



Tribal Council holds regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Feb. 13 at Tvshka Homma. Committees from the following departments reported: Hugo Head Start, Choctaw Ranches, Poteau Recycling Center, Gaming Commission, Stigler Health Clinic, Fleet Department, Broken Bow and Idabel Gaming, and Business Development.

The following council bills were unanimously approved:

- Approve the amendment to CB-113.96, regulating political activities on the council grounds at Tvshka Homma.
- Letter of appointment for Bob Rabon to complete Marion Fry’s term on Judicial Court of Appeals.
- Approve a proposal for the Choctaw Nation Eyeglasses, Dentures/Partials, Hearing Aids and Durable Medical Equipment FY 2016.
- Application for the Transitional Housing, Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program.
- Authorize the Chief to place property in McCurtain County in Trust Status with the United States of America (McCurtain County).
- Approve to unify the courts of the Choctaw Nation in the Judicial Department.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and council bills, go to <http://www.choctawnation.com/government/tribal-council-bills/2016-council-bills>.

Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma.

Faith•Family•Culture	2
Iti Fabvssa	2
Health	4
Notes to the Nation.....	5
Obituaries	6
Education/People You Know ...	10
Sports	11

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.

Digital Copy

Scan this code with your smart-phone to go online for this issue and archive copies of the BISKINIK: <http://www.choctawnation.com/news-room/biskinik-newspaper-archive/>



Photo Provided

Choctaw Nation employee Shannon Compton recently returned from a trip to Midleton, Ireland, where she visited the sculpture *Kindred Spirits*.

Choctaw-Irish bond lives on

In 2015, a statue was commissioned to be built in Midleton, County Cork, Ireland, to honor the kindness of the Choctaws. But the story begins in 1831, when the Choctaw people were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands in Mississippi. A few years later, Choctaws learned of people starving in Ireland. Only sixteen years had passed since the Choctaws had faced hunger and death on the first Trail of Tears and a great empathy was felt when they heard such a similar tale coming from across the ocean. Individual Choctaws collected and donated \$170 in 1847 to assist the Irish people.

Jump ahead a century and a half. It took a year for artist Alex Pentek to create *Kindred Spirits*. With its nine eagle feathers reaching 20 feet into the air, the statue represents “this great moment of compassion, strength, and unity,” said Pentek. The official unveiling is expected to take place later this spring.

Shannon Compton, of the Choctaw Nation, visited the site of the just completed work last year.

“I will never forget the honor it was to see a creation that represents everything we work to preserve here at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma,” Compton said. “Majestic! That’s the one work that I felt as we walked up... The monument was so much bigger than it looked like in the pictures. The feathers are absolutely stunning.” She noted that the sculpture is located in a park near a lake. “It was breathtakingly beautiful.”

Read Shannon’s complete story online.



Joni Brooks, president and publisher of The Journal Record, presents Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton with an award recognizing him as one of Oklahoma’s Most Admired CEOs on Feb. 18.

Chief Batton takes home Most Admired CEO award during annual event in OKC

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation

Chief Gary Batton was among 27 executives recognized as Oklahoma’s Most Admired CEOs at The Journal Record’s seventh annual event Feb. 18 at the Embassy Suites Oklahoma City Downtown/Medical Center.

“This is an award for the Choctaw Nation and its citizens,” Chief Batton said. “I am receiving this gift because of my family, our ancestors, tribal members, tribal council and employees and I proudly accept it on their behalf. Yakoke.”

“Chief Batton is dedicated to the Choctaw Nation and southeastern Oklahoma,” Assistant Chief Jack

instrumental in providing more jobs, opportunities in education, career training, and improvements in health, housing, and social services.

The Choctaw Nation is currently involved in 21 industries in 63 locations. In the last year, the Choctaw Nation has opened a large expansion to its health clinic in Poteau, broken ground on a regional clinic in Durant, and opened three new wellness centers. Other facilities and businesses opened in 2015 include two Chili’s franchises, a Travel Plaza, expansion to its resort in Durant, a community center, two food distribution centers, and a new independent living community for its elders. These openings have added much-needed jobs to southeastern Oklahoma, helping to counter the declining job rate for the rural area.

Programs are being implemented to recognize and develop leadership at several levels, and to provide assistance through reintegration and job-for-the-day programs.

A recent trip to participate in a walk that retraced steps of his Choctaw ancestors who were removed from Mississippi to Indian Territory left a deep impression on Chief Batton.

“It heightened our awareness of our connection to the past,” he said. “It rejuvenated a commitment to the present – to support the employees, families, tribal members and each other for the betterment of the future of the tribe.”

Roads always lead to somewhere across Choctaw Nation

By CHARLES CLARK
Choctaw Nation

Most programs of the Choctaw Nation are available only to members of the Choctaw Nation, and others for those members within the 10 1/2 county service area of southeast Oklahoma. But when it comes to roads, and a few more vehicle and movement-related construction events, the Choctaw Nation steps up to the plate.

Everyone who lives in Bethel or Battiest or attends school at Battiest uses the Bethel cutoff from Broken Bow. They will now be saving approximately seven

at the same location. These eyes-toward-health also increase the liveability and appeal of communities.

Anyone can make a request to the Choctaw Nation, but the typical approach is an individual or an organization makes an appeal to a tribal councilman. The request is then considered by the council as a whole. If approved at that level, the next step is sending the idea to the Natural Resources Department and Executive Director Wayne Wylie. It’s then assigned to Transportation where a staff will research the total impact and viability



Photo by Charles Clark

A slip form paver follows trucks dumping concrete in one of the final steps of resurfacing Nixon Road in February.

miles per trip.

A number of repairs and even new constructions were requested from a variety of sources, both tribal members and the public. These requests make their way to the Choctaw Nation Transportation program.

Some jobs were not that big, and some not even roads. A school parking lot cost \$65,677.

Other jobs turn out to be very big indeed. Two road constructions ran in excess of \$2,000,000 each.

In all, 1,414 families were immediately impacted by these 13 miles of improvements.

As the year unfurls, there are already 10 jobs, each in a different county, at various stages of completion. As the concrete solidifies, so does the cost. Work on these 26.12 miles is closing out at \$26,055,068.54. Affected are no less than 156 families.

For 2016, 11 more projects are scheduled to begin construction: one is a parking lot for a Head Start/daycare facility; the other 10 encompass road work in seven different counties.

Some 530 families are expected to be served by this 27.85 miles of road development. Completion dates for these projects range from March to December, with most in the latter part of the year.

In addition to county roads and school parking lots, earlier projects undertaken by the Choctaw Nation have included items such as the winding road from the street to the parking lot of the Atoka Sports Center, and the quarter-mile concrete walking trail

of the job. If it is defined as a need of Choctaw families and others within the service area it is then given the green light. Bids are then taken by companies interested in doing the job. Again research is carried out, narrowing the choices until one is selected based on its qualifications.

Once work begins, Transportation staff periodically visit the work site and reports are made on progress.

Something seemingly as routine as filling potholes and resurfacing a bumpy road is not quite so simple. First a plan is engineered with specs determined. Then all right-of-way permits must be obtained. A job may include tearing out invasive trees, retrenching ditches, moving fences, tearing out and rebuilding private driveways, and adding new tin horns (metal drainage pipes).

The 5.11 miles of Nixon Road required construction of a concrete plant nearby to supply the needs of the job. Such things add to the cost and time of a project.

According to Transportation staff, the work on Voca Road is typical of a project. “The county is taking care of five miles, then the Choctaw Nation is doing two miles,” said a field rep. With all that, such jobs are designed to come in at 120-160 days.

A lot goes into a “simple” resurfacing job. But is it worth it? Ask the at-least 2,100 families whose lives will be made easier, and safer, within the coming year thanks to the new roads/good neighbor efforts of the Choctaw Nation Transportation Program.

Faith ♦ Family ♦ Culture



The Wealth of Health Options on the Horizon

It's great to be able to get out in the community with you, our tribal members, to listen to your thoughts and your ideas on the direction of the tribe. I enjoy visiting and hearing the stories very much. I want to thank everyone for the calls, letters, and for being welcomed into your homes.

I take your ideas very seriously. You have talked to me about providing services and I've been asked to focus on culture, service delivery, and employment. That is why each district has seen growth as new businesses and facilities focusing on the members' needs have been constructed. We are also building three of our largest projects—a regional clinic, new headquarters, and a cultural center—all in the same general area in Durant.

The Durant Regional Medical Clinic is being built on a 20-acre campus just north of the Choctaw Nation Child Development Center. The clinic will provide primary care (including WIC, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Podiatry and Specialty Care), Employee Health, Rehabilitation Services, Outpatient Surgery, Dental Care, Audiology, Eye Care, Pharmacy services, Lab and Radiology services, Behavioral Health, Education, meeting facilities, and a Wellness Center. Administration functions will include WIC, Public Relations, Public Health Nutrition, Healthy Aging, Rapid Results, Education, more meeting facilities, and health services administration offices.



Construction is under way on the Durant Regional Medical Clinic with an estimated completion date of January 2017.

It will be the first tribal Indian Health Service program to have an outpatient ambulatory surgery clinic. It's a blessing for the tribe to be able to build such a state-of-the-art facility that will help tribal members live longer, healthier lives, as well as create new jobs for the area to increase quality of life for families.

The new headquarters complex will consolidate over 30 Choctaw Nation offices scattered across Durant, bringing together approximately 900 employees with the capacity to deliver better care, share culture, and increase accommodation for tribal members. It is being constructed next

to the regional medical clinic with the first floor dedicated to tribal services and easily accessible parking in front for members.

The office complex is being designed to reflect Choctaw culture and will incorporate cultural artwork, a pond and walking track. The groundwork has begun at the site and it is expected to be complete within the next two years.

On the west side of Highway 69/75, our dreams of a new cultural center will soon take shape. The progress throughout the Nation is due to the combined vision of our members and the growing number of talented staff who all have the Nation's future in their hearts. Yakoke.



The Bounty of the Harvest

Native people are known to be some of the first conservationists and protectors of the resources we have. This is how we have sustained our tribe over time. My dad has told me many stories about his dad—my grandfather. My grandfather used a portion of his allotted land to provide enough food to sustain his family year-round.

My dad taught me the importance of a garden. He learned from his father and passed on the importance to me. We always had a large garden when I was growing up and when I married, my wife and I had a large garden. Our older son and daughter experienced it and I am planning to build a raised garden so that my younger son can also learn the values that come from planting, nurturing and harvesting food for the family.

As a child, it was exciting to see the tops of the plants break the ground and watch them grow, bloom, and then produce. Digging the potatoes was the most fun for me when I was young. The potatoes were spread out in a cool, dry place in the barn and our walls were lined with canned goods. We didn't know what it was to buy vegetables at a store. I've encouraged my children to learn as much as they can about growing and preserving fruits and vegetables, enjoying the homegrown flavor, and even making their own jams and jellies.

As my grandmothers grew older and were unable to continue gardening, it was a blessing for them and for me too, to be able to take vegetables to them. Dad said my grandfather enjoyed giving away excess from his garden to members of the community and this is a practice I still see happening today and something else I want to encourage Sam to do. I see people bringing in bags of fresh vegetables to church or at work, which is a great example of the way that Choctaws have always cared for one another.

Our youngest, Sam, is also interested in raising chickens. The responsibilities of gardening and taking care of the chickens will help him learn skills and values as well as helping him develop a better understanding of science and nature. All children need a chance to plan, plant, and watch how weather affects the plants, whether it's in a garden or a few small plants on the porch. Their problem-solving skills will be enhanced as they are faced with too much rain, drought, or destructive insects. It can help them become more caring individuals.

I rely a lot on my mom, dad and my ancestors before them; what they have taught, and continue to teach me. Every day I have a thought about something they have passed along that parallels the tribe's vision of Faith, Family and Culture. I think we as tribal members should make every effort to pass along the lessons from those who came before us. I encourage you to cherish the elders around you, for who better holds the knowledge needed to sustain our lives and culture.



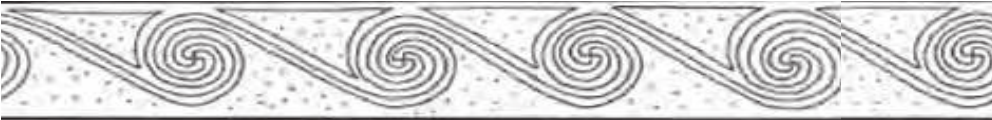
Beginning its third year, the Choctaw Nation Farmers Market Nutrition Program provides its farmers places to sell their fresh produce on Wednesdays at Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Broken Bow, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, and Stigler. The program runs from May 1 through October 31.



If You're A Choctaw Veteran, We Want You.

Tell us your story for a video library. Send your information to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Advocacy. veteransadvocacy@choctawnation.com

Contact Roger Hamill
Deputy Director
(800)522-6170 ext. 2160



Iti Fabussa

The Role of Choctaw Leaders: Past and Present

The early 1800s was a time of change and adaptation for many Choctaw people. Americans began to look at the Choctaw Nation for its vast natural resources and land. Choctaw chiefs were being forced to cede lands to the United States in exchange for the payment of monetary debts, a new concept to Choctaw society. Choctaw leaders quickly developed an understanding of American politics after attending many meetings with the Indian agents that the federal government assigned to them. In 1816 not long after winning the War of 1812 with Choctaw support, the United States demanded a treaty to cede lands in Alabama. The Choctaw leaders knew they would have to cede these lands, however, they had learned how to "conduct business" in the American way. The Choctaw leaders quickly responded with their own requests before signing the treaty. Once the treaty had received the required signatures of the Choctaw leaders, the Indian agent rushed back to Washington D.C. to have the treaty ratified. To the astonishment of the federal officials, they saw that the treaty was to the advantage of the Choctaw Nation, not the United States. The Choctaw chiefs had arranged it so that the Choctaw Nation would receive a monetary annuity for twenty years. It was quoted soon after that the Choctaw leaders were considered "shrewd businessmen."



Peter Pitchlynn (hvhchotakni, or snapping turtle) was a student who attended the early Choctaw mission schools.

This annuity was used to pay for creating blacksmiths and funds for education. Understanding that greater change would be needed for the Choctaw people to endure the encroachment of American citizens and the federal government, the Choctaw chiefs met in 1818 to discuss allowing an American citizen into the Choctaw Nation; his name was Cyrus Kingsbury. Kingsbury was the first missionary allowed to move into the Choctaw Nation. Upon his arrival he began to build Elliot Mission, the first mission school to ever be constructed in the Choctaw Nation. Soon after it began to receive its first students. Choctaw leaders understood the need for American schooling for Choctaw youth. If Choctaw society was to successfully

endure, then future leaders would need to understand both Choctaw and American society. Soon after, many other mission schools were constructed. After the Trail of Tears many of the youth trained at these mission schools became some of the greatest Choctaw leaders throughout the 1800s, paving the way for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma today.

Our Choctaw leaders of the past were thoughtful leaders, whose first duty was al-



Peter Pitchlynn was the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1864-1866 during the American Civil War.

ways to the Choctaw people. Western academics call this style of leadership servant leadership or collectivism. To Choctaw people it was and is the style of leadership our Choctaw leaders have always strived for, meeting the needs of the community. As Choctaw people we relied on our community and our family. Because we are interconnected, all people were expected to act as leaders when their special knowledge or abilities were needed. This way the burden of leadership is shared and the importance of a leader does not depend on the title an individual has, but instead the respect comes from their actions as a servant leader in the community. Leaders had to prove themselves before being selected by the community to lead. The village chief presided over the village, greeted visitors, and represented the village. The chiefs did not accumulate a lot of wealth, instead they shared their resources with the community. Choctaw society at that time looked down on people that hoarded wealth and were greedy. Instead Choctaw people believed in working and sharing as a community, so no one ever went without. Choctaw leaders made decisions based off the consensus of the community, making sure to hear the wisdom of elders and other distinguished individuals.

Today the idea of servant leadership is still seen not just in our tribal government, but also in our communities. There are many tribal youth, adults, and elders who serve their community on a daily basis. The hard work of our governmental leaders and community leaders is what paves the way to create a proud nation of Choctaws based on the values of faith, family, and culture. By keeping the traditions of our past and adapting to the future our Nation will continue to be successful and sustainable for future generations of Choctaws.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

For many, insurance coverage and even Medicare can be hard to understand and even cause you concern in knowing if you are making the right decision(s) when it comes to your health care benefits. Often, insurance plans have things in "fine print" and depending on your level of understanding insurance, makes this time of year very frustrating.

What Is Medicare Open Enrollment?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Medicare have an annual open enrollment period where those on Medicare can make changes to their existing insurance coverage for the upcoming year. These changes might include, changing or adding a supplemental insurance plan to help pay what services Medicare does not pay, make changes or add a Part D plan to help cover the cost of prescription medications or to make changes in the Medicare coverage by switching from one Medicare Replacement plan to another plan, changing from "traditional or original" Medicare to a Medicare Replacement plan or leaving a Medicare Replacement plan and going back to "traditional or original Medicare." Through March 31 you can do the following:

- If you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Replacement plan, you can leave that plan and return to "traditional/ original Medicare" coverage.
- If you leave a Medicare Replacement plan and to back to "traditional/ original Medicare" you can select a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan during this time.
- If you did not sign up for Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B when you were first eligible, you have the opportunity to sign up now with coverage beginning July 1, 2016.

If you are satisfied with your current Medicare coverage, you do not have to do anything during this time of the year.

How Can I Find Out More About Medicare And Open Enrollment?

Find out more about Medicare coverage, who's eligible, the costs associated with having the coverage and more by using the following resources: Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213, Medicare (800) MEDICARE, www.medicare.gov Call Choctaw Nation and ask for a Benefit Coordinator at any one of the health care locations.

Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center, Talihina	918-567-7000 or 800-349-7026
Choctaw Nation, Atoka	580-889-1981
Choctaw Nation, Broken Bow	580-584-2766
Choctaw Nation, Durant	580-920-2100
Choctaw Nation, Hugo	580-326-7561
Choctaw Nation, Idabel	580-286-2600
Choctaw Nation, McAlester	918-43-8440
Choctaw Nation, Poteau	918-649-1100
Choctaw Nation, Stigler	918-967-9200
Choctaw Nation, Talihina Community Clinic	918-567-3636

Don't dismiss the importance of health insurance in your and your family's lives. You might not need it today, but in an instant all that could change. Please call today and let us answer any questions you have about Medicare and your health insurance benefits!

CHOCTAW VOTE

Be a Voice Be a Choctaw Voter

The Choctaw Nation is excited to announce updates to our Voter Registration Department. In order to provide the best service to our members, our mission is to preserve a separate voter information database and maintain communication with voters. Our initiative is to increase voter participation and promote election process transparency. To align with our goals, we strive to maintain accurate voter records for all eligible members by the next Tribal Elections in the summer of 2017. It is our intent to provide every opportunity for our tribal members to vote and have a voice in the Choctaw Nation. The Voter Registration Department will have staff available year round to assist Tribal Members regarding Choctaw Nation voter registration and tribal elections. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Voter Registration FAQs

Why do we have a Voter Registration Department?

Voter Registration has a new team to focus on increasing voter participation and promoting election process transparency. Staff will be available year round in the office and out in the community to assist Tribal Members with questions in regards to the registration process.

Who can vote in Choctaw elections?

Anyone who meets the eligibility guidelines detailed in the Choctaw Election Ordinance, as such:

- Membership with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- 18 years of age or older
- Completion of the Voter Registration Form for new or updated information

If I have voted in Choctaw Nation Tribal Elections before, why should I complete a Voter Registration Form?

We have updated the Voter Registration Form to be used for any of the following purposes:

- One time registration for new voters
- Changes to physical and/or mailing addresses
- Changes to your Address Release Authorization
- Signature verification for any requested changes

Where do I get a Voter Registration Form?

A Voter Registration Packet will be mailed to all Tribal Members, age 18 and older, who have a current address on file with the Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership Department at the end of February 2016. For the convenience of our Tribal Members, the initial mail out will have postage paid return envelopes. In the future, forms will also be available on our website at www.choctawnation.com and at Choctaw Nation Community Centers. You may also contact the Voter Registration Department in order to request one.

Will my current voting District or affiliation change?

Possibly. All voters will be required to provide a physical address so that they are registered to vote in the proper District. Voters living inside the Choctaw Nation boundaries will be assigned to the District in which they reside. Voters living outside of the Choctaw Nation boundaries may choose to affiliate with a District or remain unaffiliated. Once you affiliate, you must remain in the District you have chosen, unless you move within Choctaw Nation boundaries.

What should I expect after submitting the Voter Registration Form?

The certification process will begin once forms are received in the Voter Registration Office. You will receive a Voter Registration Certificate once we have processed your form. For female Tribal Members, certificates will be issued in maiden names only. We anticipate that the certificates will be mailed in late summer 2016. If your form is not accepted, then we will return it to you with a letter outlining further actions to take for certification to occur.

Do I have to register to vote?

No, but we do encourage you to embrace this responsibility and privilege so that you have a vote and a voice in any future Tribal Elections.

Does this effect my current Tribal Membership card?

Not at this time. Please keep your current Tribal Membership card in order to receive any services or benefits that you may qualify for through other programs. If there are any changes made regarding this, Tribal Members will be notified in the future.

Which Districts are up for the next Tribal Election?

For the summer 2017, elections will be held for Districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12. For summer 2019, elections will be held for Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, and Chief.



Choctaw Nation
Faith • Family • Culture

www.ChoctawNation.com

1.800.522.6170 ext 2289 or ext 2410 or 1.580.924.8280

voterregistration@choctawnation.com

P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702

Siblings, Jack Bacon, 83, and Ruthie Anderson, 80, stand in front of Goss School in Daisy, Oklahoma. The school was established by their grandfather, Judge Isaac Billy, in 1910.

Both Jack and Ruthie attended school at Goss and went on to become teachers. Jack was the last teacher at Goss when it closed in 1964. Jack and Ruthie both retired from Stringtown Public School.

Jack and Ruthie are the March elders in the 2016 Choctaw Nation calendar.

(right) Jack and Ruthie are shown in front of the old Goss School House in Daisy that was established by their grandfather Judge Issace Billy.



(left) Jack and Ruthie tour the grounds of where they played during recess more than 70 years ago.



The Next Step Initiative is designed to assist Choctaw tribal members who are working, on social security, retirement, or disability. If you have been denied food distribution for making too much money, the Next Step Initiative may be able to help. This initiative issues vouchers to local grocery stores. It is not only for groceries but other necessity items of the household.

Through this program you will learn about financial freedom and healthy living. Everyone needs help at some point in time. Having a set income or making the same amount each week or month and not knowing how you will feed the family or yourself for the week or month is a sad feeling. As you get started on our program we will let you fix a budget, watch a webinar, and see what the possibilities are to having financial freedom.

Diana Watson has been a participant for six months. Before the program, Diana went a few days without knowing how she was going to eat. She is a diabetic and it was hard making do without fruits or the food needed to balance her sugar. Diana is on a fixed income, so learning about budgets and knowing what she is going to eat every day has really helped her. She can plan her meals with food that will last throughout the month. Diana adds, "Thank you very much, this program is a good thing."

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

Eligibility Requirements include:

- One Choctaw tribal member in household
- Reside in the Choctaw Nation service area
- No one in household can be participating in SNAP
- Must be a working household
- Some exemptions apply such as Social Security and disability
- Over income for food distribution eligibility

Offices and Social Workers are located at the following food distribution centers:

Durant (580) 924-7773 Antlers (580) 298-6443
McAlester (918) 420-5716 Poteau (918) 649-0431
Broken Bow (580) 584-2842

Have you been identified as having pre-diabetes or being at risk for pre-diabetes?

Cut Your Risk In Half

Pre-diabetes means your blood glucose is higher than normal, but not yet diabetes. Choctaw Nation Lifestyle Coaches are inviting you to be a part of a program that has been proven to prevent diabetes. This program provides:

- A CDC provided curriculum
- The skills you need to lose weight, be more physically active, and manage stress
- A trained lifestyle coach to guide and encourage you
- Support from other participants with the same goals as you
- 16 weekly sessions
- 6-month follow-up sessions to help you maintain healthy lifestyle changes

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Have had gestational diabetes
- Pre-diabetic or at risk for pre-diabetes according to a risk test

If you want to join a program to help you lose weight and cut your risk of diabetes in half, contact us. Classes start in March 2016.

Crystal Hensley, RN, Poteau Clinic
(918) 649-1100, ext. 1137

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Youth Advisory Board

SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Requirements:

- (ALL INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED)
- Must have typed, double-spaced essay of 250-500 words describing your future educational plans/goals
- Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member living in the 10% county area ONLY
- Must attach copy of CDIB and Membership cards
- Must attach Letter of Admission from post secondary education facility
- All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2016
- Attach list of activities you have been involved in
- Provide: GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ ACT/SAT score: _____
- Winning applicants will be notified by May 1, 2016

1st Place-\$500 2nd Place-\$250 3rd Place-\$150

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Current High School: _____

Name of Post Secondary Education Facility you plan to attend: _____

Please mail your application and essay to:
Choctaw Nation Youth Empowerment
P.O. Box 57
Clayton, Oklahoma 74536

Sponsored by:
Choctaw Nation YAB

2016 Education Classes

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency (HSE)

Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 12 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class. Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID).

The class will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

April - June

Monday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, April 5, 1 - 4 p.m.
Broken Bow, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, April 5, 9 a.m. - noon
Durant, Headquarters South Building

Tuesday, April 5, 9 a.m. - noon
Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

July - September

Tuesday, July 5, 5 - 8 p.m.
Durant, Headquarters South Building

Tuesday, July 5, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, July 5, 9 a.m. - noon
McAlester, Eastern Oklahoma State College, McAlester Campus

Monday, July 6, 9 a.m. - noon
Poteau, Carl Albert State College

October - December

Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Broken Bow, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Durant, Headquarters South Building

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Job Connect 2016

Have you ever wanted to talk to someone about career opportunities? Do you have needs for career planning? What jobs are available at the Choctaw Nation?

These questions and more can be answered at the Job Connect event. Representatives from educational services, career planning, WIOA and human resources will be ready to talk about your future. Join us at any of the following Community Centers for these Job Connect events. Each event is scheduled for 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Community	Center Date
Coalgate	3.22.19
Atoka	3.24.16
Spiro	3.29.16
Hugo	3.31.16
Bethel	4.5.16
Durant	4.7.16
Smithville	4.12.16
Antlers	4.14.16
Poteau	4.19.16
Talhiema	4.21.16
Idabel	4.26.16
Stigler	4.28.16
Crowder	5.3.16
McAlester	5.5.16
Wilburton	5.10.16
Broken Bow	5.12.16
Wright City	5.17.16

You may contact Human Resources at 580.924.8280, ext. 2911, you can also visit our Careers Site online at <http://careers.choctawnation.com>.

2016 Miss Indian Oklahoma & Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma Pageant



Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women President Dena Cantrell would like to announce the 2016 Miss Indian Oklahoma and Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma Pageant will be May 6 at the Choctaw Nation Casino Resort.

Deadline for applications will be March 31.

For application information contact

Co-chairs: bhill@live.com or cwilkerson255@gmail.com
or faith.harjo@yahoo.com.

The out-going Princess's Powwow will be Saturday May 7 at Choctaw Nation Casino Resort.

HEALTH

Nutrition Made Easy

By ERIN ADAMS

Choctaw Nation

Halito, March is National Nutrition Month, and this year our theme is ‘Savor the Flavor of Eating Right.’ The following press release from The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics provides wonderful information on ways to enjoy the foods we are eating while at the same time keeping our bodies healthy. For National Nutrition Month® 2016, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is encouraging everyone to “Savor the Flavor of Eating Right” by taking time to enjoy food traditions and appreciate the pleasures, great flavors, and social experiences food can add to your life. “Food nourishes your body and provides necessary fuel to help you thrive and fight disease,” says registered dietitian nutritionist and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokesperson Kristen Gradney. “Food is also a source of pleasure and enjoyment. ‘Savor the Flavor of Eating Right’ by taking time to enjoy healthy foods and all the happiness they bring to your life.”

