



The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

October 2014 Issue

*Yakoke!*  
**VETERANS**  
*Honoring All Who Served*

The Choctaw Nation is honoring its veterans with a special ceremony Nov. 11 at Tvshka Homma. Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and the Tribal Council invite all Choctaw veterans and their families to attend the annual event held in honor of the men and women who have served our country. The Veterans Ceremony will be held at the War Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. Staff will be set up at 10 a.m. to present each Choctaw veteran a gift of appreciation.



**Over 18 years old?**  
**Don't forget to update your membership card**

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

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

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# Reclaiming native homeland

## Choctaw Nation expanding economic footprint

By ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation is getting back to its roots – and some of those roots are right under our feet. “We are going to reclaim our land base,” Chief Gary Batton said during his State of the Nation address at the Labor Day Festival. “This last year, we acquired about 44,000 acres of land, and yes: We are reclaiming our homeland.” The purchase of twin ranches in the Kiamichi foothills in late 2013 has tripled the land base of the Choctaw Nation. Batton said the tribe already employs nearly a dozen people on the ranchland, with plans to hire another 19. “We’re going to go back to agriculture, that is part of our old ways,” Batton said. “We want to see what we can grow and what cattle we can raise, so we can help our tribal members go into agriculture.” The Nation now has more than 500 cattle—mostly Angus—on the Winding Stair Ranch with plans for many more. Nearly that many calves are expected in the coming months. Shannon McDaniel, Executive Director of Tribal Management, said these first steps are major mileposts on the tribe’s 20-year business development plan. “It’s great to have this land and cattle, to have means of employing tribal



Photo by Zach Maxwell

**Ranch hand Justin Tapley of Antlers is spreading natural protein breeder cubes for black Angus heifers near the west entrance to Winding Stair Ranch. More than 500 Choctaw Nation cattle graze at the ranch.**

people on our own lands,” McDaniel said. “We’re providing a food source to Oklahoma and our people and it’s all at the direction of Chief Batton.” The overall goals include planting and harvesting hay on some of the acreage, especially southern portions of the ranches. The cattle, hay, timber and potential recreation will provide sustenance and profit for the ever-expanding economic base of the tribe. With these ranches added to the tribal land base, the Choctaw Nation now holds close to 70,000 acres of ranch land and some 950 head of cattle. The newest acquisitions are located between Daisy and Hartshorne,

mainly in Ti Valley, but the Choctaw Nation also operates ranches southeast of Idabel, east of Tvshka Homma and in Sawyer and Hugo. In fact, the tribe also recently acquired 250 acres adjacent to the Tribal Services Complex on the west side of Hugo, which includes extensive working pens. This fits into long-range plans for the tribe to market its cattle, as well as a potential slaughterhouse that would bring in diverse local jobs. McDaniel said the Choctaw Nation is forming partnerships with the University of Arkansas as well as Oklahoma State University to explore land use strategies and sustainable crops such as alfalfa hay. McDaniel is

scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a land management conference hosted this month by the university in Fayetteville, Ark. The Choctaw Nation has employed the services of a wildlife biologist and other visiting experts to gauge the usefulness of the 68.75 square miles of meadows, timbered hills and creek banks it has acquired. The sprawling Winding Stair, which is actually two ranches bisected by the Indian Nation Turnpike, includes heavily timbered hills and valleys. The sheer size and diversity of landscapes fit well into the tribe’s long-range land management plan. Jack Hicks, Director of Agriculture and Ranch Operations, together with new Ranch Manager Shane Sparks, oversee operations at Winding Stair. The main thoroughfare is a 17-mile path through the hills, where abundant wildlife and lush forests give a sense of what the first Choctaws must have seen when they arrived from the Trail of Tears nearly 200 years ago. The headwaters of McGee Creek and several smaller tributaries flow from these Choctaw hills and some have been impounded as ponds.

The Brushy-Peaceable Creek Watershed Project, partially funded by the U.S. government in the 1970s, forms one of the largest ponds at the site of a lodge that was included in the purchase. The lodge sleeps 17 in large bedrooms and bunk-style group rooms with themes like “Indian territory,” “King Ranch,” and “Buck Fever.” Plans are in the works to rent out the lodge and provide outdoor recreational opportunities for youth groups and, potentially, the public. The eastern portion of Winding Stair is likely to be used for hay production and managed recreation, with the western land to focus on cattle ranching operations. There are more than 100 miles of roads and 70 miles of outer fence at Winding Stair. And ranch employees now have their own logo and slogan on hats and button-down shirts: “Choctaw Nation Ranches – Adding value to tribal lands.” The “CN” brand on the cattle represents more than just a ranch – it represents a huge step forward for the Choctaw Nation in rebuilding its land base and expanding its economic footprint in Oklahoma and beyond.



Photo by Zach Maxwell

**Red Angus cattle approach a fence line at the northwest corner of Winding Stair Ranch, eager for a snack of hay or breeder cubes.**

## Council elects 2014-15 officers during September session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Sept. 13 at Tvshka Homma. Officers for the new fiscal year were elected during the meeting. District 4 Councilman Delton Cox of Pocola was chosen for the eighth consecutive year to represent the council as speaker. Cox was elected to the Tribal Council in July 2001 and took office the following September. He has spent 32 years in various fields of education. He has been teacher, coach, counselor, education specialist, instruction specialist and administrator in tribal and BIA school systems and Oklahoma public schools, from elementary through junior college levels. He served as the Choctaw Nation’s tribal treasurer for 3 ½ years before being elected Councilman of District 4 in northern LeFlore County. Thomas Williston of Idabel, District 1, will retain the position of secretary and Joe Coley of Red Oak, District 6, Latimer County, will also remain the Council’s chaplain. Williston has served as the Councilman for southern Mc-



DELTON COX  
Speaker



THOMAS WILLISTON  
Secretary



JOE COLEY  
Chaplain

Curtain County since November 2010. Before being elected as a member of the Council, Thomas worked 25 years in law enforcement. He has also worked as a carpenter for the last 25 years. Coley has served as Councilman of District 6 since 2004. Coley has worked with churches throughout Oklahoma and has been appointed Council Chaplain for several years. He spent decades with the Choctaw Nation Community Health Representatives before becoming the Choc-

taw Councilman in Latimer County. The new terms begin Oct. 1. Following the election, Speaker Cox appointed recording secretary Patty Hawkins of Talihina, sergeant-at-arms Sylvester Moore of Talihina, and parliamentarian Bob Rabon of Hugo to their positions for another year. The Council’s two steering committees were chosen and the officers for the Enterprise Board were selected. The board president is a position

held by the Council speaker. Vice president for 2014-15 is Anthony Dillard, District 10, Atoka County, and secretary is Kenny Bryant, District 3, southern LeFlore County. Several Youth Advisory Board members attended the session, learning more about the tribe’s legislative process. The students belonged to YAB chapters from Latimer County, Stigler, Hugo and Boswell. YAB is comprised of youth leaders who become involved in their communities by volunteering for service

projects and promoting programs to prevent underage drinking, tobacco use and domestic violence. Each year they attend at least one Tribal Council meeting, City Council meeting, and School Board meeting. The 12-member Council approved several bills during new business, including: • An application for the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Grant. • Membership to the National Congress of American Indians. • Funds and budgets for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; Project SAFE; Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers and their Families (SEPT) Program; Women, Infant and Children’s Program (WIC); WIC Farmer’s Market, and the Health Services Program. • A sand and gravel lease, a recreational lease, and disposal of surplus equipment. The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma.



# FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE



## Say ‘Halito!’ Let’s make Choctaw language universal

**From the Desk of Chief Gary Batton**  
Halito! I hope most of you knew instantly that I just greeted you in Choctaw. The words, “hello,” “hola,” and “aloha” are recognized around the world and someday I want “halito” to be just as universal.  
The Choctaw language is a vital piece of our culture. My grandfather spoke fluent Choctaw. When my mother was young, the society we lived in was a deciding factor in why many Choctaw families stopped teaching their children their native language. They believed they were protecting them.  
The times gradually began to improve for Native Americans, and he did teach me a few words and some of the old

ways. I’m thankful it is now different for our children and grandchildren. I want them to know much more and hope they take advantage of every opportunity to learn.

The School of Choctaw Language instructors provide lessons from their offices to dozens of Head Starts and high schools in southeastern Oklahoma. I have watched them talk to the students through amazing technology that makes it seem as if they are in the room together. Four Oklahoma colleges offer accredited Choctaw language courses. Community classes are held regularly.

A classroom is not the only way to learn the language. The classes are available on the Internet with an instructor or anyone can log on to [choctawschool.com](http://choctawschool.com) and take the lessons at their own pace. There is a vocabulary of words and you can sign up for a Lesson of the Day to be emailed to you. Your monthly Biskinik also contains a lesson!

Events are being held such as the all-night gospel singing in the new chapel during the Labor Day Festival. Choctaw was the only language spoken that night. It was a blessing in so many ways.

I am so proud of the efforts being made to teach and to learn the language. Even though I don’t speak fluently, I am going to keep learning and practicing.

If the only word you know is “halito,” say it in greeting. I encourage every Choctaw to continue the legacy of our language. It will keep our people together as a Nation.

Chahta sia hoke! I am Choctaw!



## Nation’s progress exciting to see

**From the Desk of Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.**  
The Choctaw Nation is growing tremendously and there are several projects under way. Development has included wellness centers, food distribution centers, community centers, housing communities for our elders, the resort, and Head Start facilities.  
Each time we hold a groundbreaking or ribbon cutting ceremony, we come together as a family, a part of the community.

We have gathered this year for openings of new wellness centers in Atoka, Idabel, Broken Bow and Crowder and we have held groundbreakings for two more in McAlester and Wilburton. They are conveniently close to the community centers and are used regularly by our senior citizens and other tribal members and employees. The availability of exercise equipment and classes is valuable in improving the health and well being of our people. It’s good to see groups form who continue to work out together and spur each other on to better health.

Food distribution centers are planned in McAlester and Broken Bow. The markets are similar to a grocery store and the program’s clients have a choice of healthy food products including fresh produce.

Larger community centers have been needed in several areas, and McAlester and Bethel are at the top of the list. There will also be new Head Starts for McAlester and the Bethel and Battiest area.

An Independent Living Community is being developed in Stigler. This will make the seventh in the Choctaw Nation, designed to provide a safer environment for Choctaw senior citizens. The Stigler community will consist of 10 units and a common area for the residents. Applications for the units will be accepted beginning in January.

The expansion of the casino resort in Durant equals hundreds of additional jobs and will be a much-needed entertainment hub for the area. The new hotel tower will have over 200 rooms. There will be a bowling center, movie theater, laser tag and arcade, a new Oasis Bar and Grille, a spa, convention center, and an event center. It will become a family destination for local residents and tourists.

We are also in the planning stages of a new headquarters campus. The Choctaw Nation has over 100 programs available to tribal members. Offices are located in numerous buildings throughout Durant for a majority of these programs and administration. The new headquarters will bring them together in a more localized area and provide easier access to staff and services. Construction is a sign of success and it is exciting to see the progress of our great Nation.



Chief Gary Batton visits with Nathan and Aline Benton during a Cultural Community Meeting in Wichita, Kansas.

Photo by Brandon Frye

## Spotlight on Elders *with* Nathan and Aline Benton

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

Nathan Benton, full-blood Choctaw, and wife Aline Benton, full-blood Cherokee, met in youth while at the Haskell Indian Institute, what was then a high school and is now known as Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. They have been together ever since.

“We met at a church service on Sunday night,” Mr. Benton said. “We were walking out of the building and just started a conversation, that’s where it began.”

The two of them had attended separate boarding schools during grade school. Mrs. Benton was a member of the Seneca Indian School, in Wyandotte. Mr. Benton attended the Jones Academy with the Choctaw Nation.

He recalled a story from third grade when he and his cousin Jesse James (not the one of outlaw infamy) left the academy on foot for Thanksgiving break, aiming to make it all the way home to Tali hina. They walked a ways and ended up hitching a ride on the back of a farmer’s wagon. Mr. Benton found a dime in the back, and the farmer let the two stay the night and eat his wife’s cooking. The next day, they made it into town on foot and bought a loaf of bread to eat with that dime, but it was molded and they did without.

“It sounds like hardship, but we took it in stride,” Mr. Benton said. The day they made it home after a three day journey, Nathan was driven back and it only took half a day. Only Nathan got the ride, cousin Jesse stayed back.

In high school, Mr. Benton was interested in mechanics and agriculture, and Mrs. Benton took classes in home economics and core subjects.

“I was a boxer back in those days, too,” Mr. Benton said. “That was in ‘45. We had a boxing program, so we boxed around different towns in Oklahoma. I had been boxing since when I weighed 65 pounds.”

In the summers, Mr. Benton would harvest wheat with a group for a contractor, a job that took them from Texas up to the Canada-U.S. border. And when he graduated from high school, he went back to study mechanics as a post-graduate.

He was drafted into the Army for the Korean War in 1950. But before he left he married the love of his life, Aline.

After two years of service, Mr. Benton was honorably discharged after a knee injury. “My wife and I moved back to Lawrence, Kansas,” he said. “I went to work as a heavy equipment operator. When I would finish a contract, I had to look for another job.”

After finishing a contract, the man who trained Nathan in auto mechanics talked him into taking a position at Chilocco Indian Boarding School.

Mr. and Mrs. Benton worked until retirement at the school. Mr. Benton taught heavy machinery, and Mrs. Benton fed the 1,200 students three meals a day. To this day, Mr. Benton has retired from four jobs.

They had five children, 14 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren, all descendants of Mr. Benton’s father, Nathan Hale Benton Sr., who was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

The two celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on Oct. 10, 2014. When asked what it took to stay together for so long, Mrs. Benton said, “I would say you need love. That’s the key. Because when you love each other, you have consideration for each other. And we got married to stay married, when we got married.”

Mr. and Mrs. Benton agreed their faith played a large role. “The biggest factor is we are both Christians and have served the Lord all of these years,” Mr. Benton said. “We just lived by our Christian principles, and that was always our guide.”

The two have been charter members of the Hillcrest Bible Baptist Church in Arkansas City, Kansas, their local church for 51 years. “The lord blesses us all, and we’ve kept close to him,” they said.

## Chaplain’s Corner

### Good news of salvation



Rev. Bertram Bobb  
Tribal Chaplain

“Yohmi hoka yakohmichi hosh vba hvsh anumpulashke: Piki vba ish binili ma! Chi hohchifo hvt holitopashke.” Mahlu 6:9 (After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Matthew 6:9)

Our Choctaw people prayed for the future of our Choctaw Nation. They prayed and worshipped under the open sky, under brush arbors, tabernacles, amphitheatre and today in a new beautiful chapel at the entrance of the Choctaw Nation Capitol grounds in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma.

Thank you for the honor of naming the chapel, Bertram Bobb Chapel.

The Gospel is the good news of salvation, the message that can bring you out of the darkness and bring you into the light. (Acts 26:18)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the story of God’s love. God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world.

Many Christians today sense and see there is something radically wrong in the churches but cannot see what is causing it.

The messages in many pulpits are one of promoting a program rather than teaching what the Bible says, what the Bible says about sin, the penalty of sin and God’s answer to these problems.

And also the teaching of the Bible that Jesus Christ will come again. Jesus will come back to earth in the same manner He went to heaven. How did he go to heaven?

We read this record in the book of Acts 1:9-11, just after the commission to His disciples to evangelize the world:

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven,

shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

Yes, Jesus is coming back to earth. We do not know the time of Jesus coming but we do have signs. One of the signs we read in Matthew chapter 25 is “wars.” What causes wars? James asks this same question in James 4:1:

“From whence come wars and fighting among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?”

So we learn that war comes from greed and lust and this is sin. Because there is sin in the heart.

So we see here that man’s

problem is not a social or an economic one. That is, you cannot change a man by giving him a good house to live in, a good paying job, lots of clothes, a new car. But the problem is a spiritual one.

In the Old Testament we read in Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Only you and God know your heart. That is the reason Jesus said “ye must be born again.” (John 3:7) There is nothing man can do to please God until he has been born of the Spirit of God.

Even today you can trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and be born again into God’s family. You do this by faith in His finished work on the cross. You can pray something like this: “God, I realize I am a sinner, I receive Jesus as my Savior.”

To trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior means to be born again into the family of God – born into a spiritual life. Food for spiritual life is the Word of God. We study the Bible for spiritual growth.

Having Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is my prayer. We are thankful that we are born again into the family of God. May God bless you this Thanksgiving season. Continue to pray for our men and women serving our country.



## Achahpi makes comeback!

David Batton and Daniel Ragle demonstrate Achahpi on Monday, Oct. 6, during the very first game of this type to be held on the Choctaw Nation Headquarters lawn during Heritage Monday. Look for more details of the renewal of this ancient Choctaw game in the November Biskinik.

### Choctaw Nation School of Language Website

Learning more about the Choctaw language is easy. Just visit [choctawschool.com](http://choctawschool.com) and find:

- Easy to navigate language lessons
- Information on Choctaw Language classes
- Audio pronunciation of Choctaw words
- Photo galleries of Choctaw events
- Contact information for instructors
- Access to the bookstore
- Access to the “Word of the Day”

Whether you are looking for classes, or just curious, [choctawschool.com](http://choctawschool.com) is here to help!



# COMMUNITY



Photo by Brandon Frye

**“Warriors Honor Women” member with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Robert Yargee, Victim Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Lesah Deere-Yargee, and DHS Child Protective Service Workers Kristie Anderson, and Jennifer Postlewait all gather for a small group discussion to understand tyranny and the effects of power during a day-long domestic abuse workshop held at the Choctaw Nation Casino and Resort.**

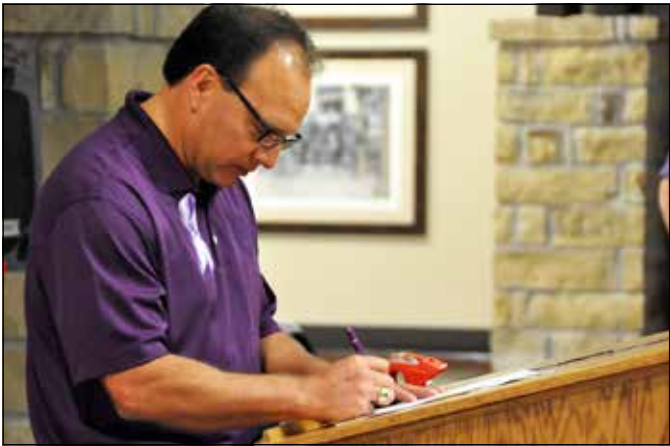


Photo by Payton Guthrie

**Chief Gary Batton signs a Domestic Violence Proclamation, officially recognizing that domestic violence is a very serious issue, and showing he and the tribe will support domestic violence awareness, as well as the advocates and workers who serve victims.**  
It is the first time in the Choctaw Nation history for a Chief to sign such a proclamation. Chief Batton announced that next October, the Nation will be wearing purple every Thursday to show support.



Photo by Payton Guthrie

**As the sun dips below the horizon at Tvshka Homma, attendees of the candlelight vigil hold their lights to remember and honor the men and women who have been impacted by domestic violence.**  
Organizers of the event wanted to express that domestic violence is not Choctaw tradition, and they called for attendees to come together and speak out against such violence, to honor what is sacred and teach Choctaws of all ages and genders.

# Domestic violence: making it stop

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation hosted a day-long workshop meant to train and prepare victims of domestic abuse as well as the professionals who help them in Durant on Sept. 19. The event was held leading into October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, when the Choctaw Nation will host events to bring the issue to light and support anyone impacted by domestic abuse.

Lundy Bancroft – who has more than 20 years of experience training professionals to intervene with male perpetrators of violence and supporting healing and empowerment for abused women – led the workshop, which was based around his book “Why Does He Do That?”

“We are dealing with a problem that’s really profound, and communities keep underestimating it,” Bancroft said. “The question of why doesn’t she leave is really much better asked: what is it about our community that makes it so hard for her to be away from the abuser, and what can we change in our communities to make it possible?”

Advocates and specialists from across the state spent the day exploring answers to such questions. Representatives from organizations such as Child Welfare, Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), and the office of the Oklahoma Attorney General were among those who gathered to spend the day sharing insight during activities. Representatives

from Native programs including the Muscogee (Creek) “Warriors Honor Women” attended alongside individuals from Choctaw programs such as Project Safe and the Family Violence Prevention program.  
“Lundy came into the Choctaw Nation and worked with the Choctaw Nation advocates, community partners, and anyone who may come across domestic violence. We invited the

to survive day to day, but we have to build up a mind frame that they can and should be treated with respect and dignity.”  
As for why an abuser chooses to abuse, Nicole Schell-Loper, Project Safe Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation and event attendee, said, “There are many different answers, depending on the abuser, but in a nutshell, they want control of you, they like that power and

She listed the ways in which the Choctaw Nation offers aid to individuals escaping or recovering from domestic abuse. She said, “we try to help with their shelter, we provide transportation to the shelter, we give them legal information, we help them file protective orders, we offer a lot of resources and referrals of other services to help them with housing, social services, getting a GED, attending a vocational school or college.  
“Statistically, men don’t report it. But girls can be emotionally or verbally abusive, and if they are physically abusive, usually a guy won’t feel physically threatened, or they don’t want to report it because they don’t want to tell a police officer.

“What I do, right now, I go into the schools and talk about domestic violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking prevention. So I go through grades five through college and explain what healthy relationships are and which are not, and we talk about the early warning signs.

“When the jealousy takes over, and you have to ask someone to change because of that jealousy, that’s a big red flag.

“A lot of these women, if they are not being physically assaulted, they might not realize it is abuse, especially if they grew up in a household with abuse.”

The community is asked to support domestic violence awareness at the Victims Assistance walk in Hugo on October, 22. For more information regarding this event, please call the Choctaw Nation at (800) 522-6170 and ask for the Choctaw Family Services group.

*The first step for anyone experiencing family violence who wishes to seek the help of the Choctaw Nation is to call (800) 522-6170 and ask for Children and Family Services or the Family Violence program.*

whole community, as well as our employees, so they could benefit from the workshop,” Davania Wesley, Victim’s Advocate with the Choctaw Nation and event organizer, said.  
One of the biggest teaching points of the event was the victim’s right to be treated as a human, and abusers ignoring these rights.  
“Not only is it just wrong that they are treated like this, but it is their right to be treated better,” Wesley said. “Maybe they don’t feel like they have any rights, they are just trying

control, and they have a low self-esteem.”  
Wesley said the assistance programs with the Choctaw Nation make it a goal to help clients with every aspect, with every need. She said if one person cannot help, the worker or advocate can give the client resources and refer them to a program which can help.  
“I want to let them know that they have rights and need to continue to protect themselves and can call us, or drop by any of the offices,” Wesley said.

# Brothers pioneer aquaponic farming system to tackle food insecurity in Indian Country

By LYNN ARMITAGE  
Contributing Writer

*“Reprinted with permission of Indian Country Today Media Network.”*

Their passion for farming began during childhood on their grandfather’s farm in Talihina, Oklahoma, where they would help plant, grow and harvest a virtual salad bowl of fresh produce, such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers and onions, strictly for the family to enjoy.

Years later, in July of 2012, brothers Kaben and Shelby Smallwood, members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, launched a different type of farming business with friends Keith Scott and Regina Cook called Symbiotic Aquaponic, LLC. They hope that this unconventional farming technology will not only help feed all Native American tribes someday, but also, conserve precious water resources at the same time.

“Aquaponics is a form of nontraditional agriculture in which we utilize a recirculating water system to symbiotically raise fish and produce,” explains 29-year-old Kaben. “We pump water from the fish tank, which contains the fish emulsion, into the greenhouse, where plants and a grow bed are flooded with this nutrient-rich water.”

The real beauty of aquaponics, he says, is that it uses one-tenth to one-one-hundredth of the water used in traditional agriculture because water is recirculated. “You can double your yields because plants don’t have to struggle to get water and nutrients, as they are constantly inundated with them.”

What had some critics of the brothers’ farming vision scratching their heads at the outset is that no soil, artificial fertilizers or pesticides are used to grow their food. “It’s more organic than organic,” says Kaben.

While the Smallwood brothers didn’t invent aquaponics – the farming concept dates back



**Symbiotic Aquaponic LLC receiving the Hitachi Foundation Young Entrepreneur Award. (Courtesy: Kaben Smallwood)**

to ancient Aztec and Far Eastern cultures – they hope that their modern, patent-pending spin on it will resurrect an appreciation for the technology. “Instead of soil, we use a blend of expanded shale and clay ... making really coarse, pebbly-type rocks that are very good for water retention,” explains Kaben.  
Kaben, who earned a law degree and MBA from Oklahoma City University, never intended to land in the aquaponics business. While waiting for the results of his bar exam, he decided to do a little reading in his downtime and picked up a book on the subject. “I read the entire book from cover to cover in one day, and from that point on, I was hooked.” His lightbulb moment: “I started thinking about all the benefits for my tribal community ... conserving resources and growing food seemed like a double whammy and it was something that I couldn’t look away from.”  
With the help of 25-year-old Shelby, the brothers invested \$6,000 (\$2,000 of their own funds and \$4,000 from the Choctaw tribe) in their proof of concept: They installed an aquaponic system in a greenhouse at Kiowa Public Schools. “We knew that if we wanted people from Oklahoma—a huge agricultural state—to buy into this as a feasible means of food production, the only way was to show

them.”  
Not only did they win over the skeptics and impress teachers, students and administrators in the process, but recently, they were among five businesses to win the 2013 Yoshiyama Young Entrepreneur Award from the Hitachi Foundation. Winners were given \$40,000 and free business mentoring.  
According to Jennifer Harms, the foundation’s program officer, “Our program identifies entrepreneurs who are operating viable businesses and also helping to improve the lives of low-income people in the U.S.”  
Kaben has a slightly different take on being a social entrepreneur: “We don’t think that doing good and making a profit need to be mutually exclusive. We believe the best way to make a profit is by doing good.”  
Harms refers to the Symbiotic Aquaponic founders as “pioneers,” and said the judges were impressed by their authenticity and passion to use aquaponics to improve their native community.  
To date, Symbiotic Aquaponic has also built a turnkey, six-bed aquaponic system for Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. And its founders plan to use the \$40,000 Hitachi award to complete their own commercial 40-bed system in Kiowa that will provide fresh, quality produce and a protein source for tribes in Choctaw territory.  
But, Kaben says, there is an even bigger picture: “Our grandiose, large-scale, dreamer’s dream is to build turnkey systems for every tribe that has an underserved population in terms of food security.”  
These days, the Smallwood brothers are getting a lot of support—especially from their grandfather, the farmer.  
“Initially, he was one of our toughest critics, one of the guys saying that you can’t grow something without soil. But now, he is more excited than anybody else.” For the Smallwood siblings, the real value of their farming business is something that money can’t buy. As Kaben says, “It’s a way for my brother and I to carry on our grandfather’s legacy.”



**Bright green lettuce headed for the Kiowa High School salad bar. (Courtesy: Kaben Smallwood)**



**Kaben Smallwood shows off the root structure of the plant, demonstrating how the roots can grow straight down rather than stretching out. This is because they do not have to compete for nutrients and resources like they do in soil. (Courtesy: Smallwoods)**



# HEALTH

## Recipe of the Month



### Pumpkin Stew

Winter squash are excellent sources of vitamin A, good sources of vitamin C and dietary fiber. They are also a good way to get potassium.

Winter squash, including pumpkins, are rich in **carotenoids**, including:

- \* **Beta-carotene** and **alpha-carotene**: these carotenoids can act as antioxidants. Also, our bodies convert these to vitamin A, a nutrient important for immune function and maintaining healthy cells among other roles.
- \* **Lutein** and **zeaxanthin**: these yellow pigmented carotenoids help protect eye health by filtering high-energy ultraviolet rays that can damage our eyes' lens and retina. They act as **antioxidants** here and possibly elsewhere in our bodies. Try this pumpkin stew recipe from the National Cancer Institute for a hearty meal to help the body fight cancer.

1 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped  
1 medium red bell pepper, chopped  
1 medium onion, chopped  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 tsp. ground cumin (curry powder may be substituted)  
1 (15 oz.) can pureed pumpkin (2 cups fresh may be substituted)  
1 (15 oz.) can black beans, no salt added, drained  
1 (15 oz.) can yellow corn kernels, no salt added, drained (1-1½ cups fresh or frozen may be substituted)  
1 (14 oz.) can diced tomatoes, no salt added  
2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth (vegetable may be substituted)  
1/4 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped, divided  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
1/4 cup plain, low-fat yogurt, optional

In large saucepan warm oil over medium heat. Stir in peppers, onion and garlic and sauté about 6 minutes until peppers and onion soften. Stir in cumin and continue to cook 1-2 minutes.

Pour in pumpkin, beans, corn, tomatoes and broth. Add 1 teaspoon cilantro and season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring to boil then reduce heat. Cover and simmer 25 minutes.

Divide stew among four bowls and garnish with cilantro and yogurt, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

Per 2 cup serving: 301 calories, 5 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 57 g carbohydrate, 14 g protein, 14 g dietary fiber, 307 mg sodium.

I hope you all enjoy this recipe. For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RDLD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center 1-800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

## For women: Reducing your cancer risk

*This article appears in the Sept. 4 issue of AICR's eNews.*

September was Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and with breast cancer awareness efforts underway, it's a good time to highlight how women can reduce the risk of many of the most common cancers.

Screenings play an important role in prevention and/or early detection. And so does lifestyle. For each of the cancers listed, AICR research shows that what women weigh, eat, and how much they exercise play a role in reducing the risk.

- \* Ovarian cancer, the most deadly gynecological cancer, is often not diagnosed until its late stages.
- \* For the first time, AICR research found that obesity links to increased risk for this cancer.
- \* 5 percent of US ovarian cancers can be prevented by being a healthy weight.
- \* Aside from skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women in the United States. The majority of breast cancers occur in women after menopause.
- \* For postmenopausal cancers, excess body fat, adult weight gain and alcoholic drinks increase risk; breastfeeding and daily physical activity lower risk.
- \* AICR estimates that 38 percent of breast cancers are preventable by being active and a healthy weight.
- \* Colorectal cancer rates have dropped over the past decade, mainly attributed to increased screenings. It still remains the third leading cause of cancer death in women.
- \* Excess body fat is one of the strongest factors that increases risk; abdominal fatness is also a risk factor.
- \* Other factors that increase risk are eating processed meats and high amounts of red meat and drinking alcohol; factors that lower risk include foods with fiber, garlic and milk, along with daily moderate physical activity.
- \* Half of US colorectal cancers can be prevented through diet, activity and being a healthy weight.
- \* Endometrial cancer: Cancers in the endometrium begin in the uterine lining. This is one of the most preventable cancers by diet, weight and exercise.
- \* Drinking coffee – whether decaffeinated or caffeinated – reduces the risk, along with daily moderate activity.
- \* Excess body fat and a high-glycemic-load diet increases risk.
- \* An estimated 59 percent of US endometrial cancers can be prevented by being active and a healthy weight.

For more information on the latest research on diet, physical activity and weight on cancer risk visit the Continuous Update Project.

Visit the National Cancer Institute for more information on screening and other factors that play a role in reducing cancer risk.

## NURSERY NEWS

### Judd Thomas Elrod

Proud parents Jared and Deidre Elrod are happy to announce the birth of their son, Judd Thomas Elrod. He was born July 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. He weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Judd's grandparents are Bruce and Megan Bacon of Daisy, Kam and John Harden of Daisy and Jerry and Valinda Elrod of Stringtown. Great-grandparents are Jack and Imogene Bacon of Daisy, Calvin and Beth Gann of Antlers, Wylie and Louise Loyd of Summerfield and the late John and Juanita Elrod of Talihina.



### Steven Jesse Paul Duncan

Steven and Cheyenne Duncan would like to announce the birth of their son Steven Jesse Paul Duncan. Born May 18, baby Steven weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud Grandparents are Terry Ward, Beth Ward, and Wesley Pruitt, and Cheryl Stephens.



### Kai Hiloha James Caskey

Chris and Kara Caskey, and brothers Matthew and Aaron of Lexington welcomed the arrival of baby Kai Hiloha James Caskey at 8:14 a.m. September 4 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. Weight 9 pounds 7 ounces and 21 inches long. Proud Grandparents are Harold and Gale Caskey; James and Kim Caskey all of Lexington. Cleland and Sue Willis of Idabel; Amos and the late Sweeley Steele of Broken Bow; The late Dixon and Melba Willis of Wright City.



### Conser James Holditch

Brian and Senee Holditch of Richardson, TX are happy to announce the birth of their son, Conser James Holditch. C.J. arrived on May 20, 2014 at Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. He weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Bobby and Sandra Holditch of Red Oak, TX and Jim and Linda Easley of Odessa, TX. Living great-grandparents are Buck and Martha Holditch of Red Oak, TX and Arlis and Molene Easley of Odessa, TX. Deceased great-grandparents are Conser J. and Jimidel Spring and Ava Smith.





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



Choctaw Nation WIC welcomes breastfeeding questions and also offers breastfeeding classes in 6 locations.

## Choctaw Nation WIC



*WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN*

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

## 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](http://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.





Free help

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

**1 800 QUIT NOW**

784-8669 OKhelpline.com

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays Nov. 3-21, except for: Nov. 5: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 1-3:30 p.m. (market open) Nov. 12: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m. (market open) Closed: Nov. 11, 24-26 for Inventory, 27-28 for Tribal Holiday. Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 14, 10-2 p.m.
DURANT
Market open weekdays Nov. 3-21, except for: Closed: Nov. 11, 24-26 for Inventory, 27-28 for Tribal Holiday. Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 12, 10-2 p.m.
McALESTER
Market open weekdays Nov. 3-21, except for: Closed: Nov. 11, 24-26 for Inventory, 27-28 for Tribal Holiday. Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 20, 10-2 p.m.
POTEAU
Market open weekdays Nov. 3-21, except for: Closed: Nov. 11, 24-26 for Inventory, 27-28 for Tribal Holiday. Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 18, 10-2 p.m.



# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Reserve your 2015 Labor Day Festival RV site

In order to reserve an RV site with electric and water hook-ups for the 2015 Labor Day Festival, please mail the reservation request form at right **no earlier than January 1, 2015**. 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.**

All reservations will be drawn randomly for the 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 in the amount of \$75 and you will 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 2015 Labor Day Festival.

2015 RV Space Reservation

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone

Alternate Phone

Email

RV camper description

Length

Number of Slide-outs

Width of Slide-outs

Only one (1) reservation per application

No reservations will be accepted priot to January 1, 2015

Please return to  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Attn: Janita Jeffreys  
RV Reservations  
2101 West Arkansas Street  
Durant, OK 74701

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctow Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds (uncashed payroll checks) that may be due to these individuals. If you are an employee or former employee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and your name is listed below, please contact: The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702  
Attn: Angie Ansiel, Payroll and Employee Services  
Accountant or Phone 580-924-8280 ext. 2467.

Childs, Martha

Clark, Mia De Anne

Clemons, Tony

Ellis, Nicole

Johnson, Tailor

Junell, Keri

Kirksey, Lexi Nicole

Murray, Cheyenne Seleah

Partin, Dennis

Patterson, Austin Isaac Ryan

Randall, Kandence

Reynolds, Kristal

Teague, Sheldon

Williams, Curtis

Gary Batton

Chief

Jack Austin Jr.

Assistant Chief

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Lisa Reed, Executive Director

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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

sociate of Arts, from Citrus College, Glendora, California. My great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Juanita Rozell, who was an original enrollee of the nation, would have been very proud, as is the rest of my family who have also supported me every step of the way. My grandmother, Shirley Burgess Vanderbeck, made the Native American stole, with the Choctaw Seal at the bottom, that I wore over my graduation robe as shown in the photograph. I am looking forward to my next journey in the career world and hopefully with great success.

**Thomas Alan Vanderbeck**

### Vanderbeck attaining goals

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the Choctaw Nation for its continued support and encouragement throughout the past few years as well as its financial assistance in helping me attain my educational goals. I earned my first degree a few years ago in audio engineering. In June, I graduated magna cum laude with a second degree in Associate of Arts, from Citrus College, Glendora, California. My great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Juanita Rozell, who was an original enrollee of the nation, would have been very proud, as is the rest of my family who have also supported me every step of the way. My grandmother, Shirley Burgess Vanderbeck, made the Native American stole, with the Choctaw Seal at the bottom, that I wore over my graduation robe as shown in the photograph. I am looking forward to my next journey in the career world and hopefully with great success.

**Thomas Alan Vanderbeck**

## Youth of the Nation

Caitlin Breanna Peach, YAB member

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (CNYAB) has changed my life. It has allowed me to get out and help people in a way that would have never been available other ways. Throughout my involvement in CNYAB I learned a lot about serving other people. Serving at the Senior Dinner last year was a great experience. We also served for the Hugo community when they had a dinner discussing pregnancy and abortions. I met other CNYAB kids that day and I am still friends with them. Through all of the serving, standing under our leaders we were taught how sometimes following is leading.

The Labor Day festival in Tuskahoma is one event that stands out to me. Many people work together to make it a success. The planning process begins way before the event takes place. CNYAB teaches the importance of teamwork. It has been impressive to me to see the plans unfold into such a wonderful weekend for thousands to enjoy. I enjoyed being a part of that process. As various chapters joined together to help in this event, we were able to see the joy on the faces of the children during face painting. We taught the importance of recycling to the young in a fun and enjoyable way. The children enjoyed the victory of a bean bag toss and ring toss while learning to care for our land. Seeing children's faces as we conduct games that are not only entertaining, but also teaching them important values like respect and the importance of being drug free is a very rewarding part of YAB. Hearing a child's laugh makes a day of hard work worthwhile.

CNYAB helped me to see what I can for the world, and to find a way to use my skills to help others. Participating in the Falvmmichi program has helped me reach out to little children in our school. Many of them didn't know me before, but they now stop and hug me every time they see me. The conversations with them may be nothing more than hello outside of the classes, but I know that they are watching me and I can be a role model. When I was young there were older kids that I watched. They may not have known me very well, but I still remember them with admiration.

This coming fall I will be attending Oral Roberts University and will be studying Biomedical Engineering. Through this, I hope to use Math and Science skills to help families in need. With the leadership skills that have been exercised through CNYAB I hope to also make a difference in the students that I will see every day. I also hope to make a difference in the work world as well. I am young, but CNYAB has been a part of making me a capable young adult. There are needs to be met that I can be a part of fulfilling. I believe that being a Biomedical Engineer will allow me to do that.

I know that one day I will be leading worship services. When that day comes I would like to use music and worship to inspire people in more ways than just those 30 minutes every Sunday morning. I would like to form a team with others who share the same passion and give back to the community through music and reach those who are too scared to reach out themselves. I would like to be a part of young musicians' lives. I want to encourage them to make music for a purpose. Everyone needs a lift to stand on their own feet for the first time. Honestly, I believe the experiences that I had at CNYAB will play a role in how I am a servant and a leader to those around me for the rest of my life.

**3rd Place Essay Winner**  
**Choctaw Nation YAB/Senior at Rattan H.S.**

Where are our former Senior Miss Choctaw Nation Princesses?

We are searching for all the ladies that reigned as Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

If you know anyone that has held the title of Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Please contact:

Kanda Jackson

Choctaw Nation Cultural Services

(580)924-8280 ext. 2636

kandaj@choctawnation.com

family. I am so proud of my Choctaw heritage. We live in the Lindsay, Ok. area.

### Storm shelter appreciation

Thank you so much for the storm shelter you provided and all the services our tribe provides for my family. I am so proud of my Choctaw heritage. We live in the Lindsay, Ok. area.

**Nancy Huckby**

### 99 and Proud

I am honored to be a member of the Choctaw Nation tribe. I respect our Chief and our members. I counted 99 years in my birth years yesterday. It was great! Thank you!

**Oleta M.W. Vaught Mutz**

### Proud Choctaw specialist

I wish to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial help to go to school for medical coding and billing. I am disabled and need to work from home. I graduated with a 4.0 (A). I passed the National License Board, and now am a certified Medical Coding and Billing Specialist,MCBS, with Thanks!

**Mary Ann Lewis, Proud Choctaw Woman**

### Looking for descendants

I am looking for descendants of my family. John Preston Grubbs, Enoch Grubbs, and Joseph Andrew Grubbs. Thank you. Please contact 3824v Blindjack Rd. Troy, AL 36079 with information.

**Virginia Tillery**

### Grateful for repairs

I would like to say thank you so very much for the Choctaws coming and repairing the inside of my house. It is beautiful and I thank you very much. May God Bless each of you.

**Kathleen Umphress**

## EVENTS

### Monthly Gospel Singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at (580) 760-6127.

Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma (H.A.A.O.)Reunion 2014

Haskell Indian Nations University of Lawrence,KS invites alumni and friends to the 2014 reunion.

The event will be held

October 31 - November 2, 2014

at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 7902 S. Lewis Avenue, Tulsa (across from Oral Roberts University Mabee Center)

Hotel Reservation number: (918) 492-5000

Ask for Haskell Reunion Rate of \$79.00 plus tax.

Room rate includes breakfast.

Activities:

Friday evening: Reception starting at 6:00 p.m. Masquerage party will be the theme including a costume contest. Costume parage will start at 7:00 p.m. with prizes to be awarded. 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, and 3rd place \$25.

Saturday morning: 10:00 a.m. Annual meeting for the Association. All alumni are invited to attend the annual board meeting where it reports the past year activities and future plans. The National Alumni Office will report Haskell activities which includes a report from the Haskell Board of Regents.

Saturday evening: Dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. Please make your prepaid reservations as soon as possible. Your entree choices are Herb Roasted Chicken, Pork Chasseur (breaded & fried) or Roast Beef with demi glaze.

The program will gain feature raffle drawings, auctions, and a dance. We are again proud to announce Plano Larry and Ramona will provide the dance music.

Sunday morning: Spritual singing at 10:00 a.m. Contacts: Loretta Burgess, duskkt1951@yahoo.com, (918) 633-7030 or Carmen Ketcher, Sacnfoxlady@gmail.com, (918) 333-7483.

Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

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

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

Stigler Community Center

2208 E. Main • Stigler

October 20

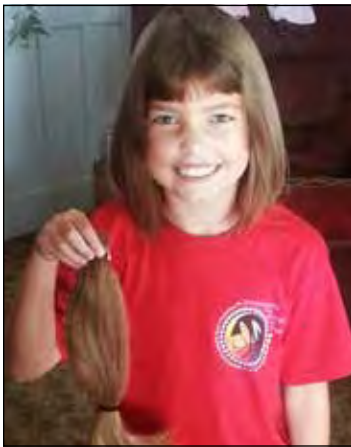
9:30-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Member donates to Locks of Love

Choctaw Nation tribal member Kay Lerch, age 7, donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love. She is the daughter of William Lerch of Poteau and Jessica Lerch of Talihina, and granddaughter of Pernel and Patsy Lerch of Heavener,



## Kappelle wins third State Championship

Dakota Kappelle, son of Kathy and Skip Kappelle and grandson on Gene and Kaye Jones, all of Anadarko, won the 4A State Championship 110 meter hurdles and was a member of the championship 4x400 meter relay and the Overall Team Championship. He is a 2014 graduate of Anadarko High School and is currently running track for Southwestern Christian University in Bethany. Dakota also was State runner-up in the 300 meter hurdles and graduated high school as an Oklahoma Honor Scholar.



## Lockett excels in athletics and academics

Kiley Lockett of Oceanside, Calif. represented the United States and the Choctaw Nation at the 2014 World Age Group Competition in Daytona Beach, Fla. after being selected by USA Gymnastics to be part of the trampoline and tumbling team. During the 2014 USA Gymnastics Trampoline and Tumbling National Championships in Louisville, Ky., Lockett also won the National Championship in double mini trampoline, while taking a silver medal in power tumbling in the Youth Elite division. Her performance during the 2014 competitive season automatically qualified her to attend the Selection Camp at the USA Gymnastics National Training Center in Huntsville, Texas. In addition to her athletic success, Lockett is also a scholar-athlete, having earned a 4.0 GPA in all three years at Lincoln Middle School in Oceanside, Calif.



## Rodriguez celebrates first birthday

Happy birthday to Dallas Andrew Rodriguez, who turned one on Sept. 3. His mother is Starla Denay and his father is Arquimedes Albert Rodriguez. His grandparents are JoAnn McKinney and Arnold Taylor, and his great-grandparents are Madeline Jessie and Alexander Jessie.



## McCready inducted into Hall of Fame

In a ceremony during the 2014 annual Chilocco School Reunion, in Newkirk, Okla., Ramona (Williams) McCready was inducted into the Chilocco National Alumni Association Hall of Fame, Class of 2014. She was recognized for her involvement in area charitable and statewide assistance programs. Her upbringing and training during her years at Goodland Indian Children's Home/School and Chilocco Indian School, started her on the path to help others, especially underprivileged children. She continues to carry on the traditions, values, and ethics she learned there, by continually giving of herself in community service. She is deeply committed to helping make life easier for all those she can. Part of the criteria to be selected for the Chilocco National Alumni Association Hall of Fame is excelling in Community Service and Leadership. Ramona met and exceeded those requirements with her selflessness and compassion within the Missouri Baptist Children's Home as an 18 year trustee and present day board member, Children's Haven of Southwest Missouri, as a Charter Board member, and various roles in her community of Seneca, Mo. McCready also displayed these traits within Hart Baptist Church in Seneca, where she was an admired Sunday School teacher and volunteer. McCready also furthered her education upon graduating from Chilocco by attending Northeastern State College in Tahlequah, (now Northeastern State University) where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. She received the honor of Woman Athlete of the year in 1962 at NSC. In 1968 she did her post graduate Studies at MSSU, Joplin, Mo. Romona and husband William "Doc" McCready have their son, Rich as well as five grandchildren. As a family, they planted their roots in Seneca, Mo.



## Howell selected for Coastal Commission

California Governor Edmund G. Brown appointed Choctaw tribal member and city councilman Erik Howell to the California Coastal Commission on Feb. 21. Mr. Howell traces his Choctaw heritage through his great-grandmother, Choctaw enrollee Fannie Lundie Bishop, grandmother Lois Howell and father Jimmie Howell. The Coastal Commission is one of the most important agencies in the state and oversees all development along the 840 miles of California coastline. It was established in 1972 to protect, conserve, restore and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations. Erik grew up on the central coast of California. He is a graduate of Arroyo Grande High School, Harvard University, and received his law degree from the University of Southern California. He served on the Lucia Mar School Board for 17 years and in 2013 was elected to the Pismo Beach City Council. Upon the Governor's announcement, Mr. Howell commented, "It's an honor to be appointed. I'm looking forward to getting started. Growing up here on the coast I have a deep appreciation and understanding of the responsibilities we face to preserve and utilize our natural resources for current and future generations."



## Mr. and Mrs. Garcia celebrate 50 years



Stan and Nancy Garcia of Hanford, Calif. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with many relatives and friends. The gathering was hosted by their son Kevin, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, and grandson Dylan. After eating and visiting, Nancy was asked by Stan to reach under the table and there she found an envelope. In it, Stan asked her to continue their celebration with a stay on the Island of Santa Catalina. She accepted and they enjoyed finishing another chapter to the story of their lives. Nancy, Kevin and Dylan are proud members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. They are descendants of the Spring, LeFlore, Oakes and Everidge families. Many of their ancestors are listed on the Dawes Roll as original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

## Violet Woods celebrates 84th birthday

Choctaw tribal member Violet Woods, of Blanco, is turning 84 this year. Her son Jerry Dale Woods with wife Cheryl Woods, son Gary Woods and wife Camra Woods, grandchildren Valerie Woods, Jerry Jr. Woods, Tamra Woods, Christopher Woods, and Mary Ellis, along with brother-in-law Dale Ellis, would all like to wish her a very happy birthday.



## Choctaw sisters earn degree and diploma



Shawn Dixon received her Master's degree in June from North Central University. Dixon teaches radiology at Bacone College in the Tulsa. Catherine Moses earned her diploma in May from Muskogee High School. Their parents are Jonathan and Carolyn Moses from Muskogee. Their paternal grandparents are Jonathan and Carolyn Moses from Muskogee. Their maternal grandparents are the late James and Annie Mae Cricklin Barrows. Their great-grandparents are the late Fred and Mary Daisy Jackson Cricklin, original Choctaw enrollees. Their family wishes to congratulate Shawn Dixon and Catherine Moses on their successes.

## Harris/Jacquot/Wood correction



The Harris/Jacquot/Wood family attended this year's Salem, Oregon Cultural Meeting. The Biskinik mistakenly referred to them as the James family in the September 2014 issue. The Harris/Jacquot/Wood clan wrote in and asked to let the Choctaw people know their appropriate name. They expressed how much they appreciate receiving the Biskinik each month and how it keeps them informed of what is happening in the Choctaw Nation.

## Wabaunsee is Miss Kansas Jr. Runner-Up

Miss Ishta Wabaunsee, daughter of James and Natalie (Jefferson) Wabaunsee, has earned the opportunity to attend the National American Miss Pageant through her successfully scored events: Ist runner-up to Miss Kansas Jr. Pre-Teen; Best resume Winner; Most Promising Model and scholarship winner; Most Photogenic Winner; and 4th runner-up in casual wear. The National Pageant is to be held in Anaheim, Calif., at Disneyland during Thanksgiving Week, where Ishta will represent the state of Kansas and have the opportunity to win her share of more than \$500,000 in cash and prizes. Ishta's additional activities and awards include performance company for Dance Factory, fancy shawl dancer and Choctaw dancer with her moshi, Mahli Billy. She has performed twice at the Topeka Performing Arts Center. Ishta is the grand-daughter of Leo Jefferson and Margaret Battiest Hernandez, both of Broken Bow.



# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

## November 2014

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



# EDUCATION

## Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor receives a Choctaw welcome

By STEPHENIE OCHOA  
Choctaw Nation

University of Oklahoma College of Law student and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma member Kelbie Kennedy recently participated in a fireside chat with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor along with other beginning law students. Justice Sotomayor, invited by University President, David Boren, visited to share advice, best practices and insight about developing a successful and broad law career. Already a rare and treasured opportunity for the students present, the chat became an opportunity for Kennedy to share culturally and professionally the spirit of the Choctaw people. Kennedy was one of eight students chosen to submit a question to Justice Sotomayor and when her moment came to address the Justice, she did so using her Choctaw language. Kennedy greeted Justice Sotomayor and then introduced herself as a member of the Great Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, but didn't expect to be greeted in return in the manner she was.

Kennedy said, "One of the moments that I was most proud of during this event was the chance to address the Justice in Choctaw. When I initially reached the microphone, the Justice was taking pictures with the last two people who asked questions. During the entire event she would stop to take a personal picture with those who had asked the previous question. She would then listen to the next question while she quickly took a photo. However, when I began speaking Choctaw,

the Justice completely stopped what she was doing and looked at me intently. I greeted her in our language and told her whom I was, where my people are from, and thanked her for coming to Oklahoma. Before I could even ask my question in English, she stopped me and complimented the Choctaw language. She then stressed how important it is to preserve Native languages. Not expecting the compliment all I could say happily was Yakoke at least three times during her recognition of our language." Justice Sotomayor responded to Kennedy the importance of youth preserving Native languages and that Kennedy obviously did so successfully. After the compliment, Kennedy was able to question the Justice about what challenges Justices face when dealing with Native American legal issues. The Justice explained that overall most people have a misconception about Native Americans by assuming those tribes that participate in gaming are very wealthy and have no financial concerns as a people. Yet, Sotomayor carried on to explain that Native Americans still suffer poverty and have a hard time accessing much deserved and badly needed resources and it is always something they have to pay attention to and work hard to convince others of. Justice Sotomayor also discussed that her personal work preparing for cases or decisions required her to go back into original history to help her become more familiar with the needs of Native American law. Kelbie stated, "Having submitted a question regarding my passion of Indian law, I was hopeful that I would be called upon to address

the Justice. I felt that this was the prefect opportunity to observe a Supreme Court Justice answer when faced with an Indian law related question. I am happy to report that Justice Sotomayor's answer did not disappoint. In addition to answering my own question, she steered the next question back to native people and Indian law as well." Students at the fireside chat were very gracious to have direct and heartfelt advice for them about the challenges they may face in law school and in their careers as Sotomayor left them with an overall message of appreciation for all of their difficulties and to never give up. "There is value in adversity," Sotomayor told the crowd. "There is value to failure." "If you take from failure a sense of accomplishment – a sense that it's worthy to be a gladiator in life, to really battle for those things that you need to do – then you get a greater sense of satisfaction in yourself, even if you fail. And I say that because all of us fail at something. And you learn something about yourself." The visit to the University of Oklahoma College of Law by Sotomayor ended with around 200 alumni and friends in the Sandy Bell



Oklahoma University College of Law student Kelbie Kennedy posing with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Photo Provided

Gallery in the Fred Jones, Jr. Museum of Art. Kennedy said, "I am very thankful to Justice Sotomayor for her recognition of and respect of Native people. I am also very thankful to OU law for providing this wonderful opportunity to meet Justice Sotomayor and open a dialogue with her." Kelbie Kennedy is a 2015 Class Juris Doctor Candidate and American Indian Law Certificate National Native American Law Student Association Area 3 Representative, and Elite 8 Finalist National Native American Moot Court Competition 2014.

By STEPHENIE OCHOA  
Choctaw Nation

## Masheli: Clear and peaceful sky

There are students that achieve, students that achieve well, and then students that achieve greatness. Choctaw Nation member and student from Calera, Masheli Bully has excelled in every area of her life at a very young age. Recent achievements from this past school year would lead one to picture an aggressive personality coupled with a determination to be the best. However, her demeanor and soft-spoken mannerisms show a peaceful spirt naturally happy to learn and grow, matching her name that according to her father means "clear and peaceful skies." Quiet, yet poised for a bright future, Bully looks forward to learning as much as she can in any venue. Her plans are to become a writer someday and she often writes poetry. Her inspirations are her family but specifically her father, Alvin Bully whom she says, "always supports and encourages me."

Her last year's accomplishments are a standard set for other youth that range from sports through academia and religious studies and volunteering and although currently exhibiting a child with little need for direction, she attentively listened to Chief Gary Batton with a gracious demeanor. As Batton explained a great back pitching technique, he was quick to offer fatherly advice for her life as a Choctaw. He said, "You have to be aggressive with life and be confident. Also, speak up and be strong when you face everything because there is nothing you can't do. Then ask yourself what more you have to offer?" Bully listened and acknowledged all of the advice and then visited with the Biskinik offices for a tour while at the complex. Since 2007, Bully has been a Choctaw STAR (Success Through Academic Recognition) student receiving recognition as an "A" honor roll student for every semester. She is a member of the Gifted and Talented program in the Calera school systems, a member of the Oklahoma Junior High School Honor Society, received recognition from the Superintendent for "A" honor roll, Academic Excellence in all subjects, as well as many sports accolades including 1st place in the Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot of Bryan County and a state finalist in pitching.



Choctaw STAR student, Masheli Bully, pitching 2013-2014 school year for Calera Middle School.

Photo Provided


Among the bigger awards Bully has earned, are recognition from National Geographic as a spelling bee participant, Outstanding Academic Performance from Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for College Readiness on ACTs, and nomination for attendance at the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC): LeadNow 2015 in the Great Plains Region in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievements and leadership potential. STAR program representatives say, "It is easy to tell what a bright and powerful future lies ahead for Masheli with her exceptional pursuit in academia. We wish her the best in her future endeavors!" Bully's grandparents are Freeman and Mary Bully, Ramon and Polly Soward. Masheli's father says, "We couldn't ask for a better daughter" and offered appreciation for her continual effort to work hard at her studies, in her church and her dedication to her family. As she ended her 2013-2014 8th grade year as Valedictorian of Calera Junior High, Bully is a student to look to for true Choctaw spirit and success asking only, 'What will she achieve next?'

YAB representatives attend Council meeting  
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board members visiting the Choctaw Tribal Council meeting in August were Kali White, Jesse Ludlow, Kadan Gravitt, Taylor Copeland, Keely Thurman, Emily Dennis, Kylie Stevens and Dylan Futrell. All YAB members are required to attend at least one Tribal Council meeting to interact with elected leaders.



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# OBITUARIES

## Stella Mae (Kash) Fitzer

Stella Mae (Kash) Fitzer, 65, of Stigler, was born in Porum on Oct. 6, 1948 to Homer and Vernia Kash and died Dec. 29, 2013 in Fort Smith, Ark.

Stella is survived by her mother, Vernia Mae Kash; her sisters, Naomi Mitchell and husband Larry of Modesto, Calif., Laverne Mahan and husband Tom of Checotah, and one brother, Homer Kash and wife Ann of Alpena, Alaska; two sons, Joseph Fitzer and wife Brenda of Oroville, Calif., and Daniel Fitzer of Stigler; five grandchildren; 11 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Homer Kash; and niece, Maria Jo Mitchell.

## Veanna Vivian Wickson

Veanna Vivian Wickson, 46, of Hugo, passed away Oct. 7, 2013.

Veanna was born Oct. 1, 1967, the daughter of Dave Wickson and Shirley (Noah) Wickson and had lived all of her life in the Hugo area. Her parents preceded her in death. Veanna was a member of the Choctaw Nation and liked to fish, play on the computer and loved her great niece, Amara Wickson.

Survivors include two daughters, Grace Quiroz and Taylor James, both of Hugo; brother, David DeWayne Wickson of Hugo; sisters, Jackie Smith of Hugo, Rhonda Wickson of Fort Worth, Texas, Rachel Wickson Battiest of Wright City and Sharon Deal of Hugo; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other family and friends.

Interment was held in Springs Chapel Cemetery, Hugo.

## Larry Neal Lewis

Larry Neal Lewis, 73, passed away at home earlier this year surrounded by family and friends.

He was fiercely proud of his Choctaw heritage and he made sure everyone knew it. For instance, he posted signs around the hair salon he owned speaking to that deep love.

Larry was preceded in death by his sisters, Karen and Janada; and his parents, Sam and Mary Ethel.

He leaves behind three generations of loving nieces and nephews who will miss him dearly as well as a collection of wonderful friends who he adopted as family. We will miss you Vmoshi Holitopa!

## ‘H.B.’ Hayes

“H.B” Hayes, 75, of Spiro, passed away in Fort Smith, Ark., on Aug. 15, 2014.

He was born on July 9, 1939, in Summerfield, to Joe and Nancy (White) Hayes. H.B. was a member of the Carpenters Union and a 40-year member of the Masonic Lodge. He loved hunting, fishing and sports of any kind. H.B. also loved sharing his candy and stories.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Verna Sue Hayes; four sisters and seven brothers.

H.B. is survived by: His companion, Shirley Collins of the home; one daughter, Pam Hayes Baxter of Spiro; one son, Mike Hayes and wife, Lisa of Spiro; Trinkia Blankenship and husband, Eddie of Spiro; Anthony Collins of Spiro; Brett Collins and wife, Stacy of Fort Smith, Ark.; grandchildren, Neal Hayes, Brittany McLaughlin, TJ Hayes, Hayley and Hunter Baxter, Lee, Linlee, Lily Blankenship, Linzy Wiley, Arron, Garrett, and Austin Collins; great-grandchildren, Hadleigh and Cannon Hayes, Addalyn McLaughlin and one on the way, Baby McLaughlin. Burial was held at New Hope Cemetery.

## Scotty James Loyd

Scotty James Loyd, 55, of Summerfield, passed away on Aug. 17, 2014 in Summerfield. Scotty was born June 10, 1959 in Fort Sill to Curtis C. and Reba L. (Cox) Loyd. He worked for the Choctaw Nation. He was a member of the Summerfield Church of Christ where he was the song leader for over 20 years. Scotty loved to fish, float fish and ride his Gold Wing. Scotty always remembered birthdays with a card.

Scotty was preceded in death by his mother, Reba Loyd and sister-in-law, Linda Loyd.

Survivors include his father, Curtis; siblings, Peggy and Jerry Wiser, Ray Loyd, Stanley and Janice Loyd, Tracy and Daphne Loyd all of Summerfield; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

## Pedro David Rodriguez

Pedro David Rodriguez, 46, of Kansas City, Kansas, passed away Aug. 19, 2014.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Allowise and Edward Rodriguez; and brother, Ed Jr. Rodriguez.

Survivors include siblings, Ted and Debra Rodriguez; children, Angel Rodriguez, Anthony Akers, and Monica, Kristin, Christopher and Zachary Edwards; and three grandchildren.

## Billie Kelley

Billie Kelley, 86, of Camden Point, Mo., passed away July 18, 2014.

She was born on Oct. 23, 1927 to Curtis and Mae Rosson in Stratford. Billie met Arvin Clarence Kelley while she was working in Oklahoma City and he was stationed at Tinker Field near Oklahoma City. On July 3, 1948 they were united in marriage. After Arvin’s honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force, they returned to Platte County, Mo., where they made their home in Camden Point for the last 60 years. Her husband of 64 years, Arvin, passed away on Nov. 21, 2012.

Billie enjoyed working for Love Transfer for several years. She was a member of the Leavenworth Church of Christ and was very active in the Eastern Star for many years. She enjoyed sharing her love for crafts and bluegrass with her grandchildren.

Billie was also preceded in death by her parents, and two sisters Vinita Curlee and Lyndol Clonts.

She is survived by her children, Gary Kelley and wife May, Caryn Bair, Melissa Westwood and husband Jason; grandchildren, Eliot Kelley, Wendy Wehmeyer and husband Willie, Kelsey Bair, Wiatt, Emily and Jacob Westwood; great-grandchildren, Courtney and Shawn Kelley, Jadon Kelley, Zaniel Maldonado, and Dustin and Morgan Wehmeyer; brothers Curtis Rosson and wife Janet and Duane Rosson and wife Linda; brother-in-law, Alvin Kelley; sisters-in-law, Ermadean Brown, Jean Hull and Janet Higgins and husband Jim; numerous nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Services were held at Camden Point Cemetery handled by Hixson-Klein Funeral Home.

## Phillip C. ‘Pete’ Steelman

Phillip C. “Pete” Steelman, 66, of Heavener, passed away on Aug. 21, 2014 in Heavener.

Pete was born Oct. 8, 1947 in Reichert, to Delbert and Lillie (McLaughlin) Steelman.

Pete was raised in Heavener, attended Heavener Public School, and attended and was a member of the Old Pathway Baptist Church. He worked for Azbill Inspection Service, was owner and operator of Steelman Used Cars and a rancher.

Pete is survived by his wife LaDonna of the home; two special nephews, Dewayne Fox and wife Rhonda of Panama, Randall Fox and wife Paula of Heavener; one special niece, Debronna Harvell and husband Cody of Heavener; five special grandnieces and nephews, Trevor, Sara, Hanna, Dalton and Hayli Fox; three sisters, twin sister Cheryl Lovell of Shady Point, Connie May of Heavener, Kim Phillips of Tulsa; two brothers, Randy Steelman of Heavener, J.D. Steelman of Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Burial was in Reichert Cemetery under the direction of Dowden-Roberts Funeral Home of Heavener.

## Sidney Russell Cox

Sidney Russell Cox, 76, passed away on Aug. 12, 2014. He was born on April 25, 1938, in Indio, Calif., to Wesley Cox and Lola Smith Cox.

There are a lot of ways and a lot of words to describe Sid. He was a gregarious, fun-loving person with an infectious laugh. He was smart and resourceful, able to fix almost anything. He was tenacious and resilient, able to handle what life threw at him. He was known for being adventuresome and unconventional. He was at home both tube-fishing in Oklahoma lakes and dressed up in boots and cowboy hat for a night out on the town.

His company, Downtown Office Machine, was a fixture for 20 years in downtown Oklahoma City. It was damaged in the Oklahoma City bombing and finally closed its doors in the late 1990s. Before it closed, his employees always enjoyed the company’s annual float trip on the Illinois River.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Mona. He is survived by his twin sisters, Lola and Lora, who live in California; his daughters, Kay Lindley of Oklahoma City and Gina Mayer of Fallbrook, Calif.; his grandchildren, Amber Orr of Henderson, Nev., Ashley Platt Thomas of Norman and Kyle Platt of Oklahoma City; and four great-grandchildren.

His family wishes to thank all those who cared for Sidney during his years in Talihina and Whitesboro, and particularly during the last few months of his life. His life was enriched and served by the staff at Talihina Senior Center; the Choctaw Nation; and the doctors, nurses and other health-care professionals at Choctaw Nation Indian Hospital in Talihina and Saint Edward Mercy Medical Center in Fort Smith. The family especially wishes to thank Deborah Green and her colleagues at Rainbow Home Health for care and kindness beyond measure.

## Cecil Clayton Kaniatobe

Cecil Clayton Kaniatobe, 76, of Oklahoma City, passed away July 22, 2014 in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Cecil was born Aug. 23, 1937 in Idabel. He would have turned 77 in August. Cecil is the son of Walter and Wilcey Kaniatobe of Idabel. He attended school in his hometown, until he joined the Navy. He served four years and was given a certificate of honorable discharge in San Diego, Calif. Cecil made his home in Oklahoma City up until he left this earth. He got baptized at Victory Church in Oklahoma City. Cecil was well respected in all the things he accomplished for himself.

Cecil worked as a concrete construction worker for close to 50 years, building storm shelters, driveways and sidewalks. He was a man of many trades. He took pride in his work and was a hard worker. He would get up every morning, have a cup of coffee and read the morning newspaper. He left a legacy in his jobs he has done all those years and was highly respected by his clients, people who could call him a friend.

He loved the outdoors, no matter what it was, from fishing to camping and some hunting – or just sitting outside. His favorite places were around Hugo, Broken Bow, Beaver Dam and Idabel. His hobbies were gardening, reading a good western paperback or peddling in the shed building something. He built four wooden horses, but also enjoyed just sitting in the shed listening to music, or even in quietness.

Cecil’s greatest love was his mother, Wilcey. She lived in Idabel and he would travel as much as he could to see her and all the family get-togethers, no matter how bad the weather. He enjoyed talking and laughing outside in the night air, speaking the Choctaw language and watching his kids, nieces and nephews running around and playing.

There is so much to say about Cecil. He was a strong-willed, funny, laid back person, but also a loving father, husband, brother, uncle and friend to many of us. Cecil had a very close bond with his siblings, Clara, Ann, Jim, Melvin and wife Lupe Kaniatobe, as well as all the nieces and nephews who will never forget him.

Cecil was preceded in death by parents, Walter and Wilcey Kaniatobe; sisters, Sue Watson, Josephine Porter and Dorie Kaniatobe; brother Charles Kaniatobe; first wife Flora Calvart; and son, Kevin Codynah.

Survivors include friend Margorie Kaniatobe; children, Delores Coochyamtewa and son-in-law Kendrick, Clayton, Cecilia, Wilcey, Charles, Karen Shoop and son-in-law Larry, and Guy Kaniatobe; Micheal Sloan; 22 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren; wife Karen Kaniatobe, with whom he lived for the remainder of his life; step-children, Ricky Toho, Joselyn, Kimberly, Jeff and Betsy Codynah.

We all have our memories in our hearts, Cecil is at peace, no aches or pains, just peace with his Father the Lord.

## Mary Ruth Davis

Mary Ruth Davis, 84, of Ardmore, passed away on Aug. 21, 2014, at Oklahoma City.

Mary was born on Nov. 14, 1929, at Caney, to Edward Lewis and Addie (Williams) Lewis. She married Coley Davis in 1946, at Atoka. She attended Durwood School. Mary was a member of Durwood Missionary Baptist Church where she was a Sunday school teacher. Mary was also the church clerk and singing class secretary. In her youth, she worked at Stromberg-Carlson and at Cooks Laundry. Mary enjoyed being a homemaker and she loved quilting.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Mary is survived by her husband, Coley Davis; her sister, Susan Jim of Atoka; numerous nieces and nephews; and her church family.

Interment to follow at Durwood Cemetery.

## Joe Allison Randall

Joe Allison Randall, 64, of Bokeshe, passed away Aug. 19, 2014 in Fort Smith, Ark. Joe was born Feb. 28, 1950 in Talihina to Joel and Eria Mae (Sockey) Randall. Joe grew up in the Talihina/Bufalo Valley area until such time that he joined the US Army at the age of 19. Joe was a proud Choctaw and highly decorated combat veteran of the US Army and most proud of his service in the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during the Vietnam War. He was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his heroism and valiant service. He was a member of the Choctaw Veterans Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Joe was much loved husband, father, and “Poppy.” He will be remembered for his kind heart and giving spirit. He never met a stranger and was always willing to help others. Some of our most treasured memories are of his time spent with his grandkids. Whether it was a trip to Disney World or fishing in the pond out back, time spent with Poppy was always an adventure.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents; son, Larry; and sister, Joanne Gabersack.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Ruby; son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Becky Randall of Muskogee; daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Sidney Skinner of Washington, D.C., Debbie and Chris Mason of Howe; grandchildren, Sarah, Joseph and Leigha Randall, Allison Kelley, Eric, Charlie and Madison Skinner, Jolie and Putman Tucker; siblings, Joel, Jerry and Jan Randall, Kenneth Perry and Jean Lates; other relatives, loved ones and friends.

Interment with full military honors was held in the Fort Smith National Cemetery, Fort Smith, Ark.

## Hubert Laverne Holman

Hubert Laverne Holman, 88 passed away Aug. 19, 2014.

A native Choctaw of Oklahoma, Hubert was born near Stonewall on April 30, 1926.

Being the oldest in a family of eight children, he had to drop out of school after the eighth grade to help with their survival.

In 1946, after serving in the Army, he took his new bride Margie Marie Farmer of Mangum and moved to California. Living in Popular, Calif., they worked in the cotton fields to survive.

Hubert didn’t stop there; he went to barber college then moved to McFarland, Calif., and started barbering. Before too long, he got his realtor’s license and started buying and selling real estate along with barbering. He retired from barbering at only 44 years young but continued in real estate.

Hubert loved the Lord, was faithful to attend church and served as deacon and Sunday school superintendent and teacher up until a few years ago. He loved people and was always joking around and making them laugh He never met a stranger he couldn’t talk to.

During his two-year battle with cancer, he never failed to get himself up and fully dressed every day. Doctors, nurses and hospice workers were all so amazed at his determination and stamina.

He was preceded in death by his parents Homer and Omalee Holman; brothers Charley and Lindy Holman; and sister Wilma Moreno.

Hubert is survived by Margie Marie, his wife of 68 years from Bakersfield, Calif.; three children, Judy Kay Wilder of Eufaula, James Wallace Holman of Bakersfield, Calif. and Melvin Keith Holman of Eufaula; six grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

We all look forward to joining him in heaven someday.

## Willie Walley

On Aug. 19, 2014 Willie Walley (Papa) started a new journey in life with the Lord. Willie passed away at his home in Bennington with his family by his side.

Willie Walley, a full blood Choctaw, was born at home on Aug. 28, 1928 in Bennington to Milton Walley and Georgia Dryer Walley. He was raised and attended school in Bennington. One of six children, he helped out by hunting and fishing after school to aid in feeding the family. He rode a horse to school and later managed to get a bicycle and was able to make the three-mile trip to town. He attended his graduation ceremony by horseback.

While in school, Willie joined the 45th Infantry Division of Oklahoma National Guard. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps, which later became the United States Air Force. His service was from Oct. 10, 1948 to 1971 giving over 20 years of service, including active Federal Military Service. During his service, he was part of the then greatest technological advance in the history of aviation and aerospace power. He witnessed many changes.

During service, one of his primary duties was in communication and handling highly sensitive information, which restricted him from discussing his job. He was in service during the Korean War and Vietnam. In addition to state side duties, he served overseas tours to Germany, Italy, Pakistan, the Aleutians and Alaska. Honors included Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal with five Bronze Loops, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

On July 1, 1960, he married the love of his life, Ella Edel Walley his best friend, companion and business partner. Together the two journeyed through this world as one for 47 years during bad and good times, but he always had a smile and a sparkle of love in his eyes. Later they made their home in Bennington where they raised two wonderful children.

Willie was a wonderful person inside and out; it was evident that he was content with what the Lord allowed him to have and he was always ready to go an extra mile for anybody that needed him. He never met a stranger, was respected and admired for his lifetime achievements of being a “good man.”

Activities include being a member of the Choctaw Nation Wellness Center and Coordinator of the Choctaw Senior Activities and assisting in the Choctaw Nation Nutrition Center and exercise program, Bryan County RSVP and the instructor of exercise at the Choctaw Community Center weekly sessions. Willie was a deacon of the New Bennington Presbyterian Church. He was active at the Choctaw Seniors of Durant Community Center and was the Chairman of the highly successful “Going Green Garden.” He also served as Sgt.-at-Arms. Willis was twice voted Outstanding Elder in District 9 and voted Choctaw Distinguished Elder.

Survivors include daughter, Diana and husband Johnny Bundrant, Jr. of Bokchito; son, Eddy and wife Chrestena Walley of Bennington; thought of as a son, Wayne Minyard of Bennington; grandchildren, Angela and husband Elgin Cross of Bennington, Willie Ray Minyard of Bennington; plus six other grandkids; great-grandchildren, Jacob Cross, DeAnn Cross, Hunter Minyard and Rowdy Minyard.

Burial was at the Old Church Cemetery with honors delivered by the Air Force Honor Guard.





# Going Green Team: Dedicated to improving the community

*Choctaw Nation employees join Keep Oklahoma Beautiful for Fresh Paint Days*

By ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation

Whether it's gallons of fresh paint for a church building or recycling Labor Day rubbish by the ton, the Choctaw Nation Going Green Team is on it.

The Going Green Team had a busy September with Labor Day Festival recycling activities and "Fresh Paint Days" at a local church.

The crew nearly doubled the amount of recyclable material collected at the Labor Day Festival this year, compared to 2013.

A total of 7,580 pounds – nearly four tons – of recyclable items were collected at special receptacles throughout the Labor Day Festival grounds at Tvshka Homma.

The weightiest item collected was cardboard at 3,565 pounds, followed by 2,758 pounds of plastics. More than 1,100 pounds of aluminum was collected, with 86 pounds of paper and 45 pounds of tin also collected.

The Going Green Team, led by Director of Environmental Sustainability Tracy Horst, credited her hard-working staff as well as Choctaw Nation program participants and food vendors for setting aside cardboard boxes and collecting material during the busy festival.

Horst said members of the Going Green Team come from a variety of Choctaw Nation departments including Information Technology, GIS, Facilities Maintenance and Health Services, as well as the recycling centers.

On Sept. 26, the crew gathered at Nanih Chito United Methodist Church near Wright City to hold "Fresh Paint Days" in conjunction with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and H.I.S. Coatings. Team members painted the church and outlying buildings, performed maintenance, mowed grass and planted flowers and shrubs.

"It's really special that we can do this," said Tricia Keyes, a Going Green Team member and Choctaw Nation IT employee. Her family has attended the church for generations. "I used to come to church here with my grandmother when I was a kid."

Keyes said the Going Green Team is "always looking for volunteers" for upcoming projects and recycling efforts.

For information on donations or to volunteer for this event, please contact the Going Green Team at (580) 920-0488 or email thorst@choctawnation.com.



Members of the Choctaw Nation Going Green Team pose in front of freshly painted Nanih Chito United Methodist Church. Paitning, maintenance and decorative gardening were on the agenda for team members Tracy Horst, Ron Nichols, Randy Walker, Stephen Moffitt, Tricia Keyes, Jason Lilley, Melissa Robinson, Dustin Holt, Melanie Lawson and Brenda Fennel.



Zach Maxwell photos

Jason Lilley applies a coat of paint to one of the buildings at Nanih Chito.



Melanie Lawson, left, places bricks around a crepe myrtle bush planted at Nanih Chito UMC during Fresh Paint Days. At right, the Going Green Team takes a break from their activities to gather around the church sign.



How long does it take for recyclable material to go away?

- Plastic Bottles: 450 years
- Aluminum cans: 80-200 years
- Tin Cans: 50 Years
- Styrofoam Cup: 50 years
- News Paper: 8 weeks
- Paper Towel: 2-4 weeks

We need your help to keep these items out of our landfills, it not only saves the environment it also saves money. On the average, 10-15% of the money you spend on a product pays for the packaging, which ultimately ends up as garbage. More than half of the municipal solid waste that ends up in a

landfill is highly recyclable material. (facts-about-recycling.com)

Please remember to use the recycle roll-offs in your community. If you have questions about the location of a roll-off in your area, please call:

Durant Recycling Center: 580-920-0488  
Poteau Recycling Center: 918-649-0343

## New Choctaw Language teachers receive certification



ABOVE: Choctaw Language teachers certified in July were Alestine Thomas, Shirley Lowman, Joyce Baker, Carol Roberts and Peggy Nichols. They are shown with Teri Billy, Councilmen Kenny Bryant, Tony Messenger, and Jack Austin Sr., and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

LEFT: Lincie Battiest Maye of Broken Bow received her Choctaw Language certification in August. She is shown with Assistant Chief Austin, Teri Billy and Councilman Messenger.

## Emergency Management takes surveys, awards survival bucket to Fort Towson family



Emergency Management Planner Rachel Nutter Klepper presents a survival bucket to Sarah Bryant and son Easton of Fort Towson.

Choctaw Nation's Department of Emergency Management took surveys of member concerns during the annual Labor Day Festival. Those who participated in the surveys were entered into a drawing for a bucket of items aimed at disaster preparedness.

Emergency Management Planner Rachel Nutter Klepper presented the bucket to winner Sarah Bryant and son Easton Bryant of Fort Towson.

The contents of the bucket included various items needed to survive for several days or weeks without power and running water. These items included drinking water, emergency food rations, first aid materials, hygiene supplies, gloves and a weather radio.

The bucket itself comes with a flip-top lid and specially designed bags for use as a portable restroom.

# RECYCLABLES

Please recycle items shown below.  
All material must be **CLEAN, DRY & EMPTY.**

**PLASTICS 1, 2 & 5**  
2-liter bottles, detergent bottles, water bottles, milk jugs, clear food containers, etc...

**JUNK MAIL**  
Catalogs, envelopes, letters, office paper.

**ALUMINUM/METAL**  
Beverage cans, tin food cans

**PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES**  
Any empty, non-broken toner/ink cartridges

**CARDBOARD**  
Also including: Dry food boxes, cereal, cake mix, beverage carriers, shoe boxes

**STYROFOAM**  
Straws and lids removed from cups. Packing materials, cups, plates, peanuts, all accepted

**MAGAZINES**

**NEWSPAPER**  
Including inserts

**PHONE BOOKS**

**SHREDDED PAPER**  
Place in bag and tie up

**Choctaw Nation Recycling Center**  
3408 Wes Watkins Blvd | Durant, OK  
or  
304 Kerr Avenue | Poteau, OK

Call (580) 920-0488 or (918) 649-0343 for more information



# Rethinking Columbus Day:

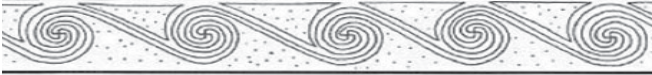
## How Native Americans shaped our world

October 12, 2014 will mark the 522nd anniversary of Columbus and his exploration of the Americas. Columbus opened the door to the interaction between Native Americans and the long line of Europeans that they would encounter and eventually live with. In this month’s Iti Fabvssa we will take a different approach to Columbus Day and examine how Native Americans helped shape not only America but the world.

Before the arrival of Columbus on the islands of the Caribbean, Native Americans had been living on the lands of what would become North, Central and South America for thousands of years. In fact, Choctaw oral traditions place Choctaws in North America over 10,000 years ago. During that time, Native Americans established villages, cities, and hunting grounds. They also developed agricultural and textile industries, and created vast trade networks. By the time of Columbus’s arrival America had a population of over 100,000,000 people. This population boasted many distinct cultures and societies that were unprecedented to that of Europe.

During the thousands of years leading up to the arrival of Columbus and other European explorers, Native Americans were making great advances in architecture and the establishment of not only villages but also towns. Today we can still see the grandeur and beauty of these cities from the Mayan ruins in Mexico and Central America, the remains of the Incan civilization in South America, and the remains of the mound structures and their surrounding villages, like that of the Choctaws, in North America. Native Americans were able to create not only grand and beautiful villages and cities, but they also created their villages and cities to survive and thrive in their unique environments. In South America for example, the Incas were able to create buildings and homes that could survive earthquakes (Weatherford 1988, 2010:284). This Native American approach to architecture, with its “sturdy angles, straight lines, and parallels” eventually caught on during the early settlement of America (Weatherford 1988, 2010:286,290-291).

While Columbus did not have interactions with the Native Americans of the present day United States, he did experience interactions with those living in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. During his time in the Americas Columbus encountered many different types of land, plants, and food, all of which he claimed for the Spanish Crown. The major resource that he encountered came in the form of gold and silver. For hundreds of years Tribes had accessed the gold found on their lands and turned it into decorative items such as jewelry. Upon encountering Natives Columbus took notice of their gold ornaments and jewelry and



### Iti Fabussa

began his quest for the source of these riches. Once found, the gold was gathered and sent back to Europe. Columbus’s discovery of gold opened the doorway for the European explorers that would begin pouring into this new world.

Upon reaching South America and Mexico, the Spanish discovered the massive quantities of silver that the lands held. As the primary material desired to make monetary coins the extraction and shipment of silver became just as important as that of the gold that had been previously discovered. Suddenly Europe experienced a rush of wealth from the gold and silver being imported from the Americas. This new found wealth created a new social and monetary system and brought Europe to the forefront of international power (Weatherford 1988, 2010:16-21). Of course the great demand of gold and silver created the need for a large workforce. Many Natives were taken as slaves and forced to work in this new venture. Eventually Europeans moved on from gold and silver and into new forms of trade involving Native products such as tobacco, cotton, and various types of food.

Food bearing plants of the Americas became a vital commodity of the European world. It is believed that Native Americans cultivated over three hundred food crops and gave the world three-fifths of the crops now in cultivation (Weatherford 1988, 2010:93). The types of plants and food taken from the Americas and imported into Europe include: potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, beans, squash, peanuts, sunflowers, tomatoes, peppers, chocolate and vanilla. In addition to changing the types of food available to Europe, Native foods also changed the cuisine. The introduction of these Native foods enabled the people of Europe and Asia to add new tastes, textures, and colors to their dishes. One of the best examples of how Native foods changed world cuisine can be illustrated by Italian cuisine. Today when we think of Italian cuisine one of the first things that comes to mind is tomato or spaghetti sauce, but before the introduction of Native foods there were no tomatoes to make a sauce with. Without the introduction of this Native food we wouldn’t be able to enjoy spaghetti, lasagna or any of the other Italian dishes that we eat today.

Native American food, however, did more than just provide variety to the European diet. Potatoes provided more nutrition than

the traditional grains of Europe and required less work to cultivate and produce (Weatherford 1988, 2010:84-88). Corn, while not as popular with the people of Europe as was the potato, was found to be a great food source for animals. This reliable food source for animal feed increased the population of animals in Europe which increased the available sources of protein such as meat, cheese, milk and eggs (Weatherford 1988, 2010:95). Out of these crops potatoes and corn became the staple crops that would lead to a population boom in Europe. This population boom lead not only to the large number of Europeans that would eventually colonize America, but also to the Industrial Revolution.

Due to the large increase in population that Europe experienced during the years after the introduction of Native American plants and food, the demand for the production of these and other Native American products such as cotton, dye, rubber, chocolate, and vanilla, greatly increased. In order to keep up with the demand of these products, Europe needed to establish a better form of production than just the limited quantities that small villages could produce. It was the introduction of products that Native Americans had been producing and using for thousands of years that inspired Europe to create the factories, machines, and workforce that we would come to know during the Industrial Revolution.

The effect of Native Americans on the world can be measured far beyond the trade, monetary systems, agriculture and food that they introduced. In fact, Native Americans can also be credited with providing the basis of the government that we know today. Coming from countries that were ruled by monarchies, Europeans knew little, if anything, about democracy. Upon encountering the Iroquois League, the early American settlers were able to see what a democratic government was, how it worked, and what it could accomplish (Weatherford 1988, 2010:173). Today we see this type of Native based government carried out daily through our leaders at federal, state, and local levels. Without this type of government the lives of all Americans would be vastly different.

The ways that Native Americans have shaped our world are far reaching and innumerable. It is hard to go through our daily routines and not find something that Native Americans haven’t had an effect on. This Columbus Day, rather than focusing on Columbus’s “discovery of America”, we can take a different approach and focus on what Native Americans were able to share with the world.

Weatherford, Jack  
2010 [1988] Indian Givers: How Native Americans Transformed the World. Three Rivers Press, New York.

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Singular, Dual and Plural Verbs

**Singular – one**  
**hikia – ‘to be standing’**

**Katimma ish hikia?**  
Pronounced:  
Ka-tim-ma ish he-ki(n)-yah?

Meaning:  
Where are you standing?

**Dual – two**  
**hinli – ‘standing’**

**Chim ofi tuklo yvt iti nuta ma hinli.**  
Pronounced:  
Chim oh-fe tohk-loh yaht ih-tih noh-ta ma(n)  
hin-li.

Meaning:  
Your two dogs are standing under that tree.

**Plural – three or more**  
**hiyohmaya - ‘standing’**

**Katimma hvsh hiyohmaya?**  
Pronounced:  
Ka-tim-ma hah-sh he-yoh-ma(n)-ya?

Meaning:  
Where are you all standing?

Word Meaning:

<b>katimma</b> – where	<b>ish</b> – you
<b>hikia</b> – standing	
<b>chim</b> – your	<b>ofi</b> – dog
<b>tuklo</b> – two	
<b>yvt</b> – subject marker	<b>iti</b> – tree
<b>nuta</b> – under	
<b>ma</b> – there	<b>hinli</b> – two standing
<b>hvsh</b> – you all	
<b>hiyohmaya</b> – 3 or more standing	



Photo Provided

Joseph Blake Pate, Johnny Pate, and Johnny “Rutledge” Pate standing by his latest sculpture.

## Choctaw artist goes big

### Bison sculpture stands 20 feet tall in Stephenville, Texas

By STEPHENIE OCHOA  
Choctaw Nation

Buffalo sculptor and Choctaw Nation member Johnny Pate of Fort Worth recently unveiled one of his largest sculptures to date – a giant bison measuring 20 feet designed and sculpted by Pate with the help of his two sons, Johnny and Joseph.

Inspired by his Choctaw/Chickasaw heritage, his family, and the return of the bison to the Choctaw Nation the enormous sculpture resides outside the Erath County Courthouse in Stephenville. The behemoth bison had to be constructed at a different location, as his studio simply wasn’t large enough to complete the sculpture.

One of but many, the sculpture exemplifies his larger-than-life talents.

Hoping the sculpture will bring tourists or visitors to the downtown area of Stephenville, Pate has other pieces throughout

including 40 specifically for Texas Land & Cattle. Pate has also been invited as a guest muralist for the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth.

Although stationed just across the border, Pate’s journey has been one of much further roads. He began a love of art at a very young age and knew by age 4 he would be an artist one day. By his teen years he had begun creating and winning art contests.

His educational background includes studying art at Texas Christian University and in Europe. Later, Pate began teaching art studies in Europe, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia. In addition to murals and sculptures, Pate enjoys helping others to understand the need for art by participating in special projects like Bullovarts.

Pate gives credit to his family, his biggest inspiration and support and next to his culture.



# Choctaw tags available for Tribal members beginning in January

Where do I go to get my Choctaw tag?  
*Choctaw tags can be purchased at any Oklahoma tag office.*

Why are State tag offices selling Choctaw tags?  
*This benefit was negotiated for the convenience of Choctaw tribal members. The tribe and its members benefit by using the existing infrastructure for tag purchases, thereby avoiding the additional expense associated with establishing a separate tribal infrastructure.*

Will my Choctaw tag be mailed to me?  
*The tag office should issue your tag on site. If the tag office is out of stock, your tag will be mailed to you (in this case, the local tag office will issue a temporary tag).*

When can I get my Choctaw Tag?  
*January 1, 2015.*

What are some benefits of the Choctaw Tag Compact?  
*The tag is legally recognized by State of Oklahoma, it will be registered in the DMV system, all Choctaws pay the same price, and it can be purchased at any Oklahoma tag office.*

Why did the Choctaw Nation make a compact with the State?  
*The Choctaw Nation's car tag compact with the State of Oklahoma is a legal agreement between the two governments. When a tribe elects to compact with a state it allows for a legal agreement to be made between the two, where both parties acknowledge the sovereignty of the other. Section one of the compact acknowledges the sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation which inherently strengthens tribal sovereignty. All Choctaw Nation citizens in Oklahoma will receive the same benefits with car tags, regardless of whether they live in our territory. The compact ensures all tags are legal and tribal citizens will not face additional challenges from law enforcement for the tags when driving on roads. Additionally, compacting allows for revenue from the tags to go back to services across the state that Choctaws and all Oklahomans use daily. Revenue from car tags supports roads, bridges, public safety, and public schools around Oklahoma.*

Will Choctaw Farm Tags or Commercial Tags be issued?  
*Not at this time.*

Do I need to live in Oklahoma to get a Choctaw tag?  
*Yes.*

How many tags can I get?  
*There is no limit on the number of Choctaw tags you can purchase as long as a Choctaw tribal member is one of the owners on the vehicle title.*


Do I have to live in the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation to get a Choctaw Tag?  
*No. The Choctaw Nation has made this benefit available to all Choctaw tribal members who live anywhere in Oklahoma.*

Is there an additional charge to get a Choctaw tag instead of a State of Oklahoma tag?  
*No. You will save money because the Choctaw Nation will send you a partial rebate.*

Some people are saying that the Choctaw tags are the same thing as a specialty plate. Is this true?  
*No. See the table below for a comparison.*

CHOCTAW TAG	OKLAHOMA SPECIALTY PLATE
Authorized by Tribal and State Compact	Authorized by Oklahoma Legislature
No extra charge	\$18-\$38 additional fee
Always available	Only available if the state receives at least 100 prepaid applications by deadline
No waiting period to get tag	6-8 months processing time
Partial rebate for Choctaw members	No rebate

If I buy a Choctaw tag, will state or local programs supported by tag sales get less support?  
*No. The Choctaw Nation has negotiated a compact that ensures all programs will continue to be supported at the same rate. Examples of programs that are supported by tag sales include local school districts, County Highway Maintenance and Construction Fund, County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund, County Road Improvement Fund, County for Cities and Incorporated Towns, County Road Fund for County Roads, Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement Fund, Counties for Support of County Government, State Transportation Fund, and Wildlife Conservation Fund.*



The last few years has seen a resurgence in efforts to preserve and strengthen the Choctaw Nation's culture and heritage. The new license plates are a great way for Tribal members to display their heritage. The tags, which proudly state "Chahta Sia Hoke" (I am Choctaw), also feature the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation and stickball sticks representing the traditional Choctaw game. Members who purchase the tag will receive a rebate from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. It is an honor to have the Choctaw Nation represented in this way and we hope you are as excited as we are about the official license tags!

New/Used Non-Commercial

Vehicle Registration

Can I go to any licensed Oklahoma tag agency?

YES! Any tag agency in the State of Oklahoma can issue the Choctaw Nation tag.

What do I have to do to get a Choctaw tag?


1. The owner or co-owner listed on the vehicle title must be a Tribal member and present a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership Card to the tag agency at the time of registration.

2. You must pay all of the regular fees that non-tribal members pay to register a vehicle.

How much of a rebate will I get for getting the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma license tag?

1. After paying all regular fees, a refund of 20% of the registration fees paid to the State of Oklahoma will be mailed to you. (See example of rebate chart below)

2. You should receive your rebate within 60 days of registering your vehicle and getting the CNO tag. The rebate will come directly from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Rebate Chart

Purchase Price of Vehicle*:	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$55,000	\$60,000
State Fees	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
Excise Tax	\$488	\$813	\$975	\$1,138	\$1,300	\$1,463	\$1,625	\$1,788	\$1,950
TOTAL	\$612	\$937	\$1,100	\$1,262	\$1,425	\$1,587	\$1,750	\$1,912	\$2,075
20% Tribal Member Rebate	\$122	\$187	\$220	\$252	\$285	\$317	\$350	\$382	\$415
Total Cost to Tribal Member	\$490	\$750	\$880	\$1,010	\$1,140	\$1,270	\$1,400	\$1,530	\$1,660

\*Assuming purchase of brand new vehicle. State Fees include title, registration, lien and waste tire fee. For more information visit <http://www.tax.ok.gov/motveh.html>

Non-Commercial

Tag Renewal

Can I get a Choctaw tag before my current tag is up for renewal?

You can not switch to the Choctaw tag until your current tag is up for renewal. You must also go to a tag agency to renew your tag if you will be obtaining a Choctaw license tag for the first time.

What do I have to do to get a Choctaw tag?


1. The owner or co-owner listed on the vehicle title must be a Tribal member and present a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership Card to the tag agency at the time of renewal.

2. You must pay all of the regular fees that non-tribal members pay to obtain a renewal tag for a vehicle. (See chart showing current State renewal tag fees)

How much of a rebate will I receive for getting the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma license tag?

1. After paying all regular fees, a refund of \$20 of the renewal tag fees paid to the State of Oklahoma will be mailed to you. (See example of rebate chart below)

2. You should receive your rebate within 60 days of renewing your tag and getting the CNO tag. The rebate will come directly from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Rebate Chart

Non-Commercial

Renewal Tag Fees

\*2014 rates

Vehicle Age:	1-4 years	5-8 years	9-12 years	13-16 years	17+ years
Annual Fee:	\$91	\$81	\$61	\$41	\$21
Member Rebate:	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
Member Cost:	\$71	\$61	\$41	\$21	\$1



# Labor Day 2014 Pow Wow winners

Name	Division	Place
Douglas Scholfield	Adult Mens Fancy	1st
R G Harris	Adult Mens Fancy	2nd
Corey Reeder	Adult Mens Fancy	3rd
Cecil Gray	Adult Mens Fancy	4th
JR Lonelodge	Adult Mens Fancy	5th
DJ Yarholer	Adult Mens Grass	1st
Ed Black	Adult Mens Grass	2nd
Antoine Edwards	Adult Mens Grass	3rd
Mark Bolin	Adult Mens Grass	4th
Marshal Williamson	Adult Mens Grass	5th
Billy Komahcheet	Adult Mens Straight	1st
Denny Medicinebird	Adult Mens Straight	2nd
Jason Lightfoot	Adult Mens Straight	3rd
Anthony Monoessy	Adult Mens Straight	4th
Otto Haukt	Adult Mens Straight	5th
Nevaquaya Edmond	Adult Mens Traditional	1st
George Shields	Adult Mens Traditional	2nd
B Haury	Adult Mens Traditional	3rd
P Moore	Adult Mens Traditional	4th
Jason Bender	Adult Mens Traditional	5th
Hauli Gray	Adult Womens Buckskin	1st
Toni Mule	Adult Womens Buckskin	2nd
Erin Yarholer	Adult Womens Buckskin	3rd
Jacqueline Tsonetokoy	Adult Womens Buckskin	4th
Denise Haury	Adult Womens Buckskin	5th
Tonya Moore	Adult Womens Cloth	1st
Buffy Simmons	Adult Womens Cloth	2nd
Ponka Victors	Adult Womens Cloth	3rd
Danya Bear	Adult Womens Cloth	4th
Cree Hughes	Adult Womens Cloth	5th
T'ata Roberts	Adult Womens Fancy Shawl	1st
Liuanna Bender	Adult Womens Fancy Shawl	2nd
Annica Billey	Adult Womens Fancy Shawl	3rd





WILLIAMS  
**ROUTE 66  
MARATHON**  
PRESENTED BY BLUE CROSS  
BLUE SHIELD OF OKLAHOMA  
11.22-23.2014 / TULSA, OK

PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2014 ROUTE 66 RACE EVENT  
(5K, TEAM RELAY, HALF-MARATHON, FULL MARATHON)  
ARE ELIGIBLE TO HAVE THEIR ENTRY FEE PAID FOR BY  
GOING LEAN. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
TAMMIE CANNADY BY CALLING (918) 567-7121 OR  
EMAILING HER AT [TKCANNADY@CNHSA.COM](mailto:TKCANNADY@CNHSA.COM).  
IF YOU REGISTER AND DO NOT PARTICIPATE, YOU WILL BE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR FEE REIMBURSEMENT TO GOING LEAN.

Yvette Goodeagle	Adult Womens Jingle	1st
Donie Pewo	Adult Womens Jingle	2nd
Angeline Harris	Adult Womens Jingle	3rd
Leann Bates	Adult Womens Jingle	4th
Jessica Harris	Adult Womens Jingle	5th
Lewis Cozad	Golden Age Men	1st
John Butler	Golden Age Men	2nd
Justin Yearby	Golden Age Men	3rd
Robert Bushy	Golden Age Men	4th
Jo Nada Sage	Golden Age Women	1st
Lisa Komahcheet	Golden Age Women	2nd
Mable Cozad	Golden Age Women	3rd
Charlotte McCurtain	Golden Age Women	4th
Perrin Deal	Golden Age Women	5th
Hunter Delgado	Jr Boys Grass	1st
Blue Sky Black	Jr Boys Grass	2nd
Jordan Rodriquez	Jr Boys Grass	3rd
Ronald E Monoessy Jr	Jr Boys Straight	1st
Elijah Lena	Jr Boys Straight	2nd
Otto Hamilton	Jr Boys Straight	3rd
Ethan Parker	Jr Boys Traditional	1st
Justin Coon	Jr Boys Traditional	2nd
Nuka Nivy Yarholer	Jr Girls Buckskin	1st
Nazhoni Tsosie	Jr Girls Buckskin	2nd
Minnie Tsosie	Jr Girls Buckskin	3rd
Sonja Delgado	Jr Girls Cloth	1st
Serina Horinek	Jr Girls Cloth	2nd
Lena Tsosie	Jr Girls Cloth	3rd
Alhiane Bates	Jr Girls Fancy Shawl	1st
Aeyana Keams	Jr Girl Fancy Shawl	2nd
Tatiana Barcinderbar	Jr Girls Jingle Dress	1st
Katie Parker	Jr Girls Jingle Dress	2nd
Tyler Thurman	Sr Boys Fancy	1st
Akhyka Pewo	Sr Boys Fancy	2nd
Dustin Bigmountain	Sr Boys Grass	1st
Keegan Bates	Sr Boys Grass	2nd
Carlos Black	Sr Boys Grass	3rd
Jeffrey Lightfoot	Sr Boys Straight	1st
Cory Chasenah	Sr Boys Straight	2nd
Donovan Haury	Sr Boys Traditional	1st
Meeli Cooper Young-man	Sr Girls Buckskin	1st
Malia Pewo	Sr Girls Cloth	1st
Paanpai Roberts	Sr Girls Cloth	2nd
Ciara J Wiley	Sr Girls Cloth	3rd
Morning Star Roberts	Sr Girls Fancy Shawl	1st
Rose Goodeagle	Sr Girls Fancy Shawl	2nd
Leticia Perez	Sr Girls Fancy Shawl	3rd
Jandra Levi	Sr Girls Jingle Dress	1st
Winyan Edwards	Sr Girls Jingle Dress	2nd
Michelle Black	Sr Girls Jingle Dress	3rd





OVER \$80,000 IN PRIZE MONEY  
NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2014  
CHOCTAW EVENT CENTER  
ADMISSION IS FREE TO PUBLIC



One Hour North of Dallas on Hwy 75, Durant, OK  
888.OK.CHOCTAW  
Management reserves all rights. Gambling problems? Call 800.522.4700.





# DURANT CLINIC

## Choctaw Nation assumes operation this month

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ◆ GENERAL QUESTIONS

**Will the hours of operation or holiday closings change?** The clinic will remain open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Holiday closings will be posted at the clinic.

**Will I still be able to see my same doctor?** That depends. If you doctor chooses to stay employed with the Chickasaw Nation they will move to a Chickasaw Nation facility. It will be your choice who you see as your primary care provider and which clinic you chose to access for care.

**Will there be one medical record or two?** There will be two. We will have the ability to see structured data such as recent labs and documented past medical and surgical history similar to a health summary. This process is in development. Any records needed can be requested and sent electronically between the two systems.

**Will the Indian Health Service boundaries of the two tribes remain the same?** Yes. The boundaries will not change.

**When will the new clinic be built?** While a date is not firm plans are currently under way with the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA) to support expansion efforts in the Bryan County area.

**Are there any differences in the eligibility guidelines of the two tribes' health care services?** Eligibility guidelines follow those of the Indian Health Service. Any person with a CDIB or recognition from a federally recognized tribe is eligible for services. Contract Health is based on living within specific boundary lines called service units. Approval for Contract Health is based on specific criteria set by each service unit. All Chickasaw Citizens in Bryan County will continue to be referred to Medisaw for services not provided by the Durant clinic or the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health (CNDH). All other tribes will be referred to Choctaw Referred Care (CRC).

#### ◆ PATIENT SERVICES

**Will WIC services be offered at the new clinic?** Currently WIC services are available in the Durant Community and plans for expansion include WIC in a new clinic design.

**If a patient needs a service not offered by Durant Clinic, will the patient have a choice of going to**

**either Talihina or to a Chickasaw facility?**

Yes. Any direct service currently available to patients will continue to be available in either location. If the service is a contract service coordinated through Choctaw Referred Care (CRC) or Medisaw, it will be coordinated by the appropriate tribe. Chickasaw Citizens living in Bryan County will continue to be referred through Chickasaw Nation Medisaw. All other Bryan county American Indian Tribes will be referred through CRC.

**Will the services at Durant be changed in any way?** The level of care and services provided will remain very similar. The goal is to enhance and improve services provided to all patients either through community partnerships or development of services within other CNHSA facilities. Eventually, many services will be added at the Durant clinic.

**How will the referral services between the two tribes work?** Physician referrals from CNHSA providers at the Durant clinic will be recognized by the CNDH Medisaw Committee for Chickasaw Citizens. All other tribes will be managed by the Choctaw Nation Referred Care program.

#### ◆ PHARMACY

**Will I still be able to get my medication?** The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations have very similar medication formularies, with very few variations. If you are on a medication which is not on the Choctaw Nation formulary and have existing refills, the Durant Clinic Pharmacy will provide those refills until you are seen after Oct. 1, 2014 and your doctor can select an effective medication.

**Will I be able to still get my medication mailed?** Yes. Once you have a Choctaw Nation chart number pharmacy staff will explain the changes in the process. Until then continue ordering refills as you currently do. What will I have to do now to get medication refilled? Until Oct. 1, continue the same process you have been using for refills. Once you have been seen by a Choctaw Nation provider, you will order your refills from the Poteau Refill Center at the toll free number or online.

**Will I still be able to get Chickasaw Nation MAPS medications?** Yes. The Durant pharmacy will fax any MAPS medications to the Chickasaw Nation Refill Center in Ada to be filled and mailed

directly to the patient. Choctaw Nation providers' prescriptions will be accepted through the MAPS prescription program.

**Is there going to be an interruption in the cycle of my medicine refills?** Possibly. Measures are being taken to ensure there isn't a break in patient medication refills. There will be a change in the process for refills and you may experience a short delay as refills are changed from one system into the other. Any MAPS medications will continue to be received and refilled through the Chickasaw Nation process. The refill line for medications ordered through the Durant clinic will change and you will be notified of that change ahead of time.

#### ◆ ADDITIONAL SERVICES

**How is contract health or Medisaw going to work?** Any non-Chickasaw patient living in Bryan County who also resides in the Ada Service Unit will receive Contract Health or Choctaw Referred Care (CRC) support through CNHSA. This applies to all tribes except Chickasaw citizens. Chickasaw citizens who live in Bryan County will be referred to Medisaw as they always have been to easily connect them with Tribal Health.

**Does this mean I have to go to Talihina for specialty referrals?** If you are Chickasaw living in Bryan County you will continue to have your specialty referrals coordinated through the CNDH as you currently do. All other American Indian patients living in Bryan County will have their specialty care coordinated through CRC in Talihina. The location of the provider is determined by the availability within your area of residence.

**If a patient goes to the Durant clinic, but wants to get a CT in Ada, will the Durant provider get the report?** Yes. The report will be sent to the provider of record.

**If Durant clinic doesn't have X-Ray service, can we still use the Tishomingo clinic?** Yes. Imaging services at the Tishomingo clinic will remain a direct service and any patient with a valid physician order will be able to receive services there.



1600 N. Washington St.  
Durant, Oklahoma





Photo by Judy Allen

On Oct. 2 several Choctaw Nation and Wilburton dignitaries helped kick-start the ground breaking on the new wellness center at 515 Center Point Road.



Photo by Deidre Elrod

Choctaw Nation and City of McAlester area dignitaries break ground on new Choctaw Nation facilities on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

# Coming soon to Choctaw Nation: new centers, new services

By ZACH MAXWELL & PAYTON GUTHRIE  
Choctaw Nation

There will soon be more wellness in Wilburton. A ground-breaking ceremony was held Oct. 2 in Wilburton for a new 6,600-square-foot Choctaw Nation Wellness Center. Chief Gary Batton, members of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, and other dignitaries turned dirt at the ceremony.

“This is a great and exciting opportunity for Wilburton and the surrounding communities. The mission of the Choctaw Wellness Center is to enhance the lives of tribal members and associates by providing opportunities to develop healthy, successful, and productive lifestyles,” said Chance Adams, Director of Wellness Centers for Choctaw Nation. The Wilburton Wellness Center will include a half-court basketball gymnasium and top-of-the-line fitness equipment such as treadmills, ellipticals, recumbent bikes, a smith machine, dumbbells, and free weights. The facility will also have men’s and women’s restrooms and showers for members to utilize.

“Once open, we will begin to implement a variety of fitness classes and programs such as Silver Sneakers, a fitness program designed for our elder population, an after-school program to benefit our tribal youth, and a host of other programs,” Adams said.

The Wilburton Wellness Center, scheduled to open in late May or early June of 2015, will include 1,300-square-feet of wellness space for exercise equipment as well as a 4,150-square-foot gym with a basketball goal and walking track.

“This is part of our focus to try and work on healthy lifestyles and preventive care,” said Todd Hallmark, Executive Director of Health Operations for Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority. “Starting to work on our preventive side encourages exercise and living healthier. We’re adding different programs so we’re not just running up and down the treadmills. There will be fitness classes. People who start to exercise are less susceptible to becoming obese and can avoid risk factors associated with that.”

A groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 23 marked the beginning of construction of four Choctaw Nation facilities in McAlester.

The campus area will include a new community center and Head Start, both of which replace older facilities, a food distribution center, and a wellness center.

“It’s a great day for the Choctaw Nation and for the City of McAlester to have these types of facilities coming here,” said Chief Gary Batton.

“The McAlester campus will provide easier access and more services for tribal members in one location.”

The campus will be located on approximately 116 acres northeast of the current Choctaw Community Center, casino, and travel plaza. All of the buildings will have parking and are connected by an outer road that loops around the site. The 8,723-square-foot community center will contain administration office space, a conference room, kitchen, meeting area, stage, and dressing rooms.

The McAlester Wellness Center will be a 6,100-square-foot facility that will consist of a 2,300-square-foot wellness area with top-of-the-line fitness equipment and an area for a variety of fitness classes.

The food distribution center will contain a lobby and waiting area with a demonstration kitchen for helping educate the customers on how to prepare the food found in the market-style facility.

The Head Start is licensed for 33 students and will have two education rooms as well as a reading room.

The Head Start is expected to be complete in summer 2015 and the other three in fall 2015.

# Superintendents luncheon stresses communication

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

Educators from Southeast Oklahoma attended the third annual Superintendents’ Luncheon, hosted by the Making a Difference (MAD) program of the Choctaw Nation K-12 Education Department, at the Choctaw Nation Casino and Resort on Sept. 16.

The luncheon aimed to inform representatives—including 75 superintendents from school systems across the 10.5 counties—of the progress the Choctaw Nation has made in supporting students and their schools through programs like Making a Difference, the Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE), and the recent Promise Zone designation.

The running theme of the event was the need for cooperation and communication between schools and the programs set in place to aid them.

Sedelta Oosahwee, Associate Director to the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, spoke at the luncheon.

“I grew up in Tahlequah. I am a product of all of the systems that your students are,” she said. “I knew my values were very different from a lot of my peers, and I also realized I needed different support.”



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Stacy Shepherd, Joy Culbreath, and Paula Harp stand together as a family after the Superintendent’s Luncheon. Each of them has a passion for education and has worked with the Choctaw Nation to serve the Choctaw students, schools and families.**

Oosahwee gave insight on how the Promise Zone designation will impact education in the area, emphasizing how it aims to connect schools with the right resources and support.

“It’s a matter of making sure that all of the programs that can serve these needs are coming together, saying this is what we have, this is what we offer, and this is how we can help and support,” she said.

Oosahwee said the Promise Zone programs need to hear from people in the communities and asked educators to reach out.

Officials from MAD and POSSE also spoke at the luncheon to highlight the services they offer. Larry Scott, Coordinator of the Partnership of Summer School Education, said POSSE got its start as a successful pilot program in Durant and is expanding to hold one summer school in each of the 10.5 counties next summer. The focus is on enhancing the reading and math skills with both Choctaw and non-Choctaw students identified as at risk, and at little cost to the hosting schools. Through POSSE, the Choctaw Nation supplies the educators’ salaries and resources, school supplies, books, snacks, and assessment to the participating schools and students.

Joy Culbreath, former Executive Director of Education, said speaking to the attendees of the luncheon, “Education is important to me, I am not just telling you that. And so when I stand before you today, I want you to know that my heart is here.”

Culbreath went on to say with the expertise of the superintendents, and with the financial help that the Choctaw Nation can give, she thinks the lives of children can be improved for generations to come.

# Bethel health fair educates and informs community

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

District 2 residents gathered in Bethel’s community center Sept. 24 for a health fair to discuss health related issues, get health information, and receive a quick check up.

District 2 Council Member Tony Messenger spoke with the crowd about the use of well water or the use of rural water supplies, and announced the area would soon receive a new community center.

Lunch was provided for attendees with the help of locals like Mary Lou Baker from Bethel, who served the crowