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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

October 2013 Issue

Highway named in honor of Choctaw Code Talkers

By DEIDRE ELROD

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The State of Oklahoma has honored an elite group of men by renaming 55 miles of Highway 3 between Antlers and Broken Bow the “World War I Choctaw Code Talkers Highway.”

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Choctaw Code Talkers Association (CCTA) hosted a dedication of the section of highway on Friday, Sept. 6, near where it begins at the intersection of Highway 3 and the Indian Nation Turnpike in Antlers.

“It is very fitting to name this beautiful stretch of road through Pushmataha and McCurtain counties after the Choctaw Code Talkers. Many of them were from this area,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “The recognition by the state will add to educating others about the first men who used their native language as a weapon.”

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation placed permanent markers in both Antlers and Broken Bow, bearing the name.

Ruth McMillan, a member of the executive committee of CCTA, wanted to honor the soldiers and suggested naming a highway after them. State Rep. R.C. Pruett introduced the legislation to get the name changed to WWI Choctaw Code Talkers Highway. With hard work and help from Rep. Pruett and many others, McMillan was able to see her vision fulfilled.

“A dream can be a dream, but it has to become a reality. It takes pulling together as a team to make things happen,” said Nuchi Nashoba, CCTA president.

Out of the 19 original Choctaw Code Talkers, 14



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, tribal council members and descendants of the World War I Choctaw Code Talkers cele-

brate the naming of the section of Highway 2 between Antlers and Broken Bow.

resided in the state’s 19th district and walked the highway often, Nashoba said. “A lot of the descendants still live in that area.”

“I’m excited that they are finally getting the history documented and the recognition that people understand there were Code Talkers in the first World War and not just the second one,” said Beth Lawless, also a member of the CCTA.

In 1917 Choctaw Indians were not citizens of the United States and their language was considered

obsolete. The Germans had decoded Allied Forces’ messages before Choctaw soldiers used their native language as a code for military messages.

When the Choctaw language was spoken over the field telephones, the Germans had no idea what the Choctaws were saying and couldn’t effectively spy on them.

A captured German officer confessed that his intelligence personnel “were completely confused by the Indian language and gained

no benefit whatsoever from their wiretaps.” The Choctaw language helped bring an end to World War I.

Funds for the sign were donated by descendants of the Code Talkers’ families, state representatives and the Choctaw Nation. The CCTA will also be raising funds for a granite plaque to be placed on the highway to provide history of the Choctaw Code Talkers for travelers.

For more information about the Code Talkers, log on to www.choctawnation.com.

The Choctaw Code Talkers

Albert Billy
Ben Carterby
Benjamin Colbert Jr.
Benjamin Hampton
Calvin Wilson
George Davenport
James Edwards
Jeff Nelson
Joseph Davenport
Joseph Oklahombi

Mitchell Bobb
Noel Johnson
Pete Maytubby
Robert Taylor
Solomon Lewis
Tobias Frazier
Otis Leader
Victor Brown
Walter Veach

Join the Choctaw Nation as we honor all our veterans during a ceremony 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at Tvshka Homma.

Assistant Chief Batton named a SE ‘Distinguished Alumni’

■ Batton honored during 2013 Homecoming festivities in Durant

Assistant Chief Gary Batton was named one of Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s Distinguished Alumni. The Alumni Association recognized Batton, as well as two other Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Jim Barnes and Mr. Robert “Rob” Wells, at the Distinguished Awards Banquet as a part of 2013 Homecoming festivities.

Batton (Class of ’89) has served in a number of capacities with The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma since 1987. In 2007, he was named Assistant Chief under Chief Gregory Pyle.

In his 26 years with the Choctaw Nation, Batton has continuously looked for ways to improve and expand services and has been an integral part of the Tribe’s growth and success. Numerous Choctaw Nation programs and services have been created and enhanced under his leadership, including the

Diabetes Wellness Center, the Youth Advisory Board, Veterans’ Advocacy, and Choctaw University.

He helps support Chief Pyle’s initiatives of health, education and jobs by expanding and increasing the profitability of current businesses and adding new businesses. Overall, businesses have shown a 69 percent increase in profitability since his appointment in 2007 and Tribal services continue to grow and evolve.

In addition, Batton has represented the Choctaw Nation on numerous boards and committees, including the National Budget Committee for Indian Health Service, the National Health Service Corps National Advisory Council, and the Tribal Technical Advisory Committee for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He currently serves on the Thunderbird Youth Academy



Photo provided

Southeastern president Larry Minks congratulates the 2013 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award – Rob Wells, Dr. Jim Barnes, and Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Foundation Board, the Children’s Hospital Foundation Board of Advocates, the Choctaw Nation Chahta Foundation Board, and the Southeastern Oklahoma State

University Foundation Board. He received his bachelor’s degree in management from Southeastern with minors in computer science and accounting.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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Vision includes increasing land base of Choctaw Nation

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Choctaw Nation values include growth of prosperity and land base for the Choctaw Nation tribe and tribal people. This tangible growth not only increases pride, it increases the aptitude for sustainability, both as tribal government and as individual tribal members. A part of good stewardship is wise investment of revenue and resources. With that in mind, the Choctaw Nation has invested in a property purchase of

what was formerly known as the “Winding Stair Ranch” or “Arcadia Ranch” near Daisy, Okla. The Heart of the Choctaw is servant leadership. This land purchase is a great opportunity for an investment in the local community to provide jobs, work with local vendors and show good stewardship of land that is in the original boundaries of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I am pleased to report this property has plentiful waterways including ponds and creeks, as well as a diverse terrain of hills, trees and bottom-

land. It is an exciting opportunity to be able to further the 100-year-vision by increasing the land base of our tribe with this property purchase near the lovely Quachita Mountains that the Choctaw Nation will have available for generations to come. The Tribal Council and other leaders of the Choctaw Nation are committed to spending financial resources wisely, researching to utilize this property to the fullest value and tending this land with care.

Merging culture with technology

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Choctaw history and new technology each fascinate me. Using both together, such as teaching our language in the new LEED-certified School of Choctaw Language so students can learn our history and words over the Internet is really inspiring. Walking through the school on a recent tour, we were able to join the teacher in one classroom and visit with students 100 miles away thanks to high-tech cameras, computers and live-stream video conferencing! The technology of the classes being offered to more than 30 public schools, five colleges and also globally over the Internet is an amazing thing. I can remember simply being proud to begin getting wi-fi in our administrative building and hospital and community centers. Now we have our own Choctaw Nation app available on Android, iOS and Windows 8 devices! Anyone can download this app to keep up with the latest in Choctaw news and learn about the history of our people! If you want it, it is available by the following: Android: <http://bit.ly/16MncG0> Windows: <http://bit.ly/1aRpS5S> iOS: <http://bit.ly/1aRq59g> Our ancestors would be surprised at the multiple ways people use technology to research history and learn about our own family stories. A personal testimony is when the cultural preservation staff brought ground penetrating



radar equipment to help locate the graves of some of my cousins in an old cemetery behind my mom’s home. This was a whole new dimension to family research that really got me excited about connecting to my ancestry. These are just a few examples of the way I have seen that technology has changed the way we communicate our culture and heritage – and these are fairly recent changes. I look forward to seeing what our future holds so we can experience and learn from the new ways, (while teaching the old ways!) I am thankful for my ancestors! And I appreciate those who invent the tools that allow us to share Choctaw history with the world!

Chaplain’s Corner

Are you committed?

We thank God for the Bible – His Holy Word. If we did not have the promises of God in the Bible we would be filled with fear. What a glorious privilege to be assured that God knows every step of the way of our life and has made provisions through His wonderful plan of Salvation. If somebody says “saved,” what does that mean to you? A doctor saves a patient’s life by the skill that he uses in surgery. A life guard saves a child from drowning. But in the religious realm many people do not understand what “saved” means. The Apostle Paul said to the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Paul was using “saved” in its spiritual sense.

We all need to be saved. The Bible teaches that we have all broken God’s law. We have all sinned against God, (Romans 3:23), we all need salvation. We have problems in our homes. They are breaking up. We have business problems, health problems, family problems. Sometimes we want to scream. We want to just quit. We try to escape the reality of everyday living by using alcohol or drugs or even by trying suicide. Like that jailer in Philippi, mankind is crying, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30) The Apostle Paul and Silas had been preaching the Gospel. In Macedonia they went to Philippi, a great city and a Roman colony and they went to the place of prayer at the riverside. On their way they met a girl who was demon possessed. Paul said to the demon in the girl: “... come out of her.” And the demon came out. The evil men who controlled the girl became angry because she had been telling future events and they were making money on her fortune telling. The men took Paul and Silas to the magistrates who had them beaten and thrown into jail and put in bonds. Instead of moaning and groaning because their backs were cut and bleeding and because they were in that dungeon, what did they do? Please read this record in Acts 16:25-31. In Acts chapter 16 and verse 25 we read, “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them.” All of a sudden an earthquake shook the whole prison. The doors opened, and the prisoners’ bonds and chains were broken. Under Roman law, if the keepers of the prison ever lost a prisoner, he had to die, so the jailer was on the job all the time. When the keeper of the prison saw the open doors, he thought he would be killed. He pulled out his sword and was ready to kill himself, when in verse 29, “... Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, do thyself no harm for we are all here.” The jailer fell trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas and said in Acts 16:31: “Sirs what must I do to be saved?” Paul and Silas answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” God is Eternal. God created the whole universe. He created us in His



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

own image. (Genesis 1:26) And He holds us accountable for the life that we live. He holds us accountable for what we do with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle John tells us in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” There will be a day of judgment. If we do not know Jesus Christ – we should be trembling. The good news is that, in spite of our sins God loves us. He is willing to save us. He is willing to forgive us. He wants to take us to Heaven. After Peter preached his great sermon at Pentecost we read in Acts 2:37 the people were “pricked in their hearts,” and they said to Peter, “what shall we do?” That’s the same question that the Ethiopian nobleman asked Philip, and Philip answered him, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.” The nobleman believed and went on his way rejoicing. This man didn’t have to do a thing except believe, but what a big word “believe” is. The word “believe” has the idea of trust and faith. You believe to the point that you commit your life to Jesus Christ as Savior and let Him be the Lord of your life. You have no other Lord, no other gods; you are ready to change your whole lifestyle to make Him Lord, to take complete charge of your life. That’s what it means. Are you committed that way? The blind man came as he was, and believed. The leper came as he was, and believed. Mary Magdalene with seven demons came, and believed. The thief on the cross said, “Lord, remember me.” And in that moment Jesus said, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:32-43) The thief had committed evil. He had no time to go and tell anybody he was sorry. He had no time to straighten anything out. He didn’t pay any tithe. He wasn’t baptized. He had no time to do anything. But he was saved that day. That’s how marvelous salvation is. (John 1:12; Romans 4:5) We thank God the Father for His wonderful plan of Salvation through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus left the glories of Heaven to come to this earth. He was born of a virgin. He is fully man and fully God. He became man to pay the penalty for sin, which is death, in our place. God the Father was satisfied with His substitutionary death, that God the Holy Spirit raised Him up on the third day. (Romans 8:11) Today Jesus Christ is alive, He lives, He sits at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 1:1-3) and this is how we come into the presence of God the Father – through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do you believe with all your heart? Have you committed your life completely to Jesus Christ? Have you said, “I want Jesus Christ to be my Savior and my Lord.” Will you make this most important decision of your life? May the Lord bless you in a very special way. Pray for America. Pray for encouragement, strength and wisdom for our leaders.

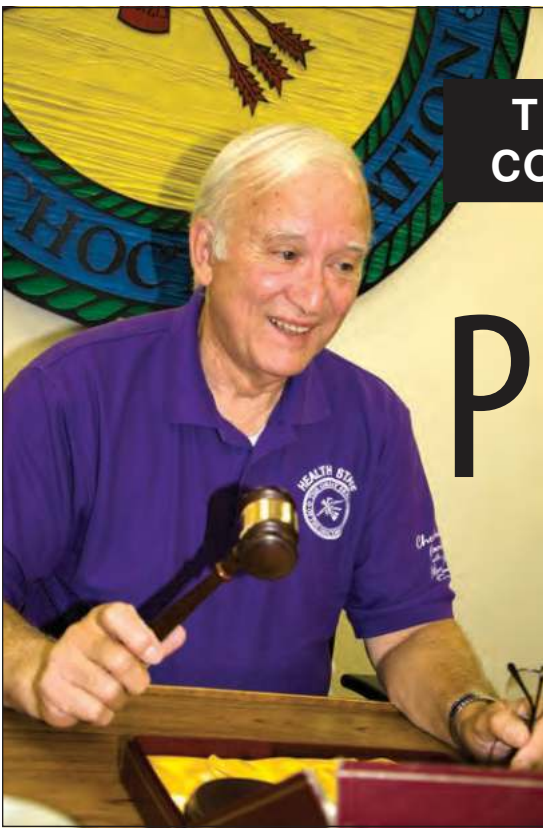
Labor Day volunteers have HEART

A lot of work and planning goes into the Labor Day Festival to ensure the 100,000-plus folks that come have a great time. In fact, there are several jobs that must happen for visitors of the festival to enjoy their visit. I would like to share with you my experience of working alongside the Housing Authority on what they call a “trash run.” I was a bit nervous on what to expect on this adventure. Nonetheless, it was about 6:40 a.m. and it was time to get started. Luckily, I found a crew willing to tolerate a “rookie” and I took my place riding on a trailer that would haul us to our designated area. My team was assigned the amphitheater area. At first sight of the area I was immediately convinced we would be cleaning until the car giveaway Monday morning. Housing staff assessed the area and let me know this amount of trash wasn’t bad at all. Sunday morning is typically the worst day for trash because Saturday has the most guests at the festival. Still, I was a bit taken aback looking at the grounds. We are dropped off and everyone (except me) takes off like thoroughbreds running the Kentucky Derby. Staff immediately starts grabbing full sacks of trash, emptying sacks from the barrels, refilling the barrels with new sacks, and some staff had started picking up trash strewn across the grounds. I can honestly say I made an attempt to lift one sack out of a barrel, but I was not able to budge it so I decided to start picking up trash from the ground. All the trash I could see while riding prisoner-style on the trailer did not prepare me for what was there waiting to be picked up. I was able to identify cups, paper plates, and plastic bottles from a distance. However, I could not see the turkey legs, corndog sticks, straws, lids, lemons, funnel cakes, crawdad shells, and lastly, the dreaded cigarette butt until I was close enough to pick them up. I will admit I had to walk away from the trash a few times to simply catch my breath and breathe in fresh air. I learned quickly that picking up trash is harder than it looks and by 7:15 a.m. I was ready to throw in the towel. I persevered because I did not want my reputation tarnished with the word “quitter” or “wimp.” After what seemed to be an eternity (more like 2 1/2 hours), the bags are gathered and taken to the dumpsters. I look and feel as if I have ran across the country with Forrest Gump. A shower cannot come soon enough and I am thankful that I will miss the 2 p.m. trash run.



VONNA SHULTS
Guest Columnist

To say I have a new appreciation for the Housing Authority is a huge understatement. It was difficult for me to understand how they could withstand this chore year after year. I decided it was because of the H.E.A.R.T. of the Housing Authority. What is H.E.A.R.T? Well, let me explain: **Hardwork.** Picking up trash is hard work. You will get dirty and sweaty. Your back will ache. The muscles in your arms and legs will beg you to quit midway through the task. **Efficient.** The capitol grounds are divided up and crews know beforehand what is their responsibility. Everyone stays on task and in their assigned area. **Attitude.** Let’s face it, picking up trash is not a fun job, especially when it is 100 degrees or more by the time the afternoon run occurs. If you do not have a positive attitude it would be extremely difficult for you to complete this task over the course of the entire festival. **Respect.** The Housing Authority staff share a deep reverence for the tribal grounds of Tvshka Homma, which is demonstrated by their determination to keep the grounds presentable for guests. They take immense pride in completing this worthwhile task that would send other people running away. **Teamwork.** The Housing Authority displayed to me teamwork reminiscent of an ant colony. Every team member knew the goal, understood the task, and did not stop working until everyone had finished that run. You won’t find an MVP on this team because they all work seamlessly together to provide safe and clean festival grounds for everyone to enjoy. One of my friends, Food Distribution employee Trista Winnett, also came for her initiation into trash removal. She had the unique pleasure of serving with the crew that cleans the food court area. As we were reminiscing about our shifts we realized that out of everyone picking up trash that morning, we were the only ones complaining. We heard no grumblings, whining, or complaining from any housing staff. That impressed me more than anything else I witnessed that morning. While Trista and I may never be able to enjoy a corndog or fresh-squeezed lemonade again, the experience of serving with the Housing Authority will be a life lesson I will never forget. While most of the housing staff thanked me over and over for coming out with them that morning, it is I who would like to publicly thank them for sharing with me the most truthful, genuine, and loyal example of servant leadership for the Choctaw people.



TRIBAL
COUNCIL

Sustaining a vision

Protecting what is Choctaw

Delton Cox beginning sixth year in seat of Tribal Council Speaker

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Delton Cox believes we only come through life once and we need to do some good while we are here. Elected in 2001 as Choctaw Nation Councilman for District 4, Cox is fervent about trying to help Choctaw people.

“We also have to keep in mind what we are doing is building as our people have done in the past,” he said.

“Choctaws today are standing on the shoulders of those Choctaw ancestors who went before us.”

Cox was born in Summerfield, a small community in Oklahoma’s LeFlore County. He is one of 11 children, the youngest son of eight boys and three girls born to John Christopher Cox and Ora Ida White Cox. His mother was an original enrollee.

Cox grew up listening to the old folks tell stories. His family has been involved in politics “forever it seems like.”

In the 1870s his great-grandfather, Jerry White, was elected judge, sheriff, and also supposedly one of the leaders of the Snake Choctaws.

“The Snake Choctaws were those people who wanted to continue our way of life, our government, and not take the allotments,” Cox explained.

White was a child when he was brought across the Trail of Tears by his father.

“Great-grandpa died in 1904 in Talihina according to the Antlers paper. He wrote a letter to his son (Cox’s maternal grandfather) telling him to beware of the people who would want to kill you for the land. Protect the land.”

Cox grew up in Summerfield where there was once three stores, two churches and a school for students through the eighth grade. Cox had his first and only brush with the “law,” he says when he tried to start school at 5 years old.

“The rule was that you had to be 5 years old on the first of November to start school. My birthday is Nov. 2 but I tried to start on the first. The teacher made me sit out on the steps.” Cox was back at the school in Sum-

merfield the next school term to start the education he was wanting. Later, he moved to Spiro where he finished his elementary and junior high years. He graduated from LeFlore High School and continued studies at Eastern Oklahoma A&M College in Wilburton, Southeastern State College in Durant, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.; Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss.; Northeastern State University, Tahlequah; the University of Oklahoma at Norman; and Oklahoma State University’s Tulsa campus.

He earned a bachelor’s in education, a master’s in educational administration, and a post-master’s educational specialist degree, as well as certification in several areas of education and general business.

His obvious love of learning has continued through every turn his life has taken him.

Cox dedicated 32 years to education – as a teacher, coach, counselor, program developer, education specialist, instruction specialist, and administrator in tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs school systems and Oklahoma public schools, from elementary through junior college.

Two of the years teaching for the BIA were spent in Mississippi.

“I knew a little Choctaw when I went to Mississippi,” he said. “Everyone spoke Choctaw there, though. If you were Choctaw, you spoke Choctaw.”

Cox learned more about the language and history of the Choctaw. He met his wife, Deloris (Thompson) Cox of the Tucker Community while in Philadelphia, Miss.

He also spent six years as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

The time finally came when Cox could work for and with his fellow Choctaws in Oklahoma. He began as the Nation’s treasurer in 1997 and three and a half years later took a big step toward the future he had always dreamed of – serving as a councilman. The tribal members of District 4 elected Cox and he was sworn in at the Labor Day Festival.

“In this position I can help more people than I ever could in any other way,” Cox said. “The most important thing to me is trying to help our people.”

Cox is beginning his fourth term representing the Choctaw people. He was chosen Council Speaker in 2007 by his fellow council members and has served in that capacity since. His peers chose him by acclamation again this year. The responsibilities of being a councilperson and holding the group’s



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Speaker Delton Cox is with Chief Gregory E. Pyle and several other Oklahoma Choctaws dancing with a group of Mississippi Band of Choctaws in the village at Tvshka Homma during a Labor Day Festival.

highest position are priorities with Cox.

He spends days on the road, often driving six hours roundtrip from his home in Pocola to Durant for meetings. He travels to the state and national capitols to work with other tribal leaders and government officials.

He works with the members in his area, communicating their needs and problems to the appropriate people. As a council member, he is able to help people improve their quality of life through getting a good education, provide opportunities to improve their health, find jobs, housing, and help them get better roads and infrastructure in their communities.

Cox enjoys spending time with the elders at the Poteau center and at the center in Spiro which he shares with Councilman Ron Perry. The fellowship with families gives him a chance to get to know them better and he is available to answer questions about Choctaw Nation activities and programs. Choctaw Day was held for the first time in Poteau this summer and a Choctaws Then and Now celebration was held Oct. 8.

Being a part of the community gives Cox many ways to work with others and provide

another perspective based on past experiences and education. He is a representative of the Choctaw people in northern LeFlore County and the whole Choctaw Nation. He serves on the LeFlore County Court Appointed Special Advocate Board, Kiamichi Technology Foundation Board, the LeFlore County Historical Society, and is a member of the Governing Board for the Choctaw Nation hospital and clinics.

Delton and Deloris raised their children to know and understand Choctaw ways. They have two sons, Nate Cox of Durant and Daniel Cox of Poteau, and four grandchildren. Their oldest granddaughter, Kassie, lives in Carthage, Miss., and their youngest granddaughter, Isabelle Cox of Durant, represents District 9 as the 2013-14 Little Miss and won Little Miss Choctaw Nation in the Labor Day Princess Pageant. Their two grandsons, Miko and Koey, live in Poteau.

“We should never forget what it means to be Choctaw,” Cox said, “and to always remember those Choctaws who have gone before you and the hardships they endured. We have the duty and responsibility of protecting what is Choctaw.”

Council elects 2013-14 officers

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council held its last regular session of the fiscal year on Sept. 14 at Tvshka Homma. Included in the agenda were election and appointment of positions for 2013-14.

Delton Cox, Thomas Williston and Joe Coley were chosen by acclamation to continue their roles as speaker, secretary and chaplain, respectively.

Speaker Cox reappointed Bob Rabon as parliamentarian, Sylvester Moore as sergeant-at-arms and Patty Hawkins as secretary of the Tribal Council.

