



BISKINIK
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHOCTAW NATION

BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

November 2013 Issue



Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

A grand opening celebration of the Choctaw Nation Welcome Center was held Oct. 25 in Colbert. Cutting the ribbon are Assistant Chief Gary Batton, the

Choctaw Tribal Council, State Tourism Director Deby Snodgrass, Director of the center Lana Sleeper, as well as other state, county and city officials.

Grand opening held at Choctaw Nation Welcome Center

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma celebrated the newly renovated Choctaw Nation Welcome Center in Colbert with a ribbon cutting Friday, Oct. 25, and a day of cultural activities. The Nation assumed operation of the facility, one of Oklahoma's busiest, on July 1 under a five-year contract with the state.

"We are excited about the opportunity to share the Choctaw heritage with so many people," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "There is an opportunity to educate thousands of people a day about Oklahoma and the Choctaw Nation."

Activities at the grand opening included Choctaw pottery and basket making demonstrations, traditional weaponry, flutes, clothing, music and social dancing.

Visitors were also able to sample traditional Choctaw food.



There is an opportunity to educate thousands of people a day about Oklahoma and the Choctaw Nation.

— Chief Gregory E. Pyle

One-of-a-kind art and cultural items made by Choctaw artisans and members of other Native tribes are displayed and available for purchase inside the center. Everything in the store has either a Native American influence or is representative of the state of Oklahoma. Many

local artists have submitted their work.

The Nation has added two personnel to work with the original staff and manage the tourism store. Items for purchase at the center are also available online at choctawstore.com.

The welcome center remains a rest stop for drivers crossing into Oklahoma on Hwy. 69/75. Located just north of the Red River bridge, the facility remains a popular place to take a break, grab a cup of coffee and a snack.

A cultural area has been added outdoors with a Choctaw alaksha (winter house) and a brush arbor. Travelers are also able to walk their pets in the new dog park.

The center offers numerous maps, brochures and tourism information about Oklahoma and is open daily except for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Scan this code to view more photos from the event on the Choctaw Nation Smug Mug page!



What's inside

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Columns | 2 |
| Nursery News | 4 |
| Food Distribution | 4 |
| Notes to the Nation | 5 |
| Events | 5 |
| People You Know | 6 |
| Obituaries | 12-13 |
| Iiti Fabvssa | 14 |

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.

Get your digital copy!

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



Tribal Council meets in regular October session

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

Several program budgets were submitted for approval and were passed by Council members.

The Choctaw Nation has been awarded a \$1,020,153 grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation to continue to provide safe, affordable public transportation for its members through the Tribal Transit Program. The grant, with no required match, will be available in April 2014. Council members approved the submitted budget for the program.

Choctaw Nation Transit has eight buses and provides or assists with transportation to and from non-emergency medical appointments. To be eligible clients must have a CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe and live within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

The Nation has been awarded a \$406,624 grant by the U.S. Department of Justice to implement the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation COPS Tribal Equipment and Training Grant Program. The program helps to ensure safer communities and schools, allowing law enforcement staff to become better prepared. Grant funds of \$147,501 have also been awarded by the U.S.

Department of Justice for the COPS Tribal Resources Hiring Grant Program.

Supplemental funds will be provided the Choctaw Nation's Educational Talent Search Program to allow staff to continue to provide on-site activities at target schools. Educational Talent Search focuses on encouraging and motivating eligible students to stay in school through their high school graduation while providing numerous college preparatory workshops to prepare for ACT tests, assistance with Oklahoma's Promise, college tours, financial aid assistance, career inventories, college application assistance and scholarship assistance.

A U.S. Department of Education for the Demonstration grant in the amount of \$170,156 will help to continue improving educational opportunities for Indian students through the Indian Children Program. Council members approved the budget for the program that assists in increasing school readiness skills of 3- and 4-year-old children to prepare them for successful entry into kindergarten. It also enables high school students to graduate and transition successfully to post-secondary education by increasing competency and skills in challenging subjects, including math

and science.

Other funds and budgets approved were:

- the 2013 U.S. Department of Justice Transitional Housing Assistance Program, that focuses on a holistic, victim-centered approach to provide assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking.
- the 2013 U.S. Department of Justice for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Grant;
- the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for year three in continuation of the 2011 Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program for Teen Pregnancy Prevention;
- Choctaw Nation Family Violence Prevention Program, and
- the Indian Child Welfare program.

Council bills were also passed for:

- continuation of the Injury Prevention Program;
- submission for membership in the National Congress of the American Indians;
- a three-year business lease with Chris Black in Pittsburg County;
- the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program policy/procedures/staff

handbook for employees;

- application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Rural Community Development Initiative, and
- disposal of surplus equipment.

The Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers on the capitol grounds.



To those who have answered the call – the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines – the Choctaw Nation thanks you for your service!

Happy Veterans Day!

Every day is opportunity to educate



From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Choctaw Nation is blessed by the legacy of our ancestors. Interest in our language and culture is thriving today. We're thankful to be able to share our story in many different ways. The Internet is a great resource. The Choctaw Nation website links thousands to our history, our services, and our progress. With Facebook and Twitter, we are able to "follow" each other. Anyone...anywhere can now learn about the Choctaw Nation.

The Biskinik is mailed to homes around the world. It has served as a connection between tribal members for decades. Archives of the last 11 years can be found online at choctawnation.com. Many of its articles are reprinted in other publications and the staff are familiar faces as they snap photos to commemorate our events.

Choctaw is being taught as a "world language" in public schools across Choctaw Nation and as an accredited course in some local colleges. On a recent visit to the School of Choctaw Language in

Durant, I enjoyed video-conferencing with students miles away in a classroom as they watched class on the Internet. It was fun to talk and wave to the kids through the camera.

As I walk to my office in the complex, I can hear exchanges of "Halito! Chim achukma?" and "Vm achukma, hoke! Chishnato?" Our first speakers are dwindling and I am grateful for the instructors we have and the increased number of classes in our communities.

Every day offers an opportunity to educate others about the Choctaw Nation. Experts share our culture year-round through classes and exhibitions on weaving baskets, making pottery, moccasins, beadwork, dancing and stickball.

Many artists and historians have also joined the Choctaw Nation to help promote the culture of our great tribe.

It's easy to see why the Choctaw Nation is "growing with pride, hope and success!" It's all because of our great tribal members and staff! Thanks to all of you.

May God's blessings be with you and your family this upcoming holiday season.

New level added to division structure

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The solid foundation of the Choctaw Nation has allowed us to continue to grow and prosper. As part of this growth, a slight structure change is taking place.

A level of senior executive officers (SEO) has been created and operations streamlined into five divisions to strengthen services through the 150-plus programs and businesses.

The divisions are: Health Services – Teresa Jackson, SEO; Tribal Relations – Judy Allen, SEO; Member Services – Stacy Shepherd, SEO; Administration – Susan Stockton, SEO; and a commercial division which continues to be operated under the leadership of the Choctaw Nation Business Committee.

Chief Pyle appointed a committee to research and provide recommen-



dations for each division. The four who have accepted the position of senior executive officers bring a wealth of experience and understanding to their new roles.

Similar departments are being grouped together and the changes will mostly affect the management structure of the tribe.

This senior level is aligned with the vision of the Choctaw Nation – "to achieve healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws." They have the heart of true servant leaders.

One of the goals is to have quicker delivery of services to our tribal members. As the transition continues, communication will be enhanced between departments. More efficient processes will be put in place. And as a result, Chief Pyle and I will have more time to spend on what matters most – you, our tribal members.

I want to congratulate Teresa, Judy, Stacy and Susan as well as thank them for their dedication to the Choctaw Nation. The heart of the nation is beating stronger than ever!

Inter-Tribal Council of Five Civilized Tribes holds quarterly meeting

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held its quarterly meeting Oct. 11 at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills. President Bill John Baker, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, called the meeting to order. Choctaw Nation Chaplain Bertram Bobb gave the invocation and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Color Guard posted the colors.

Business diversity was the common theme as tribal leaders addressed the audience, giving updates on their respective Nations.

"Continuing to grow and keep jobs available is important," said Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton. "We are acquiring new businesses and expanding existing enterprises."

Several resolutions were brought before the council. All were approved. They included:

- establishing a sub-committee of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) under the realty committee;
- requesting the reinstatement of the Tribal Work Experience Program;
- requesting tribal consultation with the Food and Drug Administration;
- urging Congress to fully encompass a new farm bill;
- encouraging actions by Congress to support feeding programs of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- directing the standing committee of Realty Trust Services to draft amendments to redress the 47 Act and other laws affecting the Five Civilized Tribes related to land matters; and
- requesting Keapseagle Cy Pres funds for an Inter-Tribal foundation.

The next quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council will be hosted by the Seminole Nation in January 2014.

Chaplain's Corner

Bringing about revival

Thanksgiving Day was declared a national holiday to remind us to give thanks to God for His bountiful blessings. The first verse of Psalm 106 also reminds us to express our thanksgiving and praise. "Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His loving kindness is everlasting." (NAS) We are thankful for this special day when we can remember our God, our Savior, our family, and our friends.



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

We thank God that He is Sovereign and it is exciting to realize that He has a plan for all of us. His plans for us are plans of "Future and Hope!"

For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29-11 NAS). We are looking for revival in our churches, that is, we should be if we're not. For this revival to come about, it must begin with us as individuals. It must begin with you. Well how can this be done? How can I have a revival, you may ask.

We can find the answer to all of our problems in the Word of God, even to all the problems the world faces. This is quite a statement to make but I believe it to be true, because the Bible is the Word of a Sovereign, Almighty God.

For the answer to this question, "How can we have a revival?" We look at two books in the Old Testament. The Book of II Kings and the Book of II Chronicles. In these Old Testament books we learn there are two kingdoms, a Northern Kingdom and a Southern Kingdom. A total of 19 kings reigned over the Northern Kingdom of Israel and of the 19 kings none of them could be considered a righteous king. There were 20 kings in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, ten of whom could be called righteous kings. Five of the ten were exceptional kings: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah and Josiah. When these men were reigning as kings there were spiritual revivals. Revival spread throughout the nation.

These revivals had one similarity – a thing which is basic to all revivals – it was a return to the Word of God. Today, we want to study the life of one of these five kings, Hezekiah. In II Kings 18:5 (NAS) we see what is written about this man of God, Hezekiah: "He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him."

As we look at this personal tribute paid to this man, we learn two outstanding spiritual characteristics. First, we see that he was a man of faith – "he trusted in the LORD." A man of faith is one who by the work of the Holy Spirit lives so near to the heart of God that he naturally asks for those things which are pleasing to God. God will surely answer this kind of prayer. It is this kind of faith out of which revival is born. Hezekiah "trusted in the LORD; the God of Israel." The second great thing which describes Hezekiah was that he was a man of prayer. In II Chronicles 32:20 (NAS) we read, "But King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed about this and cried out to

Heaven."

Having seen something of Hezekiah's life of faith and prayer we are not surprised to find that a great revival took place in his day. One of the greatest dangers of the human heart is to have something, a material, something that we can see, to admire, to think so much of and to forget God. We can spend so much time and money on these things that it becomes an idol. Idolatry is something, or even someone that you think more of than you do of God. What did Hezekiah do? We read in II Kings 18:4 (NAS), "He removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan."

The first thing Hezekiah did was to put off or put away idolatry among the people, he cut down the groves which were the scenes of awful immorality. Hezekiah did something that was very startling to the people. We find the children of Israel were worshipping this brazen serpent which was once a symbol of their deliverance, but now become an idol. Hezekiah destroyed it saying that "it was just Nehushtan," meaning that it was just brass, and there was nothing profitable in it.

Hezekiah destroyed the things that were standing between their souls and God, the things that were just "Nehushtan." After putting away these idols, the first thing he did was to go and open the doors of the temple. At this time in Israel's history, the temple was absolutely boarded up.

Do you think that there needs to be a turning back to the house of God on the part of God's people? Hezekiah instructs the leaders two things, "... Consecrate yourselves now, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers..." (Read II Chronicles 18:4-5). These are two of the steps toward revival.

Then the third thing Hezekiah did was to take a public stand for God. We read in II Chronicles 29:20 NAS: "Then King Hezekiah arose early and assembled the princes of the city and went up to the house of the LORD." He got all of the rulers and told them that they were going up to the house of the Lord, this was setting an example, and this is what they did. I believe this is what is needed among Christians today. Set an example. Hezekiah demonstrated in life and actions that he had turned to God. The world is watching Christians. A living sermon will have a greater testimony than an oral one.

John writes in his first epistle, I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." You can believe this promise and confess your sins today. Will you do that?

Pray for our nation and for our leaders – both governmental and spiritual. Pray for our service men and women as they serve our country.

Nittak Hullo Chito Na Yukpa

Merry Christmas

– Senior Citizen Dinners & Kids Christmas Parties –

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Antlers Seniors | Dec. 18 | 12 noon |
| Antlers Kids | Dec. 9 | 6 p.m. |
| Atoka Kids | Dec. 6 | 6 p.m. |
| Bethel Kids | Dec. 23 | 5 p.m. |
| Broken Bow Kids | Dec. 20 | 5 p.m. |
| Buffalo Valley Kids | Dec. 3 | 6 p.m. |
| Burkhart Kids | Dec. 12 | 7 p.m. |
| Coalgate Seniors | Dec. 18 | 12 noon |
| Coalgate Kids | Dec. 6 | 6 p.m. |
| Crowder Seniors | Dec. 11 | 11 a.m. |
| Crowder Kids | Dec. 14 | 1 p.m. |
| Durant Kids | Dec. 6 | 6 p.m. |
| Heavener Kids | Dec. 9 | 7 p.m. |
| Hugo Seniors | Dec. 18 | 11 a.m. |
| Hugo Kids | Dec. 6 | 6 p.m. |
| at Housing Culture Center in Hugo | | |
| Idabel Kids | Dec. 9 | 6 p.m. |
| Idabel Seniors | Dec. 12 | 6 p.m. |
| McAlester Kids | Dec. 7 | 11 a.m. |
| McAlester Seniors | Dec. 11 | 11:30 a.m. |
| Poteau Seniors | Dec. 17 | 6 p.m. |
| Poteau Kids | Dec. 14 | 4 p.m. |
| Quinton Kids | Dec. 5 | 6 p.m. |
| Smithville Kids | Dec. 10 | 7 p.m. |
| Smithville Seniors | Dec. 18 | 12 noon |
| Spiro Kids | Dec. 16 | 4 p.m. |
| Spiro Seniors | Dec. 18 | 11 a.m. |
| Stigler Kids | Dec. 5 | 4:30 p.m. |
| Stigler Seniors | Dec. 4 | 11:30 a.m. |
| Summerfield Kids | Dec. 15 | 2 p.m. |
| Talihina Kids | Dec. 13 | 7 p.m. |
| Tuskahoma Kids | Dec. 7 | 1 p.m. |
| Wilburton Kids | Dec. 7 | 2 p.m. |
| Wilburton Seniors | Dec. 18 | 12 noon |
| Wright City Kids | Dec. 10 | 6 p.m. |
| Wright City Seniors | Dec. 19 | 12 noon |

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 choctawnation.com or by contacting the Tribal Membership office at 1-800-522-6170.

Sustaining a vision

Putting people and praise first

Councilman Coley's passion for helping others and gospel singing

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation's Tribal Council is a distinguished group of gentlemen, sense of humor only outmatched by their love for the Choctaw people. Within this lively squad, one will find Joe Coley who speaks quietly, but advocates strongly for his people and his faith.

Coley is councilman for District 6 – Latimer County. He became councilman in 2004 and is now the group's chaplain, opening each tribal council meeting with a prayer.

Coley was born at his home on Cravens Road, south of Red Oak, to Ranes M. "Rufus" Coley and Lela (Yota) Coley, in the early 1950s. The seventh child of his parents' eight children, Coley was the youngest boy.

He spent his younger days learning to swim in Spring Creek Lake and attending school at Cravens, Ludi, Panola and eventually graduating from Red Oak High School. There was lots of fast pitch softball playing and fishing, Coley stated as he recalled his adolescence.

As Coley grew into adulthood, two passions emerged in his life – his faith in Christ and serving people. The former is exemplified through his great amount of work in many churches throughout Southeast Oklahoma, with a particular emphasis in gospel singing. The latter is demonstrated in his decades of service working for the Community Health Representatives (CHR) and later as a councilman.

Though Coley speaks softly, he sings loud and proud as he travels to a multitude of churches for his favorite past time, gospel singing. "We have a good time," Coley said with a smile as he began to speak about the singings.

Coley has been to many different places and several states singing with a handful of quartets. He enjoys group singing at local churches, mentioning that sometimes there are more than 20 groups at a single singing and the event lasts late into the night, until midnight or 1 a.m. "We just have a good time praising God through song," he stated.

Currently, he attends Cedar Baptist where gospel singings are a regular occurrence. He is also a well-known face within other church groups, as he emcees singings and hosts revivals often.

