Visit choctawfarms.com

#### Stickball dates to mark!

**EVENTS** 

Team Tvshka Homma will be participating in a stickball tournament hosted by UKB-United Keetoowah Band on April 27 in Tahlequah.

Team Tvshka Homma has team practices in the Durant, Talihina and Broken Bow areas. There are currently fields in Durant, Atoka, Broken Bow, Idabel, Hugo, Wheelock, and a temporary area in Talihina for practice and games. Tvshka Homma is teaching stickball to anyone who wants to learn and players are being recruited.

Practice times are:

Talihina: every Sunday at 1 p.m. in front of CNHSA Hospital Durant: every Sunday at 2:30

Broken Bow: every Sunday at approx. 2 to 3 p.m. For more information please call Billy Eagle Road III at 580-775-3368 or 580-924-8280 ext. 2410. Really hope to see new faces in the coming months! Yakoke.

#### **CLEET Certified Human Trafficking Training**

Choctaw Nation Children & Family Services Family Violence Program is hosting a hands-on community forum for understanding the complexities of Human Trafficking. An over-view of Human Trafficking will be discussed and how it is related to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. There will also be a segment on Law Enforcement response to Human Trafficking and working with the victims.

April 16, 2013 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **CNO Community** Center, Room C1 Poteau, OK

April 18, 2013 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Choctaw Casino & Resort Durant. OK** 

There is **no charge** to attend this training and Choctaw Nation Children & Family Services will provide lunch. This training is open to the public. Space is limited and pre-enrollment is required. Please register by April 1, 2013.

The registration form and more information can be found on www.choctawnation.com or by calling 918-647-0770.

## ATTENTION **Choctaw Artists**

If you are interested in participating in a Juried and Judged Choctaw Indian Art Show, let us hear from you!

Please complete the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the show which will be in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma during the annual Labor Day Festivities. Included will be the following categories: Painting, Graphics, Cultural, Sculpture, Jewelry, Pottery, and Basketry. Please complete the form and return it to the address below. Art information packets will be mailed beginning in April.

Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		
E-Mail:		
Artistic Category	/:	

You must be at least 17 years old and have a membership card issued by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to participate.

> Please return to: **Shelley Garner** Cultural Events **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma** PO Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702-1210

For more information, call Shelley Garner at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2377.

American Indian Leadership Youth Council of Broken Bow Public Schools

### 17th Annual Spring Pow Wow April 6, 2013

McCurtain County Sports Complex - Broken Bow Schedule of Events:

11 a.m. - Stickball Game 1 p.m. - Gourd Dancing 5:30 p.m. - Supper Break 6:30 p.m. - Grand Entry

Head Staff:

Master of Ceremonies: Albert S. Old Crow of Irving, Texas Head Man Dancer: John Keel of Grant Head Lady Dancer: Shauna Bushiey of Joaquin, Texas Head Gourd Dancer: Mickey Weryackwe of Apache Arena Director: Carl Poor Buffalo of Ada Host Southern Drum: Ottertrail of Apache Host Northern Drum: Young Buffalo of Shawnee Host Color Guard: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Honorary Head Man Dancer: Kelly Anderson Honorary Head Lady Dancer: Codi Winship Jr. Honorary Head Man Dancer: Joseph Tolison Jr. Honorary Head Lady Dancer: Desiree Noah AILYC 2012-13 Sr. Princess: Codi Winship

AILYC 2012-13 Jr. Princess: April Battiest Special invitation to all princesses, drums and Indian clubs. All stickball players welcome.

Arts and crafts spaces available. Competition:

Men's - Traditional/Straight and Fancy/Grass

Ladies - Buckskin/Cloth and Fancy/Jingle Teen Boys - Traditional/Straight and Fancy/Grass Teen Girls - Buckskin/Cloth and Fancy/Jingle Jr. Boys combined and Jr. Girls combined (sponsored by A'An Parra) Tiny Tots (sponsored by Amber Tehauno) All dancers must register and participate in Grand Entry.

Special: All men's combined - \$200 and jacket, winner takes all. Sponsored by: Weryackwe family

Arts and crafts vendor information: Wenona Jones, 580-306-9625.

For more information, please contact Monica Billy at 580-584-3365 ext. 4069 or Katrina Anderson at 580-236-1280.

No political soliciting, videotaping, drugs or alcohol allowed. Security provided. AILYC has exclusive rights for video and photography.

> Host motel: Broken Bow Inn (pow wow rate) 580-584-9103

Eating right is essential to keeping your body running at its best. During National Nutrition Month®, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics reminds you to build an eating plan with your unique lifestyle and nutritional needs in mind. So whether you're a vegetarian, student, athlete, busy parent or a jet-setting executive, it's important to "Eat Right, Your Way, Every Day.'

"There's no one-size-fitsall way to eat that's right for everyone," says registered dietitian and Academy spokesperson Jim White. "In reality if the diet doesn't fit with your lifestyle and unique needs, it won't work in the long-term and can even leave you missing out on the nutrition you need to get you through the day.

"Americans have flexibility in making choices to create a healthy eating pattern that meets nutrient needs and stays within calorie limits."

White offers the following tips to eat right for your lifestyle:

#### Career –

Busy work days and business travel can lead to on-the-fly meals.

· For desktop dining, keep single-serve packages of crackers, fruit, peanut butter, low-sodium soup or canned tuna in your desk.

· Always on the go? Tuck portable, nonperishable foods in a purse, briefcase or backpack for a meal on the run. Try granola bars, peanut butter and crackers, fresh fruit, trail mix or singleserve packages of wholegrain cereal or crackers.

#### Athlete –

Whether you are a competitive athlete or just enjoy working out, what you eat will affect your performance.

• Your body needs fuel to function, so eat a light breakfast or snack before you exercise. Try low-fat yogurt, graham crackers with peanut butter, a banana or cereal with low-fat milk.

• Before, during and after exercise, replace fluids with plenty of water or a sports drink, if you prefer.

#### Student –

The student lifestyle can be fast-paced and lowbudget. Students can eat right on a budget with some savvy food shopping tips. Stock smart snacks that combine protein and carbohydrates to fuel you like:

 Apples with peanut butter, carrots and hummus, hardboiled eggs and fruit, banana and yogurt, almonds with low-fat cheese or whole-grain cereal. These also double as a quick graband-go breakfast to wake up your brain and muscles for the day's activities.

• At the cafeteria, salad bars are a great choice, just go easy on the cheese, bacon, creamy dressings and other high-calorie add-ons. Follow the MyPlate guidelines and make half your plate fruits and vegetables.

#### Families –

Caring for family, whether children, elderly parents or both, can be a handful. However, family meals allow parents to be role models to promote healthy eating. And, just because a meal is made quickly doesn't mean it can't be nutritious.

 Keep things simple. Build a collection of recipes for quick and easy family favorites. Choose ingredients that you can use from more than one meal. For example, cook extra grilled chicken for chicken salad or fajitas the next day.

• Ask for help. Get the kids involved making a salad, setting the table or other simple tasks.

#### Vegetarian –

A vegetarian diet can include just as many tasty varieties of foods as one including meat. For example, nutrientrich beans are recommended for everyone. Enjoy vegetarian chili, a hummus-filled pita sandwich or veggie burger. Many popular items are or can be vegetarian pasta primavera, veggie pizza and tofu-vegetable stir-fry.

"Whatever your lifestyle, set yourself up for success by working with a registered dietitian to develop a personalized eating plan that fits your unique nutritional needs and tastes," says White.

As part of this public education campaign, the Academy's National Nutrition Month website includes a variety of helpful tips, games, promotional tools and nutrition education resources, all designed to spread the message of good nutrition around the "Eat Right, Your

Way, Every Day" theme. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research,

education and advocacy. Visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at www.eatright.org for more information.

Early Steps to Literacy instructor Chantay Lundry helps youth begin reading at an early age.

# **Early Steps to Literacy Program begins sixth year**

Director of Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program Marilyn Williams would like to announce the Early Steps to Literacy Program started its sixth year in February. This is a free education reading program to families with children under the age of six years, living in Choctaw or McCurtain counties, and who are currently receiving assistance from the Child Care Assistance Program.

The program's objective is to enhance early learning and school readiness skills using a home visiting program with no cost to parents. Early Steps to Literacy instructors will come to your home, read a book and do a fun activity related to the book with you and your child. They will spend an average of 30 minutes in your home each week. After reading the book, the instructor will leave the book and activity for you to continue reading during the week. These free books will help your child build their own home library.

Instructors include Misty Dill in Choctaw County, with Donna Meeks, Chantay Lundry and Rhonda Vaught in Mc-Curtain County. If you are interested in the program for your child, please call Early Steps to Learn Coordinator Rhonda Vaught at 580-775-3869 to see if your child is eligible.

#### Recipe of the Month

#### **Spicy Orange Chicken**

Recipe provided by Better Homes and Gardens

#### Ingredients:

- 2 oranges
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 10 oz packages of baby spinach
- 1 tablespoon reducedsodium soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon grated
- fresh ginger • ½ teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/8 to ½ crushed red pepper
- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast strips
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper

• 3 cloves garlic, minced Directions: Remove peel and white membrane from 1 of the oranges. Section orange;

set aside. Squeeze enough juice from the remaining orange to measure 1/3 cup; set aside. In a four-quart Dutch oven, heat 1 teaspoon of the oil over medium heat. Add spinach; cover and cook for 4-5 minutes or just until slightly wilted, stirring occasionally. Drain and transfer to serving dishes or a serving platter. Cover and keep warm. Meanwhile, in

a small bowl, combine the 1/3 cup orange juice, the soy sauce, honey, ginger, cornstarch, and crushed red pepper. Set aside. Sprinkle chicken with salt and black pepper. Wipe out Dutch oven with a paper towel. In Dutch oven, heat the remaining 2 teaspoons oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic; cook and stir for 30 seconds. Add chicken; cook and stir for 2-3 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Stir orange juice mixture; add to chicken in Dutch oven. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir for 1 minute more. To serve, arrange orange sections on top of spinach. Spoon chicken mixture over oranges and spinach. Makes 4 servings. **Nutrition Facts:** 

Per serving: Calories -207, Total fat - 6g, Sat. fat - 1g, Cholesterol - 66mg, Sodium - 52 lmg, Carb. - 8g, Fiber - 13g, Protein - 31g

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

# **Nursery News**

#### **Emma and Gracie Sullivan**

Emma C. and Gracie M. Sullivan, born on June 21, 2012, are the daughters of Amber Sullivan of Wilburton, and granddaughters of Gary and Michele Vermillion and Alonzo and O'Kelley McKenzie.



#### Casen Harvey

Casen and Crystal Lee Harvey proudly announce the birth of their son, Casen Walker Harvey, who was born on Dec. 26, 2012, in Arlington, Texas. He is the grandson of Clint and Tracey Harvey of Mansfield, Texas; the great-grandson of Don and Sandi Dillard of Mansfield, the third great-grandson of the late



Rice Sumner and Gladys Dillard of Oklahoma, and the fourth great-grandson of the late Tandy Walker and Virginia Dillard of Oklahoma. He is also the little brother of Alyssa and nephew of Cassidy.

#### **Kyler Bouher**

Kyler Kaeden Bouher was born Nov. 10, 2012, in Fort Worth, Texas. He weighed in at 8 pounds 3 ounces, and measured 21 inches long. He was welcomed by his parents, Jeremy and Bonnie Bouher; grandparents Mark and Sherry Bouher, and Paul and Patty Delaughter; uncle Tye Bouher; and great-grandparents Josephine Stewart with the late Wendell Stewart.



#### **Gabriel Ferguson**

Gabriel D. Ferguson was born on Dec. 30, 2012, in San Diego, Calif., to Jonathan and Diane Ferguson. He weighed 9 pounds 7 ounces and measured 21.25 inches long. Paternal grandparents are David and Helena of Ohio, and maternal grandparents are Esperanza and John of California. Gunnery Sgt



Ferguson (USMC) is the grandson of the late Minnie Voyles of Talihina. Uncles are Vincent Ferguson of Pennsylvania and David Meadows of Minnesota. Gabriel was also welcomed by his first cousin, Anna Ferguson of Pennsylvania and numerous extended family members.

#### **Michael Brooks**

Lyn Thomas and Janie Brooks of Randlett are excited to announce the birth of their first baby, Michael Lyn Brooks. Michael arrived on Feb. 1, 2013; he weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches in length. Proud grandparents are Mike and Peggy Brooks of Randlett, Lois and Gary Bartz of Perry-



ton, Texas, Louis Hutchinson of Iowa Park, Texas, and the late Georgia Gallaher; proud great-grandparents are George and Gennive Gallaher of Duncan, and Donna Barlow of Amarillo,

# Snack tips for parents

10 easy ways to help kids snack better

Snacks can help children get the nutrients needed to grow and maintain a healthy weight. Prepare single-serving snacks

AND CHILDREN

for younger children to help them get just enough to satisfy

their hunger. Let older kids make their own snacks by keeping healthy foods in the kitchen. Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov to help you and your kids select a satisfying snack.

## Save time by slicing veggies

Store sliced vegetables in the refrigerator and serve with dips like hummus or low-fat dressing. Top half a whole-wheat English muffin with spaghetti sauce, chopped vegetables, and low-fat shredded mozzarella and melt in the microwave.

Mix it up

For older school-age kids, mix dried fruit, unsalted nuts, and popcorn in a snack-size bag for a quick trail mix. Blend plain fat-free or low-fat yogurt with 100% fruit juice and frozen peaches for a tasty smoothie.

Grab a glass of milk 3. A cup of low-fat or fat-free milk or milk alternative (soy milk) is an easy way to drink a healthy snack.

Go for great whole grains Offer whole-wheat breads, popcorn, and whole-oat

cereals that are high in fiber and low in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Limit refined-grain products such as snack bars, cakes, and sweetened cereals. Nibble on lean protein

Choose lean protein foods such as low-sodium deli meats, unsalted nuts, or eggs. Wrap sliced, low-sodium deli turkey or ham around an apple wedge. Store unsalted nuts in the pantry or peeled, hard-cooked (boiled) eggs in the refrigerator for kids to enjoy any time.

Keep an eye on the size

Snacks shouldn't replace a meal, so look for ways to help your kids understand how much is enough. Store snack-size bags in the cupboard and use them to control serving sizes.

Fruits are quick and easy

Fresh, frozen, dried, or canned fruits can be easy "grab-and-go" options that need little preparation. Offer whole fruit and limit the amount of 100% juice served.

Consider convenience

A single-serving container of low-fat or fat-free yogurt or individually wrapped string cheese can be just enough for an after-school snack.

Swap out the sugar

Keep healthier foods handy so kids avoid cookies, pastries, or candies between meals. Add seltzer water to a cup of 100% fruit juice instead of offering soda. Prepare homemade goodies

or raisins and reduce the amount of sugar. Adjust

For homemade sweets, add dried fruits like apricots recipes that include fats like butter or shortening by using unsweetened applesauce or prune puree for half the amount of fat.

# **Choctaw Nation WIC**



(918-465-5641)

### WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN

10.70(2.00)		
SITE	<b>HOURS</b>	<u>DAYS</u>
Antlers (580-298-3161)	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka (580-889-5825)	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Bethel (580-241-5458)	8:30-4:00	1st Tuesday
Boswell (580-380-5264)	8:30-4:00	Every Friday
Broken Bow (580-584-2746)	8:00-4:30	Daily, except 1st Tues. & 2nd Thurs.
Coalgate (580-927-3641)	8:00-4:30	Every Wednesday
Durant (580-924-8280 x 2257)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo (580-326-5404)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Idabel (580-286-2510)	8:00-4:30	Mon., Thurs. & Fri.
McAlester (918-423-6335)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Poteau (918-647-4585)	8:00-4:30	Daily
Smithville (580-244-3289)	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro (918-962-3832)	8:00-4:30	Every Wed Fri.
Stigler (918-967-4211)	8:30-4:00	Every Mon Wed.
Talihina (918-567-7000 x 6792)	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.
Wilburton	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday



# FOOD DISTRIBUTION

#### **ANTLERS**

Market open weekdays April 1-24, except for: April 6: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open) April 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open) **Closed** April 27-29 for inventory

**DURANT** 

Market open weekdays April 1-24, except for: Closed April 25 for tribal holiday and 26-30 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 4 & 12, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Cooking with Carmen: April 5 &17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### **McALESTER**

Market open weekdays April 1-24, except for: Closed April 25 for tribal holiday and 26-30 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 1 & 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

#### **POTEAU**

Market open weekdays April 1-24, except for: Closed April 25 for tribal holiday and 26-30 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 8 & 15, 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

Smithville: Choctaw Community Center

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES Bethel: Choctaw Community Building Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center Idabel: Choctaw Community Center

Stigler: Choctaw Community Center In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Pierce celebrates 30 years as Choctaw Nation employee

For Choctaw Nation Purchasing Director Donna Pierce, celebrating her 30th anniversary of being a tribal employee on Jan. 31 was a proud moment in her career.

When Donna, who resides in Boswell, initially came to work for the Choctaw Nation, she began as an employee of the Higher Education department and from there moved to the position of secretary for the assistant chief. She has since been a part of the purchasing department for about 27 years.

As purchasing director, Donna holds several responsibilities and helps the department maintain its productivity. "I oversee 12

employees," she explained, "purchasing agents, the assistant purchasing director and shipping and receiving."

Donna said the Purchasing department plays an important role in how the Choctaw Nation functions. "Employees have a central location to place orders and they always know where their supplies are coming from," she explained.

Donna continued, saying the tribe actually saves money by utilizing the Purchasing department. The team of purchasing employees are well informed on where to get the best-quality supplies for Choctaw Nation employees at the best price. "That's



**DONNA PIERCE** 

our job, to save the programs money," said Donna.

Donna said she has the opportunity to learn something new every day, which is her favorite part of her job. "It's a different thing every day, and it's anything," she said. "You learn a lot in Purchasing that I think, in any other department, you wouldn't have the opportunity to know."

Not only does Donna have great opportunities presented to her while working for the Purchasing department, being a Choctaw Nation tribal employee has brought her much joy in her life, she said. Donna enjoys being a service to the people and being involved in community projects. "I love meeting people inside and outside of the office," she continued.

Donna also said that be-

ing able to witness how fast the Choctaw Nation has grown as a whole for the past 30 years of her employment has been a blessing.

"I feel very proud to have worked for the tribe for all of these years," said Donna. "I have a very good staff, Chief and Assistant Chief. It's always been a pleasure to get up and come to work here."

Since Donna has enjoyed her time as a tribal employee for 30 years, she said she encourages people who are interested in working for the Choctaw Nation to fulfill their wish. "There are so many areas you can get into, not just office work," she said.

"There are lots of opportunities in different areas."

Another positive aspect of her job, Donna said, are her fellow co-workers. "In all my years here, I've never met anyone with whom I couldn't work."

In her spare time outside of the office, Donna said she enjoys gardening and spending time with her grandkids.

When asked about retirement, she said she is still throwing around the idea. "I haven't made my mind up about retirement," she said, "but even if I do, I plan on staying involved with the Choctaw community centers. I won't be totally saying goodbye to the tribe."



The McAlester senior citizens have elected a new slate of officers. Pictured left to right are Treasurer Buck Durant, Secretary Mary Wilket, Vice President Eva Lanning and President Johnnie Kemp.

President Kemp has designated the first Wednesday of each month as Cultural Day. The seniors are encouraged to wear Native American dresses, shirts, moccasins, beadwork, etc. They will be learning the Choctaw language, the Lord's Prayer in sign language and see demonstrations on making Choctaw dress.

#### Happy birthday, D'shayla

D'shayla Marie Bohanan celebrated her ninth birthday on March 9 along with her cousin, Hailey Cusler. Their family would like to wish them both a happy birthday.

D'shayla's mother is also proud of her for making all A's and B's this semester.



### Happy birthday, **Nadine**

Happy Valentine's Day and happy birthday to Nadine on Feb. 16 from her children, Marilyn Taylor, Larry, Debra, Matthew, Jefferson and Sherry McDonald, who all thank God for her. Her family and friends wish her a happy birthday as well.



#### Coalgate 'royalty'

Maggie Anderson, 88, and Otis Moore, 95, were crowned queen and king for District 12 in Coalgate at their senior lunch, held on Feb.

### Happy birthday, Mason

Happy 18th birthday to Mason Moran on April 16. Mason is an excellent student and will graduate from Southmoore High School this year and enter college this fall. He enjoys golf, hiking and life. Happy birthday, from his family, grandparents, John and Donna Moran, parents, Mike and Lisa Moran, and sister, Bailey Moran.



#### Malia takes home the gold

We would like to acknowledge a small warrior in our midst. Malia Cardle competed Feb. 2 at the Sooner State Games Judo competition in Moore. She brought herself, her immediate family and her Choctaw community great honor by winning the gold medal.

At 47 pounds, she's quite the handful. She won both of her matches in 6 seconds. Malia says all the hard training

and running that her coach, two-time Olympian Patrick Burris, makes them do makes the team stronger and faster. Malia turned 7 years old on March 9. Good job, Malia!

#### Happy birthday, **Goodfellow sisters**

Happy birthday to the Goodfellow twins. Melody and Skylar Goodfellow will turn 9 years old on March 29. Their grandmothers, Dottie Goodfellow and Grandma "Bo Bo" Long, as well as their mom and dad wish them a very happy birthday.



#### Tamaka receives **Jefferson Award**

Congratulations to Tamaka Bailey, son of Dorothy Durant, who received the Jefferson Award. Tamaka is pictured with the co-founder of the award, Sam Beard, at the Jefferson Award

Ceremony, which honored those who volunteer their time and effort for their communities. Tamaka received the award for his fundraising productions for the veterans in California, his Native American productions and teaching the Choctaw language, which he also puts into his productions.

Tamaka hopes to eventually be able to bring his productions into the Choctaw Nation casinos, community centers and the Labor Day Festival for the kids. If he is able, he would like to do fundraising shows for the Choctaw Nation veterans as well.

### Tiffany and Christopher wed

Congratulations to Tiffany Elizabeth Sue Goade, daughter of Helen Elizabeth Alexander and Richard D. Goade, and Christopher Andrew Stone, who were married on Feb. 14 at the Cleveland County Courthouse. The formal ceremony is set for 1 p.m. April 20 at the historic Fort Reno Wedding Chapel in El Reno, reception to follow at same location.

#### Happy birthday, Imaiya

Imaiya Kyle'e Clark turned 1 year old on Jan. 11. She celebrated her birthday at her home in McAlester with her family. She is the youngest daughter of Bryan and Kogee Clark of McAlester. She is the maternal granddaughter of Danny Clark of Farmersville,

Texas, and Becky Hallford of McAlester. Her maternal grandparents are Joyce Kogee Noon of Wetumka and the late Louis Morgan of Okmulgee. Imaiya is Choctaw and Creek. She is the paternal great-granddaughter of Walter and Sarah Amos of McAlester and the maternal great-granddaughter of Lee Anna and Nathan Noon of Wetumka. Happy birthday, "Bum Bum," from mommy and daddy!

#### Drake turns 7

Drake Stubbs turned 7 years old on March 1. He celebrated at the family fun center in Paris, Texas, with family and friends. Drake. your family is so proud of you and you are a blessing from God.

Drake is the son of Cody and Amber Ward of Swink and Jo Stubbs of Boswell. He has a

brother, Xanden, and a sister, Dravon. Paternal grandparents are John and Rhoda Stubbs of Sunkist. Great-grandparents are John and Georgia Stubbs of Boswell and the late Clem Shawhart and Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson. Maternal grandparents are Becky Peters of Hugo and the late Terry Ward and Brenda Ward of Sawyer.

#### Cherish teaches Lord's Prayer

Cherish Wilkerson, granddaughter of Dennis and Dena Cantrell, took time out of her day to teach the McAlester Choctaw senior citizens The Lord's Prayer in sign language.

Cherish is a full-time student at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. She is the

reigning Pittsburg County Senior Princess and visits the senior center every Wednesday to teach the Lord's Prayer.

#### Teena succeeds in chili cook-off

Teena Jayne Friedel of Irving, Texas, was named the 2012 reserve champion in the one-person show category at the Terlingua International Chili Championship. Last year,



Terlingua, Texas. Teena Jayne, also known as Dream Catcher, is the 2011 international show champion and has been competing since

to participate in the international championship held in

those who qualify by winning throughout the year are invited

For more information on cooking chili for charity, visit chili.

#### Seneca turns 2

Seneca Sage Clark celebrated her second birthday on Sept. 11 at her home in McAlester with her family. She is the oldest child of Bryan and Kogee Clark. Seneca is both Choctaw and Creek. She is the paternal granddaughter of Becky Hallford of McAlester and Danny Clark of



Farmersville, Texas. She is the maternal granddaughter of Joyce Noon-Voice of Wetumka and the late William Morgan of Okmulgee. She is the paternal great-granddaughter of Walter and Sarah Amos of McAlester and the maternal great-granddaughter of the late Lee Anna and Nathan Noon of Wetumka. Her mom and dad would like to wish her the happiest of birthdays.



On Feb. 14, Justine (Anderson) Starr celebrated her 90th birthday with family in Phoenix, Ariz. Pictured are four generations of the Starr family, Justine with several of her great-grandchildren and greatgreat-grandchildren. In all, Justine has four children, eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

#### Atoka Health Fair provides services, information to tribal members



Jennifer Wagoner and Norene Crow visit with **Gary Jackson of Choctaw Nation Patient Relations** at the Atoka Health Fair on Feb. 13.



Choctaw Nation: KAREN JACOB

**Choctaw Nation community health nurse Lois** Wright takes Bob Vickey's blood pressure.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The BISKINIK is changing its policy on birthday, anniversary and education announcements. Beginning with the May 2013 BISKINIK, we will accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 13, 16, 21, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and above. Couples may send in announcements of their silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years or 60+ anniversaries. News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows. We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses. Please feel free to post all of your family's special events on the Choctaw Nation's Facebook and Twitter pages.

# 2013 Wilburton Stock Show

-Bovine-



Colby Cato of Savanna 4-H wins Market Steer Grand Champion



Christian McGowen of Colbert FFA wins Market Steer Reserve Grand Champion



Kayleigh Hilburn Walker of Quinton 4-H wins Heifer Supreme Champion and Junior Showman Champion



Christian McGowan from Colbert wins Reserve Supreme Heifer

Grand Market Steer: Colby Cato, Savanna; Reserve Grand Steer: Christian McGowan, Colbert; Bronze Medallion Steer: Haylie McGowan, Colbert; Grand Supreme Heifer: Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton; Reserve Grand Heifer: Christian McGowan, Colbert; Bronze Medallion Heifer: Kylie Powell, Porum; Junior Beef Showmanship: Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton; Senior Beef Showmanship: Haylie McGowan, Colbert;

#### Heifer, English Division

Class I: 1. Kori Burge, Eufaula; 2. Zachary Ilbery, Checotah Class II: 1. Christian McGowan, Colbert; 2. Dalton Cantrell, Checotah; 3. Kori Burge, Eufaula Class III: 1. Langston Upton, Wister; 2. Kaylan Plemmens, Battiest; 3. Lani Monks, Panama Class IV: 1. Zachary Ilbery, Checotah; 2. Colton Gentry, Konawa English Division Champ: Christian McGowan, Colbert Reserve Division Champ: Dalton Cantrell, Checotah

#### Heifer, Continental Division

Class I: 1. Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton; 2. Dylan Cantrell-Shelton, Checotah; 3. Jacy Muncy, Panola Class II: 1. Cody Bull, Panola; 2. Julianna Blake, Battiest; 3. William Edington, Red Oak Class III: 1. Haylie McGowan, Colbert; 2. Roni Martin, Wister; 3. Samantha Pearce, Porum Class IV: 1. Cooper Wood, Rattan; 2. Kayla Harris, Keota; 3. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne Class V: 1. Hannah Palmer, McCurtain; 2. Meagan Blake, Battiest Continental Division Champ: Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton Continental Reserve Division Champ: Hannah Palmer, McCurtain

Heifer, AOB Division Class I: 1. Tahsa Janway, Cameron; 2. Faith Palmer, McCurtain; 3. Daniel Culwell, Bokoshe Class II: 1. Abby Cato, Savanna; 2. Kaylan Plemmons, Battiest; 3. Jenna Rae Simpson, Quinton Class III: 1. Kylie Powell, Porum; 2. Daniel Culwell, Bokoshe; 3. Dakota Cantrell Shelton, Checotah Class IV: 1. Sarah Palmer, McCurtain; 2. Breanna Elliott, Quapaw; 3. Grace Palmer, McCurtain Class V: 1. Colton Gentry, Konawa; 2. Sarah Harris, Webbers Falls; 3. Garrett Clunn, Hartshorne Class VI: 1. Raychel Harris, Webbers Falls; 2. Abi Marks, Buffalo Valley Class VII: 1. Hailey Henry, McCurtain; 2. Konner Upton, Wister Class VIII: 1. Kylie Powell, Porum; 2. Shelby Gentry, Konawa; 3. Hannah Beames, Howe AOB Division Champ; Kylie Powell, Porum

#### Steer English Division

Class I: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne Class II: 1. Christian McGowan, Colbert English Division Champ: Christian McGowan, Colbert English Reserve Division Champ: Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne

AOB Reserve Division Champ; Kylie Powell, Porum

#### **Steer Continental Division**

Class I: 1. Colby Cato, Savanna Class II: 1. Breanna Elliott; Quapaw, 2. Jason Gibson, Afton; 3. Natalie Gibson, Afton Class III: 1. Jace Ford, Kinta; 2. Sam Stamper, Beggs; 3. Courtney Sebo, Kinta Class IV: 1. Michael O'Kelley, Hartshorne; 2. Alexis Mashburn, Woodland; 3. Heather Edington, Red Oak Continental Division Champ: Colby Cato, Savanna Continental Reserve Division Champ: Michael O'Kelley, Hartshorne

#### **Steer AOB Division**

Class I: 1. Natalie Gibson, Afton Class II: 1. Haylie McGowan, Colbert; 2. Mickael Stricklin, McCurtain Class III: 1. Bailey Henry, McCurtain; 2. Dustin Finch, Canadian Class IV: 1. Kareesa Kennedy, Buffalo Valley; 2. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne; 3. Christopher Stricklin, McCurtain AOB Division Champ: Haylie McGowan, Colbert AOB Reserve Division Champ: Kareesa Kennedy, Buffalo Valley

#### -Swine-



Braylon Spears of Hartshorne 4-H wins Market Swine Grand Champion



Daxton King of Hartshorne 4-H wins Market Swine Reserve Grand Champion

Grand Market Swine: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne Reserve Grand Market Swine: Daxton King, Hartshorne Bronze Medallion Swine: Jaycee Cox, Spiro Junior Swine Showmanship: Jaycee Cox, Spiro Senior Swine Showmanship: Hannah Palmer, McCurtain Co.

#### Berkshire Breed

Class I: 1. Noah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 2. Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 3. Andy Butler, Jones Academy Class II: 1. Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 2. Asher Kauk, Red Oak; 3. Emilee Conner, Woodland Breed Champ Berk: Noah Palmer, McCurtain Co. Reserve Breed Champ Berk: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne

#### **Chester Breed**

Class I: 1. Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy; 2. Katelyn King, Hartshorne; 3. Angela Hill, Smithville Class II: 1. Noah Irwin, Hartshorne; 2. Enrique Guerro, Jones Academy; 3. Isaiah Rodriques, Jones Academy Breed Champ Chester: Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy Reserve Breed Champ Chester: Noah Irwin, Hartshorne

#### **Duroc Breed**

Class I: 1. Grace Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 2. Hannah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 3. Matt McFarland, Savanna Class II: 1. Faith Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 2. Dillon Weer, Vian; 3. Darian Sharp, Spiro Class III: 1. Allison Beames, Howe; 2. Carsen McCoy, Tahlequah; 3. Grace O'Neal, Tuskahoma Class IV: 1. Michael O'Kelley, Hartshorne; 2. Cade McCoy, Tahlequah; 3. Ashley Bartolomei, Talihina Class V: 1. Cade McCoy, Tahlequah; 2. Tristen Cooley, Spiro; 3. Tanner McAlester, Wister Class VI: 1. Cody Hugle, Hartshorne; 2. Brice Cooley, Haileyville; 3. Alexandria Lerblance, McAlester Breed Champ Duroc: Faith Palmer, McCurtain Co. Reserve Breed Champ Duroc: Cody Hugle, Hartshorne

#### Hampshire Breed

Class I: 1. Sarah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 2. Tyler Muncy, Panola; 3. Faith Palmer, McCurtain Co. Class II: 1. Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2. Sarah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 3. Tyler Dressman, Jones Academy Class III: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2. Markus McClurg, Sequoyah; 3. Lexen Cook, Hartshorne Class IV: 1. Austin Cole, Talihina; 2. Danielle Murillo, Jones Academy; 3. Hannah Palmer, McCurtain Co. Class V: 1. Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2. Alex Chatkehoodle, Jones Academy; 3. Michael O'Kelley, Hartshorne Class VI: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Sarah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 3. Hayden Bell, Bokoshe Class VII: 1. Noah Bryant, Talihina; 2. Tucker Morrow, Hartshorne; 3. Chase Martin, Red Oak Class VIII: 1. Hannah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 2. Noah Irwin, Hartshorne; 3. Jade Fairless, Albion Class IX: 1. Rachael Beames, Howe; 2. Tayton LeMay, Whitesboro; 3. Paige Dorsey, Howe Class X: 1. Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro; 2. Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 3. Chloe Rogers, Spiro Breed Champ Hamp: Jaycee Cox, Spiro Reserve Breed Champ Hamp: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne

#### Poland Breed

Class I: 1. Caitlin Allen, Jones Academy Breed Champ Poland: Caitlin Allen, Jones Academy

Class I: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Charity Thomas, Red Oak; 3. Destiny Duggan, Panola Class II: 1. Chloe Rogers, Spiro; 2. Harley Roba, Whitesboro; 3. Russ Angeli, Hartshorne Breed Champ Spot: Railey Spears, Hartshorne Reserve Breed Champ Spot: Charity Thomas, Red Oak

#### Yorkshire Breed

Class I: 1. Carsen McCoy, Tahlequah; 2. Raney Johnson, Wright City; 3. Jakob Labor, Wilburton Class II: 1. Jessie Matthews, Canadian; 2. Lexen Cook, Hartshorne; 3. Emilie Cox, Talihina Class III: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Faith Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 3. Katlyn Smith, Vian Class IV: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Grace Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 3. Kelsey Brown, Buffalo Valley

Breed Champ York: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne Reserve Breed Champ York: Railey Spears, Hartshorne

#### Cross Breed

Class I: 1. Austin Jestis, Durant; 2. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Tee Trotter, Vian Class II: 1. Noah Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 2. Chastain Cannady, Talihina; 3. Danielle Murillo, Jones Academy Class III: 1. Charity Thomas, Red Oak; 2. Grace Palmer, McCurtain Co.; 3. Austin Jestis, Durant Class IV: 1. Daxton King, Hartshorne; 2. Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 3. Marius McClurg, Sequoyah Class V: 1. Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 3. Javen Potts, Talihina Class VI: 1. Brookly Herriman, Warner; 2. Tuff Trotter, Vian; 3. Noah Palmer, McCurtain Co. Class VII: 1. Tyler Lindley, Hartshorne; 2. Tucker LeMay, Whitesboro; 3. Kelsey Brown, Buffalo Valley Class VIII: 1. Hayden Bell, Bokoshe; 2. Dillon Price, Spiro; 3. Carsen McCoy, Tahlequah Class IX: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2. Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 3. Muranda Sales, Bokoshe Class X: 1. Austin Jestis, Durant; 2. Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro; 3. Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro Class XI: 1. Dylan Bush, Quinton; 2. Tayton LeMay, Whitesboro; 3. Harley Roba, Whitesboro Breed Champ Cross: Daxton King, Hartshorne Reserve Breed Champ Cross: Austin Jestis, Durant

#### -Goats-



Kelsey Willis of Bristow FFA wins Meat Goat Grand Champion



Ceejay Robison of Checota 4-H wins Meat Goat Reserve Grand Champion, Junior Showman.

Grand Meat Goat: Kelsey Willis, Bristow Reserve Grand Meat Goat: Ceejay Robison, Checotah Bronze Medallion Goat: Emily Jackson, Hartshorne Junior Goat Showmanship: Ceejay Robison, Checotah Senior Goat Showmanship: Adrianna Curnutt, Wister

#### Division 1

Class I: 1. Catelyn Grey, Buffalo Valley; 2. Stephanie Seyler, Wister; 3. Kristen Brown, LeFlore Class II: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne; 2. Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 3. Dustin Finch, Canadian Class III: 1. Kelsey Willis, Bristow; 2. Lexen Cook, Hartshorne; 3. Paige Sparks, Hartshorne Class IV: 1. Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; 2. Adrianna Curnutt, Wister; 3. Emily Jackson, Hartshorne Division 1 Champ: Kelsey Willis, Bristow Division 1 Reserve Champ: Lexen Cook, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Ceejay Robison, Checotah; 2. Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 3. Jaren Cook, Quinton Class II: 1. Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; 2. Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 3. Brandi Moore, Haileyville Class III: 1. Alex Anderson, Eufaula; 2. Anna Park, Crowder; 3. Ally Stanley, Wister Class IV: 1. Kelsey Willis, Bristow; 2. Taylor Duerson, Warner; 3. Jessica Duerson, Warner Class V: 1. Jordan Hicks, Poteau Division 2 Champ: Lexen Cook, Hartshorne Division 2 Reserve Champ: Emily Jackson, Hartshorne

#### -Sheep-



Taylor McGill of Tuttle 4-H wins Market Lamb Grand Champion



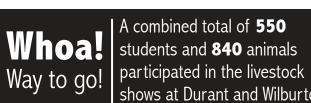
enville FFA wins Market Lamb Reserve Grand Champion

Grand Market Lamb: Taylor McGill, Tuttle Reserve Grand Market Lamb: Ross Turner, Holdenville Bronze Medallion Lamb: Taylor McGill, Tuttle Junior Lamb Showmanship: Brooklyn Herriman, Warner Senior Lamb Showmanship: Juleah Hollingshed, Checotah

#### Division 1

Class I: 1. Emily Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 2. Rynda Wilson, Quinton; 3. Andrew Brown, Panama Moore; Haileyville Class II: 1. Peiper Rogers, Spiro; 2. Grant Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 3. Madison Daniels, Quinton Class III: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2. Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; 3. Brooklyn Herriman, Warner Division 1 Champ: Taylor McGill, Tuttle Division 1 Reserve Champ: Paige Sparks, Hartshorne

Class I: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2. Ross Turner, Holdenville; 3. Taylor McGill, Tuttle Class II: 1. Brooklyn Herriman, Warner; 2. Kaytie Cash, Porum; 3. Gavin Clunn, Hartshorne Class III: 1. Ross Turner, Holdenville; 2. Mikala Helm, Talihina; 3. Mikala Helm, Talihina Division 2 Champ: Ross Turner, Holdenville Division 2 Reserve Champ: Taylor McGill, Tuttle



shows at Durant and Wilburton!

# 2013 Durant Stock Show

-Bovine-



Lane Stewart wins Market Steer Grand Champion.



Colby Jones wins Market Steer Reserve Grand Champion.

Grand Market Steer: Lane Stewart, Healdton Reserve Grand Steer: Colby Jones, Coalgate Bronze Medallion Steer: Ashlyn Kellam, Silo Grand Supreme Heifer: Abbee Schoolfield, Kingston Reserve Grand Heifer: Kes Reeves, Kingston Bronze Medallion Heifer: Merideth Behrens Junior Beef Showmanship: Ashlyn Kellam, Silo Senior Beef Showmanship: Kody Silas, Tecumseh

#### Heifer, English Division

Class I: 1. Kody Silas, Tecumseh; 2. Hunter Pierce, Caddo; 3. Hunter Simco, Gunter Class II: 1 Lane Stewart, Healdton; 2. Will Shelby, Madill; 3. Zachary Nichols, Achille Class III: 1. Merideth Behrens, Colbert; 2. Hunter Pierce, Caddo; 3. Samuel Fields, Wright City Class IV: 1. Ashlyn Kellam, Silo; 2. Tea Elliott-Fox, Tishomingo; 3. Hunter Simco, Gunter Breed Champion: Kody Silas Reserve Breed Champ: Ashlyn Kellam

#### Heifer, Continental Division

Class I: 1. Brooke Gibson, Morris; 2. Austin Gibson,

Morris; 3. Merideth Behrens, Colbert

Class II: 1. Abbee Schoolfield, Kingston; 2. Ashlyn Kellam, Silo 3. Faith Hill, Grant-Goodland

Class III: 1. Jessica Williams, Ryan; 2, Landree Eaves, Harmony 3. Parker Mobbs; Tushka

Class IV: 1. Merideth Behrens, Colbert; 2. Will Shelby, Madill; 3. Garrett Addingto, Clayton

Breed Champion: Abbee Schoolfield Reserve Breed Champ: Merideth Behrens

#### Heifer, Brahman Division

Breed Champ: Dustin Cochran, Tushka Reserve Breed Champ: Dustin Cochran, Tushka

### Heifer, AOB Division

Class I: 1. Whitney Jackson, Silo; 2. Kara Stanglin, Colbert; 3. Kaleb Brown, Lindsay

Class II: 1. Lydia Fish, Kingston; 2. Kara Stanglin,

Colbert; 3. Kell Brown, Lindsay

Class III: 1. Kes Reeves, Kingston; 2. Taylor Mobbs, Tushka; 3. Parker Mobbs, Tushka Breed Champion: Kes Reeves

Reserve Breed: Lydia Fish

#### Steer English Division

Class I: 1. Dakota Robinson, Caddo, 2. Judge Hartin, Madill; 3. Harmony Lee, Durant Breed Champion: Dakota Robinson Reserve Breed: Judge Hartin

### **Steer Continental Division**

Class I: 1Ashlyn Kellam, Silo; 2. Lane House, Tishomingo; 3. Taylor Dancer, Bennington Class II: 1. Lane Stewart, Healdton; 2. Colby Jones, Coalgate 3. Austin Gibson, Morris Class III: 1. Dakota Robinson, Caddo; 2. Jacob Hartin, Madill Breed Champion: Lane Stewart Reserve Breed Champ: Colby Jones

#### **Steer AOB Division**

Class I: 1. Ridge Stephens, Tushka; 2. Kaci Trentham, Coalgate Breed Champion: Ridge Stephens Reserve Breed Champ: Kaci Trentham

#### -Swine-



Holden Bell of Madill wins Swine Grand Champion

Grand Market Swine: Holden Bell, Madill Reserve Grand Market Swine: Baylor Jestis, Durant Bronze Medallion Swine: Payne Reavis, Broken Bow Junior Swine Showmanship: Colt Conner, Tuttle Senior Swine Showmanship: CJ Conner, Tuttle



Baylor Jestis of Durant wins Swine Reserve Grand

#### Berkshire Breed

Class I: 1. Julie Fielder, Maysville 2. Rowdy Wood, Coalgate; 3. Jeremiah Weeden, Coalgate Class II: 1. Sara Sneed, Broken Bow; 2. Makayla Crawford, Moss: 3. Chelsea Coker, Tuttle Breed Champion: Sara Sneed Reserve Breed Champion: Makayla Crawford

#### **Chester Breed**

Class I: 1. Justin Graham, Rock Creek; 2. Ethan Bean, Lukfata; 3. Hank Bradley, Silo Breed Champion: Justin Graham Reserve Breed Champion: Ethan Bean

#### **Duroc Breed**

Class I: 1. Macey Ross, Caddo; 2. Devin Emert, Bennington; 3. Ivana Hensley, Stringtown Class II: 1. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 2. Laney Sparks, Caddo; 3. Holden Bell, Madill Breed Champion: Payne Reavis

#### Hampshire Breed

Class I: 1. Baylor Jestis, Durant; 2. Kaitlin Fryer, Caddo; 3. Makayla Crawford, Moss Class II: 1. Paden Stanley, Coalgate; 2. Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 3. Wyatt Williams, Idabel Class III: 1. Colt Conner, Tuttle; 2. Blaine Ake, Tupelo; 3. Justin Graham, Rock Creek Class IV: 1. CJ Conner, Tuttle; 2. Jase Collins, Wapanucka; 3. Laney Sparks, Caddo Class V: 1. Holli Hembree, Antlers; 2. Denton Comer, Durant; 3. Marlie Leathers, Rattan Breed Champion: Baylor Jestis Reserve Breed Champion: CJ Conner

Reserve Breed Champion: Macey Ross

#### Poland Breed

Class I: 1. Kalli Battiest, Broken Bow; 2. Keona Mason, Tishomingo Breed Champion: Kalli Battiest Reserve Breed Champion: Keona Mason

#### Spot Breed

Class I: 1. Sara Sneed, Broken Bow; 2. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 3. Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow Class II: 1. Tad Bradley, Silo; 2. Summer Gamble, Broken Bow; 3. Stephanie Cusey, Coalgate Breed Champion: Sara Snead Reserve Breed Champion: Tad Bradley

#### Yorkshire Breed

Class I: 1. Baylor Jestis, Durant; 2. Wyatt Williams, Idabel; 3. Dillon Bowen, Silo Class II: 1. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 2. Tyler Boyett; Rattan 3. Lillabeth Whitlow, Grant-Goodland Breed Champion: Baylor Jestis Reserve Breed Champion: Wyatt Williams

#### Cross Breed

Class I: 1. Madelynn Phillips, Boswell; 2 Corby Ake, Tupelo 3. Dillon Bowen, Silo Class II: 1. Baylor Jestis, Durant; 2. Cole Broughton, Tushka; 3. Jadyn Wills, Kiowa Class III: 1. Holden Bell, Madill; 2. Kaylea Bailey, Antlers; 3. Jaysa Northcutt, Tishomingo Class IV: 1. Wyatt Williams, Idabel; 2. Trevor Bonds, Soper; 3. Tori Stephens, Tushka Class V: 1. CJ Conner, Tuttle; 2. Makayla Crawford, Moss; 3. Chelsea Coker, Tuttle Class VI: 1. JB Bell, Madill; 2. Tad Bradley, Silo; 3. Dillon Bowen, Silo Breed Champion: Holden Bell Reserve Breed Champion: Baylor Jestis

#### -Goats-



Peyton Mobbs of Tushka wins Meat Goat Grand Champion

Grand Meat Goat: Peyton Mobbs, Tushka Reserve Grand Meat Goat: Jaycee Watkins, Calera Bronze Medallion Goat: Hunter Mann, Sulphur Junior Goat Showmanship: Jaycee Watkins, Calera Senior Goat Showmanship: Colton Mize, Springer



Jaycee Watkins of Calera wins Meat Goat Reserve Grand Champ and Junior Showman Champion

#### Division 1

Class I: 1Blaklyn Barber, Silo; 2. Morgan Veneble, Moss; 3. Mason Nichols, Achille Class II: 1. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 2. Colton Mize, Springer; 3. Hunter Mann, Sulphur Class III: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Calera; 2. Taylor Hedgecock, Durant; 3. Braden Allen, Silo Division 1 Champion: Peyton Mobbs Division 1 Res Champion: Jaycee Watkins

#### Division 2

Class I: 1Bailee Allen, Silo; 2. Braden Allen, Silo 3. Kason Barker, Boswell Class II: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 2. Tucker McCoy, OK Co. 4H; 3. Mason Phillips, Durant Division 2 Champion: Hunter Mann Division 2 Res Champion: Bailee Allen

#### Division 3

Class I: 1. Colton Mize, Springer; 2. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 3. Jaycee Watkins, Calera Class II: 1. Aaron Purkins, Caddo; 2. Carly Moore, Madill Division 3 Champion: Colton Mize Division 3 Reserve Champion: Hunter Mann

#### -Sheep-



Savannah Lantz of Holdenville wins Market Lamb Grand Champion



Hadley Bryan of Mulhall wins Market Lamb Reserve Grand Champion

Grand Market Lamb: Savannah Lantz, Holdenville Reserve Grand Lamb: Hadley Bryan, Mulhall-Orlando Bronze Medallion Lamb: Savannah Lantz, Holdenville Junior Showmanship: Taylor Chambers, Tushka Senior Showmanship: Hadley Bryan, Mulhall-Orlando

### Division 1

Class I: 1. Brooke Roebuck Kiowa, 2. Ethan Bean, Lukfata; 3. Tyna McKee, Soper Class II: 1. Bonnie Jone, Thackerville; 2. Julie Fielder, Maysville; 3. Daytona Trammell, Savanna Class III: 1. Taylor Chambers, Tushka; 2. Hadley Bryan, Mulhall-Orlando; 3. Alyson Chapman, Coalgate Division 1 Champion: Taylor Chambers Division 1 Reserve Champion: Hadley Bryan

Class I: 1Savannah Lantz, Holdenville; 2. Shelby Newton, Tolar; 3. Bonnie Jones, Thackerville Class II: 1. Hadley Bryan, Mulhall-Orlando; 2. Zachary Nichols, Achille; 3. Mercedes Brown, Velma-Alma Division 2 Champion: Hadley Bryan Division 2 Reserve Champion: Savannah Lantz

#### Division 3

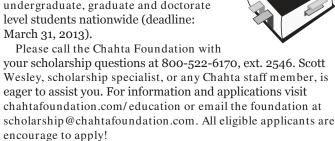
<u>Class I:</u> 1. Savannah Lantz, Holdenville; 2. Mercedes Brown, Velma-Alma; 3. Daytona Trammell, Savanna Class II: 1. Savannah Lantz, Holdenville; 2. Julie Fielder, Maysville; 3. Jaely Parsons, Soper Division 3 Champion: Savannah Lantz Division 3 Reserve Champion: Savanah Lantz

Class I: 1. Brooke Roebuck, Kiowa; 2. Chace McCoy, OK Co. 4H; 3. Alex Hackler, Kiowa Class II: 1. Hadley Bryan, Mulhall Orlando; 2. Hunter Mann, Sulphur; 3. Tucker McCoy, OK Co. 4H Division 4 Champion: Hadley Bryan Division 4 Reserve Champion: Brooke Roebuck

# **EDUCATION**

# Apply now for Chahta Foundation scholarships!

The Chahta Foundation will continue offering the Apela Ima scholarship for the upcoming 20 13-14 school year as well as introducing five new scholarships. This means over \$55,000 in donated funds is going directly to support Choctaw tribal members. These scholarships are for students ranging from graduating high school seniors in the 10-1/2 county tribal service area (deadline: April 12, 2013) to undergraduate, graduate and doctorate level students nationwide (deadline: March 31, 2013).



# Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

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

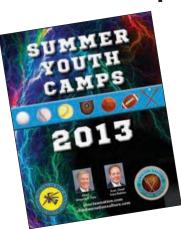
To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the:

Choctaw Nation Investment Center in Poteau March 25 from 9:30-11 a.m. and 12-1:30 p.m.

# **Choctaw Nation Summer Youth Camps 2013**



# The 2013 Summer Camp booklet is now available online and at the Choctaw community centers.

For more information, call the Summer Youth Camp Program at 1-800-522-6170.

Registration forms are available online at choctawnation.com or choctawnationculture.com.

Deadlines for each camp are as follows: Golf Camp- **March 29** Baseball, Softball, Stickball,

Cultural Enrichment, Basketball and Football- **April 19** 

New applicants **must** send copies of their Choctaw Membership Card and CDIB.

## Collins signs letter of intent

Congratulations to Jake
Collins, who has signed a letter
of intent to play baseball at
Eastern Oklahoma State College
in Wilburton. Jake is a senior at
Latta High School and was
recently named Oklahoma
Baseball Coaches Association
"Player of the Year."

Jake is the grandson of Kenneth Battles and his wife, Royce Battles, of Antlers. He is pictured with his parents, Ed and Tammy Collins, and head coach Craig Price, standing.



# Board creates new office to preserve American Indian heritage

On Jan. 23 the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors approved a new program with the sole mission of reaching out to American Indian tribes, associations, and families to preserve cultural artifacts. archival documents, oral histories, and historic sites. "American Indian cultural preservation has been a major part of OHS programs since 1907," said Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, executive director of the Society, "but we have never had a specific working unit dedicated to that task. The creation of the OHS Office of American Indian Cultural Preservation gives us that opportunity." The

director of the office will be William D. Welge, longtime director of the OHS Research Division and Indian archivist since 1982. "For more than 35 years, I have collected, preserved, and shared American Indian history as part of my duties at the Historical Society," said Welge. "The creation of this new office will allow me to spend all of my time and use all of my contacts to build new bridges of communication and collaboration in Indian country." According to Welge, the central mission of the office is to create a two-way exchange of assistance. The OHS will offer experience in archival

management, museum exhibit development, and oral history best practices. Tribal officials and elders will offer an understanding of their own heritage. "We need to know how Indian people want to record and share their own history," said Blackburn. "We will work with them no matter where the collections are located and stored. The critical task is collecting and preserving those collections so they can be shared today and in the future." Among the services offered by the OHS office will be training sessions, assistance with grant requests, on-site consultation, and cooperative agreements.

# YAB Learning lead

Learning leadership from YAB experiences

Continued from Page 1 not volunteer much, but now she has fun lending her time to worthy causes. "I have made a lot of friends with people I wouldn't usually talk to," says Jana as she spoke about all the benefits to her volunteer

work.

"YAB helps us to become better people and come out of our shell," continued Jana. She holds her time in YAB in high regard, saying that it is a great way to have fun and help the community at the same time.

YAB was founded in 2004 with only 13 members in its ranks. It has grown to 415 members and graduates around 60 seniors a year. There are 17 YAB chapters with locations in McAlester, Hartshorne, Panola, Stigler, Poteau, Howe, Battiest, Idabel, Clayton, Talihina, Antlers, Hugo, Soper, Boswell, Durant, Atoka and Coalgate.

More events facilitated by YAB students include Toys for Tots, food drives, nursing home activities, adopt-a-grandparent, awareness campaigns, trash-off days, after prom lock-ins, and coat drives. YAB also partners with other Choctaw Nation programs to provide services such as child care for the foster/adoption families with Choctaw Nation Children and Family Services, assist recycling projects with Choctaw Nation Recycling Program, and participate in teen dating violence awareness projects with Choctaw Nation Project SAFE.

To join YAB, students must live within the 10 1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation, be in the 8th-12th grade, a U.S. citizen or on a student visa and have a heart to serve their community.

"YAB is an amazing opportunity for every age group to do what they thought they couldn't, "says Alice, who mentions that anyone who is able be a part of YAB, should.



Congratulations to John Troussel, who has been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fall 2012 semester at Eastern Oklahoma State College. John is the son of Chris and Kim Troussel of McAlester.

# SUMMER CAMP AT JONES ACADEMY

July 10-12, 2013

AGES ELIGIBLE: 8-12 YEARS OLD

\* Registration will be made available soon.\*

Campers will be required to stay the night at this camp.

Transportation will be provided. Participants must live within the Choctaw Nation's 10 1/2 counties.

What to -TEAM BUILDING -HEALTHY HABITS expect: - CULTURAL ACTIVITIES - AND MUCH MORE!

QUESTIONS?

Raina Sparks at 918-423-8440 ext. 31071 or Tammie Cannady at 918-567-7121.



## Choctaw Nation GED Classes

### CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning: March 19, 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
408 N. "M" St. – Hugo

#### LeFLORE COUNTY

Beginning: March 25, 2013
Mondays and Wednesdays
9 a.m. - Noon
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
208 "B" St. – Poteau

#### LATIMER COUNTY

Beginning: March 26, 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9 a.m. - Noon
Choctaw Nation Community Center
515 Center Point Rd. – Wilburton

#### BRYAN COUNTY

Beginning: March 26, 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
529 N. 16th, South Building – Durant

The class will meet for approximately three months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280 ext. 2319 or 2122. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	IUE	WED	IHU	FKI	SAI
A P R		April Fools' Day	Antlers by appt.	3	4	Broken Bow 8 a.m4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	6
I L	7	8 Durant 8 a.m4:30 p.m.	Growder by appt.	Talihina 10 a.m2 p.m.	11	Hoken Bow 8 a.m4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	13
	14	15 Durant 8 a.m4:30 p.m.	16	McAlester 10 a.m 2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	18	19 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	20
2	21	Durant 8 a.m4:30 p.m.	23	Poteau 11:30 a.m1 p.m.	25	Wright City by appt.	27
<b>1 3</b>	28	29 Wilburton 10:30 a.m2 p.m.	30				

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

# **OBITUARIES**

#### Pauline Fish

Pauline Fish, 77, of Hartshorne, passed away on Feb. 10, 2013, at the McAlester Regional Health Center. She was born on March 23, 1935, in Talihina, to Crawford and Angeline McIntosh Billy. She attended school in Talihina and married Frank Fish on April 28, 1973, in Durant. Pauline was a homemaker most of her life and was a member of the Assembly of God faith. She loved watching sports on TV



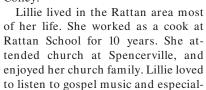
such as the Dallas Cowboys and the OU Sooners. Pauline also enjoyed gardening and raising flowers. She also loved to listen to Choctaw hymns.

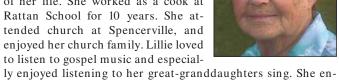
She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Frank Fish; daughter Earlene Dowell; sister Christine Billy; and brothers, Joshua Hickman and Jerry Hickman.

She is survived by her sons, Darrell Nichols with wife Tammy, Ron Nichols with wife Peggy, all of Antlers, and Bobby Nichols with wife Becky of Hartshorne; brother Dallas Seeley with wife Cynthia of Talihina; sisters, Debbie Watson with husband Eddie of McAlester, Nancy Ondersma of Phoenix, Ariz., and Georgia Ann Frazier of Talihina; precious friend and honorary family member, Kelly Billingsley; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

#### Lillie Armstrong

Lillie Pearl Armstrong, 73, passed away on Feb. 10, 2013, in Oklahoma City. She was born May 6, 1939, in Rattan, to Elmer Lee and Cora (Stowe)





joyed cooking, camping, fishing, shopping, visiting with friends, and her greatest joy was taking care of her great-grandchildren. Lillie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband,

Bobby Armstrong; daughter Peggy Armstrong; son Rickie Gene Armstrong; granddaughter April Dawn Armstrong; sister Lou Armstrong; and brother Ronnie Colley.

She is survived by her daughters, Gail Hudson with husband Jimmy, and Jackie Woodruff with husband William, all of Rattan; nine grandchildren, Shannon Hudson, Shawn Hurlburt, James Hudson, Justin Scott, Tanner Woodruss, Tina Armstrong, all of Rattan, George Armstrong of Fort Worth, Texas, and Kyle Armstrong of Spencerville; 15 great-grandchildren, Jordan, Kaylie, Kasey, Briar, Charlie Jo, Gracie, Easton, Tricity, Carlie, Zoey, Patrick, Arora, Amanda, Samantha and Stormy; brothers, Robert Colley of Broken Bow, and Roy Colley of Rattan; sisters, Mary Johnson of Moore, Joyce Chappell of Broken Bow, Stella Rowell of Noble, Trelma Joslin of Rattan, and Darlene Rogers of Texas; sister-in-law, Jimmie Jo Gross of Antlers; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as many other relatives and friends.

## Mary Lou Taylor

Mary Lou Taylor, 94, of Tempe, Ariz., passed away on Dec. 8, 2012. She was born on Sept. 6, 1918, in Bokchito to Lena F. Puckett, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Mary Lou was an educator for 29 years. She was a wonderful person who enjoyed teaching and learning. She received her bachelor's degree in 1952 with her master's following in 1959. In 1964, she and her husband George were two



of the first members of the South Side Baptist Church, later named Cross Point Tempe. She was a leader of the 39ers Senior Group for a number of years. They lived in Arizona since 1959 and moved to Tempe in 1962, into a temporary home as she taught in Phoenix at Alhambra district and he taught in Gilbert.

