

Chief  
Pyle  
retires



I feel that now is the time that I, and the tribe, are ready to move along the path to continue the journey toward a future of great opportunities for Choctaws.

— Gregory E. Pyle

The 30-year career of a man devoted to leading the Choctaw Nation to "pride, hope and success" came to a close in April. Chief Gregory E. Pyle formally announced his retirement April 24 during a huge celebration of his achievements and his 65th birthday at the Event Center in Durant.

"My time as Chief has been the greatest adventure of my life," he told the nearly 2,000 people who came to wish him well. "It has been an honor to be your Chief.

"It is a bittersweet day. I'm filled with excitement and sadness. I am excited to be able to spend more time with my family and I am sad at the thought of missing my involvement with the Choctaw people."

Since the beginning of Pyle's administration in 1997, there has been tremendous growth in tribal services, jobs and cultural knowledge.

Pyle said his future is going to be exciting in a new way. He and wife Pat have plans that include traveling and spending much more time with grandchildren.

"We are looking forward to using our camper on relaxing trips this summer – and I may even be able to take my grandchildren fishing on the lake. To be able to spend days like that with my family is something I have dreamed of for a long time."

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

BATTON PLEDGES  
OATH OF OFFICE



Choctaw Nation : DEIDRE ELROD

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton is administered the oath of office by Tribal Court Chief Justice David Burrage.

Chief's focus on 'Doing what is best for Choctaws'

By LISA REED  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The new Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Gary Batton, repeated the oath of office April 28, swearing to devote his "best efforts toward the preservation of the heritage and tradition of the Choctaw Nation in order that all mankind may better understand, evaluate, and appreciate the history of its glorious past and enjoy its brilliant future."

Tribal Court Chief Justice David Burrage administered the ceremony on the lawn of the headquarters complex in Durant. Several hundred people were on hand for the historic event, some tribal members travelling from as far as Illinois to watch the inauguration of the Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

"This is an honor and an humbling experience to be up here and to serve as your Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma," said Chief Batton. "I want to tell the Council, the judges, Chief Pyle, and everyone how much I appreciate you all. One of the things I stand for is unity. As long as we stand together united, there is nothing that will hold us back."

Chief Batton's philosophy of "Doing what is best for Choctaws" is evident in his plans to continue the Nation's progress, focusing on God, family, health, jobs and culture.

"I appreciate the guidance and model set by Chief Pyle in maintaining a good balance between work and family. It is important to balance family, work and health – and balance also means keeping those values taught us by our ancestors.

"I want to go back to our grass roots. I want to make sure to go back to sitting on the front porch with our elders, listening to what they say, what direction we need to go," Chief Batton said. He plans to develop a Council on Wisdom comprised of Choctaw elders who can continue to give guidance and direction.

One of Chief Batton's first official acts was to appoint Olin Williams as the Employee Chaplain. Williams is a tribal historian for the Choctaw Nation, a minister, and counselor for many fellow staff members.

He also recognized a member of the audience, Nellie Hunter, 75, who will graduate this spring with a degree in organizational leadership. Hunter is a veteran and still serves as a

member of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.

With the promise of highlighting the Choctaw culture to the world, Chief Batton announced several upcoming projects including building a chapel at the tribal capitol, Tvshka Homma, and a culture center in Durant.

Expanding programs begun under Chief Pyle and Batton's administration are also a big part of the plans for the future. Chief Batton said he has a goal of creating 750 new jobs over the next year. This has an impact on both families and communities. He discussed unique plans to assist with housing repair, food distribution, enlarging ranching operations, and creating jobs to invest in the Choctaw people.

The tribe is building new wellness centers in Atoka, Crowder, Idabel and Broken Bow, all expected to open this month. Independent Living Centers for elderly are on the drawing board in several counties as well as a Choctaw health clinic in Durant and an expansion of the Poteau health clinic.

Education still remains a priority and more focus will be placed on higher education opportunities, and programs for youth.

"We always believe in giving our kids a 'head start' and I am thankful we will get more of that accomplished in this coming year," Chief Batton said as he announced the construction of new child development centers in McAlester and in the Bethel/Battiest area.

Chief Batton stressed the importance of keeping our dollars in southeastern Oklahoma. Tourism is one way to bring people to Oklahoma, to teach the Choctaw culture and tell of the tribe's glorious past. Tribal members will also have a chance to buy Choctaw Nation car tags through a program that will be developed in the next year to benefit them and still support the state of Oklahoma.

Chief Batton announced the Nation will be building a new tribal headquarters complex in Durant that is critical for the staff. The new facility will give the employees the tools they need to provide better service for tribal members in one location.

"We are a family, we are a tribe," he said. "Thank you for your support. It will take all of us to do what is best for Choctaws. God bless America, God bless Oklahoma and God bless the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma."



JACK AUSTIN JR.

Austin  
named  
Assistant  
Chief

Newly appointed Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation Jack Austin Jr. was sworn in April 29 at the Tribal Capitol, Tvshka Homma, by Tribal Council Speaker Delton Cox. Assistant Chief Austin has had a long career with the Choctaw Nation, beginning in the health care system in 1991 after his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

He began his journey with the health care system in the Material Management department – and just prior to being selected as Assistant Chief, Austin was the program director for the Choctaw Nation Recovery Center. He holds a Master of Education degree.

He and his wife, Philisha, have been married 24 years. They have three children. Clark, 18, is attending Carl Albert State College. Malacha, 16, will be a senior next year at Talihina High School. "Sam is our youngest blessing at the energetic age of 4," said Assistant Chief Austin.

"I feel I was raised in the midst of the tribe during most of my youth. My parents were, and are still, serving Choctaw people. I have been to many events throughout our Choctaw Nation growing up. I can still remember the State of the Nation address being given by the Chief of that time under a brush arbor on the Council House grounds," continued Austin.

Attending the Lighthouse Cathedral Church the past 30 years, Austin has served as a board member there the past ten years and enjoys work as a youth pastor, teaching weekly youth classes.

Chief Gary Batton was present as Austin was administered the oath of office. According to the Choctaw Constitution, ratified in 1983, the Assistant Chief is appointed by the Chief, and approved by a vote of the Tribal Council.

"Our goals moving forward will align with the tribe's philosophy to 'do what is best for Choctaws'," said Chief Batton. "Assistant Chief Austin, the Tribal Council and I are all looking forward to working together!"



# FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE

## Investing in the future of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



From the Desk of Chief Gary Batton

It is humbling to have the opportunity to write to you as your Chief. My family and I believe in the heart and soul of the Choctaw Nation. The people ARE the Nation and focusing on faith, family and culture encompasses everything we need to succeed.

Our faith in God is our foundation. One of my favorite Bible verses is Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." We pray for the guidance to make the right decisions and trust that as we work together, we will do what is best for Choctaws.

If faith is the foundation, family is the heart. Providing exceptional health care, jobs, career training and education are the best ways to improve the lives of Choctaws and our families. We want bright futures for our children and grandchildren. We want them to be able to obtain good jobs close to home if that is their wish. If their dreams take them to other places, we want them to have the tools to achieve success wherever they are.

It is important to balance family, work and health – and balance also means keeping those values

taught us by our ancestors.

Continuing the culture of the Choctaw people that has been set by our ancestors is one of the most important things that our tribe can accomplish. It is essential to preserve our heritage. Without that we have nothing. I have such respect for the wisdom of tribal elders and the knowledge they impart to all of us. Values they teach us that have been the true building blocks of the tribe include faith, family, integrity, honor and respect. I want to say a heartfelt "yakoke" – thank you for the mentorship of the many

individuals who have given me the opportunity to listen to them.

Our elders hold the wisdom of generations and it is up to us to learn what they have to share and ensure it is passed on.

Chief Pyle has been and is still a mentor for me. His experience and the deep caring he has for his family, including his much-extended Choctaw family and friends, are great influences in my life.

By instilling these values in our children and encouraging each other, the Choctaw Nation can create its own future.

### Chaplain's Corner

## God's Word will be fulfilled

Our message for this month is on the "imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ." First, let me share with you these words from the book of Hebrews 9 verse 27, "... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

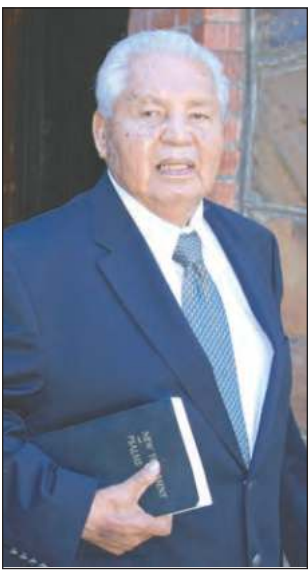
It is true that "it is appointed upon men once to die." We have seen this happen throughout human history. Death goes on. It plays no favorites. It claims both young and old, rich and poor, small and great, the wicked and righteous.

The Bible indicates that there is going to be one generation of believers who will never die. I am thinking of those who are living when Jesus comes, who in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, in glorified bodies, rise to meet the Lord in the air.

Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth, in his first letter, First Corinthians in chapter 15 and verse 51, wrote, "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

Then Paul assured us in his first letter to the Thessalonians that when the Lord Jesus returns, and we read in First Thessalonians 4:16-17 these words:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

dead in Christ shall rise first.

"Then we, which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

These words not only indicate that some believers will never die but also suggest the imminence of our Lord's return and the translation of believers into His presence without ever dying.

Since the days of the Apostle Paul, he and all born-again believers have shared in that wonderful prospect that they might well be a part of that number who are living when Jesus comes, and who will never taste of death.

Paul wrote, "Then we, which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them ..." Can it be that the "we" in that verse refers to us today?

Are we that special body of believers who will hear the shout and be raptured into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ without ever passing through the valley of the shadow of death? The answer is YES. It could be and may well be.

When we speak of the imminence of our Lord's return we mean that it could take place at any time. There is nothing at all standing in the way. This does not imply that He must come today, this week, this month, or even this year, but He may. He could return at any moment.

God so ordered His Revelation that believers in every age could live with the expectation of the coming of His Son. The promises are so worded that every age may view the coming again of Christ as imminent, and receive the blessing and comfort of such a hope.

In view of all that is transpiring in the world today our generation has more cause to be excited about, and to look with more expectancy, the fulfillment of the promise of His coming than any other generation. Even though Christians in every century since the ascension of Jesus Christ have lived in the expectation of His re-

turn, we have three distinct advantages over those who have already lived and died – advantages which should make us more knowledgeable, and expectant of our Lord's return than ever before.

First of all, we know that we are nearer the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ than any other generation.

Secondly, we can enjoy, learn, and profit from the studies of outstanding Christian leaders dealing with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophetic Scriptures can be clearly understood from men like, John F. Walvoord, J. Dwight Pentecost and Charles C. Ryrie.

Then thirdly, we have seen things in our own day which bear a striking resemblance to the signs Jesus said would happen before His coming again when He personally returns to reign over the earth.

Those who lived in centuries past knew that certain events had to take place in connection with the Lord's return. Even though they could not explain just how or with what speed they might be fulfilled to fit into the program of the Lord's imminent coming. They just knew and had the faith to believe that somehow, some way, God's word would be fulfilled.

Today, we can actually witness certain developments and understand in the light of them how Jesus' coming could well be even at the door.

In our present generation, we can see a line-up of nations which could, almost overnight, develop in the revived Roman Empire. We no longer need to wonder how a man could become a world dictator.

The "signs of the times" as given by the Lord in Matthew 24, Luke 13, and Luke 21 relate to His glorious return. Not the rapture. They will mark the period between His calling out of the Church and His coming to rule. Some of the developments we see today suggest that the time Christ spoke about may be very near.

To the student of prophecy, the recent activity in Israel and surrounding Israel is of special interest.

Jesus Christ is coming again. It may be soon. Are ready? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?