The 12-member council divides into two committees that regularly meet with Choctaw programs, services and businesses. Committee 1 is comprised of Ron Perry, Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Perry Thompson, Anthony Dillard and Bob Pate. Members of Committee 2 are Thomas Williston, Kenny Bryant, Tony Messenger, Delton Cox, Ted Dosh and James Frazier.

Individual councilmembers also serve on other boards such as an ethics subcommittee and a land acquisition and property subcommittee, donations and gaming committees, and local community organizations.

Twenty council bills were introduced during new business. Approved were:

- the budget for FY 2012-13 Choctaw



SPEAKER
DELTON COX



SECRETARY
THOMAS WILLISTON



CHAPLAIN
JOE COLEY

Nation VOCA Grant;

- Fiscal Year 2014 budgets for the General Fund, Choctaw Nation VOCA Grant, Child Care Development Fund, estimated Grant Expenditures, estimated Consolidated Tribal Government Programs, Choctaw Nation Women’s, Infants and Children (WIC), WIC Farmer’s Market, and the Health Services Authority.
- modifications for FY/2013 Choctaw Nation WIC and Choctaw Nation WIC Farmers Market budgets;
- funds and budget for Food Distribution Program Nutrition Education;
- funds and budget for the Support

for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and their Families program;

- a 10-year Natural Resource Management Plan;
- an Electric Transmission Line Easement with AEP Oklahoma Transmission Co. Inc.;
- a revocable permit with Mike Scantlen;
- creation of CNO Investments LLC.;
- equity investment in IC Intelligence;
- and investment in a gaming machine lease with Integrity Gaming Inc.

Kil i yakoke
Let us give thanks

District dinners
will be held to celebrate

Thanksgiving

Antlers	Nov. 21	6 p.m.
Atoka.....	Nov. 13	12 p.m.
Bethel.....	Nov. 25	6 p.m.
Broken Bow.....	Nov. 13	12 p.m.
Coalgate	Nov. 6	12 p.m.
Coalgate Community.....	Nov. 10	2 p.m.
Crowder	Nov. 13	11:30 a.m.
Crowder Community	Nov. 17	1 p.m.
Durant Community at Event Center.....	Nov. 4	6 p.m.
Hugo	Nov. 14	11:30 a.m.
Idabel	Nov. 13	6 p.m.
McAlester	Nov. 13	11:30 a.m.
McAlester Community.....	Nov. 17	1 p.m.
Poteau.....	Nov. 27	12 p.m.
Smithville.....	Nov. 13	12 p.m.
Spiro	Nov. 12	11:15 a.m.
Stigler	Nov. 6	12 p.m.
Talihina	Nov. 14	11 a.m.
Tvshka Homma.....	Nov. 7	6 p.m.
Wilburton.....	Nov. 13	12 p.m.
Wright City	Nov. 14	6 p.m.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for:
Nov. 6 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
Nov. 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed: Nov. 11 and 28-29 for Tribal Holiday and Nov. 25-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 8, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for:
Closed: Nov. 11 and 28-29 for Tribal Holiday and Nov. 25-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 12, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for:
Closed: Nov. 11 and 28-29 for Tribal Holiday and Nov. 25-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for:
Closed: Nov. 11 and 28-29 for Tribal Holiday and Nov. 25-27 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

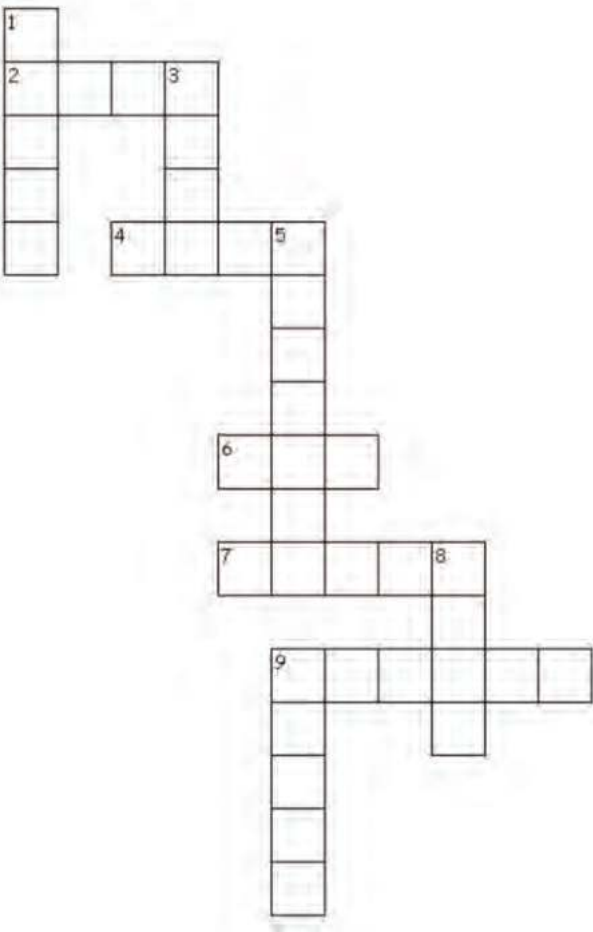
Antlers: 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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MyPlate Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. You should fill _____ your plate with fruits and vegetables at each meal.

4. Refining grain removes its bran and _____. Whole grains still contain both, along with plenty of fiber and nutrients.

6. Protein and dairy foods should be low in macronutrient.

7. Nuts and _____ contain healthy fats and protein, but should be eaten in moderation.

9. Choose foods that are low in this salty substance.

Down


1. Make at least half your grains _____ every day.

3. MyPlate’s vegetable group has _____ subgroups.

5. This is the name of the USDA’s new food guide icon.

8. Stick to low-fat or _____ dairy products; they have much less saturated fat than whole and are better for your heart.

9. Soda, sport drinks, sweetened teas and other similar beverages all have way too much _____. Replace them with water and your body will thank you.



FMI see ChooseMyPlate.gov

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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

NURSERY NEWS


Gideon Ferguson

Gideon A. Ferguson was born on June 5, 2013, in West Chester, Pa., to Vincent and Lauren Ferguson. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. Paternal grandparents are David and Helena of Ohio. Maternal grandparents are Jerriann and Drew of Pennsylvania. Vincent is the grandson of the late Minnie Voyles of Talihina. Uncles are Jonathan Ferguson of California and Dana Manze of Pennsylvania. Gideon was also welcomed by his sister, Anna Ferguson, his first cousin, Gabriel Ferguson, of California and numerous extended family members.




Landon Culver

Proud parents Paul and Michelle Culver and big sister Katrina Culver welcome their beautiful baby boy, Landon John Culver, born on May 30, 2013. At birth, Landon weighed 9 pounds 10 ounces and 21.5 inches long. Landon and his family live in Glendora, Calif., and he is a descendant of Choctaw original enrollee Amanda Lomer.



Callie Hudson

Callie Ray Hudson was born at 2:55 a.m. on April 27, 2013, at Providence Saint Peter Hospital in Olympia, Wash. She weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Callie was born to Derrick W. Hudson of Broken Bow and Darice K. Hudson of Tumwater, Wash. She was welcomed to their home in Centralia, Wash. Paternal grandparents are Merle and Michelle Henson of LaGrange, Texas, and Robert Hudson of Maysville. Paternal great-grandparents are Glen and Barbara Bugher of Golden. Maternal grandparents are Richard and Nancie Oster of Olympia, Wash., and Bob and Dawn Russel of Joliet, Ill., great-grandparents are Myrte Jennings of Port Orchard, Wash., and Ilene Russell of Bel Fair, Wash.



Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Child Care Program announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents. In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, participating institutions are prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call toll-free 866-632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing-impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Eight healthy eating goals


Small changes can make a big difference to your health. Try incorporating at least six of the eight goals below into your diet. Commit to incorporating one new healthy eating goal each week over the next six weeks. You can track your progress through PALA+

1. Make half your plate fruits and vegetables
2. Make half the grains you eat whole grains
3. Switch to fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk
4. Choose a variety of lean protein foods
5. Choose low sodium in foods
6. Drink water instead of sugary drinks
7. Eat some seafood once a week
8. Cut back on solid fats

REFERENCES:
1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. Obesity Trends. 2011. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/trends.HTML>



WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS
AND CHILDREN



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

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

Child car seat inspections offered at Hugo

Safe Kids Tulsa Area urges parents and caregivers to make sure their child safety seats are properly installed in their vehicles. Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Coordinator, Cassandra Herring will have certified child passenger safety technicians available to provide hands-on instruction on installing car seats and booster seats at Tribal Services Building in Hugo at 403 Chahta Circle, from 2-4 pm, November 20, 2013.

"It's the responsibility of every parent and caregiver to make sure their children are safely restrained – every trip, every time and at every age," said Beth Washington. "We are urging everyone to have their child checked to be sure they are using the right restraint—a car seat, booster seat or seat belt. When it comes to the safety of a child, there is no room for mistakes."

According to a 2008 study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the use of child restraints declines as children get older. From birth to 12 months, 99 percent of children ride in a restraint. It drops to 92 percent for kids ages 1 to 3. For children ages 4 to 7, 89 percent are restrained. But only 85 percent of kids ages 8 to 12 ride in a restraint.

"Parents need to set the rules and stay vigilant," said Beth Washington. "Booster seats and seat belts are just as important for older kids as car seats are for younger kids."

According to Beth Washington, parents and caregivers should follow a few basic guidelines for determining which

restraint system is best suited to protect their children in a vehicle:

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in a back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible—up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. Never turn a child forward-facing before age 1 and at least 20 pounds, although keeping kids rear-facing until age 2 is safer and preferred if the seat allows.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats, they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in a back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular harnessed seat. Many newer seats exceed the old 40 pound weight limit.
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats, they should ride on booster seats, in a back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly.
4. Seat belts fit properly when the child can pass the Safety Belt Fit Test: the lap belt lays across the upper thighs, the shoulder belt rests on the shoulder or collar bone and the knees bend naturally at the seat's edge (usually when the child is between 8 and 12 years old, approximately 4'9" tall and 80 to 100 pounds).
5. After children fully outgrow their booster seats, they should use the adult seat belts in a back seat. The lap belt should lie across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt rests on the shoulder or collar bone.

NOTES TO THE NATION



Photo provided

Latimer County E-911 Supervisor Craig Johnson, left, accepts a donation presented by Councilman Joe Coley from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Donation benefits Latimer County

I am the supervisor for Latimer County E-911 dispatch center. On Friday, Aug. 16, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma District 6 Tribal Councilmember Joe Coley came to our dispatch office in Wilburton and presented us with a donation of \$5,000.

On behalf of our Latimer County E-911, I want to thank Joe Coley and the entire Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for their generous donation to our agency and for all you do for Latimer County.

As Latimer County's only public safety access point we deal with Choctaw Tribal Police almost every day of the year. During my years of dispatching I can truly say that every Tribal PD officer that I have had contact with, including the Tribal PD dispatchers and the Choctaw Nation hospital security staff, have been very helpful and cooperative with our law enforcement coordination needs.

Your contribution to our E-911 dispatch center comes at a time of great financial need. Currently, the E-911 fees for telephone land lines are greater than those same fees for cell phones. As more and more people switch from land lines to cell phones the fees that our agency receives go down. Plus, everything we use to run our agency keeps going up in cost.