She enjoyed painting, cooking, sewing, quilting, planting and her flowers. Her hobbies included playing the piano by ear, entertaining her friends and playing cards. At one time, she collected angels. She loved to travel and was a very talented lady who loved life and people.

Her husband, George W. Taylor, and son Ricky Gene Taylor preceded her in death.

She is survived by her daughter, Marylyn L. Griffith (Ward); son Richard G. Taylor (Elizabeth); grandchildren, Walter Ward III (Annie, Brian, Melissa, Patrick (Misty); and five greatgrandchildren.

## Patricia McIntosh

Patricia Sue McIntosh, 74, passed away on April 23, 2012, in Long Beach. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Richard L. McIntosh; daughter Lori Lee Pistey with husband Wayne of Long Beach; sons, Richard D. McIntosh and David P. McIntosh with wife Cindy of Monument, Colo.; brother John F. Casey of Spiro; seven grandchildren; four step grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.



#### **Betty Pineda**

Betty Ruth (Lewis/Perry) Pineda passed away Dec. 14, 2012, in Chula Vista, Calif., She was born Jan. 28, 1928, to Izora Alice (Perry) Lewis and Samuel Thomas Lewis of Heavener. While attending Heavener High School during World War II she was the class president. Betty was the third oldest daughter of four which included sisters Aletha, Dorothy and Martha Dean. Her mother, Izora Alice Perry, is listed on the original Dawes Roll.



During World War II the Lewis family moved to San Diego following the oldest daughter, Aletha, in search of jobs. The family settled in National City, Calif., where her father was a general contractor and her mother worked at General Dymanics. Betty met her husband, Edward Eugene Pineda in 1947, when he was discharged from the Navy. The two were married Dec. 12, 1947, and had two sons, Mike and Tom. Betty was a stay-at-home mother until the mid 60s when she earned a degree as a dental assistant. She worked in the dental field until her retirement. She was proud to see both of her grandsons participate in lacrosse.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and sisters, with her being the last of the Perry side of the family in California

She is survived by her two sons, Mike and Tom; grandsons from Tom are Christian Daniel, now attending St. Johns University in Queens, New York, and Matthew Nathaniel, a junior in high school.

#### **Linda Bointy**

Linda Sue Bointy, 69, of Carnegie, passed away on Nov. 23, 2012, at her home. She was born Oct. 22, 1943, to William Raymond and Dorena Dolly (Jones) Slinker in Idabel. In her teens she moved to Oklahoma and graduated from Anadarko High School in 1962. She was united in marriage to R.H. (Hess) Bointy in 1973, in Galveston, Texas. Linda was a member of the Cache Creek United Methodist Church and involved in the quilting group at church. She also enjoyed making crafts and was a certified beautician.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband R.H. of Carnegie; son William H. Bointy of Carnegie, grandson Shawn Slinker of Carnegie; brothers, Charles Leon Slinker Sr. and Edwin Robinson Slinker, both of Oklahoma City; sisters, Betty Slinker Seidner of Midwest City, and Patricia Ann Franceschini of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; special son, Wallace Bointy Jr., of Carnegie; and numerous nieces and nephews.

#### **Buddy Taylor**

Buddy Boins Taylor, 76, passed away on Feb 2, 2013, in Antlers. He was born June 26, 1936, in Nashoba, to Agnus Taylor.

Buddy lived in Southeastern Oklahoma all his life and worked as a ranch hand for many years. He married Evelyn Jones in Yanush. Buddy was affiliated with Greenhill Baptist Church and Big Lick Church at Divide Community. He enjoyed ball games, playing sports, and watching sports. He had a good time telling jokes, fishing, playing piano, and listening to Choctaw hymns.

Buddy is preceded in death by his mother, Agnus Taylor; wife Evelyn Taylor; grandfather Julius Choate; and sister, Mary Par-

He was survived by his daughter, Peggy Taylor Nichols of Antlers; grandchildren, Teela Walton and Tamara Nichols, both of Antlers, and R.J. Nichols of Hugo; seven great-grandchildren, Lailah Walton, Tiana Nichols, Carmen Nichols, Evan Nichols, Billy Nichols, Dante and Tyrese Nichols, all of Hugo; sisters-inlaw, Margie Jones of Talihina, and Lizzie Siener of Sante, Calif.; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as many other relatives and friends.

#### **Andrew Scott**

Andrew Orville "Scotty" Scott, 85, of Noble, passed away Dec. 27, 2012. He was born May 27, 1927, to Joseph and Effie Scott. Andrew proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. In addition, he worked in the oil field and also worked as a contract painter. He enjoyed deer hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed working on his 1966 Nova Sport Coupe, which he gave to his first daughter, and she still has it today. He was the grandson of Amanda Isabella Sumpter Barnett and the son of Effie Barnett Scott, both original enrollees.

He is preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Aaron Scott; and brother, Scott.

He was survived by his wife of 62 years, Verna Scott; daughter Carol Scott; sons, Donald Scott, Billy Scott and Ronnie Scott; adopted daughter, Mary Tippitt; three granddaughters; two grandsons; four great-grandsons; one great-granddaughter; and sister Amanda Taylor.

#### Orville Snyder

Orville Evan Snyder passed away on Jan. 26, 2013, in Phoenix, Ariz., from an agent orange related bone cancer. Evan was born on March 8, 1948, in Williams, Ariz., the son of Orville Homer Snyder and Geraldine W. Snyder of Stigler. Evan traveled much of the United States with his parents during his childhood. He settled in Phoenix at the age of 17 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. When



he graduated from Naval Recruit Training Center in San Diego, he was posted to Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he received infantry training and then was posted to Port Hueneme, Calif., where he joined the Sea Bees with MCB-3. He was given instruction as a heavy equipment operator. After instruction he was posted to Adak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands to await his battalion in preparation for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam in 1965. He served honorably in many places in the I-corp area of operations including; Da Nang, Chu Lai and Phu Bai. After returning to the U.S., he married Barbara Batroff and they had a son, Michael Evan Snyder. Soon thereafter he entered the home remodeling field and continued working his entire life until he no longer could handle the stresses applied to his body. In 1999 he moved to Long Beach, Calif., with his wife and son. He lived there until 2011 when he moved back to Arizona to live in Phoenix again. Evan loved the outdoor life and enjoyed fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking, camping, free-dive spearfishing, listening to music, cooking, going for long drives, and playing video games on his PC. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Harvey Farrell Snyder. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Snyder; son Michael; sister Jerry Squire; and many nephews and nieces and their children.

## Celia Thomas Briard

Celia Ann Thomas Briard passed away on Jan 8, 2013. She was born on Aug. 16, 1988, in Yankton, S.D., to Rick and Joyce (Martin) Thomas. She attended elementary and junior high school at Santee Public School, graduating high school from Niobrara Public School in 2006. While she was in school, she competed in Junior Olympic Boxing in Nebraska. In the summer of 2006, she graduated from Na-



tional Indian Youth Police Academy in Wisconsin and received the Team Leader Award. Celia married Jake Briard in 2007 and was enrolled in the Santee Sioux National Americorp Program. She attended Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb., in 2008. In 2009 she worked for the Madison, Neb., Juvenile Detention Center. She was employed at Feather Hill until 2010 and attended Nebraska Indian Community in Santee, Neb., in 2011. Celia was currently employed at the Santee Sioux Nation Ohiya Casino.

Celia was the proud mother of her 4-year-old daughter, Sicily Marie Briard, who was the love of her life. She cherished her Dakota and Choctaw cultures and traditions; at a young age she won the title of Miss Santee Sioux MIA. Celia was a fancy shawl dancer and a traditional sun dancer. She had a heart of gold and was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone in need. Her great sense of humor would light up any room and will be forever loved and greatly missed by her daughter, parents, brothers, sister, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Albert and Linda Thomas, and Celia Martin; brothers Richard Jr. and Hepan Thomas; uncles, Daniel Thomas, Gary Thomas and George Thomas; aunt Dawn Starlin; special brother, TaCanku Thomas; and cousin Tony Thomas.

She is survived by her daughter Sicily; husband Jake; parents, Rick and Joyce Thomas; brothers, Wakiyan Thomas, Cedric and Issac Denney; sisters, Ronette Thomas and Stephanie Thomas; as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends.

#### Ben Filmore Jr.

Ben H. Filmore Jr., 63, passed away on Dec. 20, 2012. He was born on Sept. 3, 1949, in Oklahoma City and attended Rockwood Elementary, Jackson Jr. High and graduated from Capitol Hill High School. After graduations, he attended a Masonry school to become a bricklayer. Ben laid brick on many Oklahoma City buildings, several upper floors of Southwestern Bell, the veterans hospital emergency room at OU Medical, many of the housing additions all over Oklahoma City and several churches. He then attended OSU Okmulgee. He studied electronics and worked at Terry's Two-Way Radio and TV Repair. Towards the end of his life, he had been interested in computers and computer repair.

Ben never married or had children. He was the oldest son of eight children.

He was preceded in death by his parents Juanita Mae Cass-Filmore and Ben H. Filmore Sr.; sisters, Sheila Ameila Filmore, Margaret A. Long, and Debra Sharon Filmore; and brothers, Mark Filmore and Millard Filmore.

He is survived by sisters, Priscilla M. Clark, and Carla De-Coteau; nephews, James Clark and Jamie DeCoteau; nieces, Monica M. Clark, Felicia Wells and Ciani Filmore.

### Cathy Taylor

Cathy Lynn Taylor, 44, of Bethel, passed away on Jan. 12, 2013, in Broken Bow. She was born June 28, 1968, in Dallas, the daughter of Melton James Taylor and Louise (Push) Taylor. Cathy was a member of the Agapa Church in Broken Bow. She loved spending time with her family and friends and enjoyed listening to music, cooking and computers.



She was preceded in death by her father; brother Jeffrey Craig Taylor; and nephew Joey Allen

Cathy is survived by her mother and stepfather Don of Bethel; sons, Alex Ferrell of Broken Bow and Cameron Ferrell of Alabama; daughter Lisa Ferrell of Alabama; sisters, Teresa Taylor Longoria with husband Mike of Atoka, and Connie Taylor of Broken Bow; brother Michael Taylor of Idabel; one grandchild; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

#### Christopher Rawls

Christopher "C.J." Jay Rawls, 35, a Centrahoma resident, passed away on Dec. 14, 2012, in Coalgate. He was born Oct. 22, 1977, in Denton, Texas, to Glenn Franklin and Bernice "Rabbit" (Homer) Rawls. He attended Panola school and married Brandie DeAnn Webb on Dec. 2, 1999, in Coalgate. He was a baptized at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Wilburton. C.J. was an artist and enjoyed drawing tattoos.



He was preceded in death by his son, Gabriel Michael Mormon Rawls; and niece Jarrah Lynn Lawrence.

He is survived by his wife, Brandie Rawls of Centrahoma; children, Josh Ford of Wilburton, Samantha Ford of Coalgate, and Jessie Ford of Quinton; grandchildren Shakota and Sky Fisher of Coalgate; siblings, James Franklin Rawls and Valerie of Cottonwood, Felicia Ann Lawrence and Justin of Longtown, and Marvin Homer and Sheila of Atoka; nephews and nieces, Joseph Cooper, C.J. Cooper and Jamie Cooper, all of Atoka, Ocean Rawls and James Rawls, both of Cottonwood, and Kora Ann Lawrence, Javen Lawrence and J.J. Lawrence, all of Longtown; mother Bernice Homer with f'iance George Clark of Longtown; mother-in-law Regina Cunningham with husband Nathan of Centrahoma; father Glenn Franklin Rawls of Longtown; along with numerous aunts, uncles and other relatives.

### Dixon Dyer

Dixon Lee Dyer Jr., 74, of Sand Springs, passed away on Feb. 16, 2013, in Tulsa. A beloved husband and father, Dixon was born in Pawnee to Dixon Lee Dyer and Levisa Morris Dyer on June 15, 1938. He and his wife Peggy were due to celebrate their 27th anniversary in March. They met through Dixon's sister, Eloise Wibben, married after years of courtship and became the proud parents of two daughters, one of whom was recently wed.



Dixon learned to appreciate the opportunities afforded through education and mentoring after attending and living in the Goodland Presbyterian Children's Home in Hugo and later at Chilocco Indian School located near Ponca City from the age of five through high school. He took part in and enjoyed many sports including football, baseball and track, appreciating the personal attention and guidance provided by coaches as well as his teachers. He also participated in the National Guard 45th Infantry Division Charlie Company and assisted his family by working summers at a local flourmill and sending money home.

Dixon's thirst for education took him to the Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, Kan., with athletic scholarships supporting his education and remaining at Chilocco for his room and board. In track, Dixon set a record the two-mile run that stands to this day. His education at Cowley and later at Northeastern State University where he completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice led him to entrance into the Tulsa Police Academy and a 20-year career in law enforcement.

Dixon's commitment to lifelong learning resulted in his pursuit of advancement opportunities and training after moving to American Airlines through a Tulsa Technology Center certification in Aircraft Maintenance. Later he developed a reputation for his excellence as a "cooler mechanic" and finished a career in aviation maintenance with American after 24 years. He was active in the Fraternal Order of Police including holding leadership positions, was a 32nd Degree Mason, as well as an Akdar Shriner. He also was active in the Alumni Associations for Chilocco both locally and nationally. A hands-on father who was devoted to his two daughters, Dixon managed his own career while being supportive of Peggy and his daughters in their pursuits. Though ill and hospitalized, Dixon participated in Rachel's wedding through Skype technology.

He was preceded in death by grandson Lloyd Dixon, his parents, and brothers Herman Dyer, Morris Dyer, David Dyer, Dallas Gilstrap, Jack Gilstrap, Kenneth (Bud) Gilstrap, and Robert

Dixon is survived by wife Peggy; daughters, Millie Dyer, of Oklahoma City, and Rachel Dyer Hilligoss with husband Austin of Sand Springs; siblings, Stella Long of Oklahoma City, Eloise Wibben with husband Charlie of Hugo, Fleeta Nelson with husband Coleman of Muskogee, and John Gilstrap with wife Carla of Stigler; nephews, Timothy Long with Chris Herbert of New York City, Charlie Bob Wibben, Johnny Roy Gilstrap, Gregory Gilstrap, Rob Gilstrap, Cale Gilstrap and David Gilstrap. Nieces are Lisa Long with husband Nick Koumoutseas of Derwood, Md., and Dedra Gallegos with husband Mike of Hugo; motherin-law Mildred Dumas; sister-in-law Lucile Dyer; and brotherin-law Don Dumas with wife Paulette of Stigler.

# trip with Papa

By FOLSOM WHITE

Sidney Johnston White was born to John Walker and Pauline McCurtain White, Oct. 22, 1889, in San Bois, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. I have to point out as Daddy always did, Paulina is pronounced with a long "I" sound.

Daddy was the middle of three children, older brother Hiram Edmund "Bud" and baby sister Lizzie. They grew up in the area around presentday Whitefield, Kinta and Stigler.

This is a story Daddy used to tell me of his early childhood.

He came with his father into Kinta. which was something of an adventure to travel with "Papa" without the rest of the family. After all he was only 8 years old. After Papa had conducted business and the wagon was loaded with supplies, he received a special treat. He was allowed to select a few pieces of hard candy for brother, sister and himself. Papa said he could have one now but save the rest until they were home. As they walked towards the wagon, he fumbled with the small bag of candy trying to make up his mind which piece to enjoy on the trip home. Suddenly his concentration was shattered by the crash of gunfire. Papa grabbed him and shoved him into the tight space between two buildings and told him to stay there until he returned for him. After some time and things had qui-

Papa thought the tears were from fear of what had just occurred. There was at least one man shot and bleeding in the street.

etened, Papa returned to find Daddy crying.

However they weren't tears of fear, but tears of heartbreak, for during the excitement and jostling about he had dropped the small bag of candy into the dirt and all were lost. He was also afraid of the scolding he was sure to receive from Papa because money was too hard to come by to be lost in the dirt, even a few pennies. But, Papa didn't scold. They returned to the store for another bag of candy.



A painting of Sidney White by Cathy Rutledge hangs in the Choctaw Nation Museum.



Sidney White's knowledge of the game of stickball was ingrained in his very being as deeply as the texture weaving through the hickory he molded

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

"Sidney White sticks" – It's a term synonymous with perfection to most who play stickball.

Born in 1889, Sidney White lived a long and active life and is well-known for his expertise in many things, but especially for the strong, distinctive sticks he made for stickball players. There aren't many of Sidney's sticks around any more. Those in possession of them know what a treasure they have.

A pair of Sidney's sticks hangs in the Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum. "Daddy never made a pair of sticks he didn't intend to be played with," said Folsom White of Clayton, remembering the care his father put into creating each one. Folsom and his mother, Mary, recently sat in the living room of her

home in Tuskahoma and shared memories of working alongside Sidney. Their main contribution was to cut hickory trees and split the wood.

"We didn't have chainsaws," Folsom explained about this time as a young boy in the '60s and '70s. "We used crosscut saws, wedges, sledge hammers. Me and Mama would use the crosscut saws to cut down the trees."

Mary chimed in with a laugh and said she was always scared of the falling trees. Folsom and Mary did what they could to help, though.

Once the tree had been split and Sidney had rasped a piece down to the thickness he wanted, he rubbed used motor oil on the wood. Sidney would build a fire, heat the stick then

Mary White rub the motor oil deep into the grain, heat then rub. He started bending one end a little at a time to form the cup, adding just

the right bit of flare to make the stick better at handling the ball. "The prettiest sticks Daddy made were when he used heat and oil," Folsom described. The oil would seep deep into the wood and as the sticks aged, the oil would become dark-ribboned patterns.

"He would go to boot shops and different places to get good scrap leather," Folsom said. "He had a little knife about that long," his fingers drawing a 3- to -inch half-of-a-heart-shaped blade in the air. "Daddy would tie the leather around a tree or something stationary, hold that knife straight out in front of him and walk backwards - 100 to 200 feet if he had room. That's how he cut the strips of leather."

The leather is used to make a lacing inside the cup and for holding down the end of the stick as it loops around.

Every one of Sidney's sticks took on a unique shape. He didn't make them in pairs. He would finish one and set it aside. When he was ready – sometimes two, three or four weeks later – he would make a stick to pair with another.

"When he made sticks that were a good pair, you could set your hand down on that thumb," Folsom's left hand met his right thumb as he held two sticks up, "and the cups would fit together, with one about 3/4 inch longer."

Sidney's knowledge of the game was ingrained in his very being as deeply as the texture weaving through the hickory he used. He wrote two publications about the

game, "Stickball" and "Tolih." A descriptive excerpt from "Stickball" reads: 'In my time an Indian ball game was equal to a county picnic. A lemonade stand or two were set up. A watermelon farmer would bring a wagonload of melons and sell out during the game. A hard-fought or well-matched game would often last a whole afternoon.

'The people would travel in wagons, buggies and on horseback and pitch two separate campgrounds near springs or on the banks of two clearwater streams in order to have good

"Small personal articles were bet on a game of tolih. A man rode at high speed on a good horse from camp to camp to collect the bets. Horses were bet and guns of all styles and calibers. Then all articles were put in a bounty wagon near the middle ground...'

Folsom said there wasn't a lot of interest in playing stickball when he was young, but his dad would gather up some of the boys and try to get them to play. Sidney would have been about 80 years old at that time.

It was a team sport, but more about one-on-one competition back then, utilizing each player's individual skills. Sidney would line the kids up and let them know who was responsible for defending another player.

Sidney taught them how to throw, how to pick up the ball with the sticks while on the run. He taught them to

father's skill. The sticks he holds, he says, aren't his dad's best but are among the few pair left in existence.

Sidney White's son, Folsom, talks about his

Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

play hard but wouldn't tolerate intentionally hurting other players. "When (David) Gardner was elected chief, Cleland Billy and a teacher from Jones also got involved," Folsom said. "Once other adults were involved, a stickball team was put together. During warm months we would meet at the Council House.'

Folsom was among a small group invited to play stickball during the United States' Bicentennial Celebration on July 4, 1976, in Washington, D.C.

"For a young country kid, it was something else," Folsom said, still feeling the excitement of being a 17-year-old on a trip across the country to the nation's capitol. "It was a good experience. All of the Civilized Tribes had a team there."

The stickball teams took turns in round-robin play where each team competed against each other once, demonstrating the game of their ancestors beside the Reflecting Pool on the National Mall.

"We had some good games," Folsom remembered, "and the Creek team gave us some competition," he added with a laugh.

"We started showing off a bit and would get set up with someone on the other team. We would knock each other into the pool. We also broke the goal down once. We had a great time!"

A difference noted in the game then compared to today's way of playing is that no one blocked the goal. It remained open. Sidney would tell the players that hitting the goal was part of the skill they wanted to show each other an the public. To make a score or "kill the ball" it should strike the pole on the facing side and fall to the ground in the inner court. Teams now have goalies. Also in Sidney's time, players could throw the sticks and the ball up against

the goal to score which isn't allowed today. Choctaw historian Olin Williams said change comes with every generation. "Anything that's alive grows and changes," Williams explained. "After

stickball became looked at more as a sport, changes began taking place. Each generation adds something they see of value."

Sidney White added more than his share to stickball during his lifetime. He contributed to the history of the tribe's ancestral game both in the ways he taught and in the beautifully crafted sticks, testament to his deep understanding of what it means to play.





Folsom White is among a group of young men asked to represent Indian tribes during the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration on July 4 in Washington, D.C. Pictured above are Able Frazier, Gary Gardner, Roy Jefferson, White, Cleland Billy and Glen Billy. Below, the boys play stickball on the lawn by the Reflecting Pool.



Contact us to participate in running for our Okla Chahta Princess

# 18TH ANNUAL OKLA CHAHTA Choctaw Gathering

at Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, California

Saturday, May 4

Visit with Chief Pyle & Assistant Chief Batton

History & Culture ◆ Heritage Booth ◆ Traditional Items on Display Join in Traditional Dance ◆ Learn about Traditional Weaponry

Make-and-Take Classes on Traditional Dressmaking, Lace Collar Necklace, Basket Making, Pottery and more

Also on Saturday - A Traditional Wedding and Stickball

and Tribal Membership/CDIB will have a booth available.

Sunday, May 5

**Church Services** 

For more information: 661-368-2067 or choctaws@oklachahta.org Bakersfield

Our choice hotel:

**Double Tree Hotel** 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct., Bakersfield, CA 661-323-7111

Make your reservations early! Hotel only holding rate of \$86 until April 1. Ask for Choctaw rate.

# Shell Gorgets | Beautiful works stand as a testament to high level attained in early Choctaw art



Figure 1. Pickett-style gorget made by author

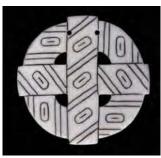


Figure 2. Oktibbeha-style gorget made by author

Every Labor Day, Choctaw artists display their work in the annual Choctaw art show at Tvshka Homma. Even a causal visit to this event makes it clear that our Tribe has many creative and artistic people. These abilities have not arisen overnight, but have come out of a very deep tradition. Choctaw people who lived before European arrival made many beautiful, intricate, and highly skilled pieces of artwork. Today, it is rare to see these early pieces, because most of them have returned to the earth from which their raw materials came. One exception are beautifully executed shell gorgets. Made from durable material, some of these ancient pieces still survive. Today, these beautiful works stand as a testament to the high level attained in early

Choctaw art.