If you do not know Him, will you realize who you are, a sinner, realize who God is and what He has done. He sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in your place. He was buried and rose again on the third day. Will you trust Him as your Savior? You do this by faith.

Pray for America and for our leaders, pray for our brave men and women in service.



Choctaw Nation : DEIDRE ELROD

**Choctaw Nation Tribal Speaker Delton Cox swears in newly appointed Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. while Chief Gary Batton holds the Bible.**

## Three simple priorities prevail

I am deeply humbled at the appointment by Chief Batton and the Tribal Council to be your Assistant Chief. We have been very busy since my swearing-in. Chief Batton and I have toured facilities, participated in the annual Language Finale, visited senior centers, and visited with Choctaws at the Okla Chahta Gathering in Bakersfield. I have enjoyed making new friends close to home and on the West Coast. They all have interesting stories and I was surprised at how many in California still have ties to Oklahoma. I even met some folks and discovered we were related. Thank you all for making me feel so welcome.

I grew up watching my parents give their time and efforts to helping others,

especially the Choctaw people. I wanted to continue doing the same and have worked the last 23 years in health and counseling services. My position as Program Director at the Recovery Center has allowed me to aid people who need not only a second chance but the courage to commit to a better life. Many have succeeded and it is always rewarding to know we have made a difference.

My priorities are simple – three things – my God, my family and the Choctaw people. That's how I live my life and will continue to live it. I will work side-by-side with Chief Batton, the Tribal Council and all of the Choctaw Nation employees to do the very best we can for the Choctaw people.

## Gotcher appointed appellate judge

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on April 12 at Tvshka Homma.

The Council approved an appointment letter for Warren Gotcher to be named an Appellate Judge in Choctaw Nation District Court. Judge Gotcher was sworn in at the Council meeting.

In other business, agenda items approved by the Council included:

- Phase I production of small arms ammunition manufacturing capabilities to allow Choctaw Manufacturing Defense Corporation to diversify and develop another 8(a) business.
- The budget for Choctaw Nation Child Care Development Fund.
- Grant applications for six tribal programs: Vocational Rehabilitation Services for American Indians with disabilities; the tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)



Choctaw Nation : ZACH MAXWELL

**Chief Gary Batton, Appellate Judge Warren Gotcher and Tribal Court Chief Justice David Burrage.**

for teen pregnancy prevention; Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant programs – Chahta Inchukka and Chahta Villa Apela; Injury Prevention continuation; and the Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and their Families program (SPPT).

- Family Violence Prevention grant proposal.
- Cost of living adjustment and restoration of sequestration funding for

Head Start.

- Right of way for Choctaw Electric Cooperative on tribal land in McCurtain County.
- Continuation proposal for Choctaw Nation Senior Nutrition to ensure vital services are possible for elders such as nutritional meals, information and assistance, transportation and caregiving.

The Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month.

## Are you over 18 years old?

**Don't forget to update your membership card**

If you have recently turned 18 or will be turning 18 within the next 60 days and have not yet obtained your Adult Membership card please complete a new Tribal Membership application and return to the Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership Department. The application can be found online at [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com) or by contacting the Membership office at 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280.



# Choctaw Nation era closes

## Yakoke, Chief Pyle, and happy trails to you



Mayor, Jerry Tomlinson of Durant presents Chief Pyle with a proclamation of the Gregory E. Pyle Day for all the Chief has done for the City of Durant.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Choctaw dancers and guests perform the snake dance at the celebration.



Chief Pyle, Patti Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Angie Batton watch a video of Chief Pyle.



Assistant Chief Batton and Chief Pyle with the Durant Choctaw Nation Head Start



The Durant Choctaw Nation Head Start sings Happy Birthday to Chief Pyle.



Assistant Chief Batton and Chief Pyle smile as they leave the stage.



A guest writes her birthday wishes to Chief Pyle.



Chief Pyle with Melanie Powell after Chief's birthday/retirement celebration.



Employees and guests sing traditional Choctaw hymns at the celebration.

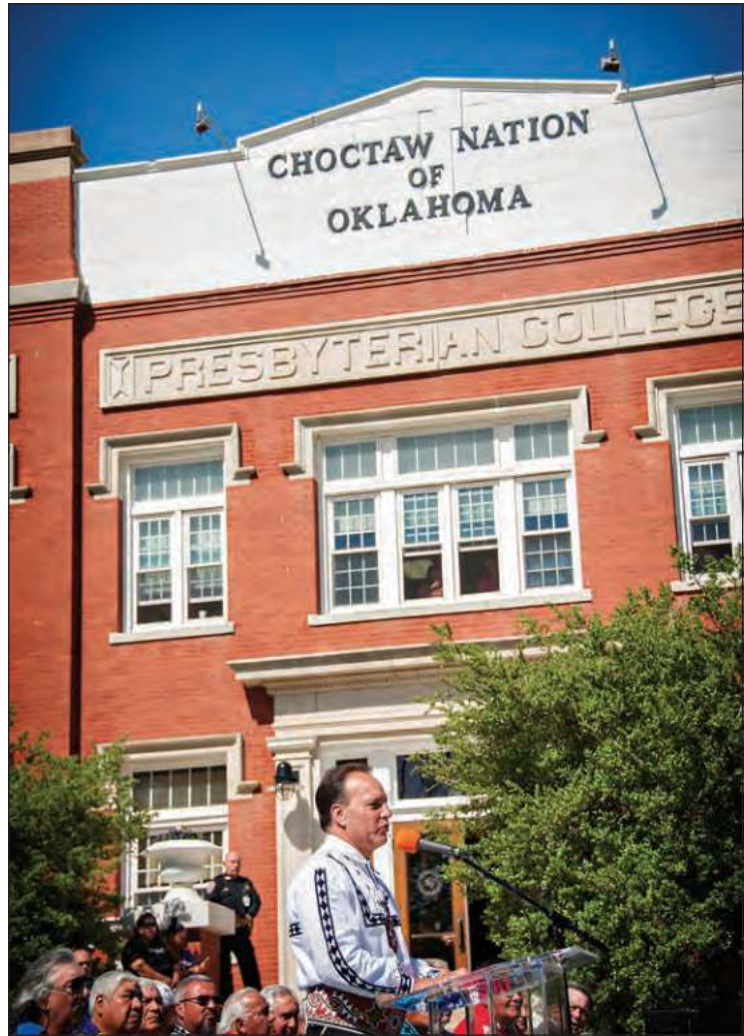


The crowd at the celebration listens to traditional Choctaw hymns being sung.



Assistant Chief Batton presents Chief Pyle with a traditional Choctaw medallion for his birthday at the celebration.

# Batton sworn in as new Chief



Chief Batton talks to the crowd about the future of Choctaw Nation.



Chief Batton and Chief Pyle take the stage at the ceremony.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Patti Pyle congratulates Chief Batton.



Chief Batton describes his vision of the future during the ceremony on April 28.



The Color Guard poses for a picture in front of the Choctaw Nation Headquarters.



# Taking care of yourself can help prevent obstacles

As we enter spring, many of us will enjoy returning to the outdoor activities that come with the warmer weather. Yet, with the warmer weather the storms are not far behind. Some people dread these changes in weather due to the pain from arthritis that increases with weather changes. Recently authors Denise Lynn Mann and Donna Rae Siegfried of Arthritis Today reported that people with diagnosed diabetes are nearly twice as likely to have arthritis, indicating a diabetes-arthritis connection. Diabetes causes musculoskeletal changes and after having had diabetes for several years, joint damage called diabetic arthropathy can occur. Symptoms may include:

- Joint pain and stiffness
- Swelling
- Nodules under the skin of hands, fingers and feet
- Tight, thickened skin
- Trigger finger
- Carpal tunnel syndrome.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and osteoarthritis (OA) are related to diabetes in different ways. Rheumatoid Arthritis

- Both type 1 diabetes and RA are autoimmune diseases: when the body attacks the pancreas (type 1 diabetes) and/or the synovial tissue lining the joints (RA).
- Inflammatory markers which are often high in people with RA, also are elevated in people with type 1 diabetes.
- Studies have shown that when inhibiting the inflammatory response of the body, due to an autoimmune disease, patients had increased sensitivity to their insulin and the levels of inflammatory markers had also, decreased.
- Osteoarthritis
- Body weight greater than the “ideal weight” causes a strain on the lower body joints as well as organs.
- Increased body weight causes the pancreas to have to produce more insulin, which leads to ineffective function of the pancreas.
- Increased body weight causes the heart and blood vessels to become stressed as the increased fat cells produce more and more inflammatory chemicals in

- the body.
- Modest weight loss of just 15 pounds, according to Dr. Felson, can decrease knee pain by half.
  - Decreasing body weight by 5%-10% will not only take the stress off the lower body joints yet will also, decrease blood sugar significantly.

Taking care of yourself and your family can help to decrease and even prevent some of these obstacles in life. By eating evenly spaced and balanced meals, which include non-starchy veg, lean protein, whole grains, fresh fruits and fat free dairy. And, taking in proper portions can help prevent blood sugar from spiking. Below is a recipe from The No Meat Athlete. This is not only a great way to start the day; it can also help to decrease inflammation.

## Recipe of the Month



### Pre-Workout Breakfast Salad (Recipe from The No Meat Athlete- Foodily.com ) Yield: 7 servings

- Ingredients:**
- 2 cups cooked chickpeas
  - 2 cups cantaloupe, cubed
  - 1 cup fresh blueberries
  - 1 cup celery, diced
  - 4 cups fresh baby spinach
  - ½ cup slivered almonds
  - 1/3 cup agave
  - 1/3 cup white rice vinegar (unsweetened)
  - 6-10 medium strawberries (extra strawberries for garnish)
- Directions:**
1. Strawberry vinaigrette: Blend agave, vinegar and 6-10 medium strawberries until smooth.
  2. Combine the chickpeas, cantaloupe, blueberries, and celery in a large bowl. Gently toss with strawberry vinaigrette.
  3. Place one cup of spinach on each of four plates, then divide salad mixture onto each bed of spinach. Sprinkle with almonds. Garnish with sliced strawberries.
- Prep Time: 30 mins

**Nutrition Facts:**  
Amount per serving: Calories 167, Carbohydrates 26.8g, Dietary fiber 6.0g, Cholesterol 0mg, Fat 4.9g, Saturated fat 0.4g, Sodium 239mg, Protein 6g

I hope you will enjoy this recipe and take advantage of this beautiful spring which is upon us. For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center 800-349-7026 ext.: 6959

## Durant Food Distribution

Effective June 2, the Durant Food Distribution will be located at 2352 Big Lots Parkway next door to the Choctaw Nation Community Center.

## NURSERY NEWS

### Adley Malott

Keith and Whitney Malott are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Adley Dalene Malott. She was born Dec. 30, 2013, at 9:56 p.m. at Texoma Medical Center in Sherman, Texas. She weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce and was 20 inches long.



Grandparents are Steve and Gina Harris of Calera, Curt Malott of The Woodlands, Texas, Terry Anderson of Roberta, and Will and Debbie Turner of Montgomery, Texas. Great-grandparents are Marveta and the late Benny Phelps of Calera, the late Bob and Angie Malott of New Rochelle, NY, and the late Richard and Barbara MacMurchy of The Bronx, N.Y.

### Carson Prewitt

Carson James Prewitt was born at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. on March 22, 2013 at 8:01 p.m. weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 20 inches. His proud parents are Lindsey (Shurley) and Mark Prewitt and big brother, Grayson of Acworth, Ga. Carson’s maternal grandmother is USAF Lt Colonel Rebecca (Lowrance-Shurley) Gober stationed at San Antonio, Texas. His maternal great-grandparents are the late James Alex and Mabel (Russell) Lowrance of Soper. Carson’s maternal great-great-grandmothers, both Choctaw, are the late Dora (Edwards) Lowrance-Boyd of Soper and the late Isabel (Best) Russell of Rattan.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays June 2-26, except for:  
**June 4:** Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12:30-3 p.m. (market open)  
**June 11:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
**Closed:** June 27 and 30 for inventory.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays June 2-26, except for:  
**Closed:** June 27 and 30 for inventory.

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays June 2-26, except for:  
**Closed:** June 27 and 30 for inventory.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays June 2-26, except for:  
**Closed:** June 27 and 30 for inventory.

## Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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



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## 10 tips Nutrition Education Series

### 10 tips for combining good nutrition and physical activity

For youth and adults engaging in physical activity and sports, healthy eating is essential for optimizing performance. Combining good nutrition with physical activity can lead to a healthier lifestyle.

**1 maximize with nutrient-packed foods**  
Give your body the nutrients it needs by eating a variety of nutrient-packed food, including whole grains, lean protein, fruits and vegetables, and low-fat or fat-free dairy. Eat less food high in solid fats, added sugars, and sodium (salt).

**2 energize with grains**  
Your body’s quickest energy source comes from foods such as bread, pasta, oatmeal, cereals, and tortillas. Be sure to make at least half of your grain food choices whole-grain foods like whole-wheat bread or pasta and brown rice.

**3 power up with protein**  
Protein is essential for building and repairing muscle. Choose lean or low-fat cuts of beef or pork, and skinless chicken or turkey. Get your protein from seafood twice a week. Quality protein sources come from plant-based foods, too.

**4 mix it up with plant protein foods**  
Variety is great! Choose beans and peas (kidney, pinto, black, or white beans; split peas; chickpeas; hummus), soy products (tofu, tempeh, veggie burgers), and unsalted nuts and seeds.

**5 vary your fruits and vegetables**  
Get the nutrients your body needs by eating a variety of colors, in various ways. Try blue, red, or black berries; red and yellow peppers; and dark greens like spinach and kale. Choose fresh, frozen, low-sodium canned, dried, or 100 percent juice options.

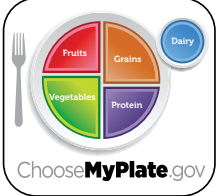
**6 don’t forget dairy**  
Foods like fat-free and low-fat milk, cheese, yogurt, and fortified soy beverages (soymilk) help to build and maintain strong bones needed for everyday activities.

**7 balance your meals**  
Use MyPlate as a reminder to include all food groups each day. Learn more at [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov).

**8 drink water**  
Stay hydrated by drinking water instead of sugary drinks. Keep a reusable water bottle with you to always have water on hand.

**9 know how much to eat**  
Get personalized nutrition information based on your age, gender, height, weight, current physical activity level, and other factors. Use SuperTracker to determine your calorie needs, plan a diet that’s right for you, and track progress toward your goals. Learn more at [www.SuperTracker.usda.gov](http://www.SuperTracker.usda.gov).

**10 reach your goals**  
Earn Presidential recognition for reaching your healthy eating and physical activity goals. Log on to [www.presidentschallenge.org](http://www.presidentschallenge.org) to sign up for the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA+).



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

DG TipSheet No. 25  
March 2013  
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.







# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Henderson receives Eagle badge

Cooper Grey Henderson received his Eagle Scout badge. Also in the photo are his grandfather, Cecil Henderson and grandmother Doris Henderson. His parents are Cecil Henderson II and Lisa Henderson and sister, Isabella Henderson. Cooper is a senior in high school at Westlake Academy. He intends to study Mandarin Chinese and foreign studies in college.



## Wiewel is valedictorian

Nate Wiewel is a high school senior at Putnam City West. He is Valedictorian, Academic All State, National Merit Scholar and a Presidential Scholar invitee. He is planning to go to OU and participating in their Native American Club. Awards that he has received are United States Presidential Scholar Candidate, National Merit Scholar, Young Talent in Oklahoma Medalist, Oklahoma Academic All-state, OU President's Leadership Class, AP Scholar with Distinction, Putnam City School District AP Scholar, Oklahoma Community Foundation for excellence certificate of achievement and state superintendent award for visual art.



## Camplain wins first place at engineering competition

The Oklahoma School of Science and Math students at the Southern Oklahoma Technology Center regional site brought home first and second place from the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering competition. The first place winner was Caelen Camplain, of Ringling High School. Camplain won the computer science event last year at the Southeastern Oklahoma State University curriculum contests. He compared the two events by stating, "The competition this year was much more complex. To win was unexpected but it felt like a great accomplishment." Camplain is a junior at Ringling and is the son of Bill and Jean Camplain.



## Cast graduates as National Honor Society President

Shelbie Cast of Panama graduated high school as Panama's National Honor Society President, as well as the Panama High School band's drum major and homecoming queen. Shelbie has been an Honor Society member throughout her school years and has also been a band member for the past six years and the last two drum majors. She has also been involved with FCCLA, Educational Talent Search, JOM tutor, OU's Science Paleontology Expedition recipient and Miss Panama of 2010/2011 as well as many other accomplishments. Shelbie has been accepted in the University of Central Oklahoma for the Fall 2014. Her mom, Kimberlee, her dad, Bob and sister Kodie all want to say how proud they are of her and give her a very big congratulations.



## Miss American Indian OSU

Veronica Arredondo was crowned Miss American Indian OSU (Oklahoma State University) for 2014-2015. Her great-grandparents were Larney and Marie Davis of Bentley and Elmer Barcus Sr. and Ruby Barcus of Atoka. Her grandparents are the late Jerry Dwayne Davis and Marian Davis of Dallas, Texas, and parents are Jerri (Davis) Barron and Robert Arredondo of Dallas, Texas. Veronica received her high school diploma from the School of Science/Engineering at the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center in Dallas, Texas. She is currently a junior at the Oklahoma State University studying Civil/Environmental Engineering. Since her freshman year at OSU, she has been involved with diverse organizations that have helped her gain the leadership experience and skills that she has today. She has held the position of treasurer for ECO-OSU for three consecutive years, an active member of the Hispanic Professional Engineers, Charter Member and Public Relations Chair for the Colony of Kappa Delta Chi and secretary for the Native American Student Association. Her leadership goals before she graduates from OSU are to gain communication and networking skills that will contribute to her success in the future. Her educational goal before she graduates is to pass the Fundamental of Engineering exam that will help her gain a career as an Environmental Engineer. Veronica just recently received the CAACP Humanitarian Award in April.



## Davis, Freshman of the year

Courtesy of Ada Evening News

Darian Davis of Byng was Boys Freshman of the year. Davis got better and better as the season went along and went from playing sparingly to seeing plenty of minutes during the Pirates' Class 4A playoff run. "Obviously he's an incredible athlete, but the most telling thing about him was that as we progressed through the season, he really transitioned to the varsity game. That's really hard to do as a freshman, especially at our level," said Byng boys coach Trent Miller. "There's not a whole lot of people on our schedule playing freshman. It had nothing to do with his ability level, but as the year went along he got adjusted to how the game needed to be played. He showed that he belonged. He made some big plays for us down the stretch, even defensively." Although he never scored points in bunches, Davis hit a number of clutch shots for Byng throughout the season. He shot a blistering 72 percent from beyond the 3-point arc. "That's poor coaching right there. He should have been shooting the ball more," Miller said. "The thing about Darian is when the lights come on, he's ready," he added. "There's not a situation that's too big for him. In our last game he played 90 percent of the game and he misses a shot with not much time left that should have went in to give us a one-point lead. I wanted him to take it. It makes you look forward to what's ahead for him."



## Pierce nominated for the Masonic Student of Today award

Cecelia (Cici) Pierce, granddaughter of Carole and Don Ayers, was honored by Westmoore High School in February. Cici was one of five female students in a class of 600 to be nominated for the Masonic Student of Today award. The nominees were chosen by the Westmoore faculty based upon character, scholarship and community service and school activities. The award winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in May. Congratulations Cici.



## Rocky Mountain horse expert

Dawn Adams, Ph.D., has taught everyone from families in museum programs to faculty in special seminars about the marvels of animal movement for nearly 35 years. She got her doctorate in vertebrate paleobiology, with an emphasis in the biomechanics of large animal locomotory systems, at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1986. She was a university professor for 13 years at Presbyterian College and Baylor University, where she taught comparative anatomy, functional morphology, and biomechanics to undergraduate and graduate students. During this time she carried out research in stress analysis, ran a successful graduate program in animal biomechanics, and served as a consultant to zoos whose large animals were having problems with their legs, feet, and backs. In 1998 Dawn founded a non-profit for public education about the natural world, and she still serves as the organization's senior scientist. She has been awarded 5 prestigious grants from the National Science Foundation for science education and was the recipient of national excellence in teaching awards. Dawn has ridden casually since childhood and studied Western reining training as a young woman in college. Today she enjoys riding, training, and just generally spending time with mustangs and quarter horses for pleasure. You can find more information about Dawn's work at her website, [www.understandingthehorse.com](http://www.understandingthehorse.com)



## Payne wins third place at Forestry Conclave

Congratulations to James Payne who won third place in the Archery Competition at the 57th Annual Southern Forestry Conclave held in Claytor Lake State Park in Dublin, Virginia. Forestry Conclave is the annual meeting and competition between Forestry Schools in the Southeastern United States. The purpose of Forestry Conclave is to promote cooperation and friendly competition among the schools to establish or maintain a high standard of ethics among students and professional foresters. Today, Forestry Conclave includes 15 southern Forestry schools and more than 250 contestants. The competition is composed of traditional timber sports as well as technical events. This year's Forestry Conclave was hosted by the Virginia Tech Forestry Club.



## Life-size sculpture of Dixon Durant unveiled

Fifteen years in the making, the life-size bronze sculpture of Durant's founder, Dixon Durant, was revealed on Jan. 21. Choctaw artist Jane Semple Umsted was the creator of the sculpture. A base for the sculpture sat in the market square in Durant for about 10 years, with stories of historic figures of Durant. Many of Choctaw Nation and city leaders attended the event.



## Heritage Day and stickball's youngest

Children at the Bennington Head Start Center, celebrated Heritage Day by learning about Ishtaboli. The children began the lesson with a video from the Choctaw Cinema titled Stickball and after teachers demonstrated the children got to play. To end the day, the children watched a slide show of team and youth teams. Understanding the past importance of the game is a necessity for children to learn so they will understand the field today. The children were very excited to learn and participate in game type situations.



Photo Provided

## Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation June 2014

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

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

### Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10.5-county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.

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

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center  
210 B St. - Poteau  
9:30 -11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.



# Through a New Lens

## Storyteller and author Tim Tingle

*Yesterday is a bridge to tomorrow*

By **STEPHENIE OCHOA**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw storyteller and author Tim Tingle will be one of the featured artists at the Smithsonian’s Museum of the American Indian where he will be telling a version of “No Name” a Choctaw story about father-son conflict in a modern 2014 setting. Tingle has published 12 books and received numerous accolades and awards including the Talking Leaves Award in 2009, the John Henry Faulk Award in 2003 and the Oracle Award in 2003. With over 200 stories still untold, Tingle is grateful for his heritage and those storytellers who came before him who willingly mentored and shared what he now willingly shares with others, a rich, beautiful Choctaw culture.

From the banks of Canyon Lake in Texas, at a leather-topped desk in a room filled with books from his favorite authors, Tingle has over 200 stories still to be told. He considers the art of Choctaw storytelling and book writing to be a “responsibility” that he has and has dedicated himself to researching and sharing the true stories of the Choctaw people through the crafting of vibrant historical stories with lovable and believable characters.

Tingle is able to offer a bridge into the past where audiences can learn about the beautiful cultural parts of the Choctaw people, as well as, “the bad and the ugly things” as a nation Choctaws have had to overcome in an entertaining and educational way. This bridge into the past is important Tingle says, “so that hopefully we don’t make the same mistakes” and we can offer others outside the Nation a more accurate history in a “loving, and forgiving way.” This is something he learned from others before him including his most influential mentors Charley Jones and Archie Mingo.