Thank you for all you do for Latimer County and for us here at the E-911 dispatch.

**Craig Johnson, supervisor
Latimer County E-911**

Family enjoys festival

We enjoyed the festival very much. All the people were so friendly and helpful! This grandma brought seven kids and watched son-in-law play softball. We camped and stayed three nights. Thank you for all the free rides and school supplies.

**Brenda Lininger
Kolbie, Haleigh and Voshti Wall
Alyssa, Jaren and Caleb Tidmore
Ashlyn Lininger**

Choctaw Nation supports employees

I would like to thank you for always supporting your employees. I have really enjoyed working for the Choctaw Nation at Bennington Head Start. I appreciate the implementation of Employee Health. I used them for the toe I broke at the women's stickball game. I would like to also thank you for the opportunities to further my education with the help of the Choctaw Nation.

Tracy Baker

Thankful for service and hard work

I am always glad to see the new Choctaw calendar. However, the 2014 calendar is so spectacular that I feel compelled to express my delight and give applause for the lovely native art portrayed. It also gave me cause to pause and reflect on the gratitude that I and my family have for your services. My father, from whom I get my Choctaw heritage, has been suffering from some health issues which led him to losing his insurance and career. Without Indian Health Services he would have no access to medical care. Thank you for your service, hard work and beauty.

Tiffany Bjorlie

Education goals reached

Four years ago, I was a stay-at-home mom. I had bypassed a college education to instead focus on starting a family. At least in my own mind, I was a fairly successful mother, but I was yearning for something more. I wanted to go to college.

Without the help of the Choctaw Nation I wouldn't be able to say I graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. Not only did Higher Education help me with college funding but Career Development even helped me to formulate a resume. With my education I was able to acquire a job working at Whitten Burrage Law firm as a paralegal. One of the partners, Michael Burrage, was the first Choctaw Native American federal judge and proudly represents his Choctaw heritage in all aspects of his life.

The efforts and support of the Choctaw Nation allowed me to successfully complete my higher education goals. I grew up with a grandfather, Albert Byington Sr., who valued two things – his heritage and his education. My grandfather had to quit school in the eighth grade and get a job to help support his family. He wasn't allowed the opportunities I have been afforded. He was discriminated against because of his race and yet he wore it as a badge of honor. He taught his children and grandchildren to carry that same pride.

If not for the influence and assistance of the Choctaw Nation, I might never have had the ability to attend college. I want to thank every member of the Choctaw Nation. If not for all of you, I couldn't have made my grandfather proud. He passed away about 15 years ago, but I know somewhere he is celebrating this victory with me.

Thank you,

Kera McBride

EVENTS

Gospel Singing

The Pastor's and member's of the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, Caddo, Okla., invites you to come and listen to an annointed gospel group and minister, Johnny Sevensenstar Jr., and Rev. Mona Bearshield of Anadarko, Okla., on Oct. 27, 2013, at 6 p.m. Admission is free and come expecting a blessing.



Choctaw Nation believes in education

Triple thanks to the Choctaw Nation for help in funding higher education costs for my family. With the help of the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department and Career Development, my sons and I have completed our desired degrees. Pictured are Blake Thomas Chadwick, Bachelor of Science in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at The University of Texas at Dallas, Angela Moffitt Chadwick, Education Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership at Texas A&M University – Commerce, and Brandon James Chadwick, Bachelor of Science in Political Science at Texas A&M University – Commerce. We are truly proud of our Choctaw heritage and thank you for the effort and emphasis that the Choctaw Nation places in continuing education.

Angela M. Chadwick

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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.

Are you over 18 years old?

Don't forget to update your tribal membership card!

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

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

McCreadys inducted into Missouri Music Hall of Fame

Story courtesy of Wes James

On Saturday evening, Aug. 31, 2013, Choctaw Tribal Member Rich McCready and his dad, William “Doc” McCready, made history in St. Joseph, Mo. They became the first father and son to be inducted into the Missouri Music Hall of Fame. At 43, Rich is also the youngest person to receive this prestigious honor. “Out of all my awards and accolades over the years, this [induction into the Missouri Music Hall of Fame] is the best one by far,” says Doc.

Rich goes on to agree with his dad that, “This is a huge honor and I’m proud to have shared this stage with my dad.” Doc and Rich join such other notables as rock and roll legend, Chuck Berry, Tenor Saxophonist Coleman Hawkins, blues guitarist Teddy Paxton and radio host Bob Heater.

Influenced by classic country music artists like Merle Haggard, Bob Wills, George Strait and his dad, Rich grew up with country music and began performing at an early age. In 1992 Rich moved to Nashville to begin his career and subsequently toured with artists such as Tracy Byrd, Toby Keith, Patty Loveless and Garth Brooks.

In 1995 Rich signed with Magnatone Records and produced his first single, “Hangin On.” His video was voted one of the top CMT 100 videos of all times. Later, in 2004, McCready’s song was adopted by TNN as the theme song for their Championship Rodeo broadcast. During 1996 and 1997, McCready had three R&R Chart hit singles and two top-40 hits on the Billboard charts. Later he made history as the first artist to have songs he wrote and recorded make it to number one on Christian Country Music Association charts three years in a row.

McCready has been nominated by the Country Music Association for Male Vocalist of the Year, Video of the Year, and Single of the Year. In addition, he has received numerous awards including the prestigious First American in the Arts Award for Musical Achievement.



Photo provided

Doc and Rich McCready

Rich left Nashville in 2005 and returned home to the Seneca, Mo., area. “I wanted my children to grow up in the same environment where I grew up and attend the same schools I attended,” Rich noted. “I wanted them to share the same great experience I had.”

Rich now performs primarily in the Midwest to be close to his family, but still tours a few times during the year. He also makes regular trips to Nashville to continue co-writing songs with some of the biggest names in country music. Rich also spends a considerable amount of time helping talented young artists polish their performance skills and giving them valuable advice and incite about the music business.

Doc, who was born and raised in Sand Springs, graduated from Sand Springs High School in 1955. Then went on to get his degree in chemistry and biology from Northeastern State College in Talequah, Okla., in 1962. He then moved to Kansas City, Mo., to pursue a career in periodontics. Upon receiving his D.D.S in 1966, he went on to get his

degree in periodontics in 1976. He and his wife Ramona then moved to Seneca to begin practicing in nearby Joplin. Music remained his beloved avocation through it all. For more than 50 years, singer/ songwriter/ musician and record producer Doc McCready has performed in the four-state, Missouri/Arkansas/Oklahoma/Kansas area and in the country music capitol, Nashville.

Money was never his objective when it came to music. Paid or not paid, Doc performed for the love of performing. An outstanding singer and accomplished instrumentalist, Doc is also a member of two professional songwriter’s organizations: the Midwest Chapter - Nashville Songwriters Association and ASCAP. In 2007 one of the songs he co-wrote, “If God Wrote a Country Song,” went to number one on the Christian Country Music Association charts. His latest co-creation, “A Good Country Song,” is currently available on son Rich McCready’s latest album, “Ride On.” Doc also produced his son’s 2005 album Rich McCready.

In addition to playing and singing with his own band, Doc has also joined sessions with some of the best, well-known musicians in country music. He has also shared the stage with his own singer/ songwriter/recording artist son, Rich McCready and on TNN’s Wild Horse Saloon broadcasts.

In 2004, Doc and Rich opened “McCready Recording Studio” just south of Seneca. Doc recently retired from his periodontal practice to spend more time in this state-of-the-art facility. The studio, located in a peaceful, rural setting is unique when compared to Nashville studios located in the hustle and bustle of a major city. Besides featuring the latest and best technology available, the studio also provides dormitory accommodations for singers and band members who are working on record projects. For more info about the Missouri Music Hall of Fame please visit their website, missourimusicalloffame.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



VICTORIA GONZALEZ

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Victoria Baker Gonzalez who turned 50 years old on Sept. 4. Victoria lives in Stigler and is a foster parent to two nephews and a niece. She also has three children of her own. "Good job, Babe!" from your mom.



SHIRLEY DEES SUMMERS

Happy 73rd birthday to Shirley Dees Summers of Shawnee on Sept. 25. Shirley appreciates receiving the Biskinik every month and is very proud of her Choctaw heritage.



JACK JENNINGS

"Choctaw Jack" Jennings of Green Valley, Az., is celebrating his 90th birthday on Oct. 19. Happy birthday, Choctaw Jack!



Little Miss Okla Chahta Princess of California, Skylar Carmack is celebrating her 11th birthday on Nov. 7. Her family would like to wish her the best birthday ever. Skylar has been so excited and proud to learn about her family history, culture and traditions, along with being able to represent the Okla Chahta Clan of California this year. We are so proud of you.

Wade completes Marine training

Reilly Jackson Wade became a U.S. Marine on Aug. 16. Wade completed 12 weeks of difficult training to earn the Marine title. His sacrifice, hard work and commitment to excellence are recognized in this transformation.



Wade’s ancestry in the Choctaw Nation proceeds through his father, Roy Wayne Wade; grandfather Leslie Wayne Wade; great-grandfather Buster Elais Wade; great-great-grandfather Ellis Wade and great-great-grandmother Lillie Taylor. His accomplishment is celebrated by his mother, Janet Lynn Wade; grandmother Wilma Jean Day Bolseth, brothers Mitchell, Jesse and Tyler, stepmother, Jana, stepbrother Ethan and relatives throughout the nation.

Wade has moved on to Marine combat training and then will proceed to military occupation school. Congratulations on this honorable achievement!

Halliburton to serve on Agriculture Ambassador team

Jade Halliburton of Crossett, Ark., has been selected to serve on the 2013-14 National Collegiate Agriculture Ambassador team by the National FFA Organization.

Halliburton is a sophomore studying Agriculture Education and Mass Communications at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark. She is the daughter of Lee and Robyn Halliburton, granddaughter of Billy and Mary Ray, great-granddaughter of Bill and Norma Ray and great-great-granddaughter of Edward and Olive Plummer.


Halliburton underwent specialized training Aug. 5-9 in Greensboro, N.C., to learn how to best advocate for agriculture and agricultural education throughout the nation. Each ambassador must complete a minimum of 30 hours of presentations to businesses, schools, community groups and more. They will also

facilitate seminars and workshops to audiences of all ages interested in learning more about the agriculture industry.

Those selected as ambassadors were chosen in early July. Each ambassador will serve a year in their role and receive a \$1,000 scholarship for their efforts that can be used toward tuition and other school expenses.

The 2013-14 National Collegiate Ambassador program is sponsored by Syngenta, BASF and Cargill.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 557,318 student members in grades 7 through 12 who belong to one of 7,498 local FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.



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 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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



Happy birthday to Charles "Cricket" Daniel who celebrated his 80th birthday in early September with his five daughters and other family and close friends. Charles grew up in Crowder and has lived in Farmington, N.M., for many years. Charles is proud of his Choctaw heritage and appreciative of the scholarships the tribe has given to his family.



Lyric Mitchell celebrated her 3rd birthday with family and friends on Sept. 17 at Chuck-E-Cheese with a Monster's Inc. theme. Lyric is the daughter of Jakie and Lisa (Taylor) Mitchell of Norman the granddaughter of Norris and the late Brenda (Taylor) Samuels of Oklahoma City and Johnny and Teri Mitchell of Hartshorne, great-granddaughter of the late Jack Dollins and Carolyn Dollins of Hartshorne, the late Howard Wilson Taylor from Ardmore, the late Joann Mae Jim of Atoka, and the late Anthony Mitchell of Hanna. She is of the Choctaw, Seminole and Creek tribes.