Known as "shaha" in the Choctaw language (Byington 1915:324), these gorgets were carved from large, with holes drilled

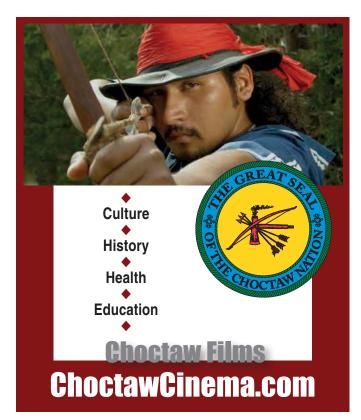




Figure 3. Three views of a Busycon

shell

Figure 4. Left: Busycon shell with a cut being made in it; Center and Right: the shell with the whorl removed





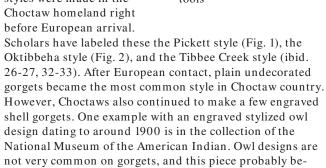
Iti Fabussa



Figure 5. Stone saw being used to cut mussel shell

from the neck as a pendant. Some gorgets are as simple as a plain disk of shell, but others are highly embellished with delicate cutouts and engraved designs. To look at one of these masterworks of art is to appreciate it, however this appreciation is deepened in considering the ingenuity and patience that the artisans employed to make these objects from tough materials without the use of power tools or even metal tools.

Shell gorgets have been made for several thousand years in the American southeast, but the art came into full flower during the two centuries before European arrival (Brain and Phillips 1996:1-2). Many of the gorgets were made according to regional styles. Although quite a bit of variability existed between different regional styles, the gorgets within each specific style are very similar to each other. Three different gorget styles were made in the Choctaw homeland right



longed to a Choctaw alikchi. Ancestral Choctaw artisans utilized both freshwater mussel shells from local rivers (see Iti Fabvssa 1/13) and marine shells from the ocean as raw materials for making gorgets. The most commonly used marine shells came from the whelk, specifically from the genus Busycon (Fig. 3). Choctaw artisans probably referred to these Busycon shells as "shaha toba" (Byington

1915:324, also see Thompson 2008:458). The Busycon species used for gorgets produce light-colored spiraling shells as great as 18 inches in length. This material was so highly prized that Native communities traded it all the way from the west coast of Florida, where it was obtained, up to the

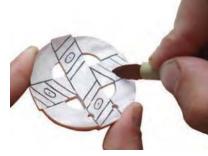


Figure 9. Engraving a design with a stone-tipped tool

Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (e.g. Montgomery 1908:38-39), a distance of roughly 1700 miles!

Making a shell gorget is not a task to be undertaken lightly. Busycon shell is extremely hard, tough, and is even somewhat resistant to heat. One hundred thirty years ago, an anthropolo-

Let anyone who thinks lightly of such a work undertake, without machinery or well-adapted appliances, to cut a groove or notch even, in a moderately compact specimen of Busycon, and he will probably increase his good opinion of the skill and patience of the ancient workman if he does nothing else (Holmes 1883:286).

Gorgets were made from the outer part, or whorl of the Busycon shell. This part is removed from the rest of the shell by hitting it very hard but very carefully with a tough, round rock. Each blow removes a small chip of shell. If the blows are aligned sequentially, they can be used to cut the whorl away from the rest of the shell (Fig.

After the removal of the

whorl, both Busycon and

Figure 10. Oktibbeha-style gorget made by the author with only stone tools

freshwater mussel shell were worked with basically similar processes and tools. First, the shells had to be made into a roughly even shape. This was often done by dipping a flake of tough stone in wet sand, and sliding it back and forth over the surface of the shell (Fig. 5). Each stroke ground away a small amount of material. When the sand fell off, more was added. Making major cuts with this technique took hours of patient work. After the general shape of the gorget had been roughed out by cutting (Fig. 6), its edges were finely shaped by grinding on a sandstone slab. Plain-style gorgets were made by grinding the shell into a smooth, circular or oval shape and then drilling two holes for stringing it on a necklace (Fig. 7). Some of the more fancy gorgets had fenstreations, or cutouts made into them. This was done by first drilling round holes in the shell (Fig. 8) and then shaping the holes by using a rough-edged flake of stone to saw back and forth within the holes to make them the desired shape. Engraving was done using the same tool, carefully sawing it back and forth over the slick, interior surface of the shell to cut in the designs (Fig. 9). The engraved designs show

up better if they are painted (Fig. 10). Today, the meaning that some of the ancient gorgets had to their makers and owners is not fully known. While interpretations exist for many of the symbols incorporated into the gorget designs, they will not be discussed here. Together, the symbols on some gorgets may tell stories from early oral

history, or symbolize the accomplishments of their owners or the tasks that they were responsible for doing. Beyond whatever other meanings they had, these gorgets were also highly valued items of personal adornment and expression. In the early 1700s, one shell gorget was worth four tanned deer hides in trade (Lawson 1714).

Today, some gorget artists from other southeastern Tribes are well known and highly respected for their work. Several Choctaw people are experimenting with shell carving and making a few gorgets. With the inherent beauty of the shell, the deep tradition of gorget making among Choctaw artisans, and the possibility of making some amazing new traditional works of art, the ancient art of gorget-making is just waiting to take off again in the Choctaw community.

Archived editions of Iti Fabvssa can be found at http://www.choctawnationculture.com/choctawculture/iti-fabvssa. If you have a question about Choctaw history or culture, please email to biskinik@choctawnation.com.



Figure 6. Mussel shell after

cuts are complete



Figure 8. Drilling holes with a stonetipped drill with a river cane shaft

# Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna **♦♦♦** Lesson of the Month **♦♦♦**

## Impa chi bvnna ho?

Pronounced:

Im-pah chi bahn-nah ho?

Do you want to eat?

Word Meaning:

impa – eat/ to eat chi – you

bvnna – want/need ho – question marker

Question markers o, ho, yo, come at the end of a question and the vowel "o'" is underlined to show it has a nasalized sound.

Rules to follow for correct usage of question markers.

- 1. o follows a word that ends in a consonant
- 2. ho follows a verb
- 3. yo follows descriptive words/adjectives, numbers, etc.

In previous lessons, we learned the Choctaw word for "I" is "li" and is preceded by a

The use of "chi" also means "you" and is in the second person singular form. This usage shows how "you - chi" is affected by an action or adjective.

Ofi yät chi haklo tuk. Chi chaha.

The dog heard you. You are tall.

*In response to the previous question:* Do you want to eat?

### A, impa sv bvnna. Yes, I want to eat.

Pronounced:

Anh, im-pah sah-bahn-na.

Word Meaning:

sv - IA - yes impa – eat /to eat

Pronounced:

Ke-yoh, im-pah, sah bahn-na ke-yoh.

No, I do not want to eat.

Keyu, impa sv bvnna kiyo.

keyu – no

bvnna - want or need

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kiyo - not (negator)

# **DOCTORATE**

\$10,000 for both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 1 applicant will be selected Deadline: March 31, 2013

- United States Resident
- Accepted into Doctoral Program of Choice
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member

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- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Member

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- Graduating High School in the 10.5 Counties of the Choctaw Nation

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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**Choctaw Nation** spreads culture

## San Diego and Phoenix cultural community meetings

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation traveled west in February to visit tribal members in San Diego, Calif., and Phoenix, Ariz., all in an effort to bring members of the tribe together and revive the ways of the traditional Choctaw.

Many Choctaws from both locations gathered to meet with Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and cultural experts from among the tribe. Patrons who had signed up in



Leilani Hernandez of Phoenix, her mother to satisfy Ariz., tries her hand at creating a their yearning to learn pair of Choctaw earrings.

advance were able to attend a bead working class facilitated by members of the Cultural Services Department.

"It's fun, I think I have a new hobby," said Kimberly Kogler of Oceanside, Calif., as she concentrated on her beading project. Kimberly attended the event with more about their heritage. "We always look for the Southern

California Choctaw events so we can go," continued Kimberly. "I have always seen these [type] earrings and wondered

how they are made," said Leilani Hernandez of Phoenix, who came with her good friend, Summer Alahdali. Both girls were excited to learn a new skill, stating, "This might inspire me to do more beading."

Larry Lambert, a Phoenix resident and new member of the Choctaw Nation, was also in attendance for the beading class. 'It is an art and people that do that have lots of patience," he stated.

"I couldn't make it to Oklahoma, so I am glad you came here," said Larry, who had looked forward to the meeting and learning about many different aspects of his Choctaw heritage. He mentioned that he had been reading a copy of the Choctaw dictionary, studying the language of his tribe, and was excited to speak with language experts.

"If you are lucky enough to have ancestors who are Native Americans take advantage of it," said Larry as he discussed how proud he was of his lineage, and the rich background that comes with a family tree with native roots.

Along with the revived

traditions and knowledge brought by the Choctaw Nation to the west, another benefit for patrons of these meetings was the gathering of locals with similar heritage. As the meetings hit their attendance peak, hundreds of Choctaws accumulated, displaying just how large a portion of the local population shares the same background.

Two guests of the meeting with a distinguished history, Anna Hennessy and Barbara Weaver, attribute their friendship to a Choctaw connection. Nearly two years ago, Anna placed a note on Barbara's car window telling her that she was Choctaw and left contact info. The two met up and have been friends ever since, attending Choctaw functions together.

"I was parked at a shopping mall parking lot, and when I came out I found a note on the window that said, I am Choctaw also'," stated Barbara. Anna knew of Barbara's connection to the Choctaw Nation because of a Choctaw vanity plate. "I got out of my car, was walking across the parking lot, and right there, 'Choctaw'," exclaimed Anna. "I could not pass that up," she continued.

Local Choctaw artist George Willis was able to demonstrate his talents to those in attendance of the San Diego meeting. George resides in Carlsbad, Calif., and is a craftsman who makes jewelry and small sculptures from an array of raw materials.

"I work in a lot of different ways," George stated. Many techniques are used in his pieces, including what he calls, "pierce and apply," which he utilizes when creating his pictorial artwork from multiple sheets of metal. He cuts the scene from one piece of metal and then Willis boasts carefully applies it to another with a strong form of solder, then adds the details and texture by hand. over 700 hours

is also very precise in how he depicts his scenes. "I have more research time than bench time," he stated as he explained that a great deal of time goes into finding out how to correctly depict his subjects. George elaborated on a particular piece, which included Choctaw Code Talkers, saying he had to pay attention to every detail, from the guns used to the hats worn in the set.

George is also quite skilled with buffalo horn. He is able to transform a rugged and harsh horn into a beautiful piece of jewelry. Precise cutting and sanding are involved in this work, which he mentioned could create quite a stench. George laughed as he told about the smell, but admitted the end product was well worth the toil.

The meetings also featured an opening prayer, presented in both English and Choctaw, a language lesson from Choctaw language instructor Lillie Roberts, dances from the Choctaw traditional dancers and musical entertainment provided by chanter and bead artist Brad Joe and Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray.

"It was really fun," mentioned San Diego resident Sara Shelden, who was "stolen" during the Stealing Partners dance and tested her speed in the Snake dance. Sara was one of many audience members who were able to actively participate during the demonstration of the age-old ways.

In the midst of the occasion, Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton spoke to their fellow Choctaws, telling them of the many strides the Choctaw Nation is making, not only in keeping its culture alive, but flourishing in present customs. Chief Pyle spoke of the Choctaw businesses' ability to turn a profit during a recession and the programs that

were made possible by the success of Choctaw endeavors. He made mention of programs such as the STAR Program

that encourages Choctaw students everywhere to participate and try their best in school, leading to brighter futures for the youth of the nation. He spoke of opportunities provided by programs and what it means in the lives of the Choctaw people.

Among all the activities provided, a favorite of the crowd was getting to speak and take a picture with Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton. Guests were able to meet and visit with both before and after the meeting, sharing stories of their families, histories, as well as compliments and concerns for the tribe.

"It is always good to get a perspective from our members who are not here in Oklaoma. They are a big part of the tribe and we want to reach out to them as well, stated Chief Pyle as he spoke about Choctaw artist George Willis readies his display for the his trip west. 'It was a great San Diego Cultural gathering. George exhibited breast- trip. I'm glad we are able to plates, earrings and many types of Native American jewelry. bring our culture across the United States," he concluded.





Jennifer Graff and her daughter, Cambria, participate in the Stealing



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

The Cordova family - mom Julie, twins Anovk and Isolde, and big brother Paikea - are happy to see Chief Pyle in La Jolla, Calif.



Anna Hennessy, Assistant Chief Batton and Barbara Weaver visit during the cultural meeting Feb. 17 in



Kanda Jackson lends her expertise to novice bead



The hat of George

Larry Lambert of Phoenix shows off the beginning of his beadwork project.



Young women of the Okla Chahta clan help Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray fill the room with color.