Using the past, as a way to appreciate the present, is something that Tingle personally practices. Tingle says, “from the beginning to the end of the day, little rituals

remind me of who I am and also to respect the people who have gone on in hopes they will be there when we need them.”

He speaks to all age groups from pre-K to college level but says his most favorite audiences are the fourth- through seventh-graders. “I enjoy all groups, but at this age level you can tell stories that are serious and humorous. They understand a lot more elements of humor. Also, their values aren’t already in place so if you reach them with stories that mean something to them, they will stay with them forever.”

Although Tingle’s schedule is full with conferences, association participation and workshops this summer, his newest book should be published in June. Based on the Choctaw story “No Name,” his new book will be a contribution to the HiLo series of novels written for teens. Through his storytelling and writing, Tingle offers a unique opportunity for younger generations to identify with their culture, their difficulties and important life lessons.

Tingle says that what he noticed most about the writers and storytellers of the past is, “their stories are not gone and so they will live on.” Tingle also paid respects to his grandmother, previous teachers and many great Choctaw historians and educators such as Clara Sue Kidwell for helping to get to the “true” Choctaw history.

As an author, he is very grateful to be Choctaw. He says that one of the most remarkable things about being Choctaw is “forgiveness is so much a part of the culture, and a powerful part of the culture. We’ve all done wrong but if we continue to blame people for the wrongs that



Storyteller, Tim Tingle

they’ve done, we can’t grow. It keeps the darkness around us. If we forgive, it brings light. We are people who forgive, that’s part of our culture.”

In September, Tingle will be a featured author at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., and he is a recent recipient of the 2014 American Indian Youth Literature Award to be presented by the American Indian Library Association.

# Traditional Native designs

*Traditional methods, contemporary styles*

By **ZACH MAXWELL**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Edmon Perkins is a fourth-generation farmer from Atwood who took up traditional Choctaw pottery less than a decade ago.

But his reproductions of prehistoric and colonial themes are quickly gaining the attention of aficionados of native designs.

Perkins will be demonstrating how to coil clay with crushed mussel shell to create pottery bowls, pipes and other figures during Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian in June.

“I started in 2005 with commercial clay, but even at that point I wanted to do traditional pottery,” Perkins said. “I stayed away from electricity so I built a wood-burning kiln.”

In 2009, he began attending Dr. Ian Thompson’s pottery classes, which he called “an eye-opening experience.” His first invitation to the Smithsonian was a year later, with aboriginal potters from North and South America.

“This time I’ll be going with a lot of friends,” he said.

“You get to visit with people and get into their stories. I’m excited that they have asked me to go. What’s really important is getting to visit with my

Choctaw friends.”

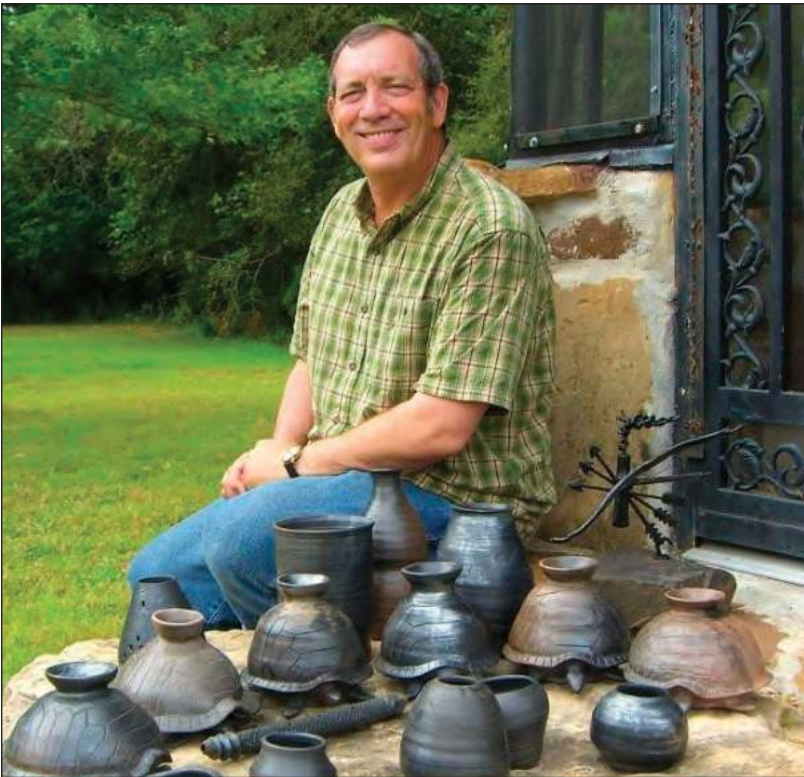
Perkins was inspired to enter the Choctaw Nation’s first art show, where he presented a welded 3D Great Seal. Soon thereafter, he moved into pottery, eventually importing white clay from Moundville, Ala., as well as finding suitable, sand-free clays “down by the creek” on his property.

“It’s amazing to me that you can take something as simple as clay, lukfi nia in Choctaw which translates as fat dirt, and put it in a fire, which destroys almost everything it touches, and it comes out as something useful,” Perkins said. “It makes you think about how they first learned to do that.”

Perkins said he is humbled to be a part of the revitalization of Choctaw culture. He draws inspiration from styles found on ancient pottery at places like Moundville as well as more contemporary Choctaw styles.

Part of his mission is to help Choctaw style pottery take its place among the more celebrated works of southwestern tribes.

“The southeastern U.S. has a great culture, and it’s not represented,” Perkins said. “To be part of this, it kind of wells up in me. I’m proud of what Chief Gregory E. Pyle has accomplished and Chief Gary Batton will continue that. It’s amazing what they’ve done for southeast Oklahoma.”



Edmon Perkins turns lukfi nia (Choctaw for “fat dirt” or clay) into traditional style vessels, pipes and other creations.



## Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to celebrate Choctaw Days

The fourth annual Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) will be held June 27-28 in Washington, D.C.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience traditional Choctaw culture through various activities including demonstrations, hands-on projects and special performances. Featured Choctaw artisans will include storyteller and author Tim Tingle, potter Edmon Perkins, beaders Roger Amerman and Marcus Amerman, silversmith George Willis and musician Paul Hacker.

For more information, check out choctawnation.com or follow the event on Choctaw Nation's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



## Day of the Young Child

In recognition of the National Week of the Child, Chief Pyle declared April 8, as the Choctaw “Day of the Young Child.”

The students of the Durant Choctaw Nation Child Development Center performed the snake dance and recited animal names in the Choctaw language. Assistant Chief Batton, Council Members and other employees read books to the children.





# OBITUARIES

## Rena Bundy

Rena Bundy, 90, longtime Seminole resident, died Feb. 24, 2014, in Shawnee. Rena was born Nov. 23, 1923 in Stigler to Nellie (Kelough) Jackson and Jonas Jackson.

Rena was a homemaker and a member of the Freewill Baptist Church in Seminole. She enjoyed playing with her grandchildren, going out to eat, and family gatherings.

Rena married A.C. Bundy on May 5, 1942 in Holdenville. They were married 67 years when A.C. died on Nov. 13, 2009.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband A.C. Bundy; son, Fred Bundy; four brothers, Lewis Jackson, William Jackson, Jonas Jackson, Jr. and Wiley Jackson; and two sisters, Millie Pickett and Maggie Griffin.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Curtis and Dinah Bundy of Okmulgee; her daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Richard Morgan of Seminole; her grandchildren Lee Ann Bundy of Okmulgee, Ashlee Gatzke of Shawnee and Grant Penuel of Seminole; her great grandchildren Abagaile Gatzke, Amarie Gatzke and Andrew Gatzke all of Shawnee along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

## Theresa Ann McClain

Theresa Ann McClain, 58, passed away on Dec. 9, 2013 in Buffalo Valley. She was born March 26, 1955 in Houston, Texas to Houston and Juanita McConnell. She graduated from New Caney High School in 1973 and attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. She worked for an oil company in Houston as an expeditor. She moved to Tushka Homma in the early 1980s.

Theresa Ann McConnell joined in marriage to Daniel McClain Jr. on Sept. 24, 1982 under the old tabernacle located south of the Council House. As far as we know, theirs was the first marriage in the tabernacle. They held their reception in the log cabin on the council grounds.

She worked for Talihina Hospital in many different positions. She enjoyed her work and got along well with co-workers. She always greeted the clients with a smile and treated them with dignity. Theresa was a phone operator for the Choctaw Nation Hospital at Talihina at the time of her death.

One son was born to Theresa on Nov. 6, 1987. While she was working at the hospital, a doctor advised Theresa be sent to Fort Smith by ambulance. Aaron was born at Fort Smith weighing one pound, five ounces. He was flown out by helicopter to St. Francis Hospital to the Neonatal Unit. She always called Aaron her miracle baby.

She liked to read the Biskinik paper; when it came in the mail she ordered her family to bring the paper to her. Theresa had a very infectious personality and never met a stranger. She loved dancing and being in dance competitions. She also enjoyed being involved with a local bike club and riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle. She loved her family and always had a smile on her face.. She was of the Christian faith. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Survivors include her son, Aaron McClain of Duncan; her husband, Dan McClain of Clayton; mother, Juanita Nicholas with husband Rayson of Atoka; brother Eddie McConnell of Buffalo Valley; sister, Cynthia McNeil of Waycross, Ga.; also nephews and nieces, Michael McConnell, Rocky McConnell, Derick Long, Wesley McConnell, Chevy McConnell, John McConnell, Brooke Smith and Briana McNeil.

Interment was in Mountain Home Cemetery in Daisy.

## Carol Laverne Crain

Carol Laverne Crain, 71, passed away Jan. 21, 2014 in Oklahoma City.

Carol was born in Talihina on Sept. 7, 1942, to Josh and Carolyn Bonaparte nee Carney. Carol retired from Lucent Technologies in 1997 after giving 20 years of service in their Oklahoma City plant.

Carol, a graduate of Oklahoma City Central High School, Class of 1960, was the loving wife of Robert, with whom she shared a 48-year inseparable union. She was the proud mother of two sons, Brian, of Oklahoma City and Jason (wife Martha) of Albuquerque, N.M. and the grandmother of Jacqueline, her first and only grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Josh Jr., and sister, Barbara.

She is remembered fondly by a host of nieces and nephews most of whom reside in the Oklahoma City area. Also mourning her passing are the approximately 20 surviving first cousins with whom she shared her childhood in the area between McAlester and Quinton in Pittsburgh County. Carol will be remembered as a long-time resident of Oklahoma City but she already is remembered as the cousin whose statley bearing stood out among all those with whom she grew up and played during those simpler times in Eastern Oklahoma. She was a proud and self-confident member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma never forgetting her roots and always remembering her relatives, especially those of her generation.

Carol was a loyal, caring, and dependable wife and mother who exemplified stability, provided comfort to others and was the epitome of character. All who have known her have been impressed with her kindness to others and her willingness to give of herself while asking nothing in return.

## Juanita Imogene Garnick

Juanita Imogene Garnick, 93, passed away while surrounded by family on March 12, 2014, in Tulsa. Juanita Imogene Garnick was born Jan. 7, 1921, in Haworth, the daughter of Darius Willie and Edyth Martha (Yeargin) Wilson. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage and attended many tribal events throughout the years. Juanita had lived in the Hugo area for many years and graduated from Southeastern State College in Durant. She taught school in Burbank, Okla. and Broken Arrow for four years before moving to Alaska where she taught for another 26 years. Juanita married Ed Garnick in March of 1956 in Juneau, Alaska.

Juanita moved back to Oklahoma in 1974 after retirement and lived in Yukon before moving to Hugo in 1980. She moved to Tulsa in January 2005 to be near family. She was active in the Country Club of Woodland Hills senior community in Tulsa and sang with the Country Clubaires. She was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Tulsa, the P.E.O Sisterhood, the Pierian Club, the Order of the Eastern Star, Delta Kappa Gamma Society and served on the Choctaw County Library Board.