2012 Event Presented by:

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA - SCHOLARSHIP ADVISEMENT PROGRAM

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

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

Annual Superintendents’ Luncheon has educators looking to future

Partnerships between Southeast Oklahoma schools and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma show promise for the future of education

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Educators from across Southeast Oklahoma gathered last month for the Second Annual Superintendents’ Luncheon hosted by Choctaw Nation Department of Education at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton.

The Sept. 17 meeting was focused on continuing and strengthening a cooperative effort between the 85 school districts represented within Choctaw Nation’s 10.5 counties and the Choctaw Nation Department of Education. Superintendents from almost all these schools were present for the gathering.

Since the initial luncheon in 2012, a pilot program set in place between Durant Schools and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) has seen considerable success. That program is the Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE), and is charged with providing academic remediation to students in grades Pre-K through second grade, according to Paula Harp, director of POSSE.

“It was a wonderful program and a great partnership,” said Valerie Crabtree, principal of the Durant summer school program as she took the podium to discuss methods utilized and results discovered upon completion of the pilot.

According to Crabtree, POSSE’s inaugural summer was well received by students, teachers and parents alike. Teachers were thrilled to be working in a more hands-on situation with smaller classes and more time to devote to each student, she said.

Parents of the elementary students were pleased to see their kids reinforcing subjects key to a solid academic foundation, assuring that students were progressing at a steady pace. “Our phones were ringing off the hook with more parents wanting to enroll their kids in our summer school program,” Crabtree stated.

The seven-week program hosted at Washington Irving Elementary saw 185



Choctaw Nation: SCOTT WESLEY

Valerie Crabtree, principal of the Durant summer school program, addresses attendees regarding the results of the POSSE pilot program.

Kindergarten through second grade students. Those enrolled in the pilot were by teacher recommendation. Classes were held Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., and spanned June 3 to July 25.

The summer’s agenda was set up with an overarching theme, “The Great Outdoor Adventure,” and contained smaller sub-themes to encourage a more immersive, interesting and therefore effective experience. Intense morning classes covered core subjects and afternoon activities reinforced lessons in a fun way.

A total of 16 morning and seven afternoon teachers, combined with the help of Choctaw Nation summer youth workers, “created a different approach to learning. [We] traded in a traditional approach to a more hands-on and diverse learning,” according to Crabtree.

The results of this technique speak to its success. According to a report submitted by the Choctaw Nation Department of Education,

- Pre-K class average showed improvement of 19 percent in letter recognition and 30 percent in sound recognition.
- Kindergarten – 83 percent learned all capital and lower case letters and 73 percent recognized all required sounds.

• Young people who acted as tutors are now interested in teaching. Others have a better understanding of how to help their own children some day.

In 2014, POSSE is planning to expand to all of Bryan County utilizing Rock Creek and Calera facilities along with Durant as centers for all schools. During the program, CNO pays for all salaries, snacks, supplies, and arts and crafts materials, while the schools are responsible for providing teachers, transportation, software and meals, according to the report.

Another hot-topic at the gathering was the Choctaw Making A Difference (MAD) program, which is geared toward high school students. This initiative’s first priority is to make sure Choctaw students graduate.

MAD has helped in several differing facets of education. From providing the means for students to retake the End of Instruction (EOI) tests when needed, to providing extra tutoring and/or counseling, MAD has already made a considerable difference in the lives of Choctaw students.

To increase that influence, Choctaw Nation’s Education Department has encouraged all superintendents to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing certain portions of their student information databases to be shared with CNO.

This sharing of information will allow CNO to identify Choctaw students, enabling them to enroll in the program and receive help they were previously ineligible to acquire. Forty-six MOUs were signed prior to the meeting, contributing to the growing influence of MAD.

“Kids that might not have graduated, have graduated because of the Choctaw Nation,” stated Clayton School Superintendent Randall Erwin as he spoke of the impact MAD has already made in his school.

Cary Ammons, superintendent of Antlers Schools, was also onboard with cooperating with CNO through MAD. By allowing the sharing of information, Ammons hopes to streamline services by identifying Choctaws



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Superintendents line up at the STAR booth to learn how the program can benefit their schools.

in the school district, permitting more access to services afforded by CNO.

Choctaw Nation has been so good to us by providing help, “it’s a no brainer for us,” said Ammons, who hopes to have the infrastructure in place by May.

Also on the agenda, was an address to the educators from CNO Language Director Jim Parrish, STAR Program Director Jason Campbell, Chahta Foundation Director Stacy Shepherd and Tribal Councilman Thomas Williston.

Parrish and Campbell shared updates on each of their programs, discussing the benefits already offered to students within the school districts, as well as future ways CNO hopes to strengthen education.

Campbell mentioned that the STAR program currently has almost 16,000 students enrolled. “It all started with your help,” he said thanking the school leaders.

Shepherd informed attendees of all the initiatives afforded by the Chahta Foundation, a non-profit organization that works closely with CNO. Through the foundation, students are able to receive scholarships as well as preserve their heritage.

Williston, who spoke on behalf of the tribal council, sang praises to the efforts of both school districts and CNO programs alike. He and the Choctaw leadership were pleased at the cooperation each of the districts has displayed, allowing for the betterment of the youth.

Conservation cost-share program Year 15 signup announced

The Bryan Conservation District has set the application period for the Oklahoma Conservation Cost-Share Program Year 15 to begin on Oct. 15, 2013, and end on Nov. 15, 2013.

The program offers financial assistance for construction of new farm ponds and this year the Conservation District has added drilling of water wells (for livestock only) to their conservation practices. The local cost-share rate is 75 percent of the total cost, not to exceed an amount to be determined by the district board. Landowners can file an

application at the Bryan Conservation District office located in the Durant USDA Service Center, 200 Gerlach, Suite A from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Because of limited funds, a ranking system will be used to determine who is approved if more applications are received than can be funded. “This system ensures fairness to landowners and ensures that cost-share funds are used to meet conservation priorities,” said Jeff Brown, chairman of the Bryan Conservation District Board.

Some restrictions apply in the program.

The applicant must certify that they own or operate at least 20 acres of land from which more than \$1,000 of soil-dependent products are sold annually.

All applicants will be notified if they are or are not approved for funding. In order to qualify for payment, the application must be approved and a performance agreement must be signed by both the participant and the district before any installation work begins.

This program, authorized by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1998, is administered at

the state level by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and at the local level by the conservation district.

The district takes applications and helps participants complete the necessary paperwork for payment. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance for the program.

Landowners with questions about the program are invited to visit the Bryan Conservation District Office or call 580-924-5464.

Choctaw Nation Head Start, Pre-school recruiting now

The Head Start program of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma continues to recruit prospective students for the 2013-2014 school year. The program serves children who will be at least 3, but not 5, years of age, by Sept. 1.

Although they have a Native American preference, non-Native Americans are welcome and no CDIB is required. Families of children with special needs are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Head Start program assists families in obtaining needed support services for children with special needs.

Choctaw Nation Head Start provides families with assistance in their efforts to obtain educational, health, nutritional and social services. The program provides a nutritional breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack each day. The Head Start program is directed primarily toward low-income families and offers the possibility of free afternoon care for families who qualify. The Head Start program will provide transportation to assist as many families as possible who need transportation in order for children to attend the Head Start Program activities.

The Choctaw Nation Head Start program is a “school readiness program.” All classrooms have state certified teachers and qualified teacher assistants. Parent, family, and community engagement in school readiness enhances the quality of lives and promotes the long-term, lifelong success of children.

For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Center in your community or choctawnation.com.

Also, you may contact, the Durant administration office at 800-522-6170, ext. 2219 or 2555.

Choctaw geriatric clinics now open

Choctaw Nation opens clinics in four locations as part of Healthy Aging Initiative

The Choctaw Nation is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new geriatric clinics in the McAlester, Idabel, Poteau and Talihina facilities. A clinic will also open next to the Employee Health Clinic on Westside Boulevard in Durant.

The opening of the clinics is one piece of the Healthy Aging Initiative introduced in March by the Choctaw Nation Health Services.

The Healthy Aging Initiative provides care management involved with wellness, social services, and geriatric functional assessments by an RN Case Manager. These services are provided throughout the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

Four board certified or board eligible geriatricians have been hired by the Health Service and will be an integral part of the Healthy Aging Initiative.

The ratio of geriatrician to patient population ranks the Choctaw Nation in the top 5 percent of this field of medicine.

The geriatric clinics will provide patient-cen-

tered, team-based care for clients 65 years and older. Our elders are a high care priority for the clinics.

The new clinics will provide evidenced-based, best practices in geriatric care. The goal is to help our elders maintain the most independent level of living possible.

Geriatric patients have complex medical and/or social needs such as memory problems, gait or balance issues, depression or anxiety, medication management as well as other problems associated with aging.

The needs of the aging patient tend to be more complex and take more time to provide a thorough assessment and care.

The clinics provide consultative services through referrals from the patient’s primary care provider or self-referral. Patient must have CDIB card to receive services.

Regardless of the referral source or reasons for the consultation, the clinic will maintain regular communication with the patient’s primary care provider regarding the team findings and recommendations.

For more information or to learn more about these services and referral to a clinic please contact the Choctaw Nation Health Services at 800-349-7026, ext. 33004.



Submitted photos

Heavener STAR students

Several Choctaw students at Heavener have been recognized by the Choctaw Nation’s STAR program for all A’s, A’s & B’s, and/or perfect attendance for Spring 2013.

Heavener Schools and the Choctaw Nation commend them for their hard work and effort.

The students are Joey Heavener, Luke Adrean, Cody Drury, Lesley Yanez, Havyn Summers, Kensley Yandell, Maci Pitchford, Sean Miller, Gracyn Thompson, Weston Cox, Gracie Pate, Haylee Benefield, Ashlyn Moody, Braden Hudlow, Shaylee Cripps, Sydney Crase, Abbi Moody, Emily Yandell, Gunner Sanders, Laney Tiffie, Cornelio Hernandez, Dawson Adrean, Makaylee Wilson, Makenzie Wilson,

Destiny McGee, Gunnar Thompson, SoonerBox, Journey Perdue, Laney May and Gannon Cheek.



Open house held at new School of Choctaw Language

Building is the first in Southeast Oklahoma to be LEED-certified

An open house was held at the new School of Choctaw Language building on Sept. 19. Numerous city and tribal officials, as well as those who partnered to construct the building were on hand for the occasion.

The eco-friendly building, which was constructed through a partnership with REI (Rural Enterprises Incorporated), ECO Potential, Mid-PLains Construction and Kinslow, Keith & Todd, has received LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership.

Certification for LEED, which is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is based on factors such as energy savings, fresh air preservation, water savings, indoor air quality and sustainable source materials.

The building is the first LEED certified building in southeastern Oklahoma. LEED certified buildings are designed to lower operating costs, increase asset value, reduce waste sent to landfills, conserve energy and water, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and provide a healthier work environment for occupants as well as other benefits for communities.

During construction, a waste management plan was implemented diverting 80 percent of construction waste from landfills by reduc-

ing and reusing leftover materials. High efficiency toilets and faucets use 36 percent less water indoors annually. The building was designed to maximize natural lighting reducing the need for excessive electricity use, and it creates a pleasant work environment.