Coley attributes his interest in song to his father, Rufus,



JOE COLEY

who taught him to read shape notes early in life.

When he isn't singing songs of praise with his church group, Coley is lending a helping hand. In the early '80s he began his work for Choctaw Nation's CHRs driving patients to appointments at various tribal facilities.

During this time he was able to learn more about the needs of the Choctaw people. He was trained as a first responder and was able to assist patients in many ways other than just the transportation. "I really enjoyed that work," said Coley.

For a brief time in the mid-'80s, Coley worked for the hospital in Talihina, fulfilling similar duties. Once the Choctaw Nation gained sovereignty in the mid '80s, he returned to his occupation with the CHRs.

After decades of service in this field, he was encouraged by those close to him to run for his position as a tribal councilman. This idea was appealing to Coley in particular because he had spent ample amounts of time with tribal members, discovering their personal needs. Becoming a councilman offered Coley a chance to help in ways that he had previously been unable.

"I had to really pray about it," stated Coley as he spoke about his consideration for the position. He knew he had the support of family and many friends, but deliberated if the decision was right for him. As he considered his options, he recalled the needs of tribal members that he had encountered during his service with the CHRs and considered the extra influence he would have to work on their behalf.

Upon being elected councilman in 2004, Coley made sure to keep the same goal he had while running for this position – to be a reliable avenue of assistance to those who needed him. Coley mentions that whenever he considers a council bill, he studies all the outcomes for tribal members, making sure it is in the best interest for Choctaws.

Victories as a councilman stand out in Coley's memory. Assisting the town of Quinton with the paving of their streets and gym parking lot was one of the many shining moments in Coley's career.



Joe helps lead a singing during a cultural event in Poteau.

Choctaw Nation: Lisa Reed

He is also proud to say he aided the town of Red Oak during a time when their water supply was in trouble. A pump had malfunctioned, stopping water from being delivered to residents. As a councilman, Coley was able to provide bottled water during the shortage, and later, made sure a replacement pump was installed quickly.

He looks back on these successful moments, among others, with fondness. "I love my job and helping people. There is no better job that I know of," he said modestly as he discussed his dedication.

Coley also mentioned that he feels fortunate to be working with the other members of the council. "I couldn't ask for a better group," he stated as he talked about the camaraderie that has been built over the years.

If one were to travel to Wilburton and attend a function hosted by Coley, they would most likely meet his wife, Mary, a cheerful and up-beat counterpart to Coley's reserved demeanor.

Joe met Mary in church as kids and the two were married in 1972. Together, they raised three children – Roger, Diana and Heather – all of whom they are exceptionally proud. "They were real good kids," Joe said with a grin.

Outside of the tribal council and the gospel circuit, Coley is involved in several organizations, including Ki Bois, Keddo and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He is also a Sunday school superintendent, song leader and trustee of his church, Cedar Baptist.

Building business

Choctaw Defense's defense against recession

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Defense, one of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's (CNO) leading business enterprises, earned a sizable contract on Sept. 27, through Army Contracting Command New Jersey, at the Picatinny Arsenal installation in New Jersey.

The contract is for "the fabrication, testing, inspection, and delivery of the Platform Integration Kits (PIK) and/or spare parts to the U.S. Army," according to vice-president of Public Relations Keith Briem of Choctaw Defense. These Platform Integration Kits are used to interface between the platform and the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) weapon station components.

Briem explained CROWS as a lightweight, remotely versatile and externally mounted weapon system that allows a gunner to remain inside a vehicle protected by armor, all while firing a variety of crew served weapons. The CROWS will provide protection for the gunner and offer enhanced target acquisition, identification and engagement capabilities.

The contract, a five-year firm fixed-price (FFP) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract, was awarded to Choctaw Defense and one other competitor. With this type of contract, as orders are placed from the buyer, Choctaw Defense and its competitor place bids for who will fill the order.

Up to \$42 million is on the line over a five-year period. These contracts are set in place as a type of safety net for buyers, where-in if one provider was not able to complete the order, the other would be able to take over the remainder of the contract. There is also a minimum guarantee for \$200,000 for each base contract award, meaning that if the buyer canceled the contract, Choctaw Defense would be guaranteed the \$200,000.

"This was a competitive bid among other small businesses. Successful completion of the PIK contract would open doors to other manufacturing opportunities associated with military armored vehicles, tanks and tank component manufacturing," stated Briem.

He went on to mention tactical wheeled vehicle manufacturing and maintenance is a core business in military manufacturing, making it a source of constant demand for services Choctaw Defense can provide. Not only the manufacture of new items, but the maintenance and upgrading of equipment already in use is a market in which Choctaw Defense has a strong interest.

The award of this contract will ensure continued work for Choctaw Defense employees assigned to the CROWS project. Everyone from machinists to welders and laborers will have steady employment in the McAlester plant for the remainder of the contract.

Though Choctaw Defense has secured business for the foreseeable future, it has not stopped honing its long-term vision. With eyes set on the continued involvement with the tactical wheeled vehicle arena, the administration is preparing



Graphic provided by Choctaw Defense

for a more diversified business plan, assuring it will be an agile competitor in the market for years to come.

"Choctaw Defense has continued to focus on growth and the creation of jobs by expanding its business base," stated Briem. Over the past year Choctaw Defense has added two new companies to the Choctaw Defense group of businesses.

Choctaw Defense has begun to focus on services in alignment with manufacturing. Businesses are now able to contract Choctaw Defense to undertake projects such as laying cable in structures and providing security within completed buildings. They will also provide logistics and crew training, technical support services and Information Technology support service.

Also a new branch to Choctaw Defense is Architects in Partnership Enterprises (AIPE), which operates as a Limited Liability Company within Architects in Partnership (AIP) and is headquartered in Norman.

AIPE specializes in the planning and design of government, commercial, and educational facilities, providing services that range from master planning to design and construction administration. AIPE will also allow Choctaw Defense to compete internally. When CNO plans to construct facilities, it is mandated they must bid out the contracts. AIPE's presence allows CNO to essentially bid the work to itself, keeping the dollars from leaving the Nation.

The U.S. Navy has also awarded Choctaw Defense a performance standard contract to design and manufacture the next generation field service body bed for the M915A3 20-ton truck. McAlester will be the home of this project along with the PIK contract.

The recently awarded contracts along with current contracts will ensure continued manufacturing opportunities for the next 2-3 years, according to Briem.

With the acquisition of the new contracts and the addition of the two new ventures, Choctaw Defense is growing steadily and sustainably. Ongoing activities at Choctaw Defense manufacturing plants include the MTRV trailer contract for the U.S. Marine Corps. Choctaw Defense has produced 1,700 to date and is still rolling more off the lot.

The CAMEL II water system, a storage unit that allows soldiers to have pure and cool drinking water in the field, is also a sizable current contract. Battle Damage Repair Kits and C17 scissor lifts are staples in Choctaw Defense's business as well.



2013 Youth Outreach CHAHTA ANGELS

Help out a Choctaw youth in need this Christmas by supporting the Chahta Angel program!

Show your support to Choctaw youth enrolled in the Youth Outreach Program and in need this Christmas by sending unwrapped presents or monetary donations to:

PO Box 88 Hugo, OK 74743

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact
bsigler@choctawnation.com
or call 580.326.8304 x6062

American Diabetes Month

Time to take a good long look at diabetes

According to the American Diabetes Association:

- Nearly 26 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes.
 - Another 79 million Americans have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes.
 - Recent estimates project that as many as one in three American adults will have diabetes in 2050 unless we take steps to Stop Diabetes.
- With that stated taking a closer look at diabetes within American Indian/Alaska Native the American Diabetes Association reports
- The likelihood of American Indians and Alaska Natives to have diabetes compared with non-Hispanic whites is 2.2 times higher
 - From 1994 to 2004 in American Indians and Alaska Natives youth aged 15-19 years of age had a 68% increase in diabetes
 - American Indians and Alaska Natives have a higher percentage of type 2 diabetes as opposed to type 1 diabetes at 95%.
 - The estimated percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives who are pre-diabetic is 30%

Diabetes is not just about high blood sugar. Diabetes has a mounting irreversible

effect on the body. Again the American Diabetes Association reports

- Two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke.
- Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure.
- Diabetes is the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults.
- The rate of amputation for people with diabetes is 10 times higher than for people without diabetes.
- About 60 - 70 percent of people with diabetes have mild to severe forms of nerve damage that could result in pain in the feet or hands, slowed digestion, and other nerve problems.

The cost of diagnosed diabetes within the United States is estimated to cost all Americans \$245 Billion! This reported by the American Diabetes Association.

With these alarming statistics revealed comfort can be taken in knowing how to decrease these frightening numbers. Whether at risk for diabetes or if diabetes is already a part of life, taking steps to prevent and control diabetes is the best plan of action.

- See health care provider regularly.
- Not diabetic – be screened once a year.
- Diabetic – keep all regularly scheduled visits

- Take medications as ordered by the provider
- Monitor blood sugars at home as recommended by the provider
- Stay active daily.
- Walking
- Chair exercises
- Swimming
- Riding a bike
- Eat healthy evenly spaced and balanced meals
- Half the plate is non-starchy vegetables – green beans, carrots, squash, tomatoes, onion, peppers, etc.
- One quarter of the plate is starch – whole grain breads, wild and brown rice, black beans, sweet potatoes, etc.
- The other quarter of the plate is a protein – lean meat, poultry, pork, fish, eggs, low fat cheese and soy.
- Add a fruit and lite yogurt or skim milk and this is balanced.

WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Traditional cooking uses flavors from more vegetables and herbs rather than fats, sugars and salts.

When we return to more traditional cooking methods, our food can taste great and be healthy too.

NURSERY NEWS

McKinzie Dawn Smith

McKinzie Dawn Smith was born at 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2013, at Southeastern Medical Center in Durant. McKinzie weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Her parents are Indya Taylor and Bryant Smith of Durant. Her grandparents are Robert and Kristy Taylor of Durant and great-grandparents are Beverly and the late Jerry Moore of Boswell. Her great-great-grandparents are Dolly and the late Herbert (Slim) Huntsman of Sherman, Texas.



Caroline Culbreath

Caroline Victoria Culbreath was born on Aug. 28, 2013, at 6:37 p.m. at Great River Medical Center in Blytheville Ark. She weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Proud parents are Thomas and Grace Culbreath of Blytheville. Her big brothers are Hayden and Quentin Culbreath. Maternal grandparents are John, and the late Vicky Mayfield of Durant. Paternal grandparents are J.D. and Donna Culbreath of Mead. Aunts and uncles include Sara Mayfield of Durant, Allen and Brande Serner of Calera and Jim and Deanna Culbreath of Durant.



Claire Lou Duty

WL and Julie Brantley of Choteau, Mont., are the proud grandparents of a little granddaughter, Claire Lou Duty born May 30, in Great Falls, Mont. Claire is the great-granddaughter of Waymond and Leona Cornelison/Brantley, formerly of Crossett, Ark., now deceased.



CNHSA now offering shingles vaccine

Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA) will now be offering the shingles vaccine to patients 60 years old or older. Anyone over 60 should get the shingles vaccine, regardless of whether the patient recalls having had the chickenpox or not. Studies show that no more than 99 percent of Americans ages 40 and older have had chickenpox, even if they do not remember getting the disease. You should NOT get the shingles vaccine if any of the following apply to you:

- Had a life-threatening or severe allergic reaction to gelatin, the antibiotic neomycin, or any other component of

shingles vaccine.

- Have a weakened immune system because of HIV/AIDS or another disease that affects the immune system
 - Had treatment with drugs that affect the immune system, such as steroids
 - Had cancer treatment such as radiation or chemotherapy
 - Had cancer affecting the bone marrow or lymphatic system, such as leukemia or lymphoma
 - Are pregnant or might be pregnant
- Please contact your local Choctaw Nation Family Practice Clinic for the vaccine.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Dec. 2 - 27, except for:
Dec. 4: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
Dec. 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed: Dec. 24-25 for Tribal Holiday and Dec. 30-31 for inventory.

Cooking with Carmen: Dec. 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays Dec. 2 - 27, except for:
Closed: Dec. 24-25 for Tribal Holiday and Dec. 30-31 for inventory.

Cooking with Carmen: Dec. 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Dec. 2 - 27, except for:
Closed: Dec. 24-25 for Tribal Holiday and Dec. 30-31 for inventory.

Cooking with Carmen: Dec. 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Dec. 2 - 27, except for:
Closed: Dec. 24-25 for Tribal Holiday and Dec. 30-31 for inventory.

Cooking with Carmen: Dec. 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 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

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

Recipe of the Month

Three Sisters Sauté

From Lois Ellen Frank, PhD (Kiowa)
Red Mesa Cuisine

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 1/2 white onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 cups diced zucchini (1/4 inch cubes)
- 1 1/2 cups cooked pinto beans or 1 - 15oz can pinto beans
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels cut from the cobs of 2 ears oven-roasted corn or use frozen corn kernels
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Directions

Spray oil onto cast-iron or heavy skillet to prevent sticking. Heat the skillet over medium to high heat until hot but not smoking; add onion and sauté for 2 minutes until clear. Add garlic and zucchini, sauté

for another 2 minutes. Add cooked beans and corn kernels. Stir. Cook for another 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in salt and black pepper. Serve immediately.

Nutrition Facts:

Per serving (1/6 of recipe)
Calories 95, Protein 5.3g, Calcium 31mg, Fat 0.8g, Carbohydrate 18.5g, Iron 1.2mg, Sat fat 0.1g, Fiber 4.9g, Vitamin C 7mg, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 199mg, Beta-carotene 251mcg

I hope you all enjoy this wonderful and flavorful traditional dish! For more information you may contact:

Erin Adams, RDLD
800-349-7026 ext. 6959
Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center
One Choctaw Way
Talihina, OK 74571

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 |

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline
Free help
1 800 QUIT NOW
784-8669 OKhelpline.com

CHOCTAW FARMS

About Choctaw Farms

Choctaw Farms was developed in partnership with House of Webster, which has been creating the very best in gourmet gift items including handcrafted jams, preserves and cheeses for over thirty years. Choctaw has partnered with House of Webster to bring these delicious, handcrafted products to guests.

The fine products from Choctaw Farms include:

- 2-Jar and 3-Jar custom assortment gift packs including preserves, jellies, jams, marmalades, fruit butters, spreadable fruit, relishes, salsas and homestyle pickles.**
- Signature Meat & Cheese Gift Packs with cheddar cheese, summer sausage and jalapeno stuffed olives.**
- Spiral-Cut Half Hams that are hickory-smoked the old-fashioned way to bring out the sweet, rich flavor.**



Choctaw Farms products appeal to a variety of people in a many situations, creating a special experience for both the gift giver and the recipient. Choctaw Farms products are available for purchase online or at one of our locations at: Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant and Pocola.

800.369.4641 www.choctawfarms.com

NOTES TO THE NATION

Seeking information

I am looking for a lady named Zelda Williamson. She had a son by Gary Williamson. They divorced in the 1940s. They lived in Durant. Anyone who knows about these people, please call me collect at 916-783-9868.

Wanda Weaver

Thankful for funeral assistance

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Choctaw Nation for helping me with my father, Kenneth Clore's, funeral expenses. He had no life insurance policy and no money and the Choctaw Nation generously helped me with the funeral expenses. I appreciate your help with much gratitude because I didn't have the money for his funeral. I can never thank you enough.

Janet Clore Evans

Seeking family members

I just found out that my father, Levi Lee Jones, passed away in June of 2013. He was a carpenter for the Choctaw Nation. I would like to get in touch with the rest of the family. My address is 9012 County Rd. 813, Cullman, AL. My phone number is 256-727-5891. If you have any relation to Levi Lee Jones, please contact me.

Kitty Jones

Thank you for education support

I would like to sincerely thank the Choctaw Nation for the support given to me over the last couple of years. With the help of the career development program, I was able to obtain my Texas RN license and associates degree from Cisco College in Abilene, Texas. Lauren English, my advisor was great to work with along with all involved. The entire process went super smooth and I am blessed for the opportunity. I currently work as a staff nurse at a local hospital. Your gift will never be forgotten. I could not have done it without your help. Thank you so much.

Guy Workman

Great-grandson of Margaret Bohanon Cline, original enrollee



Submitted photo

NSA Monterey Commanding Officer Capt. G. David, U.S. Navy, right, presents Commander Mike Sutton with a Choctaw Nation certificate and coin on Oct. 18, on behalf of Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation.

Thank you for education support

Dear Chief Pyle,

Thank you for the certificate and coin given to me on the occasion of my retirement from the U.S. Navy. I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness and will always treasure both items. Thank you for all the great work you do.

**Commander Michael D. Sutton
Judge Advocate General Corps
U.S. Navy**

Native American Awareness EXPO to be held in Dallas

The largest Native American Awareness EXPO and Career Fair will be hosted in Dallas on Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the famous Gilley's Dallas located at 1135 South Lamar St., Dallas, Texas, 75215. Admission is free to the EXPO and Career Fair. All are welcome to come and visit tribal leaders from Oklahoma and Texas, as well as employers, colleges, and arts/crafts vendors. There will be lots of fun entertainment on Center Stage throughout the day.