Juanita was preceded in death by her husband, Ed; her parents; three sisters, Elnora Crain Wilson, Dura Anne Pool, Dorothy Faye Jefferson; two brothers, D.W. Wilson Jr. and Woodrow Wilson. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Dietrich of Greenville, N.C.; many nieces and nephews including Judy Baggett of Tulsa, Joel Baggett and Greg Baggett and their families of Tulsa, and Charles Baggett of Hugo.



## Betty Lee Moore

Betty Lee Moore, 57, of Tulsa, passed away on March 15, 2014 in Tulsa.

Born Dec. 4, 1956 in McAlester to Samuel Edward and Billie Jean (Moncrief) Pierce, Betty grew up in Canadian where she graduated Valedictorian of her senior class in 1975. While in high school, Betty was active in 4-H Club, she played basketball for the Lady Cougars, and she was also very active in the Canadian United Methodist Church in the choir and the Eufaula United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Following high school, Betty furthered her education by attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater earning a bachelor's degree in Family Relations and Child Development. Betty had a long career with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Tulsa, working as a sales and customer service representative. She retired in the late 1990s due to her health, as Betty had been battling Multiple Sclerosis since the early 1980s.

Betty enjoyed rock music, playing dominoes and talking on the phone. She was spunky and feisty and never let her illness slow her down!

She was preceded in death by her father, Samuel Edward Pierce and her mother, Billie Jean (Moncrief) Pierce.

Betty is survived by her children: son, Sam Moore of Tulsa; daughter, Emily Moore of Tulsa; two sisters, Melinda (Pierce) Johnson with husband, Glen D. of Oklahoma City and Nancy (Pierce) Holt of Norman; niece, Ann Estes of Norman; father of her children, Gary Moore of Tulsa.



## Vicki Lynn Green

Vicki Lynn Green was born Sept. 30, 1950, in Talihina to Marshall V. and Hattie Lou (Jones) Green. She passed from this life March 14, 2014, in Plano, Texas, at the age of 63.

She had worked as a dishwasher at restaurants and loved her family very much. Vicki loved to work puzzle books, play solitaire, traveling and especially playing with her pekingese and chihuahua mixed dog named "Christi."

Vicki was preceded in death by her father, Marshall Green; and both sets of her grandparents.

She is survived by her mother, Hattie Lou Barnes of Paris, Texas; aunts, uncles, cousins, as well as many other relatives and friends.



## Corinne Hudson

Corinne "Chop" Hudson, 63, of Smithville, passed away Feb. 1, 2014. She was born July 7, 1950 the daughter of Dixon and Sarah Hudson.

She was affiliated with the Big Lick Presbyterian Church at Smithville. After graduating high school, Corinne attended a Job Corp in New Mexico. She then moved to Tulsa where she worked in the poultry industry, and later worked refinishing antiques. She had lived in Smithville for the past 25 years and was a caretaker for the elderly. She was a jack of all trades and loved to fish and camp. Her sons, grandchildren, nieces and nephews were very special to her, and she enjoyed watching them play ball. Her nickname as a child was "Chop," although later on in life some called her "Choppy." She also had a nickname for everyone else in her family. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage and devoted to her family.

Corinne was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Von W. Hudson; nephews, Michael Tadlock and E.B. Hudson Jr.; niece, Madonna Tadlock.

She is survived by her two sons, Dustin Coley Hudson with wife Tasha of Hugo and James Willie Dye of Phoenix, Ariz.; three grandchildren, Keeley and Koda Hudson both of Hugo and Lyla Dye of Phoenix; six brothers, E.B. Hudson of Jacksonville, Fla., Thurman Hudson with wife, Peggy of Poteau, Dean Hudson of Ignacio, Colo., Cordell Hudson with wife, Vera of Frederick, Greg Hudson with wife, Anna of Henrietta, R.E. Hudson of Smithville; five sisters, Meg Scott of Smithville, Verdella Hudson of Rogers, Ark., Kathleen Hudson of Smithville, Loretta Tadlock with husband, Charlie of Grannis, Ark., Lita Baxter with husband, Sam of Gillham, Ark.; caretaker, Sharon Williams; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.



## Jacqueline Elizabeth Brand-Ashworth

Jacqueline Elizabeth "Jackie" Brand-Ashworth, 92, passed from this life on Feb. 16, 2014 in Tulsa.

She was born Jackie Elizabeth Mayfield on Dec. 10, 1921 in Atoka to Andrew and Juanita (Wilson) Mayfield. The Mayfields soon made Sand Springs their homestead. Jackie graduated from Sand Springs High School before marrying Ray Brand in Pryor in 1941. Together they raised two daughters, Janice and Joyce. In her early years of marriage, she worked for Commander Mills before going on to work for three different oil companies. Mr. Brand passed suddenly at a young age and Jackie was privileged to find love again spending nearly 40 years of marriage with Bill Ashworth. Together they worked establishing several businesses including a gift shop and a cafeteria. In her spare time Jackie enjoyed fishing, cooking, and gardening.

Left to mourn her passing are daughters, Janice Feigel with husband Jim, and Joyce Perdue with husband Phil; sister-in-law, Leta Mayfield; grandchildren, Steffanie Bonner, Natalie Clark, Dr. Jake Krajicek, and Sarah Krajicek; and five great-grandchildren.

Preceding Jackie in death were her parents, Andrew and Juanita Mayfield, husbands, Ray Brand and Bill Ashworth; brother, Gene Mayfield; sister, Winnie Magness; and grandson, Troy Johnson.



## Crystal Gayle Rogers Brown

Crystal Gayle Rogers Brown, 36, passed into eternal life on Feb. 2, 2014. She was born Dec. 8, 1977. She was the daughter of Louie and Janice Rogers of Tulsa. Crystal was a direct descendant of Joseph G. Garland Sr., who was the longest Supreme Court Justice of the Choctaw Nation. She attended Liberty Public School in Liberty Mounds from first to 10th grade. Her family moved to Haskell where she graduated from high school. She also attended Muskogee Indian VoTech for Graphic Art.

Crystal is survived by her husband Stephen Brown; parents Louie and Janice Rogers; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Burial was held at the Garland Cemetery in Stigler.



## Andrew Lee Dittmore

Andrew Lee Dittmore, 58, passed away on March 21, 2014. Andrew was born to P.D. Leo Dittmore and Gloria (Sumpter) Dittmore on Nov. 9, 1955 in Ada.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Heidi; son James; mother Gloria; his brothers Leo with wife Patty and Frank with wife Rebecca; his sister Patty with husband Tom; his nieces and nephews Alex, Brody, John, Samantha, Isabella, David, Christian, Robert and Samuel; cousins and many friends.



## Derrell Edward Fox

Derrell Edward Fox, 76, passed from this life on March 20, 2014 in Lamar, Ark.

He was born on Dec. 12, 1937 in Page to the late E.R. (Bee) Fox and Tecie Hazel Scott Fox Wheat. He was an Air Force veteran and worked as a supply clerk at Johnson Regional Hospital in Clarksville, Ark.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bill Fox. He is survived by two brothers, Harold Fox of Knoxville, Ark. and Bobby Fox of Shreveport, La.; and one sister Barbara Glover of Dallas.

Graveside service was held at Blackfork Cemetery in Blackfork, Ark.

## Marilyn Kay Thomas

Marilyn Kay Thomas, 59, of Battiest passed away March 15, 2014 in Paris, Texas. She was born Jan. 12, 1955 in Talihina, the daughter of Jerry Thomas and Betty Wade.

Marilyn was of the Presbyterian faith. She enjoyed cooking, caring for her nieces and nephews, watching baseball and basketball games on TV. Marilyn was employed at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Broken Bow for 33 years as cashier.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jerry Thomas; mother and stepfather, Betty and J.L. Sullivan; grandparents, Carlo and Esien Wade and Charles and Jincy Ingram; two sisters, Glenda Loma and Mary Jane Battiest; brother, Cecil Wade; niece Chassity Noah; great-nephew, Russian Gaskey; uncle, Ryman Battiest; aunts, Geraldine Jones and Nora Long; brothers-in-law, Winston Davis Jr. and Johnson Noah.

Marilyn leaves to cherish her memory one brother, R.C. Wade with wife, Donna of Las Vegas, Nev.; seven sisters, Sue Hicks with husband, Doug, Marvada Bohananon with husband, Herbie, Martha Noah all of Battiest, Norma Vaughn with husband, Ronnie of Cove, Ark., Minnie Spearman with husband, Larry of Gardena, Calif., Nancy Smith with husband, Ron of Lexington and Matilda Paxton with husband, Jimmy of Valliant; aunts, Adrienne Wade of Noble and Leona Rivers of Battiest; uncles, Jerry Ingram with wife Sally of New Mexico and Edward Loma of Smithville; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Interment was in County Line Cemetery in Pickens.

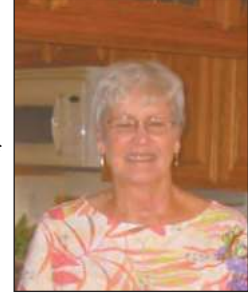
## Shirley Jean Richardson-Palmer

Shirley Jean Richardson-Palmer, 76, of Sparks, Nev. passed away on Jan. 26, 2014.

She was born to D. W. and Velma Richardson on Jan. 11, 1938 in Big Spring, Texas. She was a member of Journey Community Church in Fernley, Nevada. Shirley belonged to two Bunco groups, Red Hat Ladies and a bowling league as well as volunteering at Hot August Nights in Reno/Sparks, Nevada.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Rex Richardson.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, F. H. (Bud) Palmer Jr.; their two children F. H. III (Buddy) and Sheri Palmer Dellerman; three grandsons, Ryan Dellerman, Bradley Palmer and Nolan Dellerman. She is also survived by brothers Max Richardson and Eddie Richardson along with many in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.



## James Mitchell Holder

James Mitchell "Mickey" Holder, 65, of Kansas City, Mo., formerly of Hoyt, passed away on Feb. 12, 2014 at his home.

"Mickey" was born Oct. 9, 1948 in Hoyt to Rolf Reginald and Ora Lois Gideon Holder. Mickey finished grade school in Hoyt. He graduated from high school at Stigler in 1966. He attended Eastern Oklahoma State College at Wilburton and Northeastern State in Tahlequah. He lived in Kansas City, Mo., for many years and retired from Wonder Bread Bakery. He was a steward in his union.

His grandmother, Catherine Crowder Holder, was an Original Enrollee in the Choctaw Nation. Her father, Martin Samuel Crowder, was a full blood Choctaw.

Mickey was preceded in death by his parents, Rolf and Ora Holder; one brother, Wendell Leland Holder and wife Jeanette Eddy Holder; two sisters, Helen Jean with husband Lloyd Wyatt and Ramona with husband Ronnie Allen; one niece, Michelle Holder; and one nephew, Gordon Read.

He is survived by two sisters, Nadine Read of Blue Springs, Mo., and Elaine with husband Donald Bigger of Hoyt; one sister-in-law, Mary Holder of Petaluma, Calif.; one brother, Reginald Lee Holder of Tulsa; numerous nieces, nephews, great and great-great-nieces and nephews; one aunt, Wanda Glo Gideon Cariker with husband Rev. Connie Cariker of Jenks.

Graveside services were held at Hoyt Cemetery.

## Mackey Ren Ely

Mackey Ren Ely, 71, of Bethany, passed away April 10, 2014 in Galveston, Texas.

Mackey Ren Ely was born on Sept. 2, 1942 in Ashland to F. L. and June Loretta (Eden) Ely. Mack grew up in Ashland and graduated from high school in 1960. Mack served in the Marines and was active during the Vietnam war. After his honorable discharge he moved to Oklahoma City where he has lived his adult life. Mack enjoyed traveling to wherever he could find relatives to visit with. Some of his favorite places were the ocean coasts, including Texas, California, and Hawaii. He also enjoyed horse racing and cars. Family and friends that crossed paths with Mackey were made to feel loved and special. Mackey will truly be missed by all.

Mackey was preceded in death by his father and grandparents, Chester and Ruby Ely.

Surviving relatives: daughter, Kimberly June Walden and her children, Cassie Renn Hack and April Nicole Walden; mother, June Loretta McCormick; step-father, J. R. Bernardy with wife Caroline; brothers, Bobby Francis Bernardy and Daniel Wayne Bernardy; sister, Mary Ellen Bernardy with partner Jeff Buchan; step-daughters, Rhonda Gayle Ely and Donna Marie Pitcher with children, Johnnie and Jason Pitcher; half-sister, Pam Sutcliffe; uncle, Pete Eden with wife Wilma; aunts, Betty Dennis and LaGatha Hop; three nieces and two nephews, Laura Bernardy, Leah Bernardy, Daniel Bernardy, Katie Bernardy, Kevin Bernardy.

Interment was in Ashland Cemetery.



# OBITUARIES

## Gertie Mae Gibson McConnell

Gertie Mae Gibson McConnell, 88, passed away Jan. 30, 2014, at Rimrock Villa Convalescent Hospital in Barstow, Calif.

Gertie was born to the late Jeff and Laura Gibson on Feb. 6, 1925, in Hendrix. Gertie lived in Oklahoma during her childhood and attended Goodland School, completing the eighth grade. Gertie moved to California with relatives where she met and married her late husband Charles R. Bratton in 1945 at Arvin, Calif. Gertie and Charles moved to Hinkley, Calif., in 1958, where they built and pastored a church called Hidden River Church in Hinkley until Charles Bratton passed away in 1968. Gertie went back to school and graduated in 1974, earning her high school diploma at Barstow Adult Evening High School where she met William “Bill” McConnell. (So one could say Gertie and Bill were high school sweethearts.) Gertie and Bill married in 1974 in San Bernardino, Calif.

Gertie attended Crossroads Assembly of God Church in Barstow, Calif., for many years. In other community churches over her lifetime Gertie taught Sunday school, Awana’s for girls, she was a caring and giving woman of God.

She was married to William (Bill) McConnell for 40 years; mother to Charles C. Bratton of Hinkley, Calif., Jackie Bratton with wife Val of Barstow, Calif., Naomi Miller with husband Larry of Cleveland, Tenn., Priscilla McCaulley with husband Mike of Hinkley, Calif. And Lydia Korczyk of Lancaster, Calif.

She is also survived by her brother Bennie Gibson of Finley; two nieces, Belle Martinez and Gloria Tunkett with husband Stan of San Francisco; grandmother of James Bratton, Jackie Ann Bratton, Joy Grech, Greg Bratton, Charles Bratton, Tracey Myers, Garrett Rubino, Bobby Bratton, Kari Miller Johnson, Franklin McCauley, Richard Brown, Michael Brown, Jeremiah Brown and Joshua Korczyk; great-grandmother and great-great grandmother of many children.

## Bertha M. Tackett

Bertha M. Tackett, 94, of Panama passed away on Dec. 31, 2013 in Fort Smith, Ark. She was born on Dec. 12, 1919 in Williams to Henry and Emma Darneal. She worked in the school cafeteria and attended the Panama Assembly of God Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fay Tackett; two sons, Norman and Larry; her parents; sisters, Doshie Butler, Lorene Murray and Jewel Ulmer; and brothers, Leon, Richard, John and Ed Ray Darneal.

Survivors include her son, Donald R. Tackett of Panama; seven grandchildren, Richard A Tackett, Brian Tackett, Shannon Morrison, Tanya Newnam, Tamara Tackett, James Tackett and Paula Brandaver; 10 great grandchildren and a host of loving family members with one special little guy, Ryan Bird; sister, Betty Detamore; a very special family member that she loved dearly, James Key; and several great-great-grandchildren.

Interment was held at Greenhill Cemetery in Cameron.

## James ‘Jim’ Eugene Hudson

Jim Hudson, 67, of McAlester, passed away Feb. 13, 2014 at his home.

Born Jan. 30, 1947 in Blanco, he was the son of Charles Eugene Hudson and Lucille Rollings. He attended school in Savanna. He married Diane Sharp on Oct. 15, 1975 in Ponca City.

He was a professional musician who played at many venues in Oklahoma and also recorded some of his own music in Nashville, Tenn.

He completed CLEET raining in Norman at the Police Academy and served as a policeman for several years. He then worked at McAlester Regional Health Center as a physical therapy tech II, retiring from there after a 25-year career.

Survivors: wife Diane and son Jimmy of the home; sisters, Francis Martin and husband Alfred of Stuart, Janice Carlton and husband Bill of Ada; brother-in-law Billy Sharp and wife Gail of Buford, Ga.; sisters-in-law Barbara Doyle of Fayetteville, Ark., Janet Weaver of Clinton, Ark., Joy Young and husband John of Kiowa; aunt, Janie Brasfield of Haywood; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Private services were held at Blanco Cemetery.

## Noble Calvin ‘Tex’ Stephenson

Noble Calvin “Tex” Stephenson Jr. was born to Choctaw Indian lineage in Soper on March 28, 1933 to his parents Noble Calvin Stephenson Sr. and Louise Rena Page. Calvin spent his childhood in Soper along with his four younger sisters: Ann Elder of Longview, Texas, Peggy Hill of Farmington, N.M., Patricia Howerton of Hubbard, Texas, and Nelda Graves of White Salmon, Wash.



A Korean War Veteran, Calvin enlisted in the Army in April 1953 and began his service as a medic in Fort Carson, Colo. as part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. In November 1953 he was transferred to South Korea where he served on the front lines before he was honorably discharged in April of 1955. June 30, 1956 Calvin married the love of his life Patricia Ann Albert. The couple had many adventures and opportunities that enabled them to live in many different states from Texas, Illinois, California, Oregon, then in 1972 they finally decided to settle in White Salmon to raise their family.

Calvin had many passions, the first being his love of Country and Western music. He was a talented musician who enjoyed singing, playing the guitar and bass for several of the local bands. His signature cowboy boots and hat that he always wore earned him the nickname “Tex” which most of his friends called him. He was also an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and picking huckleberries. Calvin enjoyed his career in the timber industry as a log truck driver for SD&S which further enhanced his love of the outdoors. Along with that love he also had a great fondness for all god’s creatures especially cats and dogs. Finding extreme joy and comfort with their presence, he always had at least one or two with him. The last to spend time with him were Suzie and Tia and his cat Tigger, who embraced his company for as long as they could. He also enjoyed travel and was lucky enough to visit Okinawa, Japan, as well as Germany and France.

The thing that meant the most to him above all was family. Calvin always placed the needs and wants of his family above his own. Sadly he succumbed to his illness and mercifully his suffering was eased when he peacefully passed away in his home on April 5, 2014.

He is survived by his wife Patricia, son Larry Stephenson and daughter –in- law Star Stevens of Bingen; daughter Lana Luke and son –in- law Antone Luke of Oregon City, Oregon; and son Lance Stephenson with daughter –in-law Shenna Stephenson of Blackhawk, S.D.; Grandchildren Lori Stephenson, Nicholas Luke, Keith Stephenson, Kelli Luke, Kyle Luke and Griffin Noble Stephenson; great-granddaughter Jayden; sisters Ann Elder, Peggy Hill, Nelda Graves and Patricia Howerton and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson Larry Dale Stephenson Jr.

## Perry E. McGee

Perry E. McGee, 53, passed away on March 1, 2014 in Idabel. Perry E. McGee was born Dec. 17, 1960 in Talihina to Eli and Laura McGee. Perry graduated from Battiest High School. He attended Eastern Oklahoma State College. He was of the Protestant faith. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He served six years in both active duty based in Fort Riley, Kan., home of the “Big Red One” and Active Reserve unit in Paris, Texas.



He was preceded in death by his father, Eli McGee; paternal grandparents: Harrison and Clestie McGee; maternal grandparents, Louis and Lena Ontaiyabbi; uncles and aunts, Luther Ontaiyabbi, Alonzo McGee, Lindsey McGee, Elizabeth Goings and Adeline Cusher.

Perry is survived by his mother, Laura Lewis; brothers, Richard McGee, Avery and Debbie McGee, Michael McGee, Jeff and Brenda McGee, Robert Lewis and Milton Lewis; sister, Juanita Lewis; nephews, Kerry J. Bond, Morgan McGee and Jeffery Ty McGee; nieces, Kyla McGee and Aaliyah Garcia, Erin and husband, Matthew Cook of Allen, Texas; also survived by several cousins and friends.

Interment was in Kulli Tuklo Cemetery in Watson.

## Betty Jackson

Betty Jackson, 48, of Hugo, passed away on March 4, 2014 in Hugo.



Betty Joy Jackson was born Dec. 11, 1965 in Bokchito, the daughter of Alvie Jackson and Lillie (Bertis) Jackson. Her parents preceded her in death. Betty was actively involved in her children’s lives, whether it be at the baseball field or church activities. Despite how heavy her schedule, she always had time to lend an ear to anyone needing an encouraging word or hand. She truly enjoyed her work with the Choctaw Nation and all her co-workers; they were her second family and she appreciated each of them. Some of her favorite past times were collecting lighthouses, shopping with her children, and taking short trips.

Survivors include her son, Gavyn Gallant of Hugo; daughters, Brittney Jackson and Haleigh Gallant, both of Hugo; brothers and sister, Paul Bertis, Doris Taylor and Alvie “Junior” Jackson, all of Yuba and LaDonna Jackson of Hugo; numerous nieces and nephews along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Restland Cemetery in Boswell.

## Lawan Sue Wood

Lawan Sue Wood, 92, passed from this life Feb. 28, 2014, in Dallas.



Lawan Sue Wood was born Nov. 22, 1921, in Blue, to Wilson Jones and Madge (Smith) Beal. She had lived in this area most of her life and was a member of the First United Methodist Church. She married Donald Wood on Nov. 4, 1939. She and her husband Donald owned and operated the Hugo Tobacco and Candy Company for many years. She enjoyed painting, working in the yard, traveling, but most of all she loved her family and enjoyed being with them.

Lawan was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Donald Wood; and sister Jean Richmond.

She is survived by three children: Philip Wood with wife Mattie of Waxahachie, Texas, Eddie Wood with wife Dawn of Hugo, and Jeani Schobert with husband Don of Dallas; six grandchildren: Sherry Schons of Marion, Iowa, Chris Wood of Bonham, Texas, Georgia Sherlag of Oklahoma City, Sandra Caldwell of Reedley, Calif., Laura Raymond of Stuart, Fla., and Tori Wood of Hugo, three step-grandchildren: Kris Schobert, Cynthia Schobert and Allison Scott all of Dallas; 11 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; as well as many other relatives and friends.

## Dellois ‘Lois’ Pitts Brown

Dellois “Lois” Pitts Brown, 95, passed away March 14, 2014 at Greenbrier Nursing Home in Enid.

Lois Pitts Brown was born at Golden on June 28, 1918 to Olen (Allen) S. Pitts and Filena Birlew Pitts. She married Rufus Brown in Seminole on Dec. 23, 1933. She was a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Women’s Missionary Group. Lois was also an avid bowler. Lois was very proud to be Choctaw. She attended Wheelock Academy from 1927-29 and loved to visit Wheelock every chance she had. One of her proudest moments was in 2011 when Wheelock contacted her to be part of an interview of girls who attended the school and is now on video display at Wheelock. It earned her the nickname of “The Famous Lady” by Wheelock staff because of the constant reminder from her that she had lunch with then Assistant Chief Gary Batton at the Wheelock luncheon.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband Rufus Brown; one daughter, Shirley; two brothers and one sister.

She is survived by one son Johnny Brown with wife Faye of Enid; one daughter Sharon Craun with husband John of Sand Springs; one sister Billie Stearns of Eugene, Oregon; three grandsons, Greg Luper with wife Marjorie of Hennessey, Mike Luper with wife Rhonda of Edmond, David Brown with wife DeeDee of Enid; three granddaughters, Karen Main with husband Marvin of Enid, Lisa Stivers with husband Steve of Edmond, Tammy Craun of Tyler, Texas; 13 great-gramdchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held in Hennessey Cemetery.

## Mozelle Jefferson

Mozelle Jefferson, 93, of Red Oak died Feb. 7, 2014 in Poteau.



Mozelle was born Nov. 5, 1920 in Red Oak. She married Joseph Jefferson on Feb. 18, 1939 until his death in 1970. During her widowed life, Mozelle lived as a homemaker, taking care of her family and being loved by her family and friends. She was a member of the South Rock Creek Baptist Church and the Choctaw Nation.

Mozelle was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Joseph Jefferson; infant son, Douglas; son, Cleveland Jefferson; and three daughters, Ruth Morgan, Virginia Stalliby and Shirley Calvin.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Stanely Stalliby with wife Steveanna of Fort Worth, Mike Morgan with wife Kristie of Wister, Eugene Stalliby of Oklahoma City, Kristen Crenshaw with husband Jim of Red Oak, Ronnie Calvin of Red Oak and Douglas Jefferson of Wilburton; 12 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and step-daughter, Missy Jones of Durant. Interment was at Red Oak Cemetery.

## Jackie Marie Skelly

Jackie Marie Skelly, 34, of Shawnee, passed away Jan. 1, 2014 in Shawnee. She was born Nov. 16, 1979 to Robert Carroll Jr. and Deanna (Pitts) Skelly in Shawnee.



Jackie was raised in Wanette and attended Wanette Public Schools. She was a 1998 graduate of Wanette High School. Jackie has been a resident of Shawnee for the past seven years.

Jackie worked for many years as a CNA and CMA for several area care-giving facilities. She was most recently employed as an administrative assistant for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe with the Housing and Development Department.

She enjoyed going to the lake, hiking, cooking, and spending time with family and friends and her little pugs Otis and Tito. Jackie had a love for cars especially her Ford Mustangs.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Robert and Lorene Skelly; and great-grandparents, Doyle and Birdell Pitts.

Those left to cherish her memories are her father, Robert Skelly of Wanette; mother, Deanna Johnson of Lebanon, Mo.; twin brother, Justin with wife, Mandy Skelly of Minco; nieces, Ella and Haley Skelly of Minco; fiancé, Ruberto Jimenez and his children, Zaden, Zyren and Zalexa; grandmother, Mary with husband Bill Langston of Asher; grandfather, Brad with wife Mary Pitts of Norman; numerous aunts, uncles and other extended family and friends.

## Jonas James

Jonas James, 81, beloved father, devoted grandfather and great-grandfather, died April 5, 2014 at Hill Nursing Home in Idabel.



Jonas was born in Broken Bow to Jesse and Iris (McLow) James. Jonas was a resident of Wright City where he lived most of his life. As a young boy, Jonas attended the Goodland Indian School for eight years. He enlisted in the Air Force at the age of 18, where he proudly served four years (1951-1955) at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. as an air policeman and boxer. Upon returning to McCurtain County, Jonas worked five years at Dierks Forests Inc. and 31 years for Weyerhaeuser as a security guard. He retired in 1995 after 36 years of dedicated service.

Not a person to tip-toe through life or beat around the bush, Jonas met life’s challenges and opportunities head on. Jonas believed in being fashionably early, taking care of business and doing things right the first time. Jonas was a proud Choctaw man who was passionate about three things in life: community service, studying the Bible and family. In the early years of his life, Jonas coached the Wright City Indians Little League team for 14 years with a record of 279 wins and 36 losses. The team won 11 championships and numerous recognitions under his instruction.

During his time in the Air Force, Jonas was the welterweight boxing champion (1951-1953) and Arizona Golden Glove champion with an impressive record of 52 wins, 2 losses, and 2 draws. He took his knowledge and lessons learned in the ring and produced a winning boxing team. During his short span as a boxing coach, Jonas produced two state champions and three runners-up.

Retirement opened a new chapter in his life. For a number of years, Jonas dedicated his time in sharing his love for God and the Bible by ministering to young and old alike. He was especially fond of visiting nursing homes and bringing the Word to Choctaw elders and singing Choctaw hymns. As a young man Jonas dreamed of visiting the Holy Land and fulfilled this dream when he traveled there in 1998.

Jonas’ greatest joy came from spending time with family and watching his grandkids play sports. Over the years, he collected a wealth of newspaper write-ups of their accomplishments. He also took pleasure in the quiet moments found working in his garden and yard or going for a drive down a country road.

Jonas was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Iris James, wife Louise, his sister Kathy, children Jeremiah, Daryl, Jonathan, and grandchild Tanisha.

Jonas is survived by sister, Shirley, children, Joni, Iris, Johanson, Joyce, Donna, Lillie, Johanson Lee, Javier, Ireta, Jonell and Jakkie. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Tamiko, Jeremiah, Marissa, Deirdre, Deon, Jon, Holly, Joyce Marie, Alexander, Bree Ann, Morgan, Justin, Jonathan, Zane, Ryan, Cara, Courtland and Krista; great-grandchildren TaMia, TaMiah, Taylon, Demesia, Karis Jade, Mika Sage, Jayden and Aiyana; brothers-in-law Tom and Howard; sons-in-law Lonnie and Gary, and daughter-in-law Angie and granddaughter-in-law, Rachel.

Interment was at Kulli Chito Cemetery in Broken Bow.

## Hazel Oleta ‘Sam’ Carroll

Hazel Oleta “Sam” Carroll, 83, a lifelong Bentley area resident, passed away on April 15, 2014 in Coalgate.



She was born on July 15, 1930, to Able and Gladys (McGinty) Sam, at Blackjack. She attended school at Blackjack, Bentley and Sequoyah Indian School. She married Charles Carroll on Feb. 23, 1948 at Sherman, Texas. Hazel was a housewife and homemaker. Hazel was a longtime member of the Bentley Baptist Church. She was also a member of Choctaw Nation. Hazel loved to fish, travel, take care of kids and grandkids; and visiting her friends at the truckstop.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Able and Gladys Sam; sister, Pauline Snell; and son-in-law, Dennis Duckworth.

Hazel is survived by her husband, Charles Carroll of Atoka; children, Joann Duckworth of Durant, Paula Deaton and husband Don of Bentley, Linda Carroll of Durant, Chuck Carroll and wife Angie of Durant; 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; along with numerous other relatives and many dear and loved friends.

Interment was in Bentley Cemetery.

## Jerrold Lee Choate

Jerrold Lee Choate, 25, of Bennington, passed away on March 1, 2014 in Bennington.



Jerrold Lee Choate was born March 30, 1988 in Ada and had lived all of his life in the Boswell and Bennington area. He enjoyed playing baseball and basketball and also enjoyed fishing and camping.

Survivors include his father, Tommy Lee Choate of Bennington; his mother, Geraldine (Roberts) Pierce of Bennington; sisters, Tina Bacon and Amanda Martin, both of Boswell; brother, Kendal Pierce of Durant and his grandmother, Edna Roberts of Bennington along with many other relatives and friends.



# The Office of Chief and the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation

On Monday, April 28, 2014, Tribal leaders, state dignitaries, Tribal employees, and community members gathered at Tribal Headquarters in Durant to witness an historic event – Gary Batton’s inauguration as the 47th Chief of the Choctaw people in Oklahoma.

Selecting leadership is an important right of any sovereign people. This right has been preserved and codified by the Choctaw people through a series of Tribal constitutions. In these documents, Choctaw people have laid out a structure for self-governance.

In taking the oath of office, Chief Batton swore to protect the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The current Choctaw constitution was created in 1983. It establishes the framework through which our Chief, Assistant Chief, Tribal Council, and Judicial System work. Under this constitution, the Tribe as a dependent sovereign nation within the United States, has been able to create programs that provide the opportunities that we currently enjoy for economic, political, and cultural growth.

Through the 1800s and early 1900s, Choctaw leaders witnessed many changes. In 1818, at the request of Choctaw leadership, missionaries began moving in the Nation bringing American education and Christianity. To adapt to these changes the Choctaw leaders created the Choctaw Lighthorsemen in order to provide law and order where traditional family law systems began to wane. In 1826 Choctaw leaders began to draft what would be the first constitution for the Choctaw people. However, in 1830 the draft was interrupted by Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek that forced the Choctaw Nation to move to what is today Oklahoma (Milligan 2003:37) (Debo 1961:45).

In 1834, following the removal, Choctaw leaders signed the first Choctaw constitution. The Leaders agreed that Nanih Waiya, near the present town of Tuskahoma, would be the capitol. This constitution established three Choctaw districts, as had existed in Mississippi prior to Removal. These were named after three prominent Chiefs, Moshulatubbee, Apuk shunnubbee and Pushmataha. Each district had its own Chief. They were aided by 27-member Tribal Council. The Lighthorseman acted as the judges and carried out punishments for crimes committed against the Nation (Milligan 2003:97-98) (Debo 1961:74).

In 1837, the Chickasaw people were removed from their homelands into the Choctaw Nation, with many of them settling in the western part of the Nation. A new constitution was ratified in 1838 at the Nation’s capitol at Nvnihi Waiya. This constitution created a fourth District, the Chickasaw District as well as establishing four powers of government; the legislative power with a General Council, the executive power consisting of three district Chiefs, the judicial power consisted of a Supreme Court and Inferior Courts, and a military power that created a general in each district. The declaration of individuals’ rights was included in the constitution and guaranteed individuals trial by jury. The addition of the judicial power limited the role of the Lighthorseman to law enforcement (Milligan 2003:98) (Debo 1961:74-76) (1838 Constitution).

Amendments were made to the Constitution in 1842 and 1850. By the first, the General Council was split into a Senate and a House of Representatives, and the Military power was removed. Instead a clause was added for a militia to be raised by the General Council and the Chiefs in times of need or war. In 1850, changes were made to the judicial



## Iti Fabussa

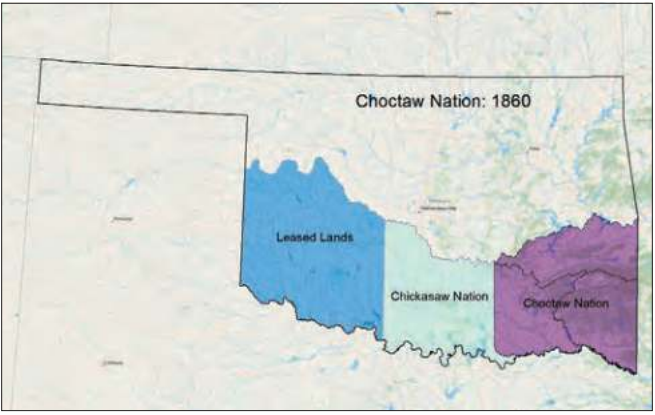
powers that removed the inferior courts and replaced them with District Circuit Courts and County Courts. The capitol was relocated to Doaksville (Milligan 2003:98) (Debo 1961:74-76) (1842 Constitution) (1850 Constitution).

In 1855, the Choctaw Nation signed a treaty with the United States and the Chickasaw Nation, transferring a portion of the Western Choctaw Lands to the Chickasaw Nation. Today the same line is used to separate the two Nations. Due to the withdrawal of the Chickasaw District from Choctaw Nation, a new constitution was needed. It was signed in 1857 at Skullyville. This constitution changed the executive powers from the District Chiefs to a single Governor and adopted the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation, a version of which, is still used today (Milligan 2003:98) (Debo 1961:75-76) (1857 Constitution).

Due to political issues with the Skullyville Constitution a new constitution was signed into effect in Doaksville in 1860. This constitution added a district called the Hotubbee district; this was comprised of leased lands located to the west of the Chickasaw Nation. Additionally, the title of Governor was replaced by Principal Chief and the District Chiefs were brought back into existence, although as subordinates to the Principal Chief. A National Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and Attorney were also added to the executive powers. The Lighthorseman and militia would be under the jurisdiction of the Principal Chief (Milligan 2003:98) (Debo 1961:74) (1860 Constitution).

The 1860 Doaksville Constitution gave a foundation for the Choctaw leaders to guide the Nation through what would be many more hard periods for Choctaw people. Soon after this constitution was ratified, the American Civil War erupted. The Choctaw Nation was brought into the conflict leaving many families destitute in the following years of reconstruction. In 1884, an amendment changed the Nation’s capitol to Tvshka Homma. A few years later, the Dawes Commission and the Curtis Act came into effect, in many ways temporarily ending the sovereignty of the Tribe in 1906. Beginning in 1910 Choctaw Chiefs were appointed by the U.S. President. This continued until 1970, when efforts by the Choctaw people saw a return to greater self-determination (Milligan 2003:229).

In 1971, Chief Harry J.W. Belvin became the first elected Choctaw Chief in 65 years. In 1978, a General Council was formed to help create a new constitution for the Choctaw Nation. Within a year, the Council had drafted the first constitu-



tion officially adopting “The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma” as the Tribe’s official name. This constitution established a three branch system of government: a legislative department consisting of a Tribal Council, an executive department consisting of the Chief, and a judicial department consisting of a Supreme Court. In 1983, a new constitution was signed, which created the position of Assistant Chief to be appointed by the Chief with approval of the Tribal Council. Additionally, the Tribal Council was reduced from 15 members to 12 members (Milligan 2003:245-246) (1979 Constitution) (1983 Constitution).

Today the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is the third largest tribe in the United States. Daily we enforce our sovereignty through our many businesses, our political representation with the federal, state, and local governments, and through our language & culture. Without our Constitution, the Tribe could not achieve such success nor would it be able to realize its mission to the Choctaw people; To achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws.

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1979. Constitution of the Choctaw Nation  
1983. Constitution of the Choctaw Nation

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Question:  
**Kvta ish pisa?**  
Pronounced:  
Kah-tah ish pe-sah?  
Who do you see? Or  
Who are you looking  
at?

Responses:  
**Kvna pisa li kiyo.**  
Pronounced:  
Ka-nah pe-sah li kiyo.  
I don’t see anyone.

**Ohoyo ma pisa li.**  
Pronounced:  
Oh-ho-yoh mah pe-sa li.  
I am looking at that  
woman.

**Miko Batton pisa li.**  
Pronounced:  
Mi(n) –koh Batton pe-sa li.  
I see Chief Batton.

Word Meaning:  
kvta – who  
ish – you  
pisa – to see; look at  
kvna – someone, anyone  
kiyo – not  
ohoyo – woman  
ma – that  
li – I  
miko – chief; leader



CNO Farmers' Market  
Nutrition Program for Seniors



# CHOCTAW NATION FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR SENIORS



**APPLY TODAY!!**  
VISIT YOUR LOCAL CHOCTAW  
NATION COMMUNITY CENTER  
ON WEDNESDAYS.





**DON'T WAIT; APPLY TODAY**  
THE FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR SENIORS PROVIDES \$50 IN COUPONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE - OCTOBER FROM AUTHORIZED FARMERS' MARKETS AND FARM STAND THROUGHOUT THE CHOCTAW NATION AND SURROUNDING AREAS. SENIORS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM IF THEY:

- MEET INCOME REQUIREMENTS (SHOW PROOF)
- NATIVE AMERICAN AT LEAST 60 YEARS OF AGE (CDIB)
- DISABLED PERSON UNDER 60 (SHOW PROOF)
- SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCE

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly Income
1	\$21,590	\$1,800	\$900	\$831	\$416
2	29,101	2,426	1,213	1,120	560
3	36,612	3,051	1,526	1,409	705
4	44,123	3,677	1,839	1,698	849
5	51,634	4,303	2,152	1,986	993
6	59,145	4,929	2,465	2,275	1,136
7	66,656	5,555	2,778	2,564	1,282
8	74,167	6,181	3,091	2,853	1,427
Each Add'l Member Add	+7,511	+626	+313	+289	+145

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT **PEGGY CARLTON**, FMNPS COORDINATOR AT (580) 924.8280 EXT. 2303

We are only serving the seniors in our 10 1/2 county area



# Choctaw Nation developing tourism strategy for southeast Oklahoma

By PETE MONFRE

Special to the Biskinik

“I see tremendous opportunity for the Nation...” says Lana Sleeper, Tourism Analyst for the Choctaw Nation. “There is so much here, we want to make sure people are aware of the many destinations we have.”

Tourism is big business in Oklahoma. According to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department’s (OTRD) 2012 report, domestic travelers spent nearly \$7.2 billion in Oklahoma, a 6.1 percent increase over 2011.

An analysis conducted by the Choctaw Business Development Center shows that the 10.5-county Tribal Territory brought in almost 9 percent of this total, or over \$323 million, with Pittsburg County and Latimer County leading at \$88 million and 48 million respectively.

“With tourism, comes jobs” states Susan Kennedy, a cultural tourism expert who has developed tourism strategies for locations around the world including Vietnam and Cambodia. “It’s easy to overlook the fact that when people spend money on tourism-related activities, that money goes directly into the local economy. This stream of revenue is reflected both directly and indirectly in employment opportunities.”

The numbers for Oklahoma bear this out. According to the OTRD report, employees earned more than \$2 billion in payroll income in 2012 with tourism supporting 4.9 percent of non-agricultural jobs or 78,200 jobs.

Our goal is to increase tourism revenues specifically in southeast Oklahoma so that it directly creates jobs for the Choctaw Nation.

Tourism has, until recently, been concentrated in lake and mountain resort areas, and in major cultural



centers. It has proven to be a powerful engine for economic growth -- transferring capital, income and employment from industrial, urban and developed areas to non-industrial rural regions.

The Choctaw Nation is developing a comprehensive tourism plan for the 10.5-county Tribal Territory with short, medium and long-term strategies for development. “Right now, Susan and I are visiting each district to learn more about their capabilities, desires and needs,” states Sleeper. “We are also surveying residents and tourists to assess the demand for tourism products, to see who is coming here and learn more about their purchasing behavior.”

Sleeper adds, “A solid tourism strategy will provide a strong foundation for job growth. Jobs will be created as tourism destinations and businesses develop.”

The other less tangible, but no less important, benefit is the rejuvenation of the Choctaw culture. Native American culture is generating significant interest in America and abroad. Tourism is another opportunity for the Nation to become a leader in cultural and recreational tourism.

Rural tourism is a complex and multi-faceted activity. It includes nature holidays, agri-tourism and

ecotourism, walking, climbing and riding holidays, adventure, sport and health tourism, hunting and angling, educational travel, arts and heritage tourism, and, in some areas, ethnic tourism.

“Our vision is to provide the training and infrastructure needs for Choctaw entrepreneurs to build businesses supporting these activities” says Kennedy. “People are looking for fun and unique experiences. And businesses can be built around providing these experiences.”

Traditionally, agriculture was central to life in southeast Oklahoma. Farms were the major employers, the main sources of income within the rural economy, and indirectly had a powerful influence on traditions, power structures and lifestyles. In the late 20th century, the central role of farming and forestry has been diminished. Both activities have shed much of their labor force.

With this decline in agriculture came a decline in the preservation of traditions and cultural heritage. Over the last 20 years, there has been a boom in the level of interest in heritage both man-made and natural. Rural areas like southeast Oklahoma are especially well-suited to heritage interpretation, possessing many historic landscapes, artifacts, linkages,

and fine settings for heritage sites.

Another major factor is the growing interest in health, fresh food and authenticity. Interest in healthy living and active recreation is rapidly growing. Rural areas are well-placed to provide outdoor recreation of all kinds. A rapidly growing industry in fresh, local foods is also revolutionizing small-scale farming and food delivery via farmers markets.

In a world of video and television entertainment, factory-produced goods, and suburban anonymity, the authenticity of the countryside and the personal touch that is provided by small-scale communities and accommodations is extremely valuable as people seek rewarding, enriching, adventuresome and educational experiences.

“Ultimately, we are tasked with creating a sustainable form of tourism that is true to the Choctaw heritage and delivers real opportunity for Choctaw tribal members that want to start businesses and employ Choctaw people,” states Sleeper. “Everything we do is designed to sustain our people, traditions and culture while raising the standard of living for those we serve.”

To learn more about the Nation’s tourism initiative go to [www.ChoctawMeansBusiness.com](http://www.ChoctawMeansBusiness.com).



## Choctaw cultural gatherings

### PARKER, TEXAS



Tammy Stallcup of Parker, Texas, (center) is shown with a copy of “Touch My Tears” with author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer (right) and her mother Lynda Kay Sawyer (left).



Jared Tom (right) demonstrates the finer points of Choctaw beadwork at the Dallas class with family members Jayla Grubbe, Nathan Benton, Cali Frazier and Lawrence Grubbe participating.

Photos by ZACH MAXWELL | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Mark Ross, IT Systems Analyst for Choctaw Nation, assists Tom Hawk and Skylar Hawk to obtain their new membership cards at the cultural gathering in April.



Leishawn Spotted Bear and her mother Anna Spotted Bear (Fort Worth) show their gift T-shirts at the Choctaw cultural gathering in Dallas.



Choctaw wood artist Roger Christie with Lois Ann Sokolosky Miles and Alexandra Miles at the Choctaw cultural gathering in Dallas.

To view upcoming events, visit our website at [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com)



Three generations of Choctaws attend the meeting at Southfork Ranch in Dallas, including a mother and daughter who were visiting from Switzerland. Pictured are Sandy Hedrick of Fort Worth, Tiffany Burk Schmid of Zurich and daughter Sophie Lali Schmid.



Chief Gary Batton (pictured here in Dallas in his last cultural gathering as Assistant Chief) signs a copy of “Choctaw” for Caelynn Williams, 9, of Forney, Texas.



At right, Chief Batton with Becky Goza of Fort Worth at the cultural gathering in Dallas.



Les Williston visits with Michael Tijerina and his great-nieces Elizabeth and Angelina Adame in Dallas.



# Choctaw cultural gatherings

## ROGERS, ARK.



Assistant Chief Batton pulls Toni Smith out of the crowd for the stealing partners dance.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Wade Beams and Gary Wellesley enjoy their time at Rogers.



Dana Coker makes a new membership card for Tanner Sjo.



Candace Baker gets her book signed by Assistant Chief Batton.



Allen Holden from Bella Vista concentrates on his beading.



Sisters Marianna Lewis and Belva Plumlee learn how to bead at Rogers.



Assistant Chief Batton talks with Wade Beams before the gathering.



Tracy McKaughan and Assistant Chief Batton pose with a family before meeting.



Choctaw Artist Mary D. Frazier showcases her pottery.



Judy Hopkins demonstrates beadwork to Desiree Plumlee from Springdale.



Johnetta Bilby and Alana Towery talk with the Cultural Events booth about beading.

## TULSA



Tammy Lawson gives Jean Barchenger a new T-shirt.



Choctaw dancers lead the way into the center circle.



Bill Hoover enjoys his time at Tulsa.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



William "Mac" McAfee talks with Assistant Chief Batton at Choctaw meeting.



Pam Kannady talks with Chief Batton.



Choctaw artist Gwen Coleman Lester explains to LaDon Miller from Tulsa the Nanih Waiya creation story.



Assistant Chief Batton with Christine Ludlow, Elvis Ludlow and Laverna Hignite.



The crowd follows along with Lillie Roberts as she teaches them Choctaw language.



Lillie Roberts looks onto the crowd during the Tulsa event.