Chief Greg Pyle is excited about the opportunities available in the new, state of the art building and is happy about the green building movement.

“The Choctaw Nation has been a leader in endeavors to ‘go green,’ including the recycling center and conservation efforts,” he says. “Housing our School of Choctaw Language in a LEED certified facility is something we are very happy about, as it is a great way to show we care about preserving the environment.”

The school utilizes the building to preserve and perpetuate the Choctaw language and culture.

It houses distance learning equipment, an interactive meeting center, training areas, and a bookstore.

The school oversees language courses in more than 30 public schools and partners with several colleges, including Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant to offer 18 hours of Choctaw language course, which are available for world language credit.

To learn more about the School of Choctaw Language visit online at choctawschool.com.



Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Scott Dewald, president of Rural Enterprises Inc., and Karen Stewart of ECO Potential pose in front of the new School of Choctaw Language with a plaque certifying that the building is LEED-certified Silver.

Labor Day Festival ‘Fan Photos’



Submitted by Kayla Amerson



Thank you for your photos!

We asked our Facebook friends to share their view of the Labor Day Festival, and they delivered. Thank you all for your submissions and great work!



Submitted by Cathey David Hooker



Submitted by Tchinina Baxter



Submitted by Gay Baker



Submitted by Rehauna Williams



Submitted by Elizabeth Baker



Submitted by Candace Woodcox



Submitted by Valerie McKinney



Submitted by Vance Oliver

Choctaw Casino Hotel receives ABC’s 2013 Excellence in Construction award

Choctaw Casino Hotel in Pocola, one of eight casinos operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and Tulsa-based Manhattan Construction Co. have received the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Oklahoma’s 2013 Excellence in Construction Award.

“We’re honored to receive the Excellence in Construction Award along with our partners at Manhattan Construction Company,” said Steven Loyd, corporate operations director for Choctaw Casinos. “This project was many years in the making, and we couldn’t have asked for a better partner to help us see it through to completion.”

The award, which recognizes innovation, quality and vision by a building team, was

given in the Renovation More Than \$10 Million category for the recent Choctaw Casino Hotel project that included renovation of the existing casino, an additional 62,400 square feet of casino space, a 118-room hotel tower and a 600-space covered parking garage.

The project also received an award in the Interiors category with Green Country Interiors, Inc. The awards were presented at ABC’s Excellence in Construction Awards Banquet on Sept. 19 at the Cox Business Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Choctaw Casino Hotel in Pocola neighbors historic Fort Smith, Ark., at 3400 Choctaw Road off of I-540.

Violence prevention focus of ‘Girls Day Out’ event

Choctaw Nation Project SAFE, Voices 4 Survivors and the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women hosted a “Girls Day Out” on Aug. 17 at the McAlester EXPO Center. The free daylong event, open to girls ages 12- 120, focused on the “My Body..My Life” program presented by keynote speaker Sgt. Robert Moore, MHR, BHRS, LPC of the Norman Police Department who is the author and primary developer of the program. “One in 15 female students experience dating violence and one in four women are raped or sexually abused”, said Moore, “This class teaches young girls to protect themselves physically, mentally and socially”.

Opening for the day’s event, Choctaw Nation Tribal Councilman Bob Pate noted that violence comes in many shapes and forms and affects both young and old. Sgt. Moore followed by presenting the “My Body..My Life” program which focuses on “Empowering women through awareness, education, violence prevention and self- defense techniques”. “It is important to know your boundaries”, said Moore, “the most powerful word in any language is “NO”. No two people will say it the same. It defines your boundaries. It’s not what you say; it’s how you say it. In order to protect yourself you must say no, walk away and report the situation”. Sexual violence is preventable however a recent study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual



Submitted photo

Violence Survey (NISVS) showed that on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical abuse or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States. Victimization often occurs for the first time before age 25 and is usually by someone known to the victim, primarily by a current or former intimate partner or acquaintance. Educational materials and techniques presented through Sgt. Moore’s “My Body..My Life” program aim to reduce rape and sexual violence by 70 to 90 percent.

In addition to the “My Body..My Life” program, afternoon breakout sessions were held to allow participants the opportunity to focus on specific areas of interest. Sessions included ‘How Not to Act’ presented by Cherrah Giles of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of the Community and Human Services and the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women, ‘The Language of Love’ presented by Mary Whiteshirt, MHR, LPC of the Cherokee Nation Youth Shelter and the Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women, ‘Self

Respect’ presented by Sandy Hall of the Choctaw Nation Voices for Survivors, ‘Ohoyo Pisa Achukma’ (Pretty Woman) presented by LaDell Emmons of the OSU Extension Office and American Beauty Institute, and ‘Self- Defense’ presented by Sgt. Robert Moore and his daughter Megan. The approximate 210 who attended “Girls Day Out” were also treated to lunch, goodie bags, and dancing lead by District 11 Senior Choctaw Princess Cherish Wilkerson.

All attending were entered into a drawing for several door prizes and given a shirt in exchange for evaluation forms.

Yakoke to those whose hard work made this life changing event a success- Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women, Choctaw Nation Voices for Survivors, Choctaw Nation Project SAFE, Choctaw Senior Citizens of Pittsburg County, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board and Youth Empowerment, Choctaw Nation Sexual Assault Response Team and Choctaw Nation Children and Family Services.

OBITUARIES

R.C. Cobb

R.C. Cobb, 84, of Amarillo, Texas, died July 17, 2013. Mr. Cobb was born March 17, 1929, in Bennington to Ernest and Victoria Cobb. He worked for 33 years as a forklift operator at Affiliated Foods Inc., in Amarillo. He was a rodeo champion who loved taking long walks and enjoyed listening to country music. He also enjoyed hunting for aluminum cans, root beer was his favorite. Above all, he was a loving and devoted family man and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jo Ann Cobb; daughter, Victoria Robin; and his parents.

Survivors include three sons, Steven Cobb with wife Magie of Valle de Oro, Texas, Jodi Cobb of Amarillo, and Michael Cobb with wife Jamie of Oklahoma City; three daughters, Gloria Hernandez of Amarillo, Sandy Sanders with husband Randy of Howardwick and Penny Cobb of Amarillo; sister, Louise Barber of Amarillo; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Rollyn Meisenheimer

Rollyn Wayne Meisenheimer, 64, went to his Heavenly home on July 24, 2013. Rollyn was born on Jan. 25, 1949, in Spokane, Wash., to the late Hiles K. and Rosetta J. Meisenheimer. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War as an SP4 in the United States Army. After his discharge from the Army, Rollyn traveled the country living in Washington, California, Idaho, Montana and his final home in Arkansas. He was a resident of the Fayetteville Veteran's Home in Fayetteville, Ark. from 2010-2013. Rollyn loved fishing and working with his hands as a restaurant cook and a carpenter. Rollyn's last occupation was as a musician. He was a drummer for Willie Nelson and the late Johnny Cash.

Mr. Meisenheimer is survived by his mother, Rosetta J. Staley of Riverside, Calif.; two sisters, Cheryl Laney of Riverside, Calif. and Mari Kay Allen from Rogers, Ark.; a brother, Terral Meisenheimer of Chino Hills, Calif.; He also had four nephews, Kenny Allen, T J Meisenheimer, Terris Meisenheimer, Jared Laney; and one niece, Jordan Davis.



Martha A. Polk

Martha A. Polk went home to be with her Lord July 6, 2013. Born on May 24, 1948, to James and Melvina Polk of Bennington.

Martha is survived by her sister, Mary Sieger with husband Ron of Marietta; brothers, Willard Polk with wife Sharon of Bennington, and Dillard Polk of Bennington; nephews, Wayne and Chris Choate of Bennington, James and Amy Hall of Edinburg Texas, and Marcus, Tim and Micah Polk of Durant; nieces, Kerry and Morris Steve of Durant, Pakanli and Nick Hopkins of Antlers, Lavon Choate of Leonard, Texas; great-nephews, Nashoba and Amber Choate of Tulsa and Travis Choate of Marietta.

The family would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, food, flowers and the cleaning up at the White Sand Church inside and outside. The church members did an awesome job of taking care of everything, Thank you and God bless all who help sit with her the past month to help take care of her at home, where she wanted to be during this time. The Victory Home Health did a great and very much appreciated job of taking such good care of Martha. Thanks to Rev. Gaines and Olin Williams for all the prayer services at her home when she became bedridden and unable to go to church. We appreciate: Lester Thomas, Tye Baker, Larry Wade, James Jackson, Micheal Roberts, and Gary Batton for your help as pallbearers.

Thanks to the Chief and all Choctaw Nation staff in Durant and Hugo for all your assistance, also may God bless each and everyone. There were so many people who had such wonderful things to say about Martha, it was such a blessing.



Hattie Marie (Gaines) Williamson

Hattie was born on Jan. 23, 1926, in Red Oak to the late William and Ada (Jefferson) Gaines. She passed away July 31, 2013, in Ada at the age of 87. Hattie and Armond Haskell Williamson were married on May 27, 1950, in Gainesville, Texas.

Hattie grew up in eastern Oklahoma where she attended the Wheelock Academy. During her married life, she stayed at home and cared for her children. Hattie enjoyed traveling with Armond as he toured with his gospel music group. In her later years, she enjoyed reading, camping and attending gospel singings. Of all the cherished things in her life, her most cherished was her family. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. Hattie was a full blood Oklahoma Choctaw and was very proud of heritage.

Hattie was preceded in death by her husband, Armond, on June 27, 2012; parents; two sons, Edmond and Julius Williamson; two brothers, Lewis and Woodrow Gaines; one sister, Betty Owens; as well as other half siblings.

Survivors include five sons, Haskell Williamson of Tulsa, Clay Williamson of Ada, Wendell Williamson of Sulphur, Calley Williamson of Sulphur and Richard Gratner of Ardmore; four daughters, Valerie Underwood of Millcreek, Liqueta Smith of Sulphur, Fronie Ibarra of Sulphur and Coleta Williamson of Ada; three brothers, William R. Wesley, and David Gaines; two sisters, Joy Whitebuffalo and Lula Mae Sailor; 22 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as a host of cherished friends.

Gwendolyn Draper

Gwendolyn Delphina (John) Draper, 59, of Atoka passed away on Aug. 8, 2013, in Oklahoma City. She was born on Aug. 4, 1954, at Talihina to Jerry John and Betty (Brewer) Ivers.

She graduated from Capital Hill High School in Oklahoma City. Gwendolyn was a homemaker. She enjoyed reading, watching TV and walking through the woods.

Gwendolyn was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Nichols; mother, Betty Ivers; brothers, Kenneth Wayne John and Charles Harrison; and grandmother, Winey Brewer.

She is survived by her sister, Sabrina Brown with husband Jack of Atoka; aunts, Wylene Wadley of Okmulgee, and Theda Carnes of Atoka; special nieces, Haylie John of Mission, Texas and Ashley John of Dallas, Texas; and sister-in-law, Nora Riveria of Mission.



John Albert Campbell Jr.

John Albert (JA) "Booger" Campbell Jr., 77, was born March 12, 1936, in Gay to Emma (Bobb) Campbell and John Albert Campbell Sr. of Hugo. He departed from this life on July 26, 2013.

He married Judy K. (Hunter) Campbell on Oct. 20, 1961, and was a lifelong farmer/rancher, a leader of his people, a husband and father, and a true friend to many and enemy of none. He started farming at the age of six. He attended Grant Public Schools and served on Choctaw Nation Housing Authority, Choctaw Nation Health Boards and Choctaw Nation Council. He served over 20 years to both Grant Volunteer Fire Department and Grant School Board.

J.A. was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Wilson James; and grandchild, James Paul Armstrong.

Survivors include his loving wife of 51 years, Judy K. Campbell; daughter, Paula Sue Campbell-Lopez with husband Tony of Hugo; sons, John Charles (Buddy) Campbell, Bobby Joe Campbell, and James Albert Campbell with his fiancé Laurie Grant Frazier, all of Hugo; grandchildren, Melissa Drinkard, Brandon Campbell, Amanda Campbell, Emilia Lopez, and Juan (Pancho) Lopez; great-grandchildren, Shayna, Madison, and Hailey Campbell, Anna J. Drinkard, Jaxen and Trysten Lopez, all of Hugo; along with numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, and a host of friends.



Shirley Ann (Wilson) Tubby

Shirley Ann (Wilson) Tubby, 65, of Atoka passed away on Aug. 23, 2013, in Durant. She was born on Oct. 25, 1947, to Caston and Imogene (Postoak) Wilson in Talihina. She graduated from Atoka High School in 1966 and then received an associate degree at Haskell Junior College in Lawrence, Kan. Shirley was a bookkeeper at Atoka County Times for 30 years. She married Jerry Lee Tubby. Shirley was a Christian woman and believed in God. She enjoyed reading, photography, fishing and bowling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Caston and Imogene (Postoak) Wilson; husband, Jerry Tubby; sister, Betty Lou Wilson; and brothers, Douglas and James Wilson.

She was survived by her daughter, Brandy Tubby of Atoka; granddaughter, Caitlin Tubby of Atoka; brother, Kenneth Wilson of Calera; sisters, Josephine Saclolo with husband Benny of California and Catherine Miller with husband Andy of California; uncle, Jeremiah Billy of California; aunts, Catherine Kindig with husband Richard of Tupelo and Helen Cannon of Anadarko; cousins, Sharon Postoak of Centrahoma and Sheila Billy of Navato, Calif.; and longtime friend Vickie Hall of Atoka.



Annalee Harrington-Deaton

Annalee Harrington-Deaton, 70, resident of McMinnville Ore., passed away on May 2, 2013, in Portland, Ore. She was born Annalee Harrington to Blaine and Opal Smith-Harrington in Salinas, Calif. She graduated from North Salinas High in 1957. She then married James Ray Deaton on July 3, 1960. James passed away on July 22, 1985.

They had three children named Debbie Cagle, Dwayne Deaton and Rene Downing. She was grandma to seven grandchildren, Kristin Cagle Spencer, James Johnson, Brandan Cagle, Brittney Downing Creceilius, Kyle Downing, Blaine Deaton, and Hannah Deaton; and great-grandma to four great-grandchildren, Madison Highley, Ethan Spencer, Rylan Creceilius, and Rayden Creceilius. She also had numerous nieces and nephews, as well as three brothers, Jasper Harrington, Billy Joe Harrington and Kenneth Harrington, and a sister, Irene Emlay.

She leaves an abundance of wonderful memories. She loved her family and was very proud to be Choctaw. She always referred to the Choctaw Nation as, "her people." She also loved hummingbirds, butterflies, flowers and beautiful days. She will be missed greatly. It's not goodbye, it's "I'll see ya later."



Joseph "J.B." James

Joseph Benjamin James, 89, was born Sept. 16, 1923, in Kanima, the son of Daniel and Della (Goss) James. He passed away July 19, 2013, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

Joe "J.B." was a 1942 graduate of Bokeshe High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he became a First Class Yeoman, serving in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre during WWII. After the war, Joe worked in the coalmines of Southeastern Oklahoma and then studied Petroleum Engineering at Northeastern State University and the University of Tulsa. He married the former Miss Betty Lou Statham on Dec. 24, 1948, in Fort Smith, Ark.

His career was spent with Texaco Oil where he worked in repairs. As a repairman at the Tulsa plant, Joe was active in the AFL-CIO and became his local's president and the chairman of a five state region. Later he moved to employee relations for Texaco and spent 17 years in the Port Arthur, Texas, plant. Joe was proud of his Native American heritage and was a member of the Choctaw Nation.

After retirement from Texaco, he and Betty moved back to Broken Arrow in 1986 where they never missed a ball game or event in which their grandchildren were involved. Joe was also an avid golfer and tennis player at the Indian Springs Country Club in Broken Arrow and volunteered his time to the meals on wheels program.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Della James; and by his beloved brothers, Charles, Ralph and Bob.

He is survived by his wife, Betty James of Broken Arrow; daughter, Julie of Bixby; grandchildren, Misti with husband Tim Lawson of Broken Arrow and Ryan with wife Lynne Walis of Muskogee; great-grandchildren, Jalen Lawson of Broken Arrow, Dillon Lawson of Benton, Ark. and Kate and Jack Hewitt of Muskogee; sisters, Helen with husband Gerald Blankenship of Tulsa, and Mary James of Phoenix, Ariz.; nieces, Vicki, Sandra, Terri, Claudia, Jennifer, Debi, Nancy; nephews, Ken, Jeff, Brian, David, Donald, Mark, Bill; Joe loved each and every family member and held them dear. Joe is also survived by many other family and friends.



Edna Lee Swindler

Edna Lee Swindler, 88, the Lord welcomed her home on Aug. 19, 2013. Edna was born on Feb. 17, 1925, in Redden to Ellis and Ada (Morgan) Bond. In 1941, she and her sister attended Chilocco Indian Boarding School. There she met the love of her life and future husband of 67 years, Lewis H. Swindler. Edna was a member of the Choctaw Nation and later attended Haskell Indian Jr. College where she received a business degree.

After WWII, she and Lewis settled in Oklahoma City where Lewis was an Oklahoma City police officer and later an investigator with the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office. Edna worked as an administrative assistant for insurance company, the last several years she was at Crawford Phillips in Stockyards City. She was active in her church, Mary Lee Clark Indian Methodist, served on the board of directors for the Oklahoma City Native American Center and was also appointed to serve as the Native American Representative for the Human Rights Commission under Mayor Patience Latting.

Unfortunately, Edna had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for 12 years and for the last four years resided at South Park East in South Oklahoma City. The family would like to thank them for caring for their beloved mother and grandmother. Edna was a beautiful person, inside and out, a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother who will be deeply missed.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lewis; son, James "Jimmy" Lee, age 8; sisters, Esther Lorene Compton and Anita June Bond; and brother, Ellis Lee Bond, Jr.

She was survived by her children, Esther "Dede" Bointy-Clayton, Patrick Allen and Bobby Wayne Swindler; grandchildren, Joseph Ellis Bointy, Samantha Brianne Bointy, Patrick Lewis Swindler, Lucas Wayne Swindler, Brandy Swindler, and Britni Swindler; and eight great-grandchildren.



Anglin "Angie" Parish Ludlow

Anglin "Angie" Rosie Mae Paxton, Parish, Ludlow, 86, of Wilburton passed from the boundaries of this life into the arms of her waiting Heavenly Father, Aug. 5, 2013, at her home in the Recil Community. She was a retired state employee of Robbers Cave State Park. She was a homemaker, quilter, cook and canner of vegetables and a bondservant of the Lord. She was born Sept. 15, 1926, at Finley to Islan and Salena (Edwards) Paxton. She married Elijah Parish on Aug. 18, 1948, in Paris, Texas. She married James Martsen Ludlow on January 3, 1987 in Hartshorne. She was a member of Grace Indian United Methodist Church in Hartshorne, and for the first 30 years she served as their Secretary-Treasurer. She organized the UMW between Grace and St. Paul in Talihina. She held every officer's position in the local and district UMW, youth worker and leader of the women. She traveled on missionary teams to Alaska, Kentucky and Tennessee, and attended UMW conferences in New Mexico, Florida and Arizona.

She was preceded in death by her husband Elijah Parish (married 36 yrs) and husband James Martsen Ludlow (married 20 yrs); parents, Salena Edwards McCoy, Islan Paxton and John Nelson McCoy; brothers, Emsy Durant and Jonas Paxton; and brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws, Joseph Wesley, Sham and Anne Parish, Noah Parish, Sampson and Mary Parish, Leo McKinze; uncles and wives, McKinley and Lizzie Taylor, Ben Taylor and Ora and John Edwards; two great-grandsons, Gary Purcell and Todd Dotson Samuel Badillo.

Those of us left to finish the work of the Lord are her children, Hiahwahnah Grass and Ralph of Independence, Kan., Gwendolyn Parish of Wilburton, Judy Jacoby and Fred of Anchorage, Ala., Undine Joyce of Tulsa, Betty Ludlow of Talihina, and Boyd Ludlow and Flodean of Talihina; 23 grandchildren, Steven with wife Crystal, Sissy, Rachel, Ed, Angie, Sylvia, Monica and J.R., Adrian and Lydia, Sarah and Rodney, Christopher, Victoria and Seth, Ike and Tina, Beth and Lyle, Carol, John, Geoffrey, Rose; 24 great-grandchildren, Kyle, Andrew, Micah, Dylan, Atticus, Aidan, Elijah, Erich, Caleb, Cade, Nathan, Quinton, Kolby, Hakoda, Maurice, Savanna, Haleigh, Emma, Majeana, Jayda, Liana, Elizabeth, Marlena, Abigail and Reba; two sisters, Pauline Wesley of Paris, Texas and Molly Billy of Dallas, Texas. Many loved nieces, nephews and cousins and many loved friends and neighbors.



Frankie Elnora Meissner

Frankie Elnora Meissner was born Aug. 30, 1928, in Norman to James Thomas and Anna Mae Vaughn. Elnora left this life on March 8, 2013, to be with her loving husband Billy.

Elnora was a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She leaves us all with many wonderful memories and will be missed always.

Elnora is survived by her five daughters, Jo Ann Justus of Sand Springs, Mary Clark of North Carolina, Denise Wren with husband Bobby of Norman, Debi Michael with husband Tony of North Carolina, and Patricia Nolen with husband Michael of Lexington; sister, Helen with husband Alvie "Pinky" Bledsoe of Texas; brothers, Lester with wife Tammy Vaughn of Norman, David with wife Glenna Vaughn of Moore; and a loving group of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



James "Junior" Kanimaya

James "Junior" Kanimaya, 83, of Blanco, passed away Aug. 10, 2013. Junior was born to James J. and Alice (Tucker) Kanimaya Aug. 22, 1929, in Blanco. He was raised in Blanco and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1947. Junior served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve, Combat Engineers from 1951 to 1956. He served as a Corporal in the Korean War. Junior retired after 30 years from S & C Electric Co. in Chicago where he manufactured electric transformers and electronic equipment. He returned to Blanco where he enjoyed gardening and hunting. Junior was a member of the Kiowa Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Alice Kanimaya; brother, Carl Kanimaya; and two sisters, Augusta Ashworth and Geneva Thomason.

Junior is survived by his brother, Bobby R. Kanimaya of Blanco; sisters, Ola Mae Hatridge and Stella Joplin both of McAlester; numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.





Photos by Bret Moss

Guests enjoy watching and participating in the Snake Dance.

Choctaw Nation Day Care in Coalgate taps cultural roots

By BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation Day Care of Coalgate held a parent’s appreciation day on Friday, Sept. 27. The annual event took place early in the evening and held the theme of “Choctaw Proud.”