Enjoy Food Traditions and Social Experiences

There is an obvious social component to food. Whether a nightly family dinner, special holiday occasion, or social gathering, food often plays a central role. “Research indicates that family meals promote healthier eating and strengthen family relationships,” Gradney says. “Prioritize family meals and enjoy the food traditions that accompany any type of social gathering.”

Appreciate Foods Pleasures and Flavors

Take time to appreciate the flavors, textures, and overall eating experience. In today’s busy world, we often eat quickly and mindlessly. Instead, try following this tip to help you savor the flavor of your food: Eat slowly. “Eat one bite at a time, and focus on the different flavors and textures,” Gradney says. “Stop and take time between bites. Eating slowly not only allows you to enjoy your food, but it can also help you eat less by

giving your stomach time to tell your brain that you are full.”

Develop a Mindful Eating Pattern

How, when, why, and where you eat are just as important as what you eat. Being a mindful eater can help you reset both your body and your mind and lead to an overall healthier lifestyle. “Think about where you eat the majority of your meals,” Gradney says. “Many eat lunch at their desks or dinner in front of the television. Take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to find a nice place to mindfully eat instead of multitasking through your meals.”

Consult a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

“A healthy lifestyle is much more than choosing to eat more fruits and vegetables,” Gradney says. “It’s also essential to make informed food choices based on your individual health and nutrient needs. A registered dietitian nutritionist can educate you and guide your food choices while keeping your tastes and preferences in mind. RDNs are able to separate facts from fads and translate nutritional science into information you can use.” Find a registered dietitian nutritionist in your area by visiting eatright.org. The Academy’s website (eatright.org) includes helpful articles, recipes, videos and educational resources, to spread the message of good nutrition and an overall healthy lifestyle for people of all ages, genders and backgrounds. Consumers are also encouraged to follow National Nutrition Month on the Academy’s social media channels including Facebook and Twitter using the #NationalNutritionMonth hashtag. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 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 eatright.org.



Roasted Wild Salmon and Dill with Cabbage Steaks

Recipe from Cooking Light

Recipe of the Month

In keeping with the theme of “traditional” foods and a special request for a recipe geared toward Saint Patrick’s Day, below are two recipes which are traditional Irish recipes with a healthy spin.

Ingredients

- Wild Salmon
- 1 (2 ¼-pound) wild salmon filet
- Cooking spray
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
- 8 (1/8-inch-thick) slices lemon

Cabbage Steaks

- 1 head of cabbage
- 8 teaspoons canola oil

Directions

Wild Salmon
Preheat oven to 450°. Place fish skin side down on a foil-lined baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Brush fish with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Sprinkle dill and lemon rind over fish; arrange lemon slices over fish. Bake for 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork or until desired degree of doneness.
Cabbage Steaks
Preheat oven to 425°. Cut four (1-inch) vertical slices from a head of cabbage. Heat two teaspoons canola oil and ½ teaspoon butter in a cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add one cabbage steak; cook four minutes. Place, seared side up, on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Repeat with more oil and butter and remaining cabbage. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

Nutrition Facts

Amount Per Serving (Wild Salmon)
Calories 192, Total Fat 7g, Sat Fat 1.6g, Mono Fat 3.1g, Poly Fat 1.8g, Protein 30g, Carbohydrate 0.3g, Fiber 0.2g, Cholesterol 70mg, Iron 0.9mg, Sodium 369mg, Calcium 60mg
Amount Per Serving (Cabbage Steaks)
Calories 160, Total Fat 11.5g, Sat Fat 2g, Sodium 238mg

I hope you will enjoy these savory and traditional Irish foods this coming Saint Patrick’s Day. For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD, at the Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6959.

APPLY NOW!
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Early Head Start
Now Accepting Applications for the Durant Area
Early Head Start is a federally funded, low-income, community-based program for eligible families with infants and toddlers up to age 3. The program also follows a Selection Criteria that families will need to meet.
It is a program that came out of the Head Start Program providing school readiness for children. In addition to providing or linking families with needed services—medical, mental health, nutrition, and education—Early Head Start can provide a place for children to experience consistent, nurturing relationships and stable, ongoing routines.
Call 580-924-8280 Ext. 2644
or go by 3815 Enterprise Drive, Durant, OK. 7

NURSERY NEWS

Jacob Christopher James Jr.

Proud parents Nicole and Jacob James would like to welcome Jacob Christopher James Junior. He was born on June 21, 2015, at 8:37 p.m. weighing in at 7 pounds 15.8 ounces and 21 1/2 inches long. He was welcomed home by his older sister Emma Grace Black.



Hagen Stevie Nichols

Hagen Stevie Nichols was born Dec. 10, 2015, to Steven and Melissa Nichols of Bono, Arkansas. She weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Stephen and Cynthia Drummonds of Bono, Tammy Ingram of Paragould, Arkansas, Terry and Nick Nichols of Stillwater. Great-grandparents are Charles and Brenda Reynolds of Bono, Doyle and Glenda Trantham of Bono, Shirley Drummonds of Bono, Sammy and Edward Pate of Monette, Arkansas, and Geneva Leftwich of Monahans, Texas.



Whisper Maria Bohanon

Whisper Maria Bohanon was born on Dec. 23, 2015, to Christopher and Haley (Burger) Bohanon at the Intergral Hospital in Yukon. Whisper weighed 6 pounds and 8 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long. She has a full head of black hair and is very cute! Whisper has a big brother Dakota who is very proud along with her Aunt Cheyenne Fields and grandmother Darlene Bohanon Fields and grandparents Harold and Barbara Burger. Great-grandparents are Sammy Bohanon and Danuta Bohanon. She descends from a very long line of Bohanons/ Andersons from the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.



Ruby Felice Surles

Ruby Felice Surles was born on Dec. 3, 2015, at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. She weighed 8 pounds, one ounce, and was 19.24 inches long. Ruby is the daughter of Jessica Smith and Daniel Major Surles of Oklahoma City. She is the granddaughter of Pebbles (McDonald) and Gregory Smith of Oklahoma City, Robin Robison of Texas, and Rick Surles of Texas. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Bob and Barbara McDonald of Oklahoma City and Emily Surles of Texas. Ruby is also welcomed by lots of cousins and a half-brother, Aksel Henderson.



CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
*** HOURS ***

Open 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Thursday

Antlers: 200 S.W. “O” St., (580) 298-6443
Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842
Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773
McAlester: 3244 Afullotha Hina, (918) 420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

<p>MARCH ANTLERS Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for: Closed: March 25 for holiday and 29-31 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: March 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for: Closed: March 25 for holiday and 29-31 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: March 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>DURANT Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for: Closed: March 25 for holiday and 29-31 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: March 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>McALESTER Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for: Closed: March 25 for holiday and 29-31 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: March 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>POTEAU Market open weekdays March 1-31, except for: Closed: March 25 for holiday and 29-31 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: March 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p>	<p>APRIL ANTLERS Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for: Closed: April 28 and 29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>BROKEN BOW Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for: Closed: April 28 and 29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>DURANT Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for: Closed: April 28 and 29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>McALESTER Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for: Closed: April 28 and 29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p> <p>POTEAU Market open weekdays April 1-30, except for: Closed: April 28 and 29 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: April 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.</p>
--	--

Breastfeeding assistance is just a phone call away.
1-800-522-6170 extension 2507

Choctaw Nation WIC supports breastfeeding moms. We welcome breastfeeding questions, and offer classes in five locations.

McAlester March 9 - May 11 - July 13 - Sept. 14 - Nov. 9 1-3 p.m. Choctaw Nation Health Clinic Downstairs Conference Room	Talihina March 2 - May 4 - July 6 - Sept 7 - Nov. 2 9-11 a.m. Choctaw Nation DWIC	Durant April 6 - June 1 - Aug. 3 - Oct. 5 1-3 p.m. Choctaw Nation WIC Office
Poteau May 18 - July 20 - Sept. 21 - Oct. 12 9-11 a.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center	Idabel April 13 - June 8 - Aug. 10 - Oct. 12 9-11 a.m. Choctaw Nation Clinic Education Room	

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

- * latch
- * frequency of feedings
- * breastfeeding resources
- * positioning
- * growth spurts

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

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NOTES TO THE NATION

—YOUTH of the NATION—

Family is What You Make It

By Brynnen City, a Junior at Stigler High and Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board member

Facts about divorce for Oklahoma: From www.nbcnews.com, “divorce rate for men, 12.8 (3rd highest in the nation)”;

and “divorce rate for women: 14.1 (2nd highest in the nation).” From www.nbcnews.com, “Oklahoma has extraordinarily high rates of divorce among both men and women compared to the rest of the country. According to the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, 32 percent of Oklahoma adults who have ever been married have been divorced. The association lists financial troubles as one of the leading causes of divorce in the state.”

Being a child of a divorced family, I felt for a long time that my family had shrunk and that I had very few family members to talk to. I felt all alone because I thought I couldn’t talk about family stuff with someone who wasn’t family.

I recently found out that it was just the opposite! Even if I only have one REAL sibling, I have a ton of “siblings” through many close friends. I have come

to realize that I actually have such a HUGE support system and “family.”

I also found out I’m not the only one who was dealing with this kind of issue. Just because your parents divorce doesn’t mean you

are alone. There are many people who have gone through the devastation caused by divorce and will help you if they can.

Kids today deal with many different problems, i.e. divorce, poverty, loss of a loved one, being bullied, self-esteem, gangs, and drugs. Sometimes just a smile, a pat on the shoulder, or a word of encouragement can brighten their day. It’s important to think about what you say and others’ feelings.

There is a national program to help parents and children deal with divorce. Five concrete skill areas are the basis for Kids’ Turn Way:

- Know yourself
- Manage yourself
- Motivation for healthy emotions
- Understanding others
- Managing relationships



Photo Provided

MISSING. A \$1,000 reward has been offered for the return of Chief Going Streak. The top stallion of the original Choctaw pony descendants disappeared shortly after New Year’s Day. He was pastured near Antlers. Known for his gentle nature, Going Streak has been a favorite at the Choctaw Labor Day Festival for years. Anyone with information to the mustang’s whereabouts is asked to contact owner Bryant Rickman, 580-326-6005, 580-326-8069, sgmustangs@aol.com or Choctaw County Sheriff Terry Park, 580-326-2130.

Yakoke (Thank You)!



Inez (Sewell) Seifret, who turned 91 on Feb. 1, wants to thank the Chief for her lovely blanket that keeps her very warm.

Inez lives at Grace Living Center in Oklahoma City. She is the daughter of Jim and Maisie Bessie (Tubbee) Sewell. Her daughters are Phyllis (Seifret) Been and Marsha (Seifret) Miller. So a big Yakoke to Chief Batton.

Phyllis Been



I just wanted to give a very big “thank you” to the Choctaw Nation and the programs that the tribe offers that have helped me succeed.

With the wonderful help of the tribe, I have been able to go back to college and I am on the fast track for graduation. I am also on the honor roll, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and in the Leadership program with Oklahoma State University.

My goal is to become a police officer and to hopefully move up into the human trafficking/sex crimes department.

I am the great-niece of Councilman Bob Pate and the late Jack Pate; daughter of Ronald Phipps.

Veronica Stidham (Phipps)

From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank all the programs and employees who helped my family to ensure that the inaugural memorial run for my son, Trooper Nicholas Dees, was a huge success.

We had a total of 395 runners. Many of you gave contributions, volunteered, gave support through kind words of encouragement and prayers, and participated in the run. We can’t wait to do it again next year!

Shelley Russell

Councilman Bob Pate and Friends of the Choctaw Nation, Yakoke! Thank you so much for the generous gift for the Grace Indian Methodist Church in Hartshorne. We appreciate your thinking of us and our ministry for Christ and your sharing so graciously with us. Chihowa chihoitoblashke!

David Warden, Pastor

EVENTS

Reunion

Folsom-Ward-Thompson-Kelly

June 11

Choctaw Community Center
1203 W. Liberty
Atoka, OK

Starts at 10 a.m.
Karen Kelly, 580-509-0254

Bring a side dish
Jaynell Patton, 405-238-6564

Reunion

Hartshorne Class of ‘66

May 21

Our class is planning its 50th class reunion. We need help in locating four classmates who attended Jones Academy: Annie Culley Shaw, Edna Francis Natseway, Clara McClure, and Claire Taylor Bohannon.

Please have them contact Carol Ranallo Brown at 918-429-2908, carolabrown1966@yahoo.com or Kay Isbell Day at 918-637-4094, bday967768@yahoo.com.

It’s Time for Our Annual

Wild Onion Dinner

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday March 19

Mary Lee Clark Memorial United Methodist Church
1100 S. Howard Dr., Del City, OK

Wild onions with eggs, pork, chicken banana, beans, pashofa, grape dumplings, more.
\$9 per plate

Our traditional wild onion dinner is our way of welcoming Spring and has been for more than 60 years! Join us!

405-670-4830

Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance

Indian Taco Sale

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. March 12
(2nd Saturday of every month)

5320 S. Youngs Blvd. Oklahoma City
\$6

Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

MC: Bubba Johnson

Special Guests: The Battiest Bros.

6:30 p.m. March 25

Choctaw Community Center
707 Bond St. Crowder, OK

Concessions available & everyone welcome.



39th Annual Gospel Singing Hosted by the Horn Family

The evening will feature the Gastineaus and the Crosby Family (from Philadelphia, Mississippi).

7 p.m. March 26

Chickasaw Community Center
1203 Raybranum Rd. Tishomingo, OK

Free admission Information: 580-760-6127

The following is a note from Choctaw artist Karen Clarkson:

I thought you might want to share this letter in the Biskinik some time. It’s about the Choctaw’s gift to the Irish. I have been working on memorializing my great-grandparent’s Choctaw heritage by painting on copies of their birth certificates, marriage certificates, and Dawes Roll certifications. The following is one of the images I have done along with a letter from a lady who received it as a gift.