In addition to the EXPO this year, a fundraising Benefit Dinner and Concert will be hosted. The "Indians and Cowboys Benefit Dinner and

Concert" will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with Darryl Tonemah being the entertainment during the dinner, followed by a live auction. Then "The Indian Soul Men Band" will take the stage at 8:45 p.m. for a night of dancing and visiting new and old friends.

Tickets for this event are \$40 each or two tickets for \$70. All proceeds will go to the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas building campaign. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase and they are expected to sell quickly.

Order your tickets today and know you have a seat at this exciting dinner and concert 214-941-1050 ext. 203 or 214-876-4519.

**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 Community Center
1636 S. George Nigh Expy • McAlester
November 22
9-11 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.**

**November is
Native American
Heritage Month**

**Choctaw Housing Authority
Affordable Rental Housing**

Bokoshe, Red Oak and Quinton are accepting applications for one, two, three and four bedroom income based apartments.

- Applicant must have a CDIB Card
- Applicant household must meet income guidelines
- Household members age 18 and over must pass OSBI criminal background check
- Household members age 18 and over must pass local background check
- Applicant must provide two previous landlord references including telephone numbers and addresses
- Applicant must have an income.

Elder Residential Housing

Hartshorne is accepting applications for income based one bedroom apartments which include: stove, refrigerator, central heat/air, washer and dryer

- These units are designed for a single person or a person and their spouse.
- Each applicant must be able to live independently.
- Applicants must be at least 55 years of age.
- Age 62 and older receive preference.
- Tenant must be able to pay 15% of their gross adjusted income towards rent.

All applications may be obtained online at choctawhousing.com under services, Affordable Rental Housing or by calling Tracy Archey at 580-372-4091

Affordable Housing is housing that is affordable to lower income households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. Tenant rent in the Affordable Housing Program is based on 15% of the gross adjusted income for the household. The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation has 146 affordable rental units located within the Choctaw Nation boundaries.

**Elder
Angel Tree**

Once again Choctaw Nation Victims Services will be hosting the Elder Angel Tree Program. Victim's Services is a branch of Choctaw Nation Outreach Services in Hugo, Okla. Every year 240 disadvantaged Choctaw elderly (55 and over) are chosen from the 12 districts to be sponsored. Throughout our 12 districts volunteers buy Christmas gifts for these Choctaw Elders and Outreach workers pick up and deliver the gifts before Christmas.

The deadline to turn gifts into the Elder Angel Tree workers will be Dec. 6, 2013. If you would like to sponsor an elder please contact Victim's Services at 580-326-8304, ext. 6052 or ext. 6038.

**Gregory E. Pyle
Chief**

**Gary Batton
Assistant Chief**

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer
Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Larissa Copeland, Director/Editor
Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director
Karen Jacob, Purchasing Coordinator
Bret Moss, Media Coordinator
Deidre Elrod, Reporter/Photographer

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

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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

BISKINIK '2013

Reserve your 2014 Labor Day RV site

In order to reserve an RV site with electric and water hookups for the 2014 Labor Day Festival, please mail the reservation request form below no earlier than Jan. 1, 2014. RV sites will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Please include a copy of your CDIB card. Also, include the length of your RV or camper and the number of slide-outs. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY AT THIS TIME.** After the deadline, all reservations will be drawn randomly for RV sites. If your name is drawn, you will be notified by mail. At that time you will send in your cashier's check or money order in the amount of \$75 to receive your confirmation and rules for RV camping at the Labor Day Festival.

No phone reservations will be accepted. Please only include one reservation per application. We will do our best to respect the requests for preferred RV pads, however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested.

Please watch the Biskinik newspaper for future articles or changes in parking, tent camping and tribal preferences for the 2014 Labor Day Festival.

2014 RV Space Reservation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone number _____

Alternate phone number _____

Email _____

RV camper description and length _____

NO TENTS IN RV AREAS

Number of slide-outs _____ Width of slide-outs _____

– Only one (1) reservation per application –
No reservations accepted prior to Jan. 1, 2014.

Please return to:
**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Margaret Jackson
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702**

**NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE
ACCEPTED PRIOR TO JAN. 1, 2014**

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Young Choctaws excel as entrepreneurs

Kaben Smallwood, Shelby Smallwood, and Keith Scott were recently earned as spot in the class of the 2013 Hitachi Foundation Yoshiyama Entrepreneurs. They were awarded this position due to their creation of Symbiotic Aquaponic, LLC.

Symbiotic Aquaponic is a family owned and operated business that uses aquaponics, a form of non-traditional agriculture, to grow all natural produce in rural Kiowa, Okla. At Kiowa, 62% of the students qualify for the free/reduced lunch program based on poverty guidelines provided by the federal lunch program. Brothers Kaben and Shelby Smallwood and family friend Keith Scott started the company by in-



Information and photo provided by hitachifoundation.org

stalling an aquaponic system in a greenhouse located at Kiowa Public Schools. Symbiotic saw an opportunity to not only provide fresh produce and protein year-round but also provide students with a unique hands-on learning experience.

Symbiotic's primary goal is to develop into a fully functional commercial operation, which would allow them to grow enough produce to completely provide for Kiowa Public Schools' produce needs. The company's two large commercial designs

have patent pending status. Symbiotic hopes to secure those patents and begin selling the systems to farmers, colleges, Indian tribes, and other institutions.

"Aquaponics is so much more than an environmentally-friendly way to grow completely natural produce and fish. It's an affordable, sustainable, and financially responsible way to take care of one another and take care of our natural resources. It gives people access to a better quality of life by providing healthy food resources and investing in their communities" - Kaben Smallwood

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



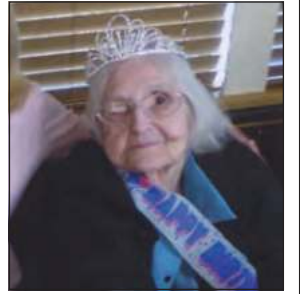
ETHEL PLANT ANTHONY

Ethel Plant Anthony celebrated her 91st birthday on Sept. 25. She is pictured with five generations, great-granddaughter Erikah Hancock; great-great-grandson Tate Hancock; son Wayne Anthony, and grandson Jeff Anthony. She has two children, five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandsons. She is a blessed woman and loved by all.



ESTHER M. LEE

Esther M. Lee, celebrated her 86th birthday on Nov. 11. Her husband of 55 years, William E. Lee, and family would like to wish her a happy birthday! Her father, Tom Underwood, was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.



KATHERINE STACKS

Katherine Stacks celebrated her 90th birthday with her family. She was born on Sept. 17, 1923, to original Choctaw enrollee Jim Fulton and mother, Clemith. She was joined by her son, Jim Stacks, and daughter Linda Brewer.



Recruit named 'Honorman'

Choctaw Warrior, PFC Joseph Aaron Miller, of Greeley, Colo., graduated with honors on Oct. 4, from the Marine Corps Recruitment Depot in San Diego. He was awarded his promotion to PFC meritoriously and was one of only six Platoon "Honormen" out of his graduating class of 506 recruits for being his Platoon's "Guide."

PFC Miller achieved the unusual accomplishment of maintaining his Guide position for his entire 13-week basic training. He also received his platoon's High Physical Fitness award, earned a perfect combat score, as well as the title of Rifle Expert. After a short leave, PFC Miller will be reporting to Camp Pendleton for additional advanced training.

PFC Miller is descended from Annie Scott, a Trail of Tears survivor, and the Beard family of LeFlore County on his father's side and Eva Brashears, a Trail of Tears survivor, and Supreme Judge Joel Everidge on his mother's side. His parents are Matthew "Scott" Miller and Rebecca "Beckie" Sue Davis Miller.



Serrano Continues family tradition

PFC Dillion Serrano is on active duty with the U.S. Army. He completed his Basic Training at Fort Jackson, N.C., and AIT at Fort Lee, Va.

He is stationed at Fort Campbell, Ken., and is in Bravo Company 801st Airborne. He is currently serving in Afghanistan.

He is the grandson of the late Troy Cacy of McAlester, to whom he was extremely close. His parents are Danny and Paulette (Cacy) Pulido. His big brother is Josh Cacy. Dillon was born in Ada, and was raised for the early part of his life in Oklahoma until his mother went into active duty with the army. He then grew up in Killeen, Texas. He joined the military because he wanted to keep the family tradition of serving in the military. His grandfather was active duty with the U.S. Navy and served during Vietnam. His mom and dad were both served in the army at Fort Hood.



California princesses

Okla Chahta Princesses of California attended the 30th Annual Nevada Day Pow Wow in Carson City, Nev. Miss Okla Chahta Princess Tori Archuleta and Little Miss Okla Chahta Princess Skylar Carmack represented Okla Chahta Clan with Taylor Archuleta and Natalie Carmack. Arlene Strohmaier, Cathy Carmack and Julia Wells was also in attendance, on Oct. 26.

Congrats Billy Dick

With the aid of Choctaw Nation, Billy Wade Dick of San Jose, Calif., graduated from the Palo Alto University of Palo Alto, Calif., in June of 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Psychology.



Welcoming a new friend

This past August, Kenneth and Jan Hotubbee welcomed a new friend from Pussenheim, Germany, to their home in McAlester. This was Jochen Grob's first visit to Oklahoma and his first time to meet someone of Choctaw ancestry. For memorabilia of his trip, Kenneth presented Jochen with a Choctaw hat.

The Hotubbees received a picture of Jochen getting ready to attend Oktoberfest in Munich, wearing his native German lederhosen and topping them off with his Choctaw hat.



JEFFREY DAVIS

Jeffrey Keith Davis of Texarkana, Texas, celebrated his 18th birthday on Sept. 14. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana. His grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



JERA DAVIS

Jera JuliAnn Davis of Texarkana, Texas, celebrated her 13th birthday on June 27. She is the daughter of Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana. Her grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. Her great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



WYATT WILLIAMS

Wyatt Lane Williams of Idabel celebrated his 18th birthday on Sept. 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. His grandparents are Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel, and the late Arvel and late Pauline Williams.



JENNIFER WILLIAMS

Jennifer Lynne Williams of Idabel turned 20 on May 14. She is the daughter of Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. Her grandparents are the late Arvel and the late Pauline Williams, and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

DECEMBER 2013

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

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

Youth Outreach Coat Drive

The Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach is accepting donations for its annual coat drive. The project benefits at-need Choctaw youth in the 10-1/2 counties who are involved in the Youth Outreach program. Anyone interested in making monetary donations can send them to:

Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach
P.O. Box 88
Hugo, OK 74743

Call **877-285-6893**
with questions





Assistant Chief Gary Batton welcomes Joe Ray Hayes to the event.

October Fest

The CHR October Fest was held Oct. 21 in McAlester and the event drew hundreds of guests from all across the Choctaw Nation. The day offered food and fun, as well as information on many programs Choctaw has to offer members.



Bob Pate visits with Don Russell and friends.



Nadine Isom, Alice Hutson, CH Isom and Susan Roberts gather together at October Fest.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Topsy Williams, Glenn Bond, Sherry McGuire and Harold McGuire enjoy each other's company at the October Fest.



Marilyn Mitchell receives some of the giveaways at the festival.

SPOOKY



Harvest Carnival costume contest winners

Outreach Services, with help from other Choctaw programs and services, shared a wonderful Harvest Carnival festival for Choctaw youth from the 10 1/2 counties on Oct. 17 in Tvshka Homma.

Children were treated to many games, hot dog sack lunch, costume contest, and a scary movie outside on the giant screen.

For the bravest children, they could go through a haunted house or take the haunted trail ride to test their wits!



Easily the hardest age group to judge is the 0-3 year old division! From left, Emme Bolinger, 2nd; Nathan Hamilton, 1st; and Parker Fincher, 3rd.



Waddell "Caesar" Hearn congratulates costume contest winners in the age 4-9 category. Left to right is Lillie Fincher, 2nd; Noah Baker, 1st; and Selena Taylor, 3rd.



Winners for the age 10-17 costume contest are: Kyle Hampton, 2nd; Cheyenne Anderson, 1st, and Morgan Francis, 3rd.

Photos by VONNA SHULTS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Preparing for winter weather

Winter is quickly approaching. In recent years, we have experienced winter weather storms, including devastating ice storms and blizzards. We all need to be aware of the natural threats we face in our community and take responsibility to make sure we are properly prepared when disaster strikes.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Management Department has joined with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the National Weather Service and other agencies to raise public awareness about what individuals can do to prepare for hazardous winter weather. Individuals or groups who would like to host a program to help become better prepared should call the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Management Department at 580-924-8280 ext. 2320.

Winter Weather Awareness Tips:

Have A Plan:


- Discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued.
- Ensure your family knows meeting places and phone numbers of other family members in case they are separated when a winter storm hits.
- Know what to do if basic services such as water, gas, electricity or telephones are cut off for an extended period of time.
- Understand the hazards of wind chill. Cold temperatures are even more dangerous, and potentially deadly, when combined with strong winds. The lower the temperature and stronger the wind, the more at risk you are.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors, especially the elderly. Make sure they are prepared.
- Plan to bring pets inside during winter weather. Move livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- Install and check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Let faucets drip to avoid freezing and know how to shut off water valves if necessary.
- Have an alternate heating method such as fireplace or wood or coal burning stove. Always be cautious using a portable space heater.
- Have your car winterized before winter storm season. Keep your gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.



- Make sure your home is properly insulated. If necessary insulate walls and attic. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windowsills.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- To keep pipes from freezing, wrap them in insulation or layers of old newspapers. Cover the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture.
- Make A Kit:**
 - Windshield scraper, de-icer, snow shovel and small broom for ice and snow removal.
 - A cell phone with charger and a battery powered radio.
 - Several blankets or sleeping bags.
 - Mittens, they are warmer than gloves.
 - Rain gear, warm coats and extra sets of dry clothing, mittens, socks and a cap.
 - Non-perishable snacks like dried fruit, nuts and other high energy "munchies."
 - Bottled water. Eating snow will lower your body temperature. If necessary, melt it first.
 - Sand or cat litter for generating traction under wheels and a set of tire chains or traction mats.
 - Jumper cables, flashlight with extra batteries, first aid kit and brightly colored cloth to tie to antenna if you get stranded.
- Stay Informed:**
 - Know what National Weather Service winter storm and blizzard watches and warnings mean.

- A winter storm watch is a message indicating a winter storm is possible in your area.
- A winter storm warning indicates a winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area and could threaten life and property.
- A winter weather advisory means winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.
- A frost/freeze warning means below freezing temperatures are expected.
- Ice storms usually bring heavy accumulations of ice that can bring down trees, electrical wires, telephone poles and lines, and communication towers. Communications and power can be disrupted for days while the utility company works to repair the extensive damage.
- A blizzard warning means sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater and considerable falling or blowing snow is expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.
- Depend on your NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio, along with local radio and television stations, for weather reports.
- Be Cautious with Alternative Heat Sources:**
 - Never use generators, grills, camp stoves or other gasoline or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage. They produce carbon monoxide.
 - Never heat a home with an oven if the electricity goes out
 - Use fireplaces, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented.
 - Do not place a space heater within 3 feet of anything that may catch on fire, such as drapes, furniture, or bedding, and never cover your space heater.
 - Use extra caution when using space heaters. Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
 - Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
 - Do keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher on hand in case of emergency.
 - Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning by installing a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector and never using generators, grills, camp stoves or similar devices indoors.

The staff of Choctaw Nation's STAR Program would like to remind all parents with children in second through 12th grades that the deadline for submission of documents is approaching. The final deadline for students to be awarded for the Spring semester is Oct. 1, but awards are processed as soon as all documents are received.



Requirements for all eligibility and incentives given are listed: Students must have Choctaw tribal membership, all A's (\$25 Walmart gift card), all A's and/or B's (\$10 Walmart gift card), perfect attendance (\$25 Walmart gift card), and all students receiving an incentive will also receive a Choctaw STAR Student vehicle decal or certificate.

Required STAR documents are available online and are listed here: STAR application (one-time application), grade and attendance verification form (to be completed by a school official and returned once per semester), and copy of the semester report card. All of these documents may be submitted via mail, email or fax. For more information about the STAR Program, please visit star.choctawnation.com or call 800-522-6170 ext. 2787. You may also visit the STAR Program's Facebook, at facebook.com/choctawnationstar.

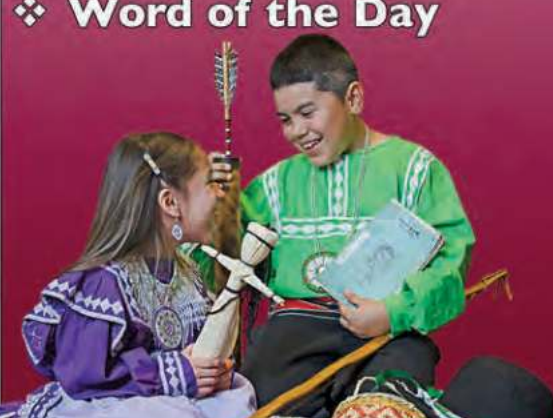
CHAHTA ANUMPA AIKHYNA

School of Choctaw Language

Official language website of the
**Choctaw Nation
of Oklahoma**

800-522-6170

- ❖ Language lessons
- ❖ Class information
- ❖ Audio pronunciation
- ❖ Photos
- ❖ Bookstore
- ❖ Word of the Day



choctawschool.com

2013 Outstanding Choctaw Elders



Choctaw Nation: DEIDRE ELROD

Assistant Chief Gary Batton with Junior Miss Choctaw Kayleigh Powell, 2013 Outstanding Choctaw Elders, Laura Mackey and Alfred Harley and District 6 Tribal Council Joe Coley.



District 4.5 (Spiro) - Brenda Lovejoy

Brenda Lovejoy was born to J.B. and Ruby Adams on May 19, 1949, in Fort Smith, Ark. She moved from Arkansas to Grand Rapids, Mich. where she was only a year old. She grew up in Grand Rapids and attended Davenport Business College to be a legal secretary. Brenda moved back to Spiro in July of 1984. She retired from selling fishing lures after 17 years to start taking care of her grandchildren. She has been with her husband, Larry for 26 years and has eight granddaughters and 4 grandsons. She has been a member of Free Will Baptist Church in Ft. Smith, Ark. for 17 years. She has also been a member of the Spiro Ladies since 1998 and has been the treasurer for the past 11 years. She enjoys helping out at the center and serving the Lord.



District 1 (Idabel) - Eual Kelly

Eual Kelly was born on March 18, 1934, in McCurtain County. He has a younger brother and sister, five older sisters and an older brother. Eual married Gail Goad after graduating from Idabel High School. They have two children, four grandsons, and one granddaughter. Shortly after graduation, Eual was drafted in the United States Army for two years where he was a Radar Operator. After being discharged, he enrolled in college at Oklahoma State University Technical School where he graduated with an Associate's degree in Industrial Electronics. After graduation, Eual was employed by the Federal Aviation Administration for four years. Eual then transferred to NSSL, The National Severe Storms Laboratory and helped develop one of the first weather Doppler Radars. Eual is now retired. He and his wife, Gail, are members of The First Baptist Church and The Idabel Country Club. He is also active in the Idabel Choctaw Senior Citizen's group.



District 7 (Wright City) - Delores Baker

Delores Baker was born Jan. 2, 1950, in Battiest to Cleason and Mae Baker. She has three brothers and two sisters. She has been living in Wright City since the third grade. Delores graduated from Wright City then went on to Haskell Institution School. Later, she came back home and went to SOSU until her senior year. She has been working as a teacher assistant at Wright City since 1971. She volunteers at basketball games, track meets, really anywhere that she is needed. She is a United Methodist Woman. Delores attends Bethel Hill United Methodist Church in Womant. Delores enjoys singing gospel songs, reading, crossword puzzles, and planting flowers.



District 11 (McAlester) - Elgie Hosay

Elgie Hosay was born March 19, 1949, on the San Carlo's Apache Reservation in Arizona. His parents were Alexander Hosay and Gladys Hosay. After leaving the reservation, Elgie and his family moved to St. Louis, Mo. He and his sister attended McKinley High School. He was the only American Indian athlete to participate in the public school league at the time. He has nine brothers and sisters. Elgie was drafted by the U.S. Army but instead enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served two years active and four years inactive during the Vietnam Era. After the service, Elgie had various jobs but most notable was becoming the Executive Director of the American Indian Center. Before his mother's passing in 2001, he moved her back to McAlester to be closer to immediate family. Elgie's uncle was WWII Choctaw Code Talkers, Schlicht Billy. While he was working at the Talihina Choctaw Hospital, he met his wife Trenda Jack and married later on May 27, 1989. They moved to McAlester where he worked as a Master House Parent over juvenile homes and later transferred to McAlester Juvenile Detention Center. He also worked at the U.S. Army Ammunition Plant and now after a year of retirement, he is currently working as a part-time Choctaw Nation Senior Citizen Van Driver. Elgie enjoys attending the Senior Citizen Center. He has a son and a grandson.



District 10 (Atoka) Female - Estelle Hinson

Estelle Hinson was born on Jan. 22, 1926, in Atoka. She is the eldest of five children. Estelle graduated from high school early at the age of sixteen. Later, she moved to California and went to college for a year. She then began working for Shell Development Corporation. In June of 1946, she moved to Los Angeles and married Edward Hinson. They both worked until she had her daughter, in May of 1947. Seven years later they had their son. During these years, she worked at Vandenberg Air Force Base and later worked at other Air Force bases. She was committed to serving others in her churches by teaching and cooking. Later, she began going around the world telling others about God. She loves her family and teaching them about church and the Lord.



District 2 (Broken Bow) - Dorothy Battiest Wesley

Dorothy Wesley was born July 19, 1937. Dorothy was married when she was seventeen years old and has 12 kids, eight girls and four boys. She has 41 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. She enjoys Choctaw hymns, reading her Choctaw bible and teaching her kids. She is also a preacher.

14th annual Outstanding Elders Banquet held

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma held its 14th annual Outstanding Choctaw Elders banquet on Oct. 5 at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant. The banquet honored nominees from each district of Choctaw Nation and past Outstanding Elders.

The winners for the 2013 Outstanding Elder's are, Laura Mackey and Alfred Harley, both of District 6.

Laura Mackey is a full blooded Choctaw. She was born on Aug. 28, 1946, and raised around LeFlore, Salonia Community and graduated from LeFlore High School.

Laura retired in 2008 from Creek Nation of Oklahoma health division as a Director of Contract Health Service after 23 years. She is involved in Native American Link Women's Ministry and has been the president for 15 years. Laura is also a member of the Native Praise Choir, which is also sponsored by the LINK Ministry traveling and singing in many various events through out the states including Hawaii and internationally in England.

She is active in her church, Thessalonian Baptist Church. She gives credit to her parents, Leo and Myrtle Adams for the upbringing in a Christian home, showing to love, have faith and always put trust in God. Laura also has a passion for gospel singing.

Alfred Harley is a full blooded Choctaw. He was born on Oct. 20, 1931, to Lena Battice and Leo Harley. He was raised around Kulli Tuklo, near Haworth. He went to Haworth High School and finished 11th grade. He enlisted in the Army in 1951 and did his training at Ft. Sam Houston. Alfred did his tour in Korea, during the Korean Conflict. After returning home he married Rosa Lee Parker.

He received his certificate in auto mechanics from Okmulgee Tech Trading School. In 1970 he started his own business known as Al's Garage in Wilburton. He also drove a school bus for 21 years.

Alfred has three boys, five girls, 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. They were active in their children's lives when they were growing up. They all graduated from Wilburton High School.

Alfred attends Grace United Methodist Church in Harts-horne.



District 5 (Stigler) - Carol Joan Johnson

Carol Joan Johnson was born January 31, 1945, in Quinton, OK. She graduated from Quinton schools and is married to Junior Johnson and they have 3 boys. Carol is the president of the Choctaw Senior Citizens at Stigler. She has worked at Quinton schools for 15 years. She enjoys going to church, shopping, garage sales, watching movies, and going to the concerts at the event center in Durant. She is proud of her Choctaw heritage.



District 9 (Durant) - Carole Ayers

Carole Ayers was born in Oklahoma City, where she also attended school. Her and her husband Don have been married almost 52 years and shared their 50th wedding anniversary with the Seniors at the Choctaw Community Center where they are active members. They have four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. As a registered nurse, her career spanned 35 years in Oklahoma City at hospitals. She obtained her nursing degree from The University of Oklahoma. She was one of the first nurses in the State of Oklahoma to become a certified nurse in the operating room. She has worked for the Salvation Army and was a member of the emergency medical team at the Murrah Building bombing site in Oklahoma City. She also helped deliver supplies for the 2003 tornado victims in OKC and Midwest City. Her hobbies include, boating, fishing, wildlife, art, and teaching the Choctaw language.



District 4.5 (Spiro) - Paul Collins

Paul Collins was born in Skullyville on Dec. 3, 1941. He transferred to Spiro schools after his first year because he was a mile a half away. After graduating from Spiro, he married Francille Blaylock and has been married for 52 years. They have two daughters. Paul loves sports, camping, golf, muscle cars, and is an avid quail hunter. He was also a volunteer coach in summer sports and coached his daughters as well. He was even a volunteer assistant coach at Spiro High School for the softball team. He worked in the manufacturing industry for 39 years before retiring and is now working at the Choctaw Casino in Pocola. Paul is very proud of his Choctaw heritage and enjoys talking about his Choctaw ancestors. Paul and his wife are members and volunteers at the Choctaw community center in Spiro and enjoy being a part of the center.

2013 Outstanding Choctaw Elders



District 1 (Idabel) – Mary Lou Hunter

Mary Lou Hunter was born Nov. 2, 1955, to James and Laverne Howard. She is married to Mitch Hunter and they have two children and six grandchildren. She loves to help others. She has been a 4-H Sponsor for 15 years and a Sunday school teacher for more than 30 years. She was the JOM Coordinator for Idabel Schools, up until recently. She helped promote healthy lifestyles and activities in their community. Mary Lou is a member of McCurtain County Coalition for Change, has been honored as mentor of the year, 4-H sponsor of the year and Nana of the decade.



District 12 (Coalgate) – Nellie Hunter

Nellie Hunter was born on February 12, 1939. She is a mother of eight, grandmother of 22, and a great-grandmother of eight. Nellie is a disabled veteran, member of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, secretary/treasurer of Choctaw Veterans Association, associate member of Choctaw Code Talkers Association, member of Oklahoma Women Veterans Association, member of the Choctaw JOM of Tupelo, where she was a secretary for 10 years. Nellie is active at the Coalgate Senior Center and helps with Choctaw children and youth. Nellie has worked as a paraprofessional in Tupelo School with the youth. She has also been a caregiver for the elder and youth since 1993. She has also been a caregiver for her brothers and grandchildren. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recognized Nellie as Outstanding Choctaw Elder for Coalgate for October 2005, 2006, and 2010. She is active in her church by helping provide food on Wednesdays, helping with VBS and church camps for children. Nellie is currently enrolled in college to complete her degree and hopes to graduate in 2014.

Margaret Billy was born in Wynnewood to Frances Lucille Sharkey and Marvin Lee Sharkey on Aug. 4, 1939. She has two brothers who are deceased, and one sister who is still living. She attended school in Purcell, Antlers, Wheelock, and Goodland. She finished the 10th grade and later got her GED. She worked as teacher-aid at Rattan Schools for several years. Margaret was married to Solomon Billy for 58 years until his death in 2011. They had 11 children, two are deceased. She still lives in Rattan. Margaret and her husband, Solomon enjoyed having Gospel music singing at their house and other music shows. Margaret enjoys going to Antlers Community Center on Wednesdays for lunch and playing bingo, going to concerts, and trips with the seniors. She also enjoys music, crocheting, reading and gardening. She has many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She attends Living Water Fellowship Church in Antlers.



District 7 (Antlers) – Margaret Billy



District 8 (Hugo) – Arlie Bell Jr.

Arlie Bell Jr. was born Sept. 23, 1952. He grew up west of Goodland, where he went to school. His hobbies include working in his garden, volunteering at the Choctaw Community Center and raising money for trips for the seniors. He has worked 27 years as an iron worker. Arlie married Wanda Chadrick in 1972 and they have two children and two grandchildren.



District 2 (Broken Bow) – Edgel Samuel

Edgel Samuel was born May 17, 1946, in Battiast. Edgel graduated from Battiast High School where he played baseball. After graduating, he married his wife Jane and has been married for 48 years. He has three daughters and two sons. He also has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Edgel's hobbies include hunting, fishing, visiting, gardening, working outside and spending time with his family. He is active in the United Methodist church and served as a pastor for several years. He is one of few who preach in the Choctaw language. Edgel graduated from SMU two years ago.



District 3 (Talihina) – Emma O'Bannion



Emma O'Bannion was born on Jan. 1, 1947, to Vernon and Norma Jean McCoy. She was born and raised in Talihina until the age of 17. She then moved to Tulsa where she continues to live for 50 years. Louise and her husband, Stanley O'Banion were married for 38 years. They have one son and two granddaughters. While participating in the Senior Citizens Group, Emma served as president for two years. She still continues to be an active member of the Choctaw Senior Citizens. She now works as a telephone operator at the Talihina Indian hospital and is proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.



District 2 (Bethel) – Emerson Wilson Jr.

Emerson Wilson Jr. resides in Bethel along with his wife, Linda. He attended Battiast schools and attended Bacone College after graduation. He has two sons and one grandchild. He enjoys watching sports, doing outside work, and helping people out in need. He is an active member of Kulli Chito Presbyterian Church and is a Sunday School teacher. He also enjoys going to the Bethel Community Center. He has worked for the granite construction which has allowed him to travel while building highways, bridges and dams. He is now retired and back in his hometown of Bethel. He and his wife enjoy running in 5Ks and continues it to this day.



District 3 (Talihina) – Kenneth David Steel Sr

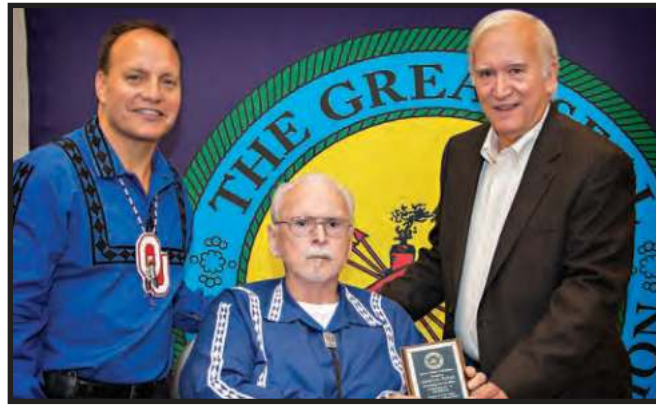


Kenneth David Steel Sr. was born in Fort Worth in 1942 and then moved to Utah in mid to late 1950s where his dad worked in uranium mines. He married Willie Smith in 1961 and had five children. They lived in Oregon for 29 years and moved to Talihina in 2000. He is proud of his Choctaw heritage and his grandparents, along with his great-grandparents who were original enrollees. He loves his job of driving the Choctaw senior citizens to trips and dinner.



District 4 (Poteau) – Curtis Pugh

Curtis Pugh was born on Nov. 27, 1944. He lived there for about eight years and then moved to McAlester where he has lived there for four years. During junior high and high school, he lived on the campus of Sequoyah Indian School at Tahlequah. He graduated from high school in 1963 and entered Bible College immediately after graduation. He had already begun preaching at 16 years of age. After marrying his wife, Janet, Curtis served as pastor to churches in Kentucky and Colorado as well as serving as interim-pastor in Talihina. He also served as missionary-pastor in Canada. Later, he and his family moved to Canada from 10 years where he organized a Baptist Church. They settled in Choctaw Nation's Independent Elderly Housing in Poteau in October 2010. A few months later his wife passed away and Curtis continues to live in Poteau. Curtis still serves as a voluntary missionary even though he is mostly wheelchair bound. His hobbies include playing the piano, Choctaw history, family genealogy and leading church services on Sundays. He also writes many religious articles and has a published book. He has two daughters, along with eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



District 10 (Atoka) – Kenneth Wilson

Kenneth Wilson was born Feb. 22, 1934, in Caney. He graduated from Caney High School and college with a degree in Political Science and Public Administration. He served his country for eight years in the Air Force. Kenneth worked as an x-ray technician before moving to administration. After helping his brother start a trucking business he sought employment at AT&T and Pacific Bell. He helped establish and taught middle school and high school on the Soboba Indian Reservation. Kenneth also worked at the Claremont College of Theology. Later, he moved to Oklahoma and worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes as a counselor in rehabilitation. After, he worked for the Caddo Tribe. Kenneth was a board member of the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. He enjoys bowling and coaching little league. He is married to Barbara and they have nine children. They also have 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, two of their grandchildren they care for. He is active in the Atoka United Methodist Church.

2013 Outstanding Choctaw Elders



District 3 (Smithville) – Leroy Wilson

Leroy Wilson was born May 21, 1937, to Isaac and Julia Wilson of Smithville. His hobbies include fishing and hunting. When he was 17 years old, he asked his parents to sign the forms to allow him to join the United States Army, where he stayed for 3 years. After his service, he came home and married Lois and had two girls and two boys. They moved to Guyman, where he worked the onion patch for 25 years. He then worked for a roofing company until he retired after getting injured. He moved back to Smithville to take care of his mother and has been in Smithville since.