“This year we wanted a cultural theme because we are grateful to be a part of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma,” said Dianne Oxley, director of the day care. This was a different direction from former themes, which consisted of luau, rodeo and carnival.

The cultural emphasis was well received by students and parents alike. Brenda McCartney, a guest of the night, enjoyed watching tribal archaeologist Ian Thompson as he demonstrated traditional pottery for the community. “I always loved art, so I was very interested,” McCartney mentioned.

Cultural activities such as pottery, basket weaving and traditional dance filled the main room of the facility, and a walkthrough mini-museum occupied the back room. Guests were able to witness the Four-Step War Dance and take part in the Snake Dance. The night was also complete with Indian tacos.

The museum held several educational booths ready to educate student and parents on Choctaw roots. Language lessons, Choctaw Code Talker exhibits, a timeline of Choctaw chiefs, animal pelts, princess regalia, a



Brenda McCartney inquires about the intricate pottery creating process demonstrated by Dr. Ian Thompson, director of Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation.



McCrae and Maddly Walden investigate the Choctaw artifacts at the sensory table.

sensory table and even a small model “chukka,” a Choctaw house, lined the path through the museum.

The museum was made possible through a combined effort from the staff and parents, stated Oxley.

Some items were donated to the day care from parents for the educational experience and the staff took great care in compiling all the information and displaying it in a fun way, she continued.

Homesteading skills taught

In A Good Way Farm near Talihina held its second annual Homestead Event Sept. 21. The non-profit agricultural training farm utilizes a variety of ways to teach new skills to Native American men who are at a point in life when they need a helping hand.

The Homestead Event provided a venue for individuals and organizations to give demonstrations and set up exhibits on many skills that have been all but lost over the years. Many of the sustainable living techniques are also good for the environment.

Among the demos were representatives of the Kerr Center who taught visitors how to build a gravity flow irrigation system and the benefits of rotational grazing of livestock.

Several of the activities at the event were nostalgic and at the same time reminded everyone that the ways of our parents and grandparents are still good. Tables were lined with items such as canned jellies, homemade cheese, homemade soap and vegetables grown in the garden. Ladies kept a quilt ready for anyone who wanted to add a stitch.

In A Good Way Farm also strives to teach the men Native American history and traditions.

Representatives of Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation were on hand to share with the community how to bead and make baskets and flutes.

District 3 Choctaw seniors had fry bread, Indian tacos and baked goods on sale for lunch.

The working farm’s next event will be held Oct. 26 when they take part in the annual Fall Foliage Festival at Talihina. There, they will have a booth set up to sell their farm-grown, home baked goods.

Proceeds from the baked goods sale booth will be used to finish refurbishing a bunk house which will allow the farm to provide residence to additional Native American men.

In A Good Way Farm is located at 13359 S.E. 1101 Ave., Talihina. Directions from Falfa, east of Talihina on Hwy. 63, are to turn south at Falfa Baptist Church onto Falfa Road. Follow for approximately a mile until road ends at Southeast 230 Avenue, turn right (west) and go one mile to Southeast 1101 Ave., turn south to arrive at the farm’s land.

For more information please call Teddi Erwin, 918-567-3313 or 918-718-1302.



Manning the welcome table at the Homestead Event are John and Mary Ann Knill from Thurmont, Maryland; and Teddi Erwin. They were also selling a varied supply of jellies and fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes and peppers.



Diann McMillan and Donna Freeman of Yukon explained how to dry flowers and herbs and their uses. They also demonstrated solar dehydration with a supply of samples to taste.



Charles Dysart of Hindsville, Ark., tries to befriend the goats.



Greg Lightninghawk leads the “The Four Direction Song” at the Homestead Event for the In a Good Way farm.



The proceeds from the farm’s next event will go towards refurbishing this bunkhouse, which will used to house additional Native American men.



At the 2013 Homestead Event, Mona Medders demonstrates how easy it is to make jelly.

Homestead Event photos by Karen Jacob and Teddi Erwin



Photo provided

Learning Choctaw games

The kids at Bennington Head Start play “tanchi” or corn games outdoors on Oct. 7. They are learning more about their culture and the games that Choctaw children used to play.

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Chahta Amptoba: Choctaw Traditional Pottery (Part 4)

It sometimes seems as though Choctaw people are fighting an uphill battle to maintain a unique Choctaw identity and way of doing things in the 21st century. Sadly, we all too often lose elders and with them, traditional knowledge, but there are also success stories.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma began major efforts to revitalize Choctaw traditional pottery in 2009. Over the last three years, through literally hundreds of classes, as well as demonstrations, presentations, and more, a number of Choctaw people have learned the entire Choctaw traditional pottery process, from digging the clay



Iti Fabussa

by hand, to making traditional pottery forms, to firing it on a wood bon fire, to eating out of the finished pieces. Today, on a weekly basis, these Choctaw potters are digging and experimenting with new clays, trying different firing woods, and teaching other tribal members about

Choctaw traditional pottery.

A renaissance is under way with these dedicated Choctaw artisans bringing more life to Choctaw pottery that it has had in 150 years. In so doing, they are adding their own legacy to a sacred Choctaw tradition that is 3,000 years old...and counting.

This month's edition of Iti Fabvssa includes pictures and statements from some of these Choctaw potters (and friends), from all walks of life, who are front-line warriors in keeping Choctaw traditional culture vibrant.



DAN BERNIER:

"I'm a traditional Choctaw potter. My whole emphasis is on that – making it, learning about it, showing it, promoting it. Bringing back the old ways is important. My grandmother always passed down the stories to us, so we started learning about our heritage from a young age. Heritage is important. Doing the ancestral pottery is very gratifying. It allows me to experience things the way they did. To understand how they did it."



DESSIE MORELAND:

"I like making pottery because it is cool and you can have fun. Pottery is easy and I like it, and you can enjoy it too."



CAROL AYERS:

"I want to preserve the skills my ancestors possessed. Every time I hold a piece of clay in my hand, I think of my ancestors doing the same thing thousands of years ago. I admire their skill and creativity. It makes me feel closer to them. It makes me wonder who they were, what they were like, what they believed in. What they did shaped who I am today, and it must be continued."



MARY FRAZIER:

"Choctaw pottery is a way for me to learn and appreciate the way of the Chahtas of long ago, and it's time for our generation and the generations after us to follow in the footsteps of our Chahtas of the past and to appreciate what we have."



LISA HARRIS:

"Traditional pottery makes me feel closer to the heritage of my ancestors. I like the knowledge that I have learned to do something my ancestors have done for thousands of years."

LAURA PICKENS:

"I just like doing it."



YVONNE WALKER:

"Learning the traditional making of Choctaw pottery has instilled a true appreciation of the art. I feel that I share the knowledge now and can help keep alive this part of the Choctaw culture. I have enjoyed the process of Choctaw traditional pottery making because of the true spirit I feel during the process. There is creative thought that flows through me, which brings me great joy."



NANCY PETERS:

"I love to make my pottery. I have seen my ancestors use them in cooking long ago, and maybe my grandchildren would soon see what their ancestors did long ago. I do hope that they would learn to do this as much as I have enjoyed making it. I appreciate the way of the Choctaws of way back when. I do hope the generation after us will appreciate the Choctaw pottery as well as I have enjoyed making and firing. I think it's very cool."



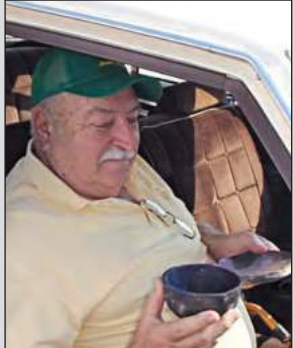
ED PERKINS:

"I've wanted to do Choctaw pottery forever. It really means something to me; learning about the ancestors and how they did it, getting closer to them. When you build a pot and you're having trouble, you know they had the same problems. You have to work through them like they did."



VANGIE ROBINSON:

"I am grateful to God every day to be a part of the earth that lets me create. I have done a lot of experimentation, trials and error, and I am now able to fire pottery on my own. I create pottery with functional purpose. What I lack in talent, I make up for in passion. As I reflect on things, I am amazed at the work valiant Choctaw people did to keep family alive. I find making pottery most inspiring and it gives me joy."



DON AYERS:

"I enjoy the hands-on experience of making pottery and thinking about all the things that have gone on since the beginning of time. I look forward to our next meeting like a football fan waits for the next game."

Choctaw village dedication held at McAlester festival

A dedication of the Choctaw Village at Hutchison Park took place in McAlester during the city's Wild West Festival on Oct. 5.

The village was built by volunteers and is authentic to tribal historical accounts. The Choctaw Social Dancers performed during the dedication, as well as during the festival.



Larry Wade pulls in a guest to dance during the Stealing Partners dance.



Councilman Bob Pate welcomes everyone to the village dedication.



Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



A Choctaw house is part of the village.



Billy Eagle Road III, Rebecca Boykin and Nicholas Charleston dance at the Wild West Festival in McAlester.

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Afvmmi chi katohmi?

Pronounced:
Ah-fahm-meh che kah-toh-meh

How old are you?
(Literal translation is 'How many years are you?')
Word Meaning:
afvmmi – year
chi – you,
katohmi – how many?

Afvmmi pokoli tuchina sia.

Pronounced:
Ah-fahm-meh poh-koh-leh toh-chen-nah si-yah

I am thirty years (old).
afvmmi – year pokoli – ten
tuchina – three sia – I am

Kanimikma ällösi apesachi li.

Pronounced:
Kah-nehm-ik-mah ahl-o(n)-seh ah-pe-sah-che le.

Sometimes I baby-sit.
Word Meaning:
kanimikma – sometimes
ällösi – baby, young child
apesachi – to watch or care for
li - I

Kanimikma Binko washoha li.

Pronounced:
Kah-nehm-ik-mah Binko wah-sho-ha le.

Sometimes I play Bingo.
kanimikma – sometimes Bingo
washoha – play li - I

Cultural meeting held in Austin



Chief Pyle gives Josh Horvath some gifts for helping draw door prize numbers.



Sisters Julia, 10 months, and Ana Sherbert, 11, enjoy the meeting.



Chief Pyle welcomes Ryan Oliphint of Leander, Texas, and his daughter, 1-year-old Ryla, to the Austin meeting.



Sue Folsom gives instructions on Choctaw beading.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton are joined by the Gallagher family of Pflugerville – Kimber, Chance, Jacob, Joseph and Kaleigh.



Sharon J. Taylor of Salada and Carly Broome of Austin work together at the beading class.



Chief Pyle greets Eve Stuvall of Austin at the meeting.



Debbie Doggett and Tiffany Roper check out the pottery table.



Seven-year-old Carson Ferris of Austin was excited to meet Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Bly Mason, 8, and sister Brittin Mason, 5, join their “Pappy” John Mosley at the meeting.



Lou Ann Diddle of Austin, left, and her niece, Sarah Kozel of San Antonio, visit with Choctaw author Kira Janene Holt.



David and Rebecca Spears and daughter Molly Smith take part in the beading class before the meeting starts.



Carolyn Young of Weatherford, Texas, displays her pottery at the meeting in Austin.



Choctaw artist Lauren Reed of Austin, originally of Norman, has her art on display at the cultural meeting.

Photos by LISA REED & LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Daphne Phillips, left, processes a photo ID card for Diana Folsom Heath of Austin.



Les Williston explains about Choctaw weaponry.

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