“I received a ledger art piece from my sister. The print is on the birth certificate of Willie G. Nail. I collect ledger art and am very pleased to have this piece. You included a note with the print and it was passed on to me. We are not Choctaw, we are Irish and hold a special place in our hearts and memories for the Choctaw people. They were the only nation that sent money to Ireland during the famine—\$170.00. The Irish have long memories and have never forgotten who fed them. I love this piece, and thank you.”

E. Crain

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer
Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Ronni Pierce, Editor
Charles Clark, Assistant Editor
Kendra Germany, Reporter/Photographer

P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
580-924-8280 • 800-522-6170
Fax 580-924-4148
www.choctawnation.com
email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for publication shall be printed and reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive.

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

April 2016

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-0115

Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Idabel by appointment

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

OBITUARIES

Virginia Smith Bougher

Virginia Smith Bougher, 87, passed away on Nov. 2, 2015, in Cedar Park, Texas. She was born on Dec. 13, 1927, to Arthur Amos Smith and Virginia Harris Smith in Tulsa.

Virginia grew up in both Tulsa and Southeastern Oklahoma. She attended Texas State College for Women. Virginia received her bachelor's degree from The University of Tulsa, where she met and married Orville LeRoy Bougher in 1948.

Virginia had an outstanding career with The Tulsa Public Schools, where she was a teacher and supervisor in elementary education. Virginia and her husband, LeRoy loved ballroom dancing and won many awards and trophies. They were active in The Tulsa Men's Club, and Tulsa Mrs. Club. Her interests included modeling, flower arranging, home decorating and her beloved dogs. She belonged to Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa.

Mrs. Bougher spent the last three years living in Cedar Park with her daughter, Dr. Virginia Bougher Smith, and her son-in-law, Dr. Larry Smith.

She was preceded in death by husband, LeRoy Bougher. Arrangements were made under the direction of Beck Funeral Home in Cedar Park. Interment was at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa.



Virginia Johnson

Virginia Johnson, 84, of Poteau, passed away on Dec. 28, 2015. She was born on Sept. 2, 1931, to R. Bell and Ann (Willis) Williams in Poteau.

Virginia was a graduate of Goodland Indian School in Hugo. She attended college at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah. Virginia was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Poteau.

She was preceded in death by both parents; and brothers, James Kenneth, David Bell, Harrell Leo and Robert Frank Williams.

Virginia is survived by her daughters, Deborah Braden and husband Kenneth of Red Oak, Ramona Johnson Lar-rick and husband James of Noble; son, Larry Johnson and wife Mary of Spokane, Washington; 10 grandchildren, Micah, Alexander, Kileha, Carson, Casey, Kerri, Dakota, Bronson, Cheyenne, Sadie, Brooklyn and Blake; 1 great grandson; sister, Ramona Ann and Dr. William Mc-Cready of Seneca, Missouri; brothers, Earl Neal Williams of Gilmer, Texas, Reginald Don and Barbara Williams of Idabel; as well as numerous other relatives, loved ones and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Goodland Academy (formerly Goodland Indian School,) 1216 N. 4200 Rd., Hugo, OK 74743.

Memorial services will be held 9:30 am on Sunday, April 3, 2016, at the First Presbyterian Church in Poteau.



Carol Ann Ishcomer

Carol Ann Ishcomer, of Broken Bow, passed away on Jan. 27, 2016 at Norman Regional Medical Cen-ter in Norman. She was born on Aug. 6, 1947, to Ed and Nora (Colbert) McKinney in Talihina.

Carol lived most of her life in McCurtain County. She was a member of McGee Chapel. She en-joyed camping, watching softball; but most importantly spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Nora; sister, Lorena McKinney; special friend, Clifford Wilson; and great-grandmother, Listie McKinney.

Carol is survived by her father Eddie McKinney and wife, Lucy of Honobie; daughter, Lori Welch and hus-band, Silas of Noble; six sons, Bruce McKinney and wife, Angela of Lawrence, Kansas, Jerry McKinney and wife, Teresa of Livingston, Texas, Bryan Ishcomer and wife, Stacy of Josephine, Texas, Jamie Ishcomer and wife, Anita of Wright City, Brett Ishcomer of Broken Bow, and Brent Ischomer and wife, Sarah of Little Rock, Arkansas; three brothers, Pee Wee McKinney and wife, Teresa of Broken Bow, Jerry McKinney and wife, Myra of Smith-ville, and Larry McKinney and wife Regina of Tacoma, Washington; two sisters, Carrie Ward and husband, Anderson and Pam McKinney, all of Broken Bow; eleven grandchildren, Geoffrey, Kayla, Erik, Skyler, Eryn, Ken-drick, Camryn, Ashtyn, Kambria, Colin and Brody; three great-grandchildren, Railyn, Keira and Camden; nume-rous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Brumley Funeral Home in Broken Bow. Interment was at the McGee Cemetery.



Marilyn Maizie (Dennis) Tooker

Marilyn Maizie Tooker, 89, passed away on Oct. 30, 2015 peacefully with family present. She was born on Nov. 21, 1925 to Ted and Corneal Dennis in Weslaco, Texas.

Marilyn's family moved back to Poteau, where she grew until she was 14.

The Dennis family moved to California, living in Modesto and later San Francisco.

Marilyn graduated from high school at Golden State Academy in Oakland, and then attended Pacific Union College.

Marilyn married Warren Tooker in 1948.

Marilyn was a teacher. While in college, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Monterey, California and third grade at Modesto Union Academy. She also taught for the Placerville California School District from 1957 until her retirement in 1985.

Marilyn was the author of "The Richest Caveman," the biography of Pastor Doug Batchelor. It has been pub-lished in eight languages.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Warren; sons, Rog-er and David; daughters, Tamra Cox and Vikki Tooker; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Placerville Seventh-Day Adventist Church.



Dorothy Marie Cunningham

Dorothy Marie "Doc" Cuning-ham, 75, passed away on Nov. 1, 2015, after a long battle with cancer. She was born on July 1, 1940, to Julius and Susie Billy in Broken Bow.

Dorothy graduated high school in Idabel. She married Harlan Allen, and later married Jerry Cunningham. She was very outgo-ing and enjoyed bowling, shoot-ing pool, darts, dominoes and being with her family and friends. She also enjoyed traveling with her children and grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death by both parents; broth-ers, Wilbert and Wilkin Billy; sister, Ruth Ann Billy; and nephew, Heath Watson.

Dorothy is survived by husband, Jerry Cunningham; five children, Stephen Burgess of Joplin, Missouri, Tony Billy of Idabel, Harvey Gene Allen of Idabel, LaDonna Allen Hard of Idabel, and Harlan Edward Allen Jr. of Ida-bel; three sisters, Norma Ortiz of Dallas, Julia Sue Billy of Broken Bow, and Sharon Battiest of Broken Bow; nine grandchildren, Jacob, Jarrod, Chelcie, Zack, Ian, Shane, Malazia, Jerrick and Jaden; two great-grandchildren, Jeremiah and Jakobe; nieces and nephews, Chris (Bubba) O., Jason, Lisa, Wilkin Jr., Johnny Mack, Timothy, Rich-ard, Renita, Michael, Melissa, Shonda, Darrell, Anita and Tonya.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Norwood-Nation Funeral Home in Idabel. Interment was at the Denison Cemetery.



Johnny William Anderson

Johnny William Anderson, 68, of Tulsa, passed away on Dec. 14, 2015 at his home. Johnny was born on Feb. 10, 1947, to Edna (Nail) and Frank Anderson McAlester.

Johnny worked a variety of con-struction jobs through the years. As a young man, Johnny attended Jones Academy in Hartshorne, where he played football for the Hartshorne Miners.

In his retirement years, Johnny enjoyed playing pool on local teams, and spending time with his grandkids.

Johnny fought a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Johnny was preceded in death by both parents; sisters, Bessie Kirby, and Lola Mae Perkins; and daughter, Mar-cella Leflore.

Johnny is survived by wife, Donna; his brother Robert Smith (Linda) of Hartshorne; stepchildren, Scott Hook (Terry) of Ocala, Florida, Kim Foster of Tulsa, and Lisa Eiken (Scott) of Kansas City, Missouri; nieces and neph-ews; and many grandchildren.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Butler-Stumpff Funeral Home in Tulsa. Celebration of Life was held on Dec.19, 2015.



Elnora Billey Smith Fullerton

Elnora Billey Smith Fullerton, 94, passed away on Dec. 27, 2015.

She was born on Sept. 1, 1921, to Harrison and Alberta "Bertie" Bratcher Billey in Hickory.

Elnora was a resident of Ada, and attended Hickory school.

She married the love of her life, Hubert Smith Feb. 11, 1938. Hubert preceded her in death. She later married Jack C. Fullerton.

Elnora became a cosmetology instructor in the '50s, and opened the Milady Beauty School in Ada. She operat-ed the beauty school until the 1970s. Additionally, Elnora held several offices in the Ladies Auxiliary of Ada and Cos-metology. She opened a beauty college in 1972 in Del City. Elnora ran her business until it burned down in 1983.

She was preceded in death by both parents, Harrison and Alberta "Bertie" Bratcher Billey; husband Hubert L. Smith; second husband, Jack C. Fullerton; brother, Ted Billey; and sisters, Myra Kifer, Linda Clark and Louise Whittle.

Elnora is survived by daughters, Denise Smith of Del City, and Tammy Smith of Ada; three grandchildren, Dennis Smith, Crystal Turner, and Buddy Roper; six great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Criswell Funeral Home in Ada.



Patty Lynn Belmont

Patty Lynn Belmont passed away on Jan. 8, 2016. She was born on Feb. 11, 1951, to Kenneth and Leona Jackson in Tulsa.

She was preceded in death by both parents; sisters, Billie Tuttle, Donna Douglas, Martha Harris and Clara Keen; brother, Glenn "Eddie" Jackson; and daughter, Stacy Knox.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis Curry; son Jimmy Wise, daughter, Vickie Fields; sisters, Betty Larson and Linda Stanley; brother, Kenneth K. Jackson, Jr.; and grandchildren, Alecia, Kevin, Lind-say, Ian, Jackie, Karla, Dulce, Alfonso and Brandon.

Arrangements were under the direction of Ken-nedy Funeral & Cremation Service in Midtown Tulsa.



Vausy Vernell Cumpton

Vausy Vernell (Coots) Carr Cumpton, 61, of Bowlegs passed away on Jan. 8, 2016 in Wewoka. She was born on March 3, 1953, to Vernon Coots and Helen Marie Coots in Norman.

Vausy married Bill Cumpton. She was a homemaker, and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband, Bill Cumpton; sister, Debbie; and daughters, Dianna and Kristal.

Vausy is survived by sons, John Carr, and Daniel Carr both of Bowlegs; daughters, Terri Walker and her hus-band David of Seminole, and Lacy Cumpton of Wewoka; sister Marilyn Robertson of Bowlegs; grandchildren, Kody Stewart, Kaden White, Stevy Carr and Kaylynn Marie; and a host of other family and dear friends.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home in Seminole.



Robert 'Bob' Deane O'Rielly

Robert "Bob" Deane O'Rielly, 71, of Lake Havasu City, passed away on January 4, 2016 at Havasu Regional Hospital. He was born on May 27, 1944, to Robert and Velma (Jernigan) O'Rielly in Burbank, California.

Bob was raised in Pierre, South Dakota, and graduated from Riggs High School. He received a bach-elor's degree from Northern State College in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

He was employed by Indian Health Services for 31 years. He worked the last 14 years at the Parker Indian Hospital, as a Deputy Service Unit Director.

Upon retirement in 2006, Bob found enjoyment in golf-ing, spending time in the sun and at the lake.

Bob is survived by wife Linda; sons, Mike (Kim) O'Rielly of Phoenix, Arizona, and Troy O'Rielly of Mesa, Arizona; twin sister, Roberta Diane (Tom) Liebl of Under-wood, Minnesota; sisters Patricia (John) Luecke of Clear Lake, South Dakota, and Wanda (Kerry) Dilley of Pierre; stepsons Tadd (Heather) Thorson and Todd (Crystal) Thorson both of Mina, South Dakota; and step-grandchil-dren Ashlee, Taylor, Emily and Turner Thorson.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Lake Havasu Mortuary and Crematory. A private celebration of life was held in his memory.



Obituary Policy

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

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

BUSINESS

Choctaw Businesses a Strong Presence in Fort Smith

By KENDRA GERMANY
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) serves the Choctaw people by bringing Native-owned businesses into contact with more and better commercial opportunities. The goal of the PSP is to direct trade to established Native and minority businesses. It is an effort to support local buying and development of business enterprises owned by Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tribal members and other federally recognized minorities.

Director of the PSP Boyd Miller and his team’s mission is to help these businesses thrive. “We strive to continually develop and provide the most beneficial programs to our Choctaw-owned business members while seeking best value and performance for purchases by the Choctaw Nation through our supplier program,” Miller said. “We promote accountability to our members, sustainability, growth, diversity, and the creation of jobs throughout the Choctaw Nation.” The PSP is a relatively



Photo by Kendra Germany

From left: Miranda Mahar, Boyd Miller, Mary Williams, Michael Mahar, Charlotte Burris, James Mahar, Pam Mahar, Jim Hogan and Russell Tucker.

new program. Since its start 18 months ago, it has grown into a successful program with over 200 registered suppliers. According to Miller, the PSP is a national endeavor. “We’re working not only with companies within the 10 1/2 counties, but with businesses nationally,” said Miller. “We have them all the way from California to Connecticut.” On Feb. 4, the PSP traveled to the Fort Smith, Arkansas, area to tour a few registered preferred suppliers.

Charlotte Burris represented her company, the BCW Group, during the visit. The BCW Group promotes clean products and procedures that will greatly reduce the risk of contracting staph and other bacteria. The company maintains healthy environments using antimicrobial protection and infection control assessment. Russell Tucker was the representative of Memco Safety Supply. Memco is a leading supplier of janitorial, packaging, safety, personal protec-

tive equipment, and other products and services. The representative of each company, along with representatives of the Choctaw Nation and the PSP, toured the facilities of preferred suppliers Mahar Manufacturing and Coffee.org. Mahar Manufacturing is a Choctaw owned and operated business located in Van Buren, Arkansas. Pam and James Mahar’s company manufactures children’s classroom furniture, as well as cots for both children and pets.

To Contact
For Choctaw businesses, becoming a certified vendor with PSP is as simple as creating your company profile and registering on the website, <https://preferredsuppliers.choctawnation.com>. For more information, visit the website or contact Boyd Miller at (580) 924-8280, ext. 2889.

The Mahars have been in the manufacturing business for 28 years. After working various jobs in the industry, James and a partner started a company together called Mahar & McCourt. Pam and James bought out the whole company. “In 1998, we dissolved the partnership,” said Pam. “It is fully our company together.” Soon after, the Mahars began making the changes that made the company the success it is today. “We’ve built it over the past 18 years. We bought the property, and we built the building. Everything in house is what we’ve put our blood, sweat, and tears into,” said James. Mahar Manufacturing’s mission is to put out the highest quality products. James and Pam are pas-

sionate about their business, and making the best quality products for their customers. Coffee.org is led by its CEO, Bill McClure, a member of the Creek Nation. McClure, an entrepreneur, started the coffee business not knowing how successful it would one day become. Coffee.org is a national coffee distributor based out of Fort Smith, Arkansas. “We ship from Boston to San Diego. We have 55,000 customers across the country,” said McClure. Coffee.org’s warehouse ships out not only commercially popular brands of coffee, but also their own brand, Miss Ellie’s, which is roasted and packaged on site. Coffee.org works with many different companies and warehouses, the largest being Sam’s Club. McClure also owns Sacred Grounds Coffee. The coffee shop is located in the heart of downtown Fort Smith, and celebrates Native America with its décor. McClure plans on expanding the Sacred Grounds brand in the future. McClure employs many Native Americans in his businesses. According to McClure, 90% of his employees are Native American.

Small Businesses Find Etsy a Good Partner

By CHARLES CLARK
Choctaw Nation

Craft entrepreneurs and small business owners may often feel alone in their pursuits. Wondering, worrying about how to get your product to market is an all too common happening. Add to these concerns: being a member of a minority group, such as Native American, or a Native American woman, and having your business located in a rural area, and there may be much to be

discouraged about. This is where Etsy comes in. A recent workshop in McAlester brought almost 20 small business owners together to share their stories, ask questions and get a leg up on the competition. Hosting the event was Etsy, a program of Choctaw Nation Business Development. The trainer that day was Regina Frydman, owner of the Dallas-based Regal Cottage, a family owned and operated eco-friendly line of handcrafted toys. “Being part of a community is what Etsy is all about,” Frydman said. “It is a people-powered marketplace... We don’t sell like a corporation. You all are part of your product,” she said. Each person related the story of their product. “This is a great place to talk shop,” she said. There are fees with each transaction. But reasonable ones. In general, 93% of each sale made through Etsy is kept by the business owner.

Etsy helps put a presence online for its member businesses. “You can’t sell if they can’t find you,” Frydman said. Tips were relayed about becoming an entrepreneur, pricing and shipping, strategies for growth, building and marketing a craft brand, and more. Examples given by the participants provided additional information based on their experiences. After the presentation was complete, a photo workshop was held to shoot products brought by participants.

Billy Hamilton, Small Business Development Services Manager, was on hand to provide material and answer questions



Photo by Charles Clark

Etsy trainer Regina Frydman, standing left, listens as class members tell the stories of their businesses on Jan. 21 in McAlester.

Choctaw services. “The Choctaw Nation can help with art work and counseling,” he said, in reference to setting up an Etsy site online and problem solving. **To attend** McAlester was the second of four workshops scheduled to educate about Etsy. One in Durant was held earlier in January. Two were held in Febru-

ary at the REI Women’s Business Center in Poteau, and at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Idabel. All classes are free and open to the public. For future classes check the Choctaw Nation website. To register, contact Choctaw Small Business Development Services at bhamilton@choctawnation.com or call (580) 924-8280 ext. 2901.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

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. Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and small businesses. The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and you must reside within the 10 1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation.

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:

Poteau Community Center • March 21, 2016
9:30 – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The CSBDS provides business assistance to Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs that want to start or expand their business.

Choctaw Tribal members that utilize the services will receive specialized technical assistance through one-on-one business counseling, training workshops, an extensive network of business assistance programs and educational networking opportunities. Assistance offered includes, but is not limited to:

- Business Planning
- Business Counseling
- Business Registration
- Access to Financing
- 8(a) Certification Assistance
- Minority Business Registration
- Marketing
- Business Taxes
- Bid Assistance

March Events Calendar:
(Please contact CSBDS for more details and to register)

Mar 8 Talihina: Small Business Community Day 10:00-12:00
Mar 10 Atoka: Small Business Community Day 10:00-12:00
Mar 17 Bethel: Small Business Community Day 10:00-12:00
Mar 24 Durant: Tax Commission Workshop 9:00-12:00

Contact Small Business Development Services today!

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

Outreach Brings Help to Agricultural Families

Local agricultural communities have a new friend thanks to a program the Choctaw Nation launched in January. With backing from the Commerce Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Choctaw Nation’s Agriculuture Outreach and Extension Program seeks to reach underserved farm and ranch families. Goals are to increase opportunity for agricultural enterprises, tie community members to science-based education programs, coordinate state and federal programs, and more with a focus on local youth and community needs. March activities include, a SuperCow Contest (Pushmataha County Extension Office), through April 15; Beef Quality Assurance Workshop, Noble Foundation Auditorium, Ardmore, March 8; Youth Expo, Oklahoma City, March 9-18; National Agriculuture Day, March 15; Bryan County Land Judging Contest, Durant, March 23.

CHOCTAW NATION AGRICULTURE OUTREACH

The Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach assists Choctaw Tribal members with their current and future agriculture ventures to help improve success. From small gardens to large livestock operations we are here to help increase agriculature opportunities through:

- ◆ WORKSHOPS
- ◆ FIELD DAYS
- ◆ DEMONSTRATIONS
- ◆ SHORT COURSES
- ◆ TOURS
- ◆ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- ◆ ON-FARM RESEARCH

CONTACT US

JODY HOUSE JODYHOUSE@CHOCTAWNATION.COM
NIKKI SCHUTH NSCHUTH@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

DURANT LIVESTOCK SHOW

Berkshire Breed

Class I: 1. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan 2. Cash Clardy, Denison 3. Reed Shaw, Rattan
Class II: 1. Jayci Braudrick, Caddo 2. Rowdy Wood, Coalgate 3. Sadie Snead, Broken Bow
Breed Champion: Hunter Hawkins, Rattan
Reserve Breed Champion: Jayci Brauderick, Caddo

Chester Breed

Class I: 1.Tad Bradley, Caddo 2. Brock Daniels, Tishomingo 3. Colton Hager, Dibble
Class II: 1. Skye Gammon, Broken Bow 2. Suzy Snead, Broken Bow 3. Ethan Bean, Broken Bow
Breed Champion: Tad Bradley, Caddo
Reserve Breed Champion: Brock Daniels, Tishomingo

Duroc

Class I: 1.Hunter Mc Kinnon, Lone Grove 2. Briar Davidson, Coalgate 3. Josh Winnett, Rock Creek
Class II: 1. Devin Emert, Bennington 2. Linley Collins, Whitesboro 3. Taylor Mobbs, Tushka
Class III: 1. Caden Goodson, Harmony 2. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek 3. Blaine Ake, Tupelo
Breed Champion: Hunter McKinnon, Lone Grove
Reserve Breed Champion: Caden Goodson, Harmony

Hamp

Class I: 1. T'lee Burk, Caddo 2. Michael Rose, Rock Creek 3. Brock Daniels, Tishomingo
Class II: 1. Hadley Bell, Madill 2. Tad Bradley, Caddo 3. Holli Hembree, Antlers
Class III: 1. Kristen Gossett, Caney 2. Bailey Bradley, Caddo 3. Emili Underwood, Bennington
Class IV: 1. Baylor Jestis, Durant 2. Sadie Snead, Broken Bow 3. Tayton Lemay, Whitesboro
Class V: 1. Autumn Gamble, Broken Bow 2. Colton Richards, Milburn 3. Kaleb Robinson, Moss
Breed Champion: Hadley Bell, Madill
Reserve Breed Champion: Kristen Gossett, Caney

Poland

Class I: 1. Colton Hager, Dibble 2. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek
Breed Champion: Colton Hager, Dibble
Res. Breed Champion: Clay Stoner, Rock Creek

Spot

Class I: 1. Jaycee Cox, Spiro 2. Alli Adair, Caddo 3. Clay Stoner, Rock Creek
Class II: 1. Rylie Coker, Rock Creek 2. Paizlee Szenasi, Madill 3. Maggie Hunt, Lane
Breed Champion: Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Res. Breed Champion: Alli Adair, Caddo

York

Class I: 1. Kinlyn Hembree, Antlers 2. Will Shelby, Madill 3. Lexi Clardy, Haworth
Class II: 1. Blaine Ake, Tupelo 2. Hunter Davidson, Coalgate 3. Devin Emert, Bennington
Breed Champion: Kinlyn Hembree, Antlers
Reserve Champion: Blaine Ake, Tupelo

Cross

Class I: 1. JB Bell, Madill 2. BJ Upchurch, Wapanucka 3. Crystal Reeder, Wapanucka
Class II: 1. T'Lee Burk, Caddo 2. Baylee Whitley, Colbert 3. Hank Bradley, Caddo
Class III: 1. Hunter McKinnon, Lone Grove 2. Hunter Hawkins, Rattan 3. JB Bell, Madill
Class IV: 1. Carly Russell, Bennington 2. Baylor Jestis, Durant 3. Ian Baxter, Whitesboro
Class V: 1. Zeke Baxter, Whitesboro 2. Samantha Craig, Whitesboro 3. Laney Rogers, Tishomingo
Class VI: 1. Cole Broughton 2. Caden Goodson, Harmony 3. Cash Clardy, Denison
Class VII: 1. Hunter McKinnon, Lone Grove 2. Briar Davidson, Coalgate 3. Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Class VIII: 1. Huter Hawkins, Rattan 2. Levi Russell, Boswell 3. Jaycee Cox, Spiro
Class IX: 1. Hunter Davidson, Coalgate 2. Rylie Coker, Rock Creek 3. Rylie Coker, Rock Creek
Breed Champion:Hunter Hawkins, Rattan
Reserve Breed Champion: Cole Broughton



Photos by Samantha Perera

Family, teachers and Choctaw leaders surround Hunter Hawkins, Rattan, as he collects awards at the Durant Livestock Show held Feb. 6-7.

Grand Champion: Hunter Hawkins (shown above)
Grand Res. Champion: Hadley Bell, Madill
Third Overall: Cole Broughton, Coalgate
Jr. Showmanship: Caden Goodson, Harmony
Sr. Showmanship: Jaycee Cox, Spiro

Doe

Division I
Class I: 1. Johnathan Jones, Roff 2. Cutter McCoy, Edmond 3. Timothy Cope, Wynnewood
Class II: 1. Karlee Trammell, Washington 2. Berklee Gossen, Meeker 3. Chance McCoy, Edmond
Class III: 1. Adyson Barber, Silo 2. Mason Nichols, Achille 3. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka
Class IV: 1. Hunter Mann, Sulphur 2. Kayden Alexander, Stonewall 3. Jonathan Jones, Roff
Class V: 1. Rainey Davidson, Coalgate 2. Colton Price, Caddo 3. Reid Patterson, Bryan Cty 4-H
Class VI: 1. Jacob Jones, Roff 2. Josie Fortner, Tupelo 3. Tucker McCoy, Edmond
Division I Champion: Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Reserve Division I Champion: Adyson Barber, Silo
Division II
Class I: 1. Kayden Alexander, Stonewall 2. Braden Allen,

Silo 3. Makayla Crawford, Moss
Class II: 1. Braden Allen, Silo 2. Kate Trammell, Washington 3. Makayla Crawford, Moss
Class III: 1. Lexi Moody, Moss 2. Jaydon King, Soper 3. Skye Gammon
Class V: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen 2. Kayden Alexander, Stonewall
Division II Champion:Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Reserve Division II Champion: Kayden, Alexander, Stonewall



Showing her Grand Champion-winning goat is Jaycee Watkins.

Grand Champion Goat:Jaycee Watkins (shown above)
Reserve Grand Champion Goat: Braden Allen
3rd Overall: Hunter Mann

Wether

Division I
Class I: 1. Casey Loman, Hugo 2. Cole Cobb, Ft. Gibson 3. Racee Reed, Wapanucka
Class II: 1. Cole Cobb, Ft. Gibson 2. Nataley Edwards, Hugo 3. Rileyh Ross, Ryan
Class III: 1. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka 2. Hunter Mann, Sulphur 3. Lucas Reznor, Silo
Class V: 1. Braden Allen, Silo
Division I Champion: Peyton Mobbs, Tushka
Reserve Division I Champion: Braden Allen, Silo
Division II
Class I: 1. Jordan Luman, Asher 2. Cole Cobb, Ft. Gibson 3. Blakelyn Barber, Silo
Class II: 1. Lexi Moody, Moss 2. Jordan Luman, Asher 3. Cole Cobb, Ft. Gibson
Class III: 1. Jaycee Watkins, Allen 2. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall 3. Dylan Cope, Wynnewood
Division II Champion: Jordan Luman, Asher
Reserve Division II Champion: Lexie Moody, Moss



A Grand Champion win in the Wether Division goes to Jordan Luman, of Asher.