District 2 (Bethel) – Leyvoice Wesley

Leyvoice Wesley is full blooded Choctaw and can speak the language fluently. She is the daughter of the late Dan and Belinda Baker. She grew up around the Battiest community and attended Battiest schools. She retired from Battiest as a teacher's aide after being in the school system for 32 years. She is active in her church, Bethel Hill United Methodist Church. Leyvoice also enjoys singing Choctaw hymns and reading the Choctaw bible. Her hobbies include attending gospel singings and visiting with family and friends. She is also active at the Bethel Community Center.



District 3 (Smithville) – Silvena Bush

Silvena Bush was born May 5, 1938, to Milton and Flora Wilson. She has eight sisters and four brothers. She was sent off to Sequoyah Vocational School in Tahlequah after she finished the 8th grade in Smithville. Sequoyah is where she met her husband Mike in the 10th grade. She got married to Mike on July 15, 1957, and has been married 52 years. They have three boys and a girl. They also have two granddaughters.



District 7 (Antlers) – Dwight Austin

Dwight Austin was born in Talihina on Nov. 4, 1949, to Benjamin Tobias and Katherine Austin. He attended school at Finley, Jones Academy, Antlers Junior High School, and Sequoyah High School. He also attended Eastern State College for a year. Dwight worked as a CNA, First Responder, Basic EMT and scrub tech at Pushmataha Hospital for 25 years. He also worked with a law firm for nine and half years, now he is working at the Antlers Community Center. Dwight is affiliated with the United Methodist Church, where he is also a lay speaker.



District 8 (Hugo) – Frances Fragola

Frances Fragola was born July 18, 1941, to Pauline Parks and Boney Lewis. Frances' grandfather, Simpson Elias Push, was an original enrollee. Frances attended Goodland Indian School in Hugo for 10 years, and then transferred to Sequoyah School in Tahlequah. She worked and raised a family, all while obtaining her Bachelors degree in Business Administration. She met her husband, Vito Fragola in New York and they've been married for 50 years. They have two children and three grandsons. Frances has worked as a division manager and administrator while in New York. She has 25 years of volunteer service for the local little league and is a board member. Her hobbies include, visiting with people, traveling and gardening.



District 9 (Durant) – Jeremiah LeFlore

Jeremiah LeFlore was born on December 23, 1942, near Bethel. Jeremiah was raised by his father and has two half-sisters and one half-brother. He has been married twice and has two sons. He attended school at Bennington but later transferred to Chilocco Indian School and joined the National Guard. He was sent to Fort Polk, La., for basic training and was on active duty in the Army for about 10 years. After the service, he was employed by Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas, as a computer technician. He was sent on assignment to various parts of the world including Chile, Strait of Magellan, Panama and Orlando. Jeremiah has a passion for our culture and Indian ways.



District 5 (Stigler) – Donald J. McAlvain

Donald McAlvain was born March 1, 1939, and was raised in McCurtain. He married his wife, Sharon Orr in 1960 and they are the parents of four children. Don served in the U.S. Army for two years. Upon discharge, Donald finished his college education and taught in the Stigler school system for 20 years. He later became principal at Keota until his retirement in 1991. After retirement, Donald became shop foreman and personnel director for Rosewood Industries in Stigler. He retired from this in 2010. Donald now focuses on pastoring in his spare time at Way of Life church. He also enjoys volunteering for any organization that needs his help. His family is what matters most to him.



Photos provided

Summer Enrichment Camp students gather at Jones Academy.

Jones Academy students busy

Classes are well under way at Jones Academy Elementary this fall and there is plenty of activity on campus. Students came back after the short summer break and hit the ground running. Actually, over 30 students attended the Math and Reading Summer Enrichment Camp at Jones Academy during the first three weeks of June. The summer curriculum was aimed at reinforcing math and reading skills as well as providing fun hands-on activities.

Students completed the academic work in the morning sessions and then participated in assorted learning exercises in the afternoons. Some of these activities included music classes, arts and crafts, reading, archery and air

rifle lessons, Native art, and hands-on science and nutrition.

The students also visited the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum in Seminole and the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. The Math and Reading Summer Enrichment Camp strengthened classroom knowledge through academics, sports, creativity, and fun!

This fall the pursuit of a good education continues. The elementary school has over 60 students, half of whom are flight students from outside Oklahoma. Our new first and second grade teacher, Ms. Patton, has the largest class with 18 students on the roll. It's a big class, but she is getting lots of help from the support staff.

This year the elementary

students are receiving additional classroom instruction during once-a-month Reading and Math Saturday School. The classes are designed to fortify students' skills covered during the weekday classes.

The students have already made field trips to the Tulsa Zoo, the Indian Burial Mounds in Spiro, and their annual circus visit in McAlester. Mr. Sirmans and his fifth grade class are also planning to visit the Eufaula Power Plant and Dam later this month to study the production of electricity.

Jones Academy is a residential learning center in Pittsburg County. First through sixth grades are taught on campus and seventh through 12th attend nearby Hartshorne School.



Darius Sewell learns to make a moccasin.



Erin Willis meets a new snake friend.



Terrell Warrior concentrates on his work.

Pigs spring eternal

Jones Academy agriculture students begin the annual ritual of birthing pigs and nurturing the development of new litters. It takes a whole team of eager students to accomplish the hard task at hand.

In this story, Sylvia Villanueva, Araceli Ortiz, Lilly Bernal and Garrett Rust assist with the delivery of a newly born litter of pigs. They are there at the very beginning. This particular litter had eight healthy Hampshire babies— three males and five females. The piglets will mature and be shown at swine shows from December through the spring of 2014.

Sows are bred from mid-April and throughout May at Jones Academy to ensure the proper age of show pigs for the spring season. After the sow conceives, she carries her babies for a 114-day gestation. Babies are normally weaned at 21 to 28 days after birth. A pig's show career is normally over by 7 1/2 months of age, and it may weigh approximately 300 pounds by then.

Sylvia, Araceli, Lily, Garrett, and the other students will spend long hours helping to nurture their prized pigs. It is often arduous and unglamorous work, from late at night and into the wee hours of morning, and involves lots of mud. Their efforts, however, are not without reward. Besides the affirmation they receive, their return includes the satisfaction of reflecting on a job well-done. These lessons transfer into other areas of life as discipline and character are developed, better equipping students for the classroom and beyond.

Spiro holds cultural day

Kelly McGee, John Casey, Thelma Hickman and Rick White are recognized for their efforts to make the night a success.



Photos by BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Barbara Conrad and Melba Large welcome Thomas Williston to their center.



Stella and Flora Thorn-burge, sisters from Poteau, enjoy the company of Councilman Cox.



The Native American Club of Carl Albert State College in Poteau helped serve dinner at the gathering. Sponsors David Holt and Rikki Wolfe stated that many tribes are represented through the group and they are always looking to help the community.



Mary Ann Cox and Helen Osborne, both of Spiro, enjoy each other's company before the event.



Topsy Williams shows off her Mississippi Choctaw bracelet, accompanied by friends Lena Clark, Linda Morrison and Chief Pyle.



Assistant Chief Batton greets Winford and Mary Joyce Welford in Spiro.

Durant Wellness Center Schedule

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| 6:00a - 7:00a | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Jenna Newton | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Jenna Newton | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Jenna Newton | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Jenna Newton | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Jenna Newton |
| 6:15a - 7:00a | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Sandra Jackson | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Christian Toews | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Sandra Jackson | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Christian Toews | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Sandra Jackson |
| 9:45a - 10:30a | | Silver Sneakers Instructor: Julie Simeroth | | Silver Sneakers Instructor: Julie Simeroth | |
| 10:00a - 11:00a | Jazzercise Lite Instructor: Lisa Cannon | | Jazzercise Lite Instructor: Lisa Cannon | | Jazzercise Lite Instructor: Lisa Cannon |
| 12:00p - 12:30p | | Cycle 30 Instructor: Sandra Jackson | | Cycle 30 Instructor: Sandra Jackson | |
| 5:00p - 6:00p | CrossFit Level 2 & 3 Coach: Chance Adams | CrossFit Level 2 & 3 Coach: Chance Adams | CrossFit Level 2 & 3 Coach: Chance Adams | CrossFit Level 2 & 3 Coach: Chance Adams | CrossFit Level 2 & 3 Coach: Chance Adams |
| 5:00p - 5:30p | | Cardio Kickboxing Instructor: Tammy Ezell | | Cardio Kickboxing Instructor: Tammy Ezell | |
| 5:00p - 5:50p | Yoga Fusion Instructor: Jaymi Jarvis | | Yoga Fusion Instructor: Jaymi Jarvis | | |
| 5:15p - 6:00p | Cycle 30 - Beginner Instructor: Krista Henson | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Christian Toews | Cycle 30 - Beginner Instructor: Krista Henson | Cycle 45 - Intermediate/Advanced Instructor: Krista Henson | |
| 5:30p - 6:00p | | Buns, Guns, N Abs Instructor: Tammy Ezell | | Buns, Guns, N Abs Instructor: Tammy Ezell | |
| 6:00p - 7:00p | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Madison Perkins | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Madison Perkins | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Madison Perkins | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Madison Perkins | CrossFit Level 1 & 2 Coach: Madison Perkins |
| 6:00p - 6:50p | | Zumba Instructor: Jayme Jarvis | | Zumba Instructor: Jaymi Jarvis | |
| 7:00p - 8:00p | CrossFit Level 1 Coach: Sarah Hill | CrossFit Level 1 Coach: Sarah Hill | CrossFit Level 1 Coach: Sarah Hill | CrossFit Level 1 Coach: Sarah Hill | CrossFit Level 1 Coach: Sarah Hill |
| 7:00p - 8:00p | | | Tae Kwon Do Instructor: Steve Wilcox | | Tae Kwon Do Instructor: Steve Wilcox |
| 7:00p - 8:30p | Tae Kwon Do Instructor: Amy Wingfield | | | Tae Kwon Do Instructor: Amy Wingfield | |

Hugo Wellness Center Schedule

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 6:00a - 7:00a | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jessica Allen | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jessica Allen | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jessica Allen | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jessica Allen | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jessica Allen |
| 8:30a - 9:30a | Toning & Cardio Instructor: Jessica Allen | Toning & Cardio Instructor: Jessica Allen | Toning & Cardio Instructor: Jessica Allen | Toning & Cardio Instructor: Jessica Allen | Toning & Cardio Instructor: Jessica Allen |
| 10:00a - 11:00a | Ok Kwan Chi Instructor: Master Griffin | Silver Sneakers Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | Ok Kwan Chi Instructor: Master Griffin | Silver Sneakers Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | Ok Kwan Chi Instructor: Master Griffin |
| 11:00a - 12:00p | | Zumba Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | | Zumba Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | |
| 12:00p - 1:00p | | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James |
| 5:00p - 6:00p | Zumba Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | Zumba Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | | Zumba Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield | Zumba Instructor: Tiffanie Burchfield |
| 6:00p - 7:00p | Bootcamp Instructor: Paul Crow | Bootcamp Instructor: Paul Crow | Bootcamp Instructor: Paul Crow | Bootcamp Instructor: Paul Crow | Bootcamp Instructor: Paul Crow |
| 6:00p - 7:00p | | | MMA Instructor: Steve Young | Intermediate Karate Instructor: Dan O'Grady | MMA Instructor: Steve Young |
| 6:15p - 6:45p | | Beginners Karate Instructor: Dan O'Grady | | | |
| 6:45p - 7:45p | | Shudo Kan Instructor: Dan O'Grady | | | |
| 7:00p - 8:00p | | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James | Chahta Fit Instructor: Jason James |
| 7:00p - 8:00p | Tae Kwon Do Instructor: Master Griffin/McDaniel | | | Tae Kwon Do Instructor: Master Griffin/McDaniel | |

For more information, please contact the wellness centers at 580-326-9422 for Hugo and 580-775-1373 for Durant.

CHOCTAW STORE

Ornament Sale

Buy one ornament for **\$5** or
Buy entire collection of seven for **\$20**

www.choctawstore.com
Choctaw Nation Welcome Center
(855) 865-7854 1882 Hwy 69/75 Colbert, OK

CHOCTAW

A CULTURAL AWAKENING

Choctaw: A Cultural Awakening is 200 pages of photographs by award-winning photographer David Fitzgerald, and Choctaw history and cultural information by tribal archaeologist Ian Thompson, Public Relations Executive Director Judy Allen and historical and spiritual leaders such as Virginia Espinoza, Bill Coleman, Louis Coleman and Eleanor Caldwell.

GREAT FOR CHRISTMAS!

For sale now!
at choctawstore.com and
888-932-9199
\$35 + S&H

OBITUARIES

Billy Joe Jamison

Billy Joe Jamison also known as "Choctaw Bill," 81, of Durant went to be with his Lord and Savior on Aug. 21, 2013. He was born on Jan. 5, 1932, to Lester Olan and Eula (Kennedy) Jamison. He was married to Phyllis Ann (Blume) before her passing on April 14, 1997. Choctaw Bill was of the Baptist faith and a horse trainer and owner for most of his life. He was also a former Masons, 3 Valleys Motorcycle Club, one of the oldest and longest members, and enjoyed riding his motorcycle. He proudly served in the Navy for two years.

He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; daughter, Sheryle Jamison Maynard; and son, William Joe Jamison.

He is survived by his daughter, Sheila Jamison of Missouri; son, Shawn Jamison of Durant; granddaughter, Shawna Jamison of Durant; grandsons, Billy Wayne Jamison of Okmulgee, Derrick Jamison with wife Angela of Washington D.C., Bryan Bail with wife Beth of Missouri, and Andrew Jamison of California; great-granddaughters, Natalie and Sarah Jamison of Washington, D.C., Pasly Jamison of Florida, and JoAnna Jamison of Durant; great-grandsons, Noah Jamison of Washington D.C. and Jesse Bail of Missouri and many dear friends.



Hazel Skidmore

Hazel Skidmore, 91, of Denison, Texas, passed away on Aug. 11, 2013. She was born Feb. 27, 1922, in Spencerville, to Gustavus L. and Frances (Williams) Barr. Hazel was married to Thomas Skidmore.

Hazel was a member of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed many things; crossword puzzles, sewing, fishing and baking. But most of all Hazel loved being a "Mom" it was her greatest joy.

Mrs. Skidmore was preceded in death by her parents, Gus and Fannie Barr; husband, Gubie Skidmore; sons, Tommy and Johnnie Skidmore; sister, Lucille Garner; brothers, Raymond and Earl Barr.

Mrs. Skidmore is survived by her children, Jeanell Arles of Sulphur, Bonnie Payne of Tioga, Texas, Carolyn Skidmore of Denison, Texas, Ray Skidmore of Arlington, Texas, and Fay Skidmore of Denison, Texas; 12 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



Don Braudrick

Don Braudrick, a proud Choctaw, was born at Caddo on June 10, 1946, to Richard and Mabel Braudrick. Don passed away at his home in Scurry, Texas, on Aug. 7, 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Don was raised at Pirtle and graduated from Blue High School in 1964 where he participated in basketball, baseball and in the Junior Rodeo Association.

Don became an electrician and moved to the Dallas area where he ultimately owned his own commercial electrical contracting business. After selling his business he worked for C & F Electrical in Rockwell, Texas, until his death.

Don was a past member of the PRCA and the United States Calf Roping Association. He was a member of the U.S. Team Roping Championship and the Ultimate Calf Roping Association.

Don was preceded in death by his daughter, Cindy Dawn Braudrick; his parents, Richard and Mabel Braudrick; brothers, David, Dick and Luke Braudrick; and sisters, Madeline Potts and Pauline Claborn.

He is survived by his wife, Monique and son, Justin of the home in Scurry, Texas; and a son, Nick (Morgan) Braudrick of Duncan; a brother, Bill Braudrick of Durant; sisters, Mary Lou Sherrod and Dorothy Johnson of Durant and Imogene Williamson of Cartwright; as well as special nieces, nephews and other family.



Joy Lee (Burrows) Smith

Joy Lee Smith passed away on Sept. 15, 2012, surrounded by her family at her home in Tushka. Born on Sept. 14, 1949, in Antlers, she was the daughter of Ted and Lida Mae (Hamilton) Burrows. She attended Tushka school and studied computers at Kiamichi Vo-Tech. She married Wendel Lee Smith at Atoka on May 14, 1966.

She retired from Tushka School after 27 years of service.

Joy attended Victory Life Church in Atoka. She loved gardening, sewing, working in her yard and most of all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joy was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Ted and Lida Mae (Hamilton) Burrows; brother, Teddy Vinson Burrows.

Survivors include her husband, Wendel Lee Smith of the home; daughters, Deanna Smith Conn of Tushka and Joy Rebecca Smith Spellmann with husband Len of Durant; grandchildren, Brandon Conn with wife Julie, Codi Conn with wife Icy all of Caddo, Kacey Conn of Lehigh, Jessica McGinnis of Atoka, Benjamin McGinnis, Brett Spellmann and Noah McGinnis all of Durant; great-granddaughters, Kylie Conn and Presley Conn and a great-grandchild that was born in April of 2013 Easton Lee Conn; three sisters, Joline Phillips with husband Sammy of Centerpoint, Dolly Williams with husband James of Atoka, Judy Harris with husband Joe of Fort Worth, Texas; father-in-law, Leo Smith of Tushka; sister-in-law, Linda Kelly with husband, Lynn of Tushka; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.



Lewis L. Lovin

Lewis L. Lovin, 63, a lifelong resident of San Bernardino, Calif., passed away quietly in his sleep on Aug. 29, 2013. He is a retired member of the Construction Laborers Union Local 1184. He was also a member of the Laborers Union Local 783.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Loretta Lynn.

Survived by his son and daughter in law, Lewis L and Kellie; daughters, Katie and Kari; wife, Holly L.; brother, Larry; niece, Danielle; grandson, Camron.



Velma Jane Lemons

Velma Jane Lemons, 77, was born Sept. 6, 1935, in Coalgate to Thomas Jefferson and Violet (Maxwell) Peabworth. She passed away July 30, 2013, at her home in Yukon. Velma graduated from Cotton Wood High School and married John Willard "JW" Lemons Sr. in 1953 in a yard wedding in Coalgate. She lived in Oklahoma and New Mexico before making her home in Yukon in 1970. She was a homemaker for years before becoming a waitress. Velma is well known as a waitress at the Hill Top Restaurant and Jims Cafe. While her children were in Yukon Schools she was a member of the Yukon Mothers Club and enjoyed watching stock shows. She was a faithful member of the Church of Christ-South Yukon where she participated in the Ladies Unity Group, Sunshine Stitches, and was on the food committee. Velma enjoyed having breakfast on Saturdays with the ladies from the church. Velma lived to be a faithful servant of God and to serving others, never thinking about herself.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sons, Preston Wade Lemons, Russell Wayne Lemons, and Michael Ray Lemons; grandson, Jessy Ray Lemons; and sister, Omega Rogers.

Velma is survived by her son, John W. Lemons, Jr. with wife Cindy of Oklahoma City; daughters, Janette Smith with husband Johnnie of Weatherford and Laura DeAnn Paul with husband John of Yukon; brother, Wade Peabworth of Stringtown; sister, Regina Horton of Stonewall; grandchildren, Tracy Wall, Shane Cornwell, Makiesha Lemons, Tonya Parr, Katrina Kidd, Steven Nazworth, Jennifer Markwell, Joshua Lemons, Amie Smith, Zane Lemons and Jane Paul; 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.



Laura Kathleen Cameron

Laura Kathleen Cameron, 91, of Fort Smith passed away Aug. 1, 2013, in Fort Smith. She was born at Spiro in 1922 to Theodore and Aimee Merryman. She graduated from high school in Cleveland, Ohio, and was a graduate of Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio, and completed her Master's Degree from Oklahoma University. She taught at Mill Creek Grade School, Darby Junior High School and retired as an English instructor from Westark Community College, now the University of Arkansas Fort Smith.

First United Methodist Church in Spiro was central to her life since 1937, when the church was still worshipping under an arbor and services were held entirely in the Choctaw language. Involved in every facet of church life, she served as organist, teacher, UMW president, Finance Committee Chair and Trustee. She was a member and former Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter #144 and a member and former State Mother-Advisor of the Order of Rainbow for Girls. She was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and taught her children and grandchildren to appreciate this heritage.

She was preceded in death by her husband George E. Cameron; and an infant son, James.

She is survived by her son, Mack Skeen of Fort Smith; daughter, Aimee Kathleen Montgomery of Kingsville, Texas; stepdaughters, Candice Hamill of Belleville, Ill., Holly Cameron Pinto of Belleville, Ill. and Vicki Cameron of Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia; 10 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; her beloved dog, Libby, and her caregiver, Gayle Greh.



Glenda Marie Stark

Glenda Marie (Frazier) Stark, 61, of Bertram, Texas, passed away peacefully on Aug. 24, 2013, surrounded by friends and family. Born June 16, 1952, in Brawley, Calif., to Solomon and Christine (Burriss) Frazier. She was raised in Wilburton, and was a 1970 graduate of Wilburton High School.

Glenda was preceded in death by her parents, brother Tommy Frazier, and brother-in-law Joel Reynolds.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Stephen Stark; daughter, Carrie Thrasher of Zuni Pueblo, N.M., daughter, Sara Stark of Austin, Texas; grandson, Gage Janz of Bertram, Texas; sister, Juanita Reynolds of Garland, Texas, and Caroline Nelson with husband Bill of Rio Rancho, N.M.; as well as numerous beloved extended family and friends who will greatly miss her sweet spirit.



Willie Mack Floyd

Willie Mack Floyd passed away on July 27, 2013, at her home in Fresno, Calif., with all her family at her side. Willie Mack was the oldest daughter of Lavada Destie (Boren) LeFlore and Matt Harris LeFlore. Leaving California shortly after Willie Mack was born, the family moved back to Oklahoma. Willie Mack lost her father at a very young age and attended school in Tulsa under the supervision of Thomas Gilerase. Willie Mack was a homemaker and very much involved in the ladies auxiliaries of the fraternal order of Eagles. She did many fundraisers for the city of Hope. She was Madam President. She enjoyed family gatherings and cooking, which was her specialty. She enjoyed shopping, and most of all, she loved talking about the Choctaws. She was so proud of her heritage. She loved going to Bakersfield, Calif., every year to the Choctaw Nation pow-wow. She wanted all her children to attend the pow-wows, and most of her children were fortunate enough to meet Chief Pyle.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Paul John Floyd of Fresno, Calif.; daughters, Etta Mae Mize of Coalinga, Calif., Bonnie Fae (Mize) with husband Dale Green of Las Vegas, Nev., Billy Evert Mize of Fresno, Calif., Thomas Gilbert Mize and friend Karen of Coalinga, Calif. and Descynges L'mour (Floyd) with husband Ebert Bissett of Coalinga, Calif.; three sisters, Susie Morgan of Houston, Texas, Virginia Lou and Paul Armstrong of Oklahoma City and Nita Baughan of Panama City, Fla.; two brothers, Hurman Kirk LeFlore (deceased) of Fresno, Calif. and Charles Spencer with friend Joan of Medford, Ore.; 14 grandchildren, Horis Osker Goins, Debra Goins, Romana Balderaz, Victor Balderaz, Kimberly Mize of Coalinga, Calif., Dina Trevino of Clovis, Calif., Bridget Trevino of Lindenhurst, N.Y., Jason Mize of Fresno, Calif., Josh Mize of Phoenix, Ariz., Heather Mize of Fresno, Calif., Tommy Mize of Coalinga, Calif., Jerry Mize of Shaver Lake, Calif., Ebert Bissett of Salinas, Calif., Micahel Bissett of Las Vegas, Nev.; 21 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, nine nieces, five nephews, 13 great-nieces and six great-nephews.



Joy Clay

Joy Clay, 84, of Broken Bow passed away Sept. 2, 2013, at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa. She was born Sept. 8, 1928, at Alich to Jesse Hall and Emma Line (Frazier) Teel. Joy and Paul Clay were united in marriage on Sept. 28, 1946, in Paris, Texas. Joy and Paul were married for 59 years. Joy was a member of the First Assembly of God Church and of the Order of the Eastern Star in Broken Bow.

She enjoyed going to Branson with her daughter Kathy and enjoyed going to the nursing home to visit the residents. Joy cherished spending time with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Emma Line Teel; husband, Paul Clay; brothers, Bob, Ralph and Willard Teel; two sisters, Clara Pate and Thelma Sanders.

Joy is survived by one son, DeWayne with wife Donita Clay of Broken Bow; one daughter, Kathy with husband Cary Tyree of Sapulpa; three grandchildren, Mike and Lori Clay of Ada, Melissa and Chuck Wilson of McAlester, and Chad and Amy Byassee of Jenks; great-grandchildren, Logan and Justin Dilbeck, Heidi and Finley Clay, Ashleigh, Clay and Cash Byassee, Ashlyn Ball, Hunter Needham and Josh Wilson; one great-grandchild, Jaxen Needham and a host of family and friends.



Evelyn Gayle Marris

Evelyn Gayle (Crowder) Marris, 61, of Ardmore passed away on Aug. 29, 2013. Evelyn was born on Nov. 15, 1951, in Claremore to Richard Crowder and Maquerita Lewis. She married Garen "Rooster" Wayne Marris on April 16, 1982, in Tishomingo. Evelyn attended Carter Seminary and graduated from Ardmore High School in 1968. She worked at Green Burrito and for 12 years at Daylight Donuts as a cook. She later worked for Big 5 SORTS for five years, until her health forced her into an early retirement. She was a member of WMU with Chi-Ka-Sha Baptist Association. She loved her family and being with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; one son, Emmett Ray Battisti Jr.; grandson, Raymond Nedd; granddaughter, Alison Nedd; and a brother, Doug Crowder.

Evelyn is survived by her children; Mira Battisti and Jackie Matthews, both of Carthage, Miss., Christina Marris, Lucinda Marris, Conrad Nedd Jr. and Michelle Marris-Knight with husband Patrick, all of Ardmore; one brother, Conrad Nedd Sr. of Tulsa; sister-in-law, Norma Marris, of Ardmore; 18 grandchildren, five nieces, five nephews, 11 great-nieces, 10 great-nephews and a host of family and friends.



Ryan Callahan

Ryan Callahan, 37, passed away on June 16, 2013, as the result of an automobile accident. Ryan Callahan was born on May 18, 1976, in San Diego, Calif., but spent the majority of his life in Fallbrook, Calif. He attended Fallbrook High School and graduated from El Camino High, Oceanside, Calif., in 1994. Ryan was a tradesman with skills in plumbing, tile, electrical, HVAC and welding. He was employed as the lead man for Sutter Construction Company, Oceanside, and worked on job sites throughout southern California. Ryan was well known in the community as being able and willing to tackle nearly any job, big or small, and made sure the job was always done right. He was quick to respond in a time of need regardless of the hour. Ryan was proud to be a registered member of the Choctaw Nation. Ryan Callahan had a huge network of friends. In Fallbrook, it seems that he had touched nearly everyone's life in a good way. He really enjoyed his time with others and loved to socialize. It seemed that he never had a bad day. He was always smiling and quick to laugh. His interests included fishing, guitar playing, spending time with family and his assortment of toys, he enjoyed to use radio controlled vehicles, pocket motorcycles and even collected Hot Wheels. He truly understood that the simple pleasures are the greatest in life. Ryan will be greatly missed by many. Memories of Ryan, however, are only of the best kind. These are memories of an individual who was nonjudgmental, a true free spirit and just a wonderful human being with whom to spend time. His twinkling eyes, his big grin and his contagious laugh will never be forgotten.

Ryan was preceded in death by his brother, David Callahan, who perished in 1988, also from the result of a vehicle accident. Ryan is survived by his parents, Richard and Karon Callahan of Fallbrook; sister, Lisa Callahan; niece, Kaitlyn Callahan; brother-in-law, Greg Christopherson of Oceanside; nephews and nieces, Kevin and Erika Christopherson, Chris and Dani Norwood; aunt, Donn Norwood; fiancé, Jessica Blackwell and her daughter, Bella, both of Fallbrook.



Teddy Brassfield

Teddy Brassfield, 76, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Aug. 7, 2013, at Parkridge Nursing and Rehab Center in Pleasant Hill. Teddy was born March 2, 1937, in McCurtain to Ted and Lona (Smittle) Robertson. She worked many years for Preferred Risk Insurance, from where she eventually retired.

Teddy is survived by her daughter, Karen Sanborn; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; six siblings, and many extended relatives and friends.



George 'G.H.' Morton

George "G.H." Morton, 87, of Panama was born Sept. 25, 1924, in Flower Hill to Horace and Ima Laura (Crutchfield) Morton and passed away April 22, 2012, in Fort Smith, Ark. George was a member of First Baptist Church of Panama.

George was preceded in death by his parents; a special uncle and aunt, Judge and Minnie Crutchfield; two sisters, Flora Meadows and Iva Russell; one brother, Otto Morton.

He is survived by his wife, Leta of the home; one daughter, Marilyn Bohannon with husband Danny of Poteau; one son, George Wayne Morton of Bokoshe; one sister, Ida Ann Partain of Spiro; one grandson, Dennis Bohannon; two great-grandchildren, Alex and Shane Bohannon; and one great-great-granddaughter, Alexandria Bohannon.



OBITUARIES

Wilson Nathaniel Griggs Jr.

Wilson Nathaniel Griggs Jr. was born March 20, 1930, in Soper. He was the son of Wilson Nathaniel Griggs Sr. and Mary K. (Robinson) Griggs and had lived all of his life in Soper. He married Dee Downs in 1950 at Cooper, Texas.

Jr. grew up working for his Dad at Wilson N. Griggs and Son Garage in Soper. He graduated from Soper High School and attended East Texas State University in Commerce. He worked for Wallace Motors in Hugo as parts manager for over 30 years. Jr. enjoyed driving around and visiting with friends. He spent many hours at the computer to stay in touch with family and friends. He had a talent to put things together without the instructions. His church was a special part of his life. Jr. was always proud of his Choctaw heritage.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilson Nathaniel Griggs Sr. and Mary K. Griggs; and wife, Dee Downs.

Survivors include his daughter, Nancy Wilson of Yukon; sister, Ruth Baker of Soper; two grandchildren and four great-grandsons along with many other relatives and friends.



Stacy Beth Sage

Stacy Beth Sage, MS., ATC., passed away on Aug. 4, 2013, in Sacramento, Calif. She attended Montvue Elementary School in Pomona. Stacy graduated from Alta Loma High School, received an AA at MSAC, her BS at Cal State Fullerton and her Masters of Science degree at Eastern New Mexico University.

She has worked in California, New Mexico, Texas and North Carolina as head athletic trainer at colleges and universities for 25 years. She returned to California in 2006 as trainer for the Walgreens distribution center in Woodland. Throughout her career, only positive comments followed her, praising her expertise in her profession but her ability to teach and motivate, her dedication, friendliness and always her willingness to help others. She was a beautiful, amazing lady who touched the lives of many and will be missed more than words can say.

Stacy is survived by her parents, Steve and Carol Sage; sister, Cathy Lara with husband Rick; nephew, Noah Lara; aunts and uncles, Bob and Diane Schulman and Pat and Milburn Cobb; she leaves cousins and friends too numerous to count.

William Wesley 'Pat' Williams

William Wesley "Pat" Williams passed away on Aug. 24, 2013, at Vineyard Hills Care Center in Templeton, Calif. He was born in Whitefield, in January of 1920, to J.O. and Eunice Williams. He was raised and went to school in Stigler.

At the age of 17, he was sent to Studio City to live with his uncle, Robert Williams, a pharmacist. William graduated from North Hollywood High in September of 1938. Employment was very hard to obtain so he enlisted in the Army at Fort McArthur in San Pedro. After a year in the Army, the U.S. Air Corps screened all high school graduates and William was transferred to the Air Corps to be trained on a B-17. After completing training, he was assigned to a crew on a B-17 and on Nov. 22, 1941, flew to Clark Field in the Philippines.

On a flight mission on Dec. 14, 1941, William encountered Japan Zero fighter planes that proceeded to engage their airplane. His crew crash-landed, five were hit and one was killed. William's hip and leg were wounded badly and he was taken to the hospital in Mindanao. After receiving four months of care at the hospital, William transferred to a U.S. Army Hospital. On May 10, 1942, the order came for all to surrender to the Japanese Forces. Rather than surrender, he and a couple of buddies obtained supplies and went into hiding in the mountains and eventually joined up with the Guerilla Army for two years. William's leg was still wounded and he was in a lot of pain, he requested to be repatriated and was taken aboard a submarine — the U.S. Narwhal. After being depth charged several times by Japanese ships, they made it to Darwin, Australia. William remained in the Army Air Corp for 27 active years and three years as a reserve before retiring in 1965.

When William was on leave, he visited family in the San Luis Obispo County area where he met his first wife, Dorothy. They were married in 1948. Upon retirement, he settled in Boise, Maryland and went to work as a guard in a U.S. government building in Washington, D.C.

William and Dorothy moved to California to be closer to family. Shortly after moving, Dorothy became very ill and passed away.

William then met and married Betty Luke in 1982. They traveled to all of the lower states, and Alaska.

Preceding Pat in death were his parents; his brothers, James, Thomas and Theodore; sister, Geraldine and sister-in-law, Mary Frances Williams.

William is survived by his wife, Betty; sons, Paul of Mazatlan, Mexico, and David of Stockton; brother, Carl Ray of Lompoc; several loving nephews and nieces; grand daughter, Marissa Holland of Florence, Ala.; and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Charles Tandy Folsom

Dr. Charles Tandy Folsom, MD, passed away on May 1, 2013, at his home in San Benito, Texas.

He was born in 1937 at Ringling to Rudolph Folsom and Helen Fischer Folsom. He was the grandson of original Choctaw enrollee Peter Ward Folsom and Diddie Aulds Folsom. Dr. Folsom was a graduate of Southeastern State University in Durant and the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in Oklahoma City. Dr. Folsom began his medical career in 1970 in Harlingen, Texas, as a pathologist at Valley Baptist Hospital. He relocated to Gainesville, Texas, from 1978- 1985 returning to Harlingen in 1986 as a general practice physician.