Grand Champion: Jordan Luman, Asher (shown above)
Reserve Grand Champion: Lexie Moody, Moss
3rd Overall: Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Jr. Showmanship: Jaycee Watkins, Allen
Sr. Showmanship: Taylor Chambers, Tushka

Lamb

Division I
Class I: 1. Chloe Crawley, Kiowa 2. Lillabeth Whitlow, Ft. Towson 3. Samantha Arpealer, Antlers
Class II: 1. Jackson Reznor, Silo 2. Jace Alford, Wapanucka 3. Nacona Davis, Colbert
Class III: 1. Levi Odum, Whitesboro 2. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina 3. Taylor Chambers, Tushka
Class IV: 1. Jillian Sutton, Tushka 2. Alaysia Barbee, Porum 3. Abby Rodriguez, Tupelo
Division I Champion: Levi Odem, Whitesboro
Reserve Division I Champion: Hannah Maxwell
Division II
Class I: 1. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow 2. Kenley Thompson, Coalgate 3. Emily Langley, Durant
Class II: 1. Marie House, Kiowa 2. Hannah Carter, Calera 3. Jillian Sutton, Tushka
Class III: 1. Seth Tucker, Lindsay 2. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina 3. Randee Dunlap, Stonewall
Division II Champ: Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Reserve Division II Champ: Payne Reavis, Broken Bow
Division III
Class I: 1. Megan Sliger, Stonewall 2. Alanah McKay, Tupelo 3. Bracie Gray, Caddo
Class II: 1. Jackson Reznor, Silo 2. Seth Tucker, Lindsay 3. Hannah Carter, Calera
Class III: 1. Payne Reavis, Broken Bow 2. Jay House, Kiowa 3. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall
Division III Champion: Jackson Reznor, Silo
Reserve Division III Champion: Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Division IV
Class I: 1. Seth Tucker, Lindsay 2. Hannah Courtwright, Rattan 3. Hunter Mann, Sulphur
Class II: 1. Sydnee Brown, Calera 2. Jackson, Reznor, Silo 3. Taylor Chambers, Tushka
Class III: 1. Sydnee Brown, Calera 2. Meghan Sliger, Stonewall 3. Cadey Jones, Marlow
Division IV Champion: Seth Tucker, Lindsay
Reserve Division IV Champion: Sydnee Brown

2016 Oklahoma Conference

Johnson-O'Malley

April 11-12

Tulsa Marriott-Southern Hills

Pre-registration deadline March 25

Contact: Shane Haddock / 580-924-8280 ext 2423



A Grand Champion honors go to Seth Tucker and his winning lamb.

Grand Champion: Seth Tucker (shown above)
Reserve Grand Champion: Payne Reavis, Broken Bow
3rd Overall: Jackson Reznor, Silo
Jr. Showmanship:Megan Sliger, Stonewall
Sr. Showmanship: Jackson Reznor, Silo

English Heifer

Class I: 1. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville 2. Kage Collins, Johnson County 4-H 3. Jaggar Smith, Lukfata
Class II: 1. Hailey Morris, Ft. Towson 2. Emily Morris, Ft. Towson 3. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Class III: 1. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville 2. Lexi Henderson, Lone Grove 3. Piper Dudley, Dickson
Class IV: 1. Whisper Griggs, Rattan 2. Piper Dudley, Dickson
Breed Champ: Abigail Nunn, Thackerville
Reserve Breed Champion: Lexi Henderson, Lone Grove

Continental Heifer

Class I: 1. Chance Sweeten, Dickson 2. Jordan Luman, Asher 3. Kage Collins, Johnson City
Class II: 1. Jessie Williams, Ryan 2. Lexi Henderson, Lone Grove 3. Britann McGahey, Ringling
Class III: 1. Parker Mobbs, Tushka 2. Caleb Hitchcock, Boswell 3. Peyton Mobbs, Tushka
Class IV: 1. Lexi Henderson, Lone Grove 2. Haylie McGowan, Colbert 3. Jessie Williams, Ryan
Class V: 1. Christian McGowan, Kingston 2. Chance Sweeten, Dickson 3. Clayton Hayes, Latta
Breed Champ: Christian McGowan
Reserve Breed Champ: Lexi Henderson

AOB Heifer

Class I: 1. Ashlyn Kellam, Silo 2. Rebecca Napier, Moyers
Class II: 1. Alex Robinson, Rock Creek 2. Nickolas Northcutt, Tishomingo 3. Bryson Martin, Asher
Class III: 1. Kara Stanglin, Colbert 2. Zoe Duncan, Tishomingo 3. Jracee Ayers, Soper
Class IV: 1. Jordan Luman, Asher 2. Jacob Hartin, Madill 3. James Kellam, Silo
Class V: 1. Haylie McGowan, Colbert 2. Braden Allen, Silo 3. Julie Cullum, Silo
Breed Champion: Haylie McGowan
Reserve Breed Champion: Jordan Luman



Christian McGowan's heifer garners recognition as a Grand Champion.

Grand Champion: Christian McGowan (shown above)
Reserve Grand Champion: Lexi Henderson
Bronze Champion: Haylie McGowan

English Steer

Class I: 1. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville 2. Anna Drinkard, Hugo
Class II: 1. Alisa Northcutt, Tishomingo 2.Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek 3 Harmony Lee, Durant
Class III: 1. Ridge Stephens, Tushka 2. Abigail Nunn, Thackerville 3. Taylor Dancer, Bennington
Breed Champ: Ridge Stephens
Reserve Breed Champ: Abigail Nunn

Continental Steer

Class I: 1. John Foran, Atoka 2. Landree Eaves, Harmony 3. Britann McGahey, Ringling
Class II: 1. Kage Collins, Johnson City 2. Haylie McGowan, Colbert 3. Nathan Northcutt, Tishomingo
Class III: 1. Seth Tucker, Lindsay 2. John Foran, Atoka 3. Alisa Northcutt, Tishomingo
Breed Champion: Seth Tucker
Reserve Breed Champion: John Foran

AOB Steer

Class I: 1. Ashlyn Kellam, Silo 2. Daniel Cullum, Silo
Class II: 1. Ridge Stephens, Tushka 2. Jacob Hartin
Class III: 1. Julie Cullum, Silo 2. Nathan Northcutt, Tishomingo 3. Madeleine Smallwood, Antlers
Breed Champion: Julie Cullum
Reserve Breed Champion: Nathan Northcutt

Grand Champion: Seth Tucker
Reserve Grand Champion: Julie Cullum
Bronze Champion: Nathan Northcutt
Sr. Showman: Chance Sweeten
Jr. Showman: Jamess Kellam



Seth Tucker returns to the arena to win again with his steer.

WILBURTON LIVESTOCK SHOW

Berkshire Breed

Class I: 1. Brenna Gann, Vanoss 2. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola 3. Ethan Shoemake, Porum
Class II: 1. Josh Bolin, Vian 2. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne 3. Emily Yarbough, Heavener
Class III: 1. Jade Fairless, Clayton 2. Carley Hightower, McAlester 3. Spencer Maddox, Hartshorne
Breed Champion: Brenna Gann, Vanoss
Reserve Breed Champion: Josh Bolin, Vian

Chester Breed

Class I: 1. Tanner Hambright, Spiro 2. Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy 3. Tanner McAlester, Wister
Class II: 1. Tanner Henry, Jones Academy 2. Holden Conner, Tuttle 3. Sam Cox, Talihina
Breed Champ: Tanner Henry, Jones Academy
Reserve Breed Champ: Tanner Hambright, Spiro

Duroc

Class I: 1.Hannah Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Kasey Ludlow, Jones Academy 3. Dalton Lowe, Warner
Class II: 1. Kirkklan Loman, Jones Academy 2. Gabby Chatkehoodle, Jones Academy 3. Tee Trotter, Vian
Class III: 1. Noah Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Drew Spradlin, Porum 3. Jalei Watts, Warner
Class IV: 1. Jalei Watts, Warner 2. Allison Beames, Howe 3. Luke Spradlin, Porum
Breed Champ: Kirkklan Loman, Jones Academy
Reserve Breed Champ: Hannah Palmer, Palmer Academy

Hamp

Class I: 1. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Sheldon Buchanan, Yukon 3. Makayla Stacey, Crowder
Class II: 1. Sarah Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Jolene Ridgway, Vanoss 3. Spencer Maddox, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne 2. Kirkklan Loman, Jones Academy 3. Faith Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class IV: 1. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne 2. Jacob Carter, Calvin 3. Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne
Class V: 1. Kasey Ludlow, Jones Academy 2. Danielle Murillo, Jones Academy 3. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak
Class VI: 1. Cody Hugle, Hartshorne 2. Noah Bryant, Talihina 3. Ryan Holder, Porum
Class VII: 1. Chase Martin, Red Oak 2. Breanna Gann, Vanoss 3. CJ Conner, Tuttle
Class VIII: 1. Braylin Harper, Spiro 2. Isaac Bryant, Talihina 3. Brevon Harper, Spiro
Breed Champ: Chase Martin, Red Oak
Reserve Breed Champ: Cody Hugle, Hartshorne

Poland

Class I: 1. Aracelli Ortiz, Jones Academy 2. Kylie Buchanan, Yukon
Class II: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne 2. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak
Breed Champ: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne
Res. Breed Champ: Aracelli Ortiz, Jones Academy

Spot

Class I: 1. Brenna Gann, Vanoss 2. Rachelle Hatcher, Indianola 3. Charity Thomas, Red Oak
Class II: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne 2. Mattie Parks, Vian 3. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy
Breed Champ: Railey Spears, Hartshorne
Res. Breed Champ: Mattie Parks, Vian

York

Class I: 1. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Rachel Palmer, Palmer Academy 3. Makayla Campagna, Red Oak
Class II: 1. Madison Walker, Red Oak 2. Sheldon Buchanan, Yukon 3. Caden Sumpter, Red Oak
Class III: 1. Bobby Everett, Vian 2. Rilee Miller, Porum 3. Ethan Sparks, Antlers
Class IV: 1. Braylin Harper, Spiro 2. Chase Martin, Red Oak 3. Grace Montgomery, Red Oak
Class V: 1. Kensley Yandell, Heavener 2. Chloe Rogers, Spiro 3. Rachel Beames, Howe
Breed Champ: Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy
Reserve Champ: Madison Walker, Red Oak

Cross

Class I: 1. Rachelle Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Holden Conner, Tuttle 3. Hannah Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class II: 1. Danielle Murillo, Jones Academy 2. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne 3. Railey Spears, Hartshorne
Class III: 1. Sarah Palmer, Palmer Academy 2. Shaina Spears, Wilburton 3. Hannah Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class IV: 1. Kinlee Free, Heavener 2. Kirkklan Loman, Jones Academy 3. Grace Palmer, Palmer Academy
Class V: 1. Cody Clark, Jones Academy 2. Emma Lawson, Wilburton 3. Noah Bryant, Talihina
Class VI: 1. CJ Conner, Tuttle 2. Noah Palmer, Palmer Academy 3. Emily Yandell, Heavener
Class VII: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne 2. Rachel Beames, Howe 3. LaBrae Jim, Jones Academy
Class VIII: 1. Tanner Hambright, Spiro 2. Danielle Sellers, Warner 3. Sam Dolan, Spiro
Class IX: 1. Chase Martin, Red Oak 2. Holden Conner, Tuttle 3. Kylie Buchanan, Yukon
Class X: 1. Braylon Spears, Hartshorne 2. Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne 3. Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy
Class XI: 1. Isaac Bryant, Talihina 2. Emily Yandell, Heavener 3. Peiper Rogers, Spiro
Class XII: 1. Marie Mackey, Jones Academy 2. Shelby Heflin, Clayton 3. Sam Cox, Talihina
Breed Champion: Cody Clark, Jones Academy
Reserve Breed Champion: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne



Grand Champ: Cody Clark (shown above)
Grand Res. Champ: Braylon Spears
Third Overall: Chase Martin, Red Oak
Jr. Showmanship: Madison Walker, Red Oak
Sr. Showmanship: Isaac Bryant, Talihina

Doe

Division I
Class I: 1. Codi Robison, Checotah 2. Paisley Beshear, Poteau 3. Shelley Tamplin, Valliant
Class II: 1. CeeJay Robison, Checotah 2. Brittany Earls, Howe 3. Jenna Simpson, Quinton
Class III: 1. Julie Isbell, Fort Gibson 2. Ray Mathis, Crowder 3. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola
Class IV: 1. Jace Milburn, Asher 2. Jace Milburn, Asher 3. Kenzie Davis, Wister
Division I Champion: Kenzie Davis, Wister
Reserve Division I Champion: Jenna Simpson, Quinton

Division II

Class I: 1. CeeJay Robison, Checotah 2. Codi Robison, Checotah 3. Paisley Beshear, Poteau
Class II: 1. Jace Milburn, Asher 2. Bradley Strain, Haskell 3. Hunter Cole, Wister
Class III: 1. Macy Willis, Bristow 2. Charli Curliss, Hartshorne 3. Bethanie Humphreys, Savanna
Division II Champion: CeeJay Robison, Checotah
Reserve Division II Champion: Colten Phillips, Crowder



Grand Champion Goat: CeeJay Robison, Checotah (shown above)
Reserve Grand Champion Goat: Kenzie Davis, Wister
3rd Overall: Jenna Simpson, Quinton

Wether

Division I
Class I: 1. Clayton Lawson, Wilburton 2. Jaden Jones, Spiro 3. Sheleigh Swearingen, Buffalo Valley
Class II: 1. Railey Spears, Hartshorne 2. Bradley Strain, Haskell 3. Garrett Clark, Poteau
Class III: 1. Jordan Luman, Asher 2. Terin Fletcher, Stilwell 3. Brittney Shockley, Spiro
Division I Champion: Jordan Luman, Asher
Reserve Division I Champion: Railey Spears, Hartshorne

Division II

Class I: 1. Charlie Curliss, Hartshorne 2. Brileigh Thornton, Spiro 3. Brittney Shockley, Spiro
Class II: 1. Jordan Luman, Asher 2. Kylee Vaughan, Stilwell 3. Laney Sparks, Pittsburg
Class III: 1. Kylee Vaughan, Stilwell 2. Avery Thomas, Stilwell 3. Ray Mathis, Crowder
Class IV: 1. Kylee Vaughan, Stilwell 2. Avery Thomas, Stilwell 3. Ray Mathis, Crowder
Division II Champion: Julie Isbell, Fort Gibson
Reserve Division II Champion: Jordan Luman, Asher



Grand Champion: Jordan Luman, Asher (shown above)
Reserve Grand Champion: Julie Isbell, Fort Gibson
3rd Overall: Railey Spears, Hartshorne
Jr. Showmanship: Karlee Glover, Checotah
Sr. Showmanship: Julie Isbell, Fort Gibson

Lamb

Division I
Class I: 1. Clayton Lawson, Wilburton, 2. Cheyenne Scott, Panola
Class II: 1. Sage Holder, Edmond 2. Jarit Baxter, Buffalo Valley 3. Khloe Hatcher, Indianola
Class III: 1. Alee Rogers, Hartshorne 2. Flint Shaw, Buffalo Valley 3. Bailey Cargill, Indianola
Class IV: 1. Aspen Holder, Edmond 2. Carli Cox, Clayton 3. Flint Shaw, Buffalo Valley
Class V: 1. Brooklyn Herriman, Warner 2. Aspen Holder, Edmond 3. Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Division I Champion: Brooklyn Herriman, Warner
Reserve Division I Champion: Sage Holder, Edmond
Division II
Class I: 1. Paisley Beshear, Poteau 2. Sage Holder, Edmond 3. Blaize Herriman, Warner
Class II: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle 2. Blaize Herriman, Warner 3. Jay Killian, Panama
Class III: 1. Taylor McGill, Tuttle 2. Sage Holder, Edmond 3. Madison Daniels, Quinton
Class IV: 1. Paisley Beshear, Poteau 2. Aspen Holder, Edmond 3. Madison Daniels, Quinton
Division II Champ: Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Reserve Division II Champ: Taylor McGill, Tuttle
Grand Champion: Taylor McGill, Tuttle (shown below)



Reserve Grand Champ: Taylor McGill, Tuttle
3rd Overall: Brooklyn Herriman, Warner
Jr. Showmanship: Jera Brown, Panola
Sr. Showmanship: Sage Holder, Edmond

English Heifer

Class I: 1. Wyatt Hunter, Poteau
Class II: 1. Cody Johnson, Checotah 2. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah
Class III: 1. Ethan Shoemake, Porum
Class IV: 1. Dakota Cantrell, Checotah 2. Merideth Behrens, Colbert 3. Logan Carver, Bokoshe
Class V: 1. Merideth Behrens, Colbert 2. Zachary Ilbery, Checotah 3. Rilee Miller, Porum
Class VI: 1. Colton Hulsey, Wilburton 2. John Hulsey II, Wilburton
Division Champ: Merideth Behrens, Colbert
Reserve Division Champion: Zachary Ilbery, Checotah

Continental Heifer

Class I: 1. Autumn Cato, Webbers Falls 2. Kaytie Cash, Porum 3. Lani Monks, Panama
Class II: 1. Jenna Simpson, Quinton 2. Blake Johnson, Checotah 3. Kagen Monks, Panama
Class III: 1. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne 2. Elizabeth Gardner, Kinta 3. Griffin Behrens, Colbert
Class IV: 1. Cody Johnson, Checotah 2. Ciara Johnson, Panama
Class V: 1. Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton 2. Jacy Muncy, Red Oak 3. Justin Herlan, BlueJacket
Class VI: 1. Samantha Pearce, Porum 2. Raychel Harris, Webbers Falls 3. Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne
Division Champ: Rachel Booth, Miami
Reserve Division Champ: Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton

AOB Heifers

Class I: 1. Jenna Simpson, Quinton 2. Samantha Pearce, Porum 3. Payton Lyons, Panola
Class II: 1. Autumn Cato, Webbers Falls 2. Kaytie Cash, Porum 3. Isaiah Sallee, Warner
Class III: 1. Merideth Behrens, Colbert 2. Trisha Walden, Wister 3. Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne
Class IV: 1. Raychel Harris, Webbers Falls 2. Matthew Blaylock, McCurtain 3. Blake Johnson, Checotah
Class V: 1. Samantha Pearce, Porum 2. Payton Lyons, Panola 3. Zachary Ilbery, Checotah
Division Champion: Samantha Pearce, Porum
Reserve Division Champion: Autumn Cato, Webbers Falls



Supreme Champion: Samantha Pearce, Porum (shown above)
Reserve Supreme Champion: Autumn Cato, Webbers Falls
Third Overall: Merideth Behrens, Colbert

English Steer

Class I: 1. Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne 2. Justin Herlan, BlueJacket
English Steer Division Champ: Taylor Stufflebean, Hartshorne
English Steer Reserve Division Champ: Justin Herlan, BlueJacket

Continental Steer

Class I: 1. Justin Herlan, BlueJacket 2. William Edington, Red Oak
Class II: 1. Roni Jo Martin, Wister 2. Lucille Wann, Kinta
Division Champion: Roni Jo Martin, Wister
Reserve Champion: Justin Herlan, BlueJacket

Steer

Class I: 1. Jenna Simpson, Quinton
Class II: 1. Konnor Upton, Wister 2. Christian Mathis, Crowder
Class III: 1. Kaylee Mattioda, Hartshorne 2. Elizabeth Gardner, Kinta 3. Jace Ford, Kinta
Division Champion: Konnor Upton, Wister
Reserve Division Champion: Kaylee Mattioda, Hartshorne



Grand Market Steer: Konnor Upton, Wister (Shown Above)
Reserve Grand Market Steer: Roni Jo Martin, Wister
3rd Overall: Kaylee Mattioda, Hartshorne
Jr. Cattle Showmanship: Meredith Behrens, Colbert
Sr. Cattle Showmanship: Kyleigh Hilburn, Quinton

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

The 2016 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program will run from May 1 until Oct. 31. Applications are being mailed to those who received checks for the 2015 SFMNP. Those who think they may qualify can pick up their application at any of our Choctaw Nation Community Centers. You can contact Peggy Carlton at (800) 522-6170 ext. 2303 with any questions or concerns.

EDUCATION

Fall Semester Busy One for Jones Students

This past fall semester, Jones Academy high school students participated in a flurry of activities in preparation for life after graduation, thanks to the resources in southeastern Oklahoma.

On Sept. 29-30, students were part of an audience of 500 active participants who listened to Ariel Moodie, a motivational speaker from New York. Moodie spoke on the art of being successful and developing leadership skills. The talks were organized by Eastern Oklahoma State College.

On the academic side, students attended three ACT test prep workshops, directed by Chad Cargill in



Photo Provided
Gabriela Bernal pets a Madagascar Roach at Conners State College during a science lesson.



Hugo and in McAlester. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Educational Talent Search was a sponsor.

On Oct. 20, EOSC in Wilburton held a college fair for seniors with university and college representatives from Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas.

Choctaw College Connect also hosted its annual college recruiting event on Nov. 7 in Durant.

About 40 Jones Academy students were able to meet with representatives from junior and community colleges, private colleges, and universities, including individuals representing the Ivy League.

In November and December, EOSC and Conners State College were hosts to additional tours.

With the semester winding down, seniors took the ACT Test in November and WorkKeys work ready test in December.

Scholarship Apps for New Choctaw Language Teachers

Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship applications are now available.

This scholarship is offered by the School of Choctaw Language and is facilitated by the Chahta Foundation.

The goal is to provide a full scholarship and additional benefits to Choctaw individuals who are interested in completing a teacher education program, and upon certification to become a Choctaw language teacher.

A 2.5 or higher GPA and admission to Southeastern Oklahoma State University are required.

Course work for the scholarship must

lead to a bachelor's degree in education.

Scholarship winners will work part time in the Choctaw language school. Also they will receive paid tuition, fees, and books to attend SOSU, tutoring, and relocation assistance as needed. Also, provided is \$1,500 per month living stipend.

Upon application, a scholarship committee will make final selection of the participants. Deadline for application is March 31.

For information or an application, write: Chahta Foundation, P.O. Box 1849, Durant, OK 74702; phone (580) 745-9023; or visit online at scholarship@chahtafoundation.com.

Georgia Student to Present Paper at National Conference



Frankie Bauer graduated Middle Georgia State University in Macon, Georgia with a bachelor of arts degree in history with an interest in Native Studies.

Bauer said, "I am blessed to have Choctaw ancestors who I do my best to make proud and support indigenous studies. The Choctaw Nation has supported my dream and I hope

to contribute to the well being of the Nation, while pursuing a master's and a P.h.d."

Bauer will be presenting at the Florida Historians Paper Conference on his research paper on the Muskogee Creek.

He is the son of Marilyn Beal-Bauer; and Michael Bauer, and great-great-great-great-great grandson of an original enrollee.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Photo by Charles Clark

SERVICE NOTED. Outside one of Choctaw Nation's two planes at the Durant hanger are, from left, pilots John Wesley and Al Cherry. Cherry, who also serves as Director of Flight Operations, proudly displays the Humanitarian Award from Textron Aviation recently presented to the Choctaw Nation in recognition of over 100,000 miles flown assisting veterans in need of medical care and their families, making it the No. 1 provider for Veteran's Airlift Command. Not pictured, but also part of the team is pilot Quentin McLarry.

Ireland Missionary Returns for Visit to Choctaw Family

Blake and Katy Edgmon and son Eden Gooding Edgmon of Dublin, Ireland, recently visited. Both are graduates of the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Blake has served as a Missionary Preacher in Dublin for the last four years.

His mother is Su-



zanne Potter Edgmon of Nashville, Tennessee. His sister, Sarah Formidoni, also lives in Nashville. His aunt is Betty Kee of Antlers.

Blake is the descendant of Eden G. Nelson, a full-blood Choctaw and is the grandson of the late Ronald Potter Jr., of Antlers.

Hawaiian Luau Big Success for Seniors

The Choctaw Community Center in Durant always has a full slate of events for seniors. On Feb. 12, two days before Valentine's Day, a romantic Hawaiian Luau drew almost 100 people.

Ham dinner with all the trimmings was served with a tropical punch. Door prizes included orchid plants and a large guitar-shaped bottle with a likeness of Elvis Presley and filled with popcorn.



The classic Elvis movie "Blue Hawaii" was shown.

President of the group Marilyn Mitchell Dill organized and decorated for the event with a committee.

Installation of new of-

ficers will take place in March.

For a monthly schedule of activities, list of services, or lunch menus about the seniors program, call the center at (580) 924-7810.



****Attention Choctaw College Students****

CHOCTAW NATION I.T. SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MARCH 18TH, 2016

Information and requirements listed at: <http://careers.choctawnation.com>

NEW LOCATION

Ming Lake (Pyles Boys Campgrounds)
13375 Lake Ming Road
Bakersfield, CA
Special Choctaw Rate at the Doubletree Hotel. Call 661.323.7111

- Traditional Dancing & Choctaw Food
- Free Saturday Dinner (Call to register)
- Evening Social Dancing & Stickball
- Make & Take: Beading, Baskets, Pottery

- Choctaw Store
- Free Sunday Pancake Breakfast & Choctaw Church Services
- Games & Classes for Kids

OKLA CHAHTA

21st Annual

California Choctaw Cultural Gathering

Bakersfield, California
May 7 & 8, 2016

Follow us on Twitter: @oklachahtaca

www.oklachahta.org
661.319.6308

Special Mother's Day gift presented to moms in attendance.



SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: MARCH 31

Competitive scholarships for Choctaw students

range from

\$1,000 up to \$40,000

SCHOLARSHIPS.CHAHTAFOUNDATION.COM

EMPOWERING CHOCTAW LIFE



PATHS Academy

pipeline for advanced training in health sciences

"Building Student Foundations Today, To Change Our World Tomorrow!"

CHOCTAWCAREERS.COM/PATHS

THE OVERARCHING GOAL OF **PIPELINE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN HEALTH SCIENCES ACADEMY (PATHS)** IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MINORITY STUDENTS IN SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA WHO ENTER HEALTH CAREER PATHWAYS, WHICH LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT IN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS AND RESULT IN MORE MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE REGION, ENGENDERING BOTH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROSPERITY WITHIN THESE MINORITY POPULATIONS.

ACADEMY OVERVIEW

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA HAS PARTNERED WITH KIAMICHI TECHNOLOGY CENTERS (KTC) TO BRING A TRAINING PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GEARED TOWARD A FUTURE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD.

THIS PROGRAM WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION BY INTRODUCING THEM TO HEALTH CAREERS THRU HEALTH SCIENCE AND BIOMEDICAL CLASSES.

STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS:

IN ORDER TO BE ADMITTED TO THE PATHS ACADEMY, A STUDENT WILL NEED TO HAVE ALL OF THE QUALIFICATIONS BELOW:



- RESIDE WITHIN THE 10 1/2 COUNTIES OF THE CHOCTAW NATION
- MUST BE IN 10TH, 11TH, OR 12TH GRADES
- PROGRAM PRE-REQUISITES
- COMPLETE ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENTS
- INTERVIEW



SPORTS

Tvshka Homma Stickball Wins Season Opener

By CHARLES CLARK
Choctaw Nation

On Feb. 6, the day before Super Bowl Sunday, another much-anticipated sports event took place in Durant—the stickball season opener for the Tvshka Homma.

While the Choctaw team was favored, the visiting Chikasaw Toli already had two games under its belt. But size makes a difference, and when each team put 30 players on the field (including two young women on each side), the Choctaws had enough on the sidelines to almost make another team. This allowed fresh replacements to be fielded immediately by Les Williston, head coach.

Despite a spirited Chickasaw effort, the Choctaws made their first point nine minutes from the starting toss, then dominated

throughout the first game with most of the action taking place near the Choctaw goal post. A series of three more points for Tvshka Homma came less than five minutes apart.

Just before the halftime, Chikasha Toli put something on the scoreboard.

The Chickasaws were energized after the break but could never catch up to the Choctaw lead.

Tvshka answered Chikasha with its own drive in the fourth quarter.

High scorer for the Choctaws with four points was No. 64 Kyle McKinney, followed with one point each by Trey Lilly, Curtis Billy, and Gennavie Tom.

Final score for game one, 7-5, Tvshka Homma.

Within minutes game two was under way mirroring the first. Tvshka came out on top again, 9-6.



Photo by Charles Clark

Quick hands and feet help Choctaw team Tvshka Homma to two wins over Chikasha Toli in the season opener on Feb. 6.

Hunter Successful in Volleyball

Will Hunter is a competitive volleyball player, in both high school and club. As a middle blocker, he helped his high school win back-to-back California Interscholastic Federation Division 2 State Championships. He was selected for All Tournament First Team in league, and CIF Division 1 All County Honorable Mention.

Will and his club team, Balboa Bay Volleyball Club, competed in the Boys Junior National Championship in Ohio. Playing against teams from all over the country, his team won the bronze medal. Will was awarded All Tournament Team for his age group in the open division, for the second consecutive year.

Playing volleyball since 8th grade, his club team has medaled at every Junior Nationals with a gold, silver and two bronzes.

Will also plays varsity soccer at his high school and was honored with All Tournament First Team in League. He is a member of the Honor Society, works with Best Buddies and maintains a blog, ChoctawYouth.com.

Will hopes to continue playing volleyball at the college level after he graduates in 2016.



Photo by Charles Clark

Chikasha Toli tries in vain to prevent another goal by the red-shirted Tvshka Homma team.

Eric Stepp Finishes 14-0 Senior Season

Eric Stepp finished his senior football season with a perfect season record of 14-0.

Eric was a third year starter for the Wagoner Bulldogs, playing both offensive and defensive positions.

Eric was named week 13 Tulsa World Player of the Week.

The Bulldogs finished out the season, winning back-to-back Class 4A Oklahoma Football State Championships.



Youth Stickball Continues This Spring

The 2016 Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball League began its third year on Feb. 13. Seven teams will compete in the league this year. Broken Bow, Durant, Hugo, McAlester, Poteau, Talihina and the Chickasaw Nation will all be participating in the events. All games will take place at Tvshka Homma. For more information, contact Jared Tom at (580) 775-0725.

2016 Youth Stickball Schedule:

Regular Season Games

March 5 @ 10 a.m.

March 12 @ 10 a.m.

March 26 @ 10 a.m.

End of Season Tournament: April 9

All games are played at Tvshka Homma

Kayla Singleton Excels in Karate

Eight year-old Kayla Singleton began taking karate in September.

Kayla received her first belt promotion in November. She earned a silver medal in kicks and a bronze in form, during her first tournament. Kayla will be testing for her orange belt on March 1 and will compete in her second tournament on Feb. 24.



AJ Steele Crowned Rush Week King

AJ Steele, a sophomore at Ada High School, was crowned RUSH Week King.

AJ represented the football team. RUSH (Real Unity Starts Here) Week, is a fundraising event benefiting the Children's Miracle Network. Students raised a total of \$7,986.

AJ is the son of Shonda Steel.



Kennedy Wins Grand Champion Steer

Whitney Feather Kennedy won Grand Champion Steer at the Jan. 22 Carson County Livestock show.

Whitney is very active in her local 4-H club by participating in steer projects; Beef Quiz Bowl, livestock judging, and food and textile competitions. She is also her 4-H club reporter. Whitney is nine years-old. She is the daughter of Shawn and Heather Kennedy.



McLaughlin Signs With Southeastern

Trent McLaughlin signed his letter of intent to play collegiate football at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Trent is a senior at McAlester High School. He is the son of Dawn and Greg McLaughlin of McAlester. From left, Trent's brother, Derrick James; Trent and his mother, Dawn.

47th Annual
Talihina Festival Pow Wow
April 9
Talihina School Gym
Hwys 1 & 271
Talihina, OK

Sponsored by the Talihina Indian Club
with assistance from

Oklahoma Arts Council National Endowment for the Arts

20th Annual
Spring Pow Wow
April 2
McCurrian County Sports Complex
Broken Bow, OK

Sponsored by A.I.L.Y.C
American Indian Leaders Youth Council of
Broken Bow Public Schools

Contact:
Dennis J. Parra (580) 584-3365, ext. 4069,
dparra@bbisd.org
or Paula Griffith (580) 579-3415

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctaw Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds (uncashed payroll checks) that may be due to these individuals.

If you are an employee or former employee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and your name is listed below, please contact:
Angie Ansiel, (800) 522-6170 Ext. 2467
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Jamie Jeans	Jasmine Taylor	Amber Garrett
Darren Watts	Gilbert Dale	Chelsie Turner
Maranda Williams	Roger Edwards	Guillermo Santos
Cindra Wright	Kelsey Danford	Cicilia Mateo
Rebekkah Heath	Alisa Chapman	Kristin Mings
Charles Russell		

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available to provide assistance with simple legal documents **free** to all Choctaw members. Examples of matters that the attorney may be able to assist with:

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

February Community Center Schedule

- March 3rd Atoka, OK
- March 10th Coalgate, OK
- March 15th Crowder, OK
- March 24th Durant, OK
- March 31st Stigler, OK

All times will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Contact the community center to confirm the attorney will be there before traveling. The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters.

Do You Need Help Paying For Your Child's Daycare?
The Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program
May Be Able To Assist You!

Eligibility Requirements

1. The child must be under the age of 13
2. The child must have a CDIB or reside with an Indian Family
3. The child must reside within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation 10 1/2 county service area
4. Both parents must be working, in training, or attending an educational program
5. You must meet income guidelines based on family size and income

Child Care Assistance Eligibility Caseworkers:

Margie Cloud Atoka, Bryan, Coal, and Choctaw counties mcloud@choctawnation.com 580.924.8280 ext. 2387	Laura Matthews Hughes, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha counties lmatthews@choctawnation.com 580.924.8280 ext. 2390
---	--

Artist Norma Howard Draws from Choctaw History, Culture

By CHARLES CLARK and
SHELIA KIRVEN

Choctaw Nation

When an entourage of Choctaws makes its way to Washington, D.C. for the Annual Choctaw Nation Arts & Music Festival at the Smithsonian June 24-25, one in the group will be artist Norma Howard.

“I’ve never been there before,” Howard said, speaking last week from her home studio east of Stigler.

As rural as her workplace and roots are, Howard has managed to leave her footprints on more distant locales.

She is one of the five artists who was tapped to create original pieces for the Choctaw Casino Hotel & Resort in the summer of 2015.

“After that I was at Santa Fe Indian Art Market where I was one of the featured artists,” she said. “I go every year.”

This year was maybe more special than usual.

“I sold 15 paintings before 8 a.m.,” she laughed.

She had only taken 19 with her.

The January issue of Native Peoples also posted a five-page interview with photographs of Howard.



Artist Norma Howard is shown in her studio, adorned with her art and a few winning ribbons, outside of Stigler.

Photo by Deidre Elrod

Howard only works in watercolor. Her subjects are what she has learned about Choctaw history and culture. “You know, I was an Indian before I was an artist.”

She cites subjects of her work.

“The dancers, the lifestyle, picking cotton,” she said, adding “religion, stickball.”

Her work is known for its attention to detail.

“This is my life, my whole life. I try to find the heart and soul of the Choctaw people. I get asked sometime about painting other tribes, but why would I? Why waste time doing other tribes. It takes me a long time to do a painting.”

What she calls a large painting, 22 in. x 28 in., takes about three months to complete.

She does know her subject. One of her paintings won first place in 2015 for watercolors at the Santa Fe event.

“Gathering Under the Arbor” is the name of it,”

she said. “It shows dinner on the ground.”

The Santa

Fe Art Market has been good to Howard. In 2013 and 2014 she won best painting.

She also has a project that is a first—illustrating a book. Not at liberty to discuss details, she did say it’s to be called “Choctaw Roots” and it’s for Young Adult readers and up. And it’s something that brings excitement to her voice.

“It’s all about awareness of the culture,” she said. “Without the past, we would not be where we are now.”

On when she became an artist, she said, “When I was younger, I guess it kind of started out when I would start drawing. I always liked to draw. Going to school, the things that I didn’t have, there were kids who had different things like dolls, bikes, balls of some sort, and I would wish I would have it. So I would come home and draw it. And that was my way of having it. I don’t know if I really wanted to be an artist, all I knew was I liked to draw. I guess I was like 13 years old when I really took it seriously. But

Two of Five

Featured Artists at the
Choctaw Casino Resort in
Durant

before then, it was something that I liked and had to do.”

But believing you are an artist doesn’t sell your work. That’s a whole different way of looking at things.

“I don’t know if I had that mindset about, I’m going to make a career out of it, but I really didn’t sell my work anywhere growing up, but as I got older, I think I started taking it more seriously when I got married and I had a family. I stayed home with my son for three or three-and-a-half years, so that’s when I started working with art and wanting to sell it. Because I had bills to pay.”

About her art for the 2015 casino expansion in Durant, she said, “I thought, you know, like when she called me about doing two paintings, first thing I thought of Choctaw, it’s got to be stickball and cooking and eating. That’s what we’re about. In our culture, it’s dancing, playing and eating. Not in particularly that order, but they’ve all got to go together.”

Get Your
Cameras
Ready!!

Enter the
Photo Contest
for the
New WIC E-Card
to be unveiled
October 1

Entry Deadline is May 15, 2016

For complete contest rules and information
Visit ChoctawNation.com

Women, Infants, and Children Program
WIC is a equal opportunity provider and employer

2016 HEALTH FAIRS AT
COMMUNITY CENTERS

CENTER (DIABETES EDUCATORS)	COUNCILMEMBER	DATE	START	LUNCH
Wright City	Jack Austin	3-23	10:00	12:00
Antlers	Jack Austin	4-06	10:00	11:30
Spiro	Delton Cox	4-13	10:00	11:30
(COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES)				
Idabel	Thomas Williston	5-04	10:00	12:00
Broken Bow	Tony Ward	6-01	10:00	12:00
Talihina	Kenny Bryant	7-13	10:00	11:30
Poteau	Delton Cox	7-20	10:00	12:00
Wilburton	Joe Coley	8-10	10:00	11:30
McAlester	Bob Pate	9-07	10:00	11:30
Bethel	Tony Ward	9-21	10:00	11:30
Crowder	James Frazier	10-12	10:00	11:00

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Homeowners Energy
Management Services

Offering Free Home Energy Audits

Learn:

✓ What your home does right

✓ Where energy is lost

✓ How to make your home more comfortable

✓ The cheapest way to be more energy efficient

✦ LOWER ENERGY BILLS

✦ INCREASE SAVINGS

✦ INCREASE HOME RESALE VALUE

✦ UNCOVER HIDDEN PROBLEMS

✦ PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

Serving Choctaw Tribal members in all 10 1/2 counties!

Contact Tom Clemons at (580) 317-7089 and Teresa Gallant at (800) 235-3087

Housing Authority of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma | P.O. Box G - 1005 South 5th St. | Hugo, OK 74743

District Princess Pageants are Coming Soon!

Information packets are now available
in Choctaw Nation field offices.

For more information, please contact your local field
office or the Cultural Services Department at
(800) 522-6170 ext. 2377.

Choctaw Elders age
80 & up . . .

You have stories to tell, let us
preserve them.

Contact: Deidre Elrod, 800-522-6170
delrod@choctawnation.com

Need more cash for the cost of college?

Choctaw Asset Building now serves
tribal members outside of Oklahoma!

A college matched savings program is available
for eligible Choctaw college students!

Earn Money for
Saving Money!

Education Fund -
Your savings: +\$2000
CAB match: +\$4000
Total saved: +\$6000

Starting earning money TODAY! Contact Choctaw Asset Building
866-933-2260 • choctawcab.com

Chahta Anumpa
Aiiikhvna
Lesson of the Month

Match the Words

The following words have been in previous lessons of the Biskinik.

Chahta anumpa

1. ahinla

2. afamma

3. balili

4. bininli

5. Chahta

6. chito

7. impa

8. tuchina

9. sia

10. washoha

11. nanta

12. keyu

13. achukma

14. takkon

15. ohoyo

16. miko

17. anoli

18. chompa

19. holisso

20. tuk

21. tuklo

22. iti

23. ia

24. anumpuli

25. homma

26. oka

Na Hullo anumpa

a. apple

b. play

c. tell

d. buy/purchase

e. past tense marker

f. speak/talk

g. good

h. book/paper

i. tree/wood

j. what

k. chief

l. run

m. red

n. two

o. sit/sitting

p. eat

q. no

r. can/may

s. Choctaw

t. woman

u. to meet

v. three

w. water

x. big/large

y. I am

z. tell

Answers will be in next month’s issue of the Biskinik.

www.choctawschool.com

CHOCTAW NATION ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
WASHINGTON D.C.

MEET CHOCTAW ARTIST & STORYTELLER TIM TINGLE

Tim Tingle is an Oklahoma Choctaw and an award-winning author and storyteller. His great-great-grandfather, John Carnes, walked the Trail of Tears in 1835, and his paternal grandmother attended a series of rigorous Indian boarding schools in the early 1900s. In 1993, Tingle retraced the Trail of Tears to Choctaw homelands in Mississippi and began recording stories of tribal elders.

Tingle was a featured author and speaker at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., based on critical acclaim for How I Became a Ghost, which won the 2014 American Indian Youth Literature Award. The second book in the series, When A Ghost Talks, Listen, is expected to be released in the Spring of 2016.

His first children's book, Crossing Bok Chitto, garnered over twenty state and national awards, and was an Editor's Choice in the New York Times Book Review. In June of 2011, Tingle

spoke at the Library of Congress and presented his first performance at the Kennedy Center, in Washington, D.C. He received his Masters Degree in English Literature at the University of Oklahoma in 2003, with a focus on American Indian studies. While teaching writing courses and completing his thesis, "Choctaw Oral Literature," Tingle wrote his first book, Walking the Choctaw Road. It was selected as Book of the Year in both Oklahoma and Alaska.

As a visiting author and performer, Tingle reaches audiences numbering over 200,000 annually. He has completed eight speaking tours for the U.S. Department of Defense, performing stories to children of military personnel stationed in Germany.

In February of 2016, his novel "House Of Purple Cedar" won the American Indian Youth Literature Award.