Dr. Folsom was raised in Love County, Okla., where he won numerous 4-H awards, and rode bulls and broncos in local rodeos. He enjoyed fishing in the Red River and hunting in the woods of Love County with his grandfather who also taught him the customs of his Choctaw ancestors. Dr. Folsom took great pride in his Choctaw heritage. One of his passions was playing guitar and making music along with his brothers and many cousins. After moving to Harlingen, he enjoyed fishing in the bay and spending time on South Padre Island. He enjoyed country, bluegrass, western swing and big band music. After retiring from his medical practice, Dr. Folsom's main past time was playing guitar regularly at the Harlingen Elks Lodge.

He was survived by his wife, Olga Folsom of San Benito; son, Haskell Folsom of San Antonio; daughters, Diana Folsom Heath of Austin and Lisa Folsom Delacy of Columbia, Calif.; grandsons, Cyrus and Ott Folsom; granddaughters, Cristina, Pamela, Ashley, Tandy Lee Folsom, Ella Heath, Lily Delacy and Genesis; sisters, Mona Bland of Terrell, Texas, Peggy Folsom of Lewisville, Texas, and Beverly Carter of Krum, Texas; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



James Wolfe

James "Jamie" Wolfe, 69, passed away on Sept. 7, 2013, in the Choctaw Memorial Hospital in Hugo. James was born July 18, 1944, in Wynnewood. He was the son of Henry D. Wolfe and Margaret (Jennings) Wolfe.

He graduated from Hugo High School in 1962. He received a Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma University in 1970.

Jamie served in the United States Army on active duty from November 1966 to November 1968. He served in 173rd Airborne Brigade Separate in South Vietnam from November 1967 to November 1968.

After returning from Vietnam, he received a law degree from Oklahoma City University in 1974. Jamie served as Choctaw County Associate District Judge from 1980 to 1992, practiced law in Hugo, and served as Pushmataha County Assistant District Attorney for 8 years. He served again as Choctaw County Associate District Judge from 2007 until death. Jamie also served as Chief Justice for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for 25 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. H.D. Wolfe; grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Reed Wolfe and Mr. and Mrs. James A. Jennings.

Jamie is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sherre (Fountain) Wolfe; two daughters, Lindsey (Wolfe) Thomas with husband Dustin of Hugo, Alison Wolfe of Duncan; three grandchildren, Halle and Jackson Thomas of Hugo, and Connor Wolfe of Duncan; he is also survived by two sisters, Ceci Wolfe of Hugo, and Kate Wolfe of Santa Fe, N.M.



David Compton Whale

David Compton Whale was born near Mira, Texas, on June 4, 1920. He was the first born of six brothers and sisters (Norma Lee Kuykendall, Helen Lloyd, Thomas Whale, Wesley Whale and James Whale.) He was the first son of an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Lindsey Whale and Madge Evans Whale.

His siblings would often tease him, trying to get a rise out of him, by calling him "David Compton Overstreet," which was the last name of the nurse midwife who delivered him.

He was raised in Plunkettville. He later went to Arizona to work in the lumber industry. He was fighting a forest fire at the time that he met and later married his first wife, Aleita Bell Boring, on Aug. 4, 1940, in Snow Flake, Ariz. They had three children, Glen David, Linda Kay and Jerry Lee.

The family moved all over the United States experiencing the great west and ultimately settled in Washington State in the 1950s. He also served in the Army Air Corps.

It was in Washington State where he met and subsequently married Frances Gardner, Oct. 5, 1958. Together they made a family with their son, Thomas Whale, and remained there until recently.

David Whale was an adventurous soul. He enjoyed traveling all over the world to experience new sights and to visit family. He had a great appreciation for beauty and aesthetics. He was a very intense person with an entrepreneurial spirit. It was his desire for people to see him and his family as successful and educated. He always strived for improvement, which was his impetus to go to college. He attended Oklahoma State College and ultimately received his teaching certificate in the 1960s.

He enjoyed eating ice cream, and used to insist ice cream was to be bitten, and not licked. His children can attest to this!

He went to his final resting place, surrounded by three generations of family, gathered in prayer in Decatur, Texas.

He is survived by his loving wife, former wife and good friend, his three brothers, four children, and all of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family.



Lyndon Paul Camp

Lyndon Paul Camp, 43, was born on Jan. 17, 1970, at the Perrin Air Force Base in Sherman, Texas, to Delores (Bully) and Paul James Camp. He passed away on Oct. 2, 2013, in Tulsa.

Lyndon was a proud full blood member of the Choctaw Nation. He was extremely proud of his Choctaw heritage and to be a Choctaw veteran. Lyndon graduated from Bennington High School in 1988, then in 1989 enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Before he was deployed to the Middle East he served on the U.S.S. Siapan off the coast of Liberia. Lyndon was part of the rescue operation at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, he served in Spain and Kuwait as part of Desert Storm, and other foreign countries. Lyndon was a member of the Bennington Baptist Church, he loved to fish, shoot his bow and arrows but especially spend time with his friends and family.

Mr. Camp was preceded in death by his father, Paul James Camp; grandparents, John and Georgia Bully and Joel and Harriet Camp.

Mr. Camp is survived by his mother, Delores Camp Rutz of Bennington; stepfather, Tommy Rutz of Bennington; sister, Tanya Hughes with husband Scott of Elk City; brother, Terry Rutz of Calera; aunts, Pamela James of Durant and Helen Selmon of Royce City, Texas; uncles, Patrick Culley of Bennington, and Willie Wally of Bennington.



Laveta Justine Woods

Laveta Justine Woods, 83, passed away on Sept. 8, 2013, in Waco with her daughters by her side. She was born on Nov. 4, 1929, in Wellington, Texas, to Lofton William Clark and Mary Louise Mann Clark. Justine worked as an executive secretary at Flexsteel Industries for 14 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Johnny William Woods Jr.

Justine is survived by her daughters, Regina Woods Kozacki, Johnette Woods and Jamie Woods; brother, Neil Clark; sister, Carole Ann Clark; grandchildren, Christian Volentine with husband Dewayne, Clint Burchfield, Heather Freund and Olivia Gerard; and 10 great-grandchildren.



Andrew Sean Kinkade

Andrew Sean Kinkade, 51, was killed in a two-vehicle accident on Feb. 23, 2013, on icy roads in southern Montana. Sean resided in Powell, Wyo., with his beloved wife, Carol, and son Ryan, 10.

Sean was born in Ardmore on Feb. 14, 1962, the third child of Emmett Sheridan Kinkade and Melinda Lou McClanahan. The family lived in Ardmore for a year, then in Fort Worth, Texas; Cherry Hill, N.J.; Denton, Texas; and Greenville, Texas. He attended The American School in Switzerland in Lugano, Switzerland, for his sophomore year in high school. He attended one semester of school in Tel Aviv, Israel, before returning to the United States. He graduated from Haysville High School in Haysville, Kan. He worked as a professional drummer for one year with a Los Angeles band, then attended Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, La., where he graduated with a B.A. degree in movie and film production. Sean then enlisted in the U. S. Army and served for six years in Denver, Colo.; Mons, Belgium (SHAPE); and southern Italy. He was awarded an honorable discharge, then met the love of his life, Carol Love Richey, and they were married on July 11, 2002, in Florida. He then began to pursue his dream in designing and manufacturing radio-controlled ornithopters. He and his wife built this dream into the international business HobbyTechnik.

Sean was a kind, gentle, and compassionate man with a great sense of humor who had brilliant artistic and musical talents. He was a genius in engineering. He loved many things, but especially cats, drums, trains, dirt bikes, flying machines and most of all his family. He was a wonderful dad. A Kinkade family reunion was held in July 2012 in Silver City where Sean enjoyed reuniting with his loved ones.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Carl Sheridan Kinkade and Luina Kinkade and William E. McClanahan and Rheua-Nell McClanahan, all of Ardmore; aunt, Rue McClanahan, of New York, New York; great-grandmother, Ida Alice Medaris, was a Choctaw enrollee of the 1905 Dawes Rolls, and a long-time resident of Kenefic and Achille.

Sean is survived by his wife, Carol; son, William Ryan; mother, Melinda McClanahan and stepfather, Robert Porter of Silver City, N.M.; father, Emmett Kinkade, of Switzerland; one brother, Brendan Kinkade, of West Hills, Calif.; two sisters, MarCia Kinkade McGee of Santa Fe, N.M., and Amelia Kinkade of Los Angeles, Calif.; one cousin, Mark Bish, of Austin, Texas; two nieces, Arden and Kate Kinkade of West Hills, Calif.; one niece, Megan Dooly; and great-nephew, Brendan Dooly of Gulfport, Miss.; one nephew, Ian McBride of Joplin, Mo.; and numerous other relatives.



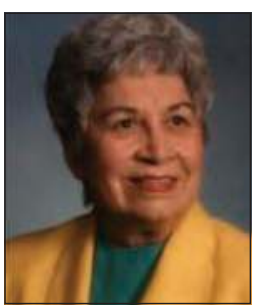
Oma Lee Blackerby

Oma Lee Blackerby, 97, passed away on Sept. 15, 2013, in Bedford, Texas. She was born on Dec. 31, 1915, in Sulphur to Simeon Martin and Ara Mae Surginer Charleston. She married William Jennings Blackerby on July 23, 1941, in Walters. He preceded her in death on Feb. 4, 1991. Mrs. Blackerby worked Civil Service at Fort Sill in the finance office and retired after 30 years of service.

She was a member of the Kiwanis Club and Toastmistress. She was an active member of the Iris Society, the Lawton Garden Council, N.A.R.F.E., the Southwest Oklahoma Choctaw Club and the Center for Creative Living. She was also a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church where she was involved with the Singles Group for many years. Her family was the center of her world and she cherished them very much.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Gary Don Blackerby; stepdaughter, Sonya Blackerby Griffin; step-grandson, Michael Griffin; and two sisters, Stella McCaskill and Mildred Hobbs.

She is survived by her daughter, Billie Jean Grayson of Bedford, Texas; five grandchildren, Darin Jennings Grayson, Dustin Heath Grayson, Courtney Paige Grayson Hickey, Joseph Daniel Blackerby and Tammy Renae Wright; seven great-grandchildren, Taylor Grayson, Haley Hickey, Heather Hickey, Kendyl Kercho, Taylor Blackerby, Hayden Hickey and Jake Wright; three great-great-grandchildren, Jaley Hickey, Braylie Hickey and Kendyn Hickey; her brother and sister-in-law, Gilbert M. and Billie Charleston of Oklahoma City; her sister, Virginia Blaydes of Aurora, Colo.; and her former son-in-law, Doyce Grayson of Lawton.



Kenneth Rose

Kenneth Rose, 71, passed away on Sept. 2, 2013. He was the grandson of original enrollee Virgil Labor, son of Elbert and Phoebe Christine (Labor) Rose.

He is remembered as a kind person, always ready to help a friend, in spite of a lifelong battle with schizophrenia.

He is survived by his sisters, Janet (Rose) Menschel and Elizabeth; aunt, Pauline (Labor) Robertson; and uncle, Virgil L. Labor.

Osbern "Tobe" Lewis

Osbern (Tobe) Lewis was born on Jan. 22, 1929. He left to be with his Heavenly Father the Sept. 2, 2013. Osbern accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior earlier in his life. He is the son of Ollie Rhodes and Herman Lewis.

Osbern was affiliated with Myrtlewood Baptist Church. He enjoyed driving his truck, traveling, fishing, camping, visiting with his church family and spending time with and checking on his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Ivan Lewis, and Oslin Lewis; wives, Thelma Wells Lewis and Shirley Halbert Lewis; and one grandson, John Bo Barnes.

He is survived by his sons, Jim Lewis with wife Marcia, Charles Michael Lewis with wife Joann, Chadwick Lewis with wife Cheryl; three daughters, Sherri Barnes and Jerry, Sharon Barnes and Jesse, and Pricilla Lewis; three stepsons, John Barnes and Louise, Chris Barnes and Laura and Tim and Alices Barnes; a special friend and son Clint Coleman and Viola Baker; stepdaughters, Charlene and Max Vail, Judy and Ray West, Michelle and Danny Phillips; three sisters, Charlene Battiest, Lilly Routh, and Machelene Clement; and one brother Cecil Lewis with wife Corrina; and numerous nieces, nephews, granddaughters, grandsons, great-grandchildren and many friends.



A Choctaw sport older than stickball?!

Today, the game of Choctaw stickball is experiencing a fantastic resurgence across southeastern Oklahoma. During the summer months, this traditional sport brings youth and elders together in an exciting and culturally vibrant setting on a weekly basis. While stickball is unquestionably ancient, it is probably not actually the oldest Choctaw sport in existence.

This month, Iti Fabussa will focus on what is likely an even older, and now little-known, Choctaw sport called "achahpi" or "alhchahpi."

Most of the details of the achahpi game were preserved by a Choctaw man named Mehubbee. Mehubbee had seen the game played as a young man, kept an achahpi game stone through most of his life, and in 1876, as an old man, taught the game to some young Choctaws in Mississippi. Later, one of these Choctaw youth described what Mehubbee had taught him to Henry Halbert, who wrote it down (Halbert 1888:283-284). In Mehubbee's day, the playing field "aiachahpi" was about 100 feet long and 12 feet wide, and made as smooth as possible. Brief surviving accounts indicate that in earlier days playing fields were larger and more elaborate than what Mehubbee observed. Usually these playing fields were located near the center of a village (Adair 1775:401). Clay was either brought in for the field or the topsoil was dug out to expose underlying clay. The surface of the clay was smoothed, packed down, and allowed to dry hard. Then, it was lightly sprinkled with loose sand.

Careful field preparation was important so that the game stone would roll properly. This game stone was a round, flat disk of stone, perhaps 3 inches in diameter, carefully shaped so that it could be set up on its edge and rolled a long distance, like a wheel. In the Choctaw language, these stones were known as "tvli chanaha," literally "rolling rock." The game stones were considered community property, and were passed down from one generation to another through time.

Achahpi was played with slightly different rules in different times and places (c.f. Cushman 1899:190). In Mehubbee's version, the game was played with two players (Fig. 1). Each had a 10-foot long javelin made from a hickory sapling, with a rounded point. Four grooves were cut around the javelin near its tip, two grooves were cut about 1/4 of the way back from its tip, and one groove was cut around its center.



Iti Fabussa



Figure 1: Choctaw men playing achahpi (sketch by Ruby Bolding)

To play the game, the players would take off at a run, with one of the players launching the stone to roll hard and fast over the playing field. The second player would then throw his javelin, followed by the first player. Each player tried to throw his javelin so that it would be closest to the stone when the stone stopped rolling. The player whose javelin lay closest to the stone scored points. If the portion of his javelin with the four grooves lay closest to the stone, he scored four; if the portion of his javelin with two grooves lay closest to the stone, he scored two; if the portion of his javelin with one groove lay closest to the stone, he scored one. If both players' javelins were equally close to the stone, no points were scored. The player who scored in one round would be the one to roll the stone in the next round. A game ended when one player got to 12 points.

Mehubbee described the playing strategies used by competitors. The player who threw his javelin first

attempted to hit the rolling game stone and knock it over. His intent wasn't just to knock the stone over, but rather that in knocking the stone over, his javelin would end up nearest to the fallen stone, and he would score points. Conversely, the player who rolled the stone, would pick up his javelin and throw it, almost at the same time as the second player, attempting to hit the second player's javelin in mid air and knock it down, thus, blocking his shot at the stone.

In the 1700s, it was common for players to play all day long, running back and forth continuously. An early English observer went so far as to call the game "running hard labor" (Adair 1775:401). Obviously, players had to be in great shape to be successful. It was usual for spectators to watch an achahpi game, and like the game of stickball, it was common for them to put up big bets on the outcome (Romans 1999 [1771]:134-135).

Achahpi is a Choctaw version of a game that was played by many tribes throughout a huge area that includes the Southeast, Northeast, and Midwest, the Northern Plains, and even some places on the west coast. English speakers usually call this game "chunkey," which may be a corruption for the Cherokee word for their version of game "tsvgeyi." People living in the central Mississippi valley began to make chunkey stones and create depictions of people playing chunkey as early as A.D. 750 (Morse and Morse 1999:211-212). What may be roughly made chunkey stones appear in the Choctaw homeland around the same time, and beautiful, classically carved stones began to be made after AD 1050 (Fig. 2). Clearly, achahpi was an important game to Choctaw ancestors nearly 1,000 years ago, if not more.

Seven-hundred years later, achahpi was still a popular Choctaw sport. However, the game gradually began to wane in popularity, in favor of stickball and other pastimes. Even before the Trail of Tears, achahpi had ceased being played in most Choctaw communities. Six Towns communities still living in Mississippi were the last to give up the game in around 1842.



Figure 2: A stone likely used in achahpi, before European contact, from the Lubbug Creek archaeological site, Pickens County, Ala. (2-5/8 inch diameter.)

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆

Present Tense

Nanta ish vpa?

Pronounced:

Nahn-ta esh ah-pa?

Con conversationally, the 'v' in vpa is dropped and it sounds like, "Nanta ishpa?"

What are you eating?

Takkon vpa li.

Pronounced:

Tahk-kon ah-pa lih.

I am eating an apple.

Word Meaning:

nanta – what ish- you

takkon – apple li - I

vpa – to eat; a named food item must always precede this word

Past Tense

Nanta ish vpa tuk?

Pronounced:

Nahn-ta esh ah-pa tuk?

Con conversationally, the 'v' in vpa is dropped and it sounds like, "Nanta ishpa tuk?"

What did you eat?

Palvska vpa li tuk.

Pronounced:

Pa-las-ka ah-pa lih tuk.

I ate (some, a slice, a piece of) bread.

Word Meaning:

nanta – what ish- you

palvska - bread

vpa – to eat; a named food item must always precede this word

li - I

tuk – past tense

Future Tense

Nanta ish vpa chi?

Pronounced:

Nahn-ta esh ah-pa chi(n)?

Con conversationally, the 'v' in vpa is dropped and it sounds like, "Nanta ishpa chi?"

What will you eat?

Wak nipi vpa la chi.

Pronounced:

Wak ni-pi ah-pa la chi(n).

I will eat steak.

The translation for 'wak nipi' is wak-cow, nipi-meat, but put together it is understood to mean beef or steak.

Word Meaning:

nanta – what ish- you

wak nipi - steak

vpa – to eat; a named food item must always precede this word

li - I - changed to la to show future tense

chi(n) - future tense

www.choctawschool.com

Ninth Annual Choctaw Casino Resort Pow Wow

Enjoy Native American culture and tradition with arts and crafts, authentic food and a must-see dance competition. It will be two days of festivities you won't want to miss. Admission is free to the public.

Head Staff

Arena Directors: Michael Roberts, Clifton Goodwill and Marty Thurman

Emcee: Rob Daugherty and Joaquin Hamilton

Head Gourd Dancer: Randy Frazier

Head Gourd Singer: Ryan Roanhorse

Friday, Nov. 29

Doors open at 10 a.m.
Gourd Dance - 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Grand Entry - 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Dance Contest begins after grand entry
Choctaw Cultural Demonstrations throughout the day

Saturday, Nov. 30

Doors open at 10 a.m.
Gourd Dance 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Grand Entry 1 p.m.
Dance Contest begins after Grand Entry
Choctaw Cultural Demonstrations throughout the day

Dance contest divisions:

Golden Age Men and Women (55 & Older)
Sr. Adult Men and Women (35-54)
Jr. Adult Men and Women (18-34)
Teen Boys and Girls (13-17)
Jr. Teen Boys and Girls (7-12)
Tiny Tots (0-6)

Dance contest categories:

Golden Age Men
Northern
Southern
Grass & Fancy
Golden Age Women
Northern
Southern
Fancy Shawl and Jingle

Men - Traditional

Straight
Grass
Fancy

Chicken

Women - Cloth

Buckskin
Northern Traditional
Fancy Shawl
Jingle
Choctaw Traditional

Boys - Traditional

Straight

Grass

Fancy

Girls - Cloth

Buckskin
Fancy Shawl
Jingle

Drum contest categories:

Northern
Southern

Storytellers gather in Muskogee



Choctaw Nation photos: LISA REED

A group from Coalgate and Crowder traveled to Muskogee for the 5 Tribes Story Conference on Oct. 18. They are joined in this photo by author/storytellers Greg Rodgers and Tim Tingle and the 2013 Short Story Contest winner, Benjamin Zeller, and his dad, Steven Zeller. The conference continued through Oct. 19 with featured artists including Tingle, Rodgers, Dr. Clara Sue Kidwell, Dr. Phillip Carroll Morgan, Rilla Askew, Roy Boney Jr., Dr. Les Hannah and Joe Bruchac.



Stormy Bryant and Bobby Tom "Catfish" Bryant have a little Choctaw chuckle.



Dr. Phillip Carroll Morgan entertains the audience.



Benjamin Zeller, seated, autographs a copy of his story, 'Understand,' for author/storyteller Joe Bruchac.



Choctaw Short Story Contest winner

'Understand'

Editor's Note: The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Five Civilized Tribes Museum sponsored a Choctaw Short Story Contest in conjunction with the 2013 Five Tribes Story Conference. Following is the winning entry. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

By **BENJAMIN ZELLER**

Lake Providence Swamps, Mississippi Winter, 1831 A.D.

We weren't prepared for death. Really, we weren't prepared for anything. Well, anything like this. Another scream pierced the heavy air. Byhalia covered her ears to shut out the wailing and ran harder. Her bare, blistered feet crunched the snow covering the swamp floor. For the hundredth time, Byhalia stumbled and reached out to catch herself. She uncovered her ears, and the screams returned, sending chills up her spine. With every scream that echoed through the cypress trees came the frightening possibility that... "No." Byhalia grunted. Pushing the thought out of her mind, Byhalia gritted her teeth and ran on. The going was treacherous, and one unlucky step could break through thin ice, sending her plunging into the swampy waters below. Byhalia could not have cared less. She ran until she collapsed. Snow sprayed everywhere, soaking into her tattered animal hide dress and onto her steaming skin. The wailing screams were gone, and Byhalia made no effort to move from her prostrate position in the snow. Swirling sheets of white flakes began accumulating; both on Byhalia and on the ground.

A swarm of thoughts were buzzing in her head, begging her to listen to their whisperings.

What if all my chukachafa die?

What if I'm the only one of the okla left alive?

What if I die?

Thoughts of death and despair continued to flow. Byhalia felt like each one was slowly chipping away at her sanity.

Eventually, she could take no more. Staggering to her feet, Byhalia stumbled forward until she reached the shelter of an ancient cypress tree. She dropped to the ground, sitting cross-legged in the snow. With a trembling hand, she drew her father's hunting knife from his leather sheath, averting her eyes from her frostbitten fingers and trying to forget that there were only four on her left hand. Byhalia took a deep breath and squeezed her eyes shut, hoping Chitokaka would receive her spirit, or at the very least, that Nalusa Falaya would not devour her soul.

With that final thought, Byhalia's muscles tensed and she drove the knife toward her pounding chest.

At the same instant, something—or someone—struck her from the side, throwing her to the ground. Byhalia let out one blood-curdling scream and everything went black.

"Now hold still..." A fuzzy voice was saying. "I'm trying to help you here."

Byhalia opened her eyes a crack to see the world a swirling gray and white blur. "Where—" she stopped short as a sharp pain tore through her shoulder. Screaming, she tried to roll away.

Something pinned her to the ground, forcing her to stay. "Hang on, there!" The faraway speaker yelled. "We're almost done."

Two moments later, the burning stopped, leaving only a dull throbbing in its place.

A gentle hand helped her to sit up, supporting her back. "There. Sorry about that. How

are you feeling?"

Byhalia blinked. Her eyes focused, and she could make out the lazy drifting of thousands of snowflakes. A small glade ringed by cypress trees lay in front of her. Her shoulder still burned, but the rest of her body was freezing.

"Well? Are you feeling better?"

Byhalia started and looked at the figure sitting next to her. "Oh!" She cringed at the harsh sound of her voice. "Yes...yes, I am." Grimacing at the throbbing of her shoulder, she added, "I think."

A grin split the face of the young man sitting next to her. He looked a year or two younger than Byhalia's sixteen, wore tattered deerskin leggings and moccasins, and no shirt. His face was long and gaunt, but his black eyes held a cheerful twinkle.

"Good." He was saying as he adjusted a lopsided eagle feather that stuck out of his black braid. "You're lucky I happened along when I did."

Both were quiet for a moment, staring into the snowy glade. The boy was rubbing something on the snow.

"Here," he said, offering Byhalia her father's hunting knife. "I believe this is yours."

"Oh." She accepted the knife awkwardly.

What am I thinking? Byhalia thought. He saved my life, I should thank him! Still, part of her wondered if she had really wanted to be saved at that moment.

She was opening her mouth to say something when the boy abruptly spoke.

"By the way, what did you think you were going to do there? Commit ilebi?"

Byhalia felt her bronze cheeks burning. "Um...I wasn't really going—" She stopped herself before she lied.

"Wasn't going to..." He prodded.

Unable to meet his gaze, Byhalia looked away and shrugged. "I just thought that... well, it might be better if I..." Her voice trailed off.

The hand that was supporting her back reached up and patted her shoulder. "No. I understand." Removing his hand, the boy folded them in his lap and gazed out at the swirling snowflakes. "I've thought the same thing myself these past few moons."

"But, enough of this," He slapped his legs as if to punctuate his statement. "I'm Nashoba."

Byhalia nodded. "Halito, I'm Byhalia." "And what brings you out in a blizzard while half the okla is dying?"

"That." Byhalia sighed.

"What?" Nashoba raised an eyebrow. Spreading out her hands, Byhalia explained. "Only my youngest brother is left alive, and that may be short-lived. The medicine man is trying to heal him, but the cold and fevers may prove beyond his skill. This may be his..." She choked and whispered around the lump in her throat. "...his last night."

"Oh." Nashoba said quietly. "I'm sorry." Gently, he patted Byhalia's knee. "Again, I know how you feel."

"Thank you, but that really doesn't make it any better."

"I know."

"But how do you know how I feel? It's not as if your whole chukachafa have passed on to hatak illi shilombish aiasha."

"Well..." hesitated Nashoba, re-adjusting his eagle feather.

Byhalia shot Nashoba a sidelong glance. "Yes?"

"They have." He said flatly.

"What?" Byhalia was taken aback. "But, I thought I was the only one so far to lose this many!"

"You are." Nashoba continued to stare

blankly out into the snowy woods. When he did not speak, Byhalia turned toward him with an expectant look. She coughed.

Still without looking at her, Nashoba said, "Yes. I have—" he paused. "Well, I had two sisters younger than I still alive when we started this okpulo journey of death and sorrow. Now..."

"They're gone?" Byhalia finished.

He nodded. "One of them is. The other is very near to the end. Unless the medicine man is able to work a miracle, she will die of the swamp fever."

"And your parents and relatives are... where?"

"They all died when one of the white man's plagues swept our tribe."

"So...why did you and your sisters live?"

"Because," Nashoba answered quietly. "They made me take them away south to live in the Pine Hills in an attempt to escape the plague."

"And it worked?" Byhalia leaned closer so she could catch his answer.

"No. It didn't. We all died in the hills."

"What?" Byhalia jerked her head back.

Laughing, Nashoba grinned at her. "Of course it worked! How else would I be here?"

"Oh." Byhalia was thoroughly confused at his sudden change of attitude. "But, why are you laughing? This really isn't funny, you know. Three-hundred-some Choctaws lost and dying in this okpulo swamp!" An angry edge entered her voice. "Why are you even here? Your only living relative is dying!"

Still smiling, Nashoba stood up and brushed the snow off his tattered deerskin leggings. "I came out for a calming walk, and you are lucky that I did." He held out his right hand to Byhalia. "Come on! We should both be getting back."

But instead of taking his hand, Byhalia gasped and recoiled from his touch. "What happened to—"

"Oh." Nashoba looked at where his fingers should have been. Instead, there were only five blued nubs. "Frostbite." He hurriedly thrust it behind his back. "I didn't mean for you to see that. I'm still getting used to only having one good hand."

Wide-eyed, Byhalia could only stare at him. Her one missing finger suddenly seemed inconsequential. "But how did you—"

Nashoba raised the forefinger on his left hand. "Uh-uh. No questions about the hand, please. I've answered plenty of questions for right now, anyway. Now," he offered his good hand to her. "Let's get up and be off. I don't know about you, but I'm freezing. And, I would rather keep the rest of my appendages attached if I can help it."

Now that she thought about it, Byhalia was shivering intensely. Grabbing his hand, she let him pull her to her feet. "Yakoke," she said quickly.

Nashoba nodded and started back through the swamp and cypress trees, following a faint trail of footprints.

"By the way," he was saying. "I'm sorry about your shoulder. Still, I suppose it is better than the other option."

"It's fine." Byhalia mumbled.

How can he be so happy while in the midst of such tragedy? She asked herself.

Nashoba's footsteps slowed, and he turned his sparkling black eyes on Byhalia. "Are you alright?"

"Hm?" Byhalia returned his gaze.

"I asked if you are alright."

"I just don't understand!" Byhalia said, exasperated.

"Don't understand what?"

"You!" said Byhalia. She gestured to Nashoba. "How can you be so...joyful while surrounded by death and suffering? You've

already lost your hand, most of your chukachafa, and now you're about to lose your final sister! I'm quite sure I would have died by now, if I were you."

Nashoba shrugged. "Well, part of it is that I don't let thoughts of despair take root in my mind, or else Nalusa Falaya will eat my soul." He looked hard at Byhalia. "You do know that, don't you?"

"Of course!" Byhalia tried to sound nonchalant. "Everyone knows that."

A smile flickered on the corners of Nashoba's cracked lips. "Good. And you asked how I live through all this?"

Byhalia nodded.

"It's simple, really. Through all the okpulo choices I've made, and equally okpulo things that have happened to me, I've always remembered that life is what you make of it. Unfortunate events are bound to happen, but feeling depressed never helped anyone. It's like now: I made the decision to walk to this 'new land' of the Choctaws instead of riding in wagons or boats. I had hoped the benefits the white men provided would allow me to take care of myself and my sisters. Now, I see that it was one of the worst choices I ever made. Nothing will be able to return my sisters to me." He paused for a few moments. "Some would say that your fate is set when you are born. I disagree. Your destiny is yours to make; you just need the courage to face it."

Byhalia nodded, silent. She thought of what he had said, and a small spark of determination and life seemed to spread through her shattered heart.

As they came closer to the camp, the screams returned. But this time, Byhalia did not cover her ears.

Nashoba stopped a stone's throw away from the campsite. "Well, here we are." He said cheerfully.

A pit formed in Byhalia's stomach. She started to move toward the medicine man's chukka.

"Wait." She felt Nashoba's hand on her shoulder. He turned her so she was looking directly into his dark eyes. "I know you're still thinking about what I said, and wrestling with sadness over your loss. But, remember, if you ever need anything, I'll be here for you, as long as I'm alive." He smiled, his teeth reflecting the firelight. "Don't lose hope, we'll make it out of this makali swamp somehow."

"Yakoke." Byhalia said quickly.

Squeezing her shoulder, Nashoba released his grip. As she turned to leave, he whispered after her, "Understand, your life is what you make it, Byhalia."

And for the first time in many moons, Byhalia smiled.

Glossary of Choctaw Terms:

- chukachafa: family
- okla: tribe
- Ilebi: suicide
- okpulo: bad, vile, etc.
- yakoke: thanks (when spoken quickly)
- makali: evil, vile, bad, etc.
- Nalusa Falaya: the Soul Eater (the devil)
- hatak illi shilombish aiasha: the after-world
- halito: a friendly greeting
- Chitokaka: The Great Spirit
- chukka: dwelling

Cultural gatherings – Los Angeles, Fresno



Matthew Rodriguez is adored by everyone, including Miss Choctaw Nation, Callie Curnutt.



Trina and Charles Miller take interest in Vangie Roberts' pottery work.



Josh Riley teaches a sport he knows well, stickball.



Kaili Harrison, Kayley Burrows and Tori and Taylor Archuleta are dressed to impress at the Fresno gathering on Oct. 21.



Billy Eagle Road III gives Lana Sleeper a spin during the Stealing Partners dance in L.A.



William Crow is presented a door prize by Tracy McKaughan at the conclusion of the L.A. gathering.



Jared "Pinti" Tom teaches Salvador Nava-Leyva how to catch a stickball in Fresno.



Sarah De Herrera, Sheila Terrell, Miss Choctaw Nation Callie Curnutt and Kyle Beaulieu meet in L.A. on Oct. 19 to learn all about the Choctaw Nation.



Cassidy and LaCrisha Wilder are proud of their beading skills. They each were able to create a pair of earrings at the L.A. gathering.



Bill Harrison hands out traditional themed T-shirts as a gift from Chief Pyle to those who attended the Fresno meeting.



Brad Joe assists Ashley Brouillette in beading an earring in L.A.



Sequoya Freney and Selaya Thomas are happy to attend the cultural gathering in L.A.

Photos by BRET MOSS | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Sarah De Herrera, ambassador for the Okla Chahta clan of Choctaws, admires a painting that Kevin Hardin made of her when she was named an Okla Chahta princess.



Brad and Beverly Gilton and Gianna South chat with Judy Allen and Assistant Chief Batton before the gathering in Fresno.



Assistant Chief Batton had the pleasure of greeting Ida and Dee Wilson, along with Pebbles Robinson prior to the gathering in Fresno.



Judy Wakeley, a seamstress of traditional Choctaw clothing, is surrounded by the bright faces of Kaili Harrison, and Tori and Taylor Archuleta.



Lynnette Oliver and Elaine Bledsoe man their booth in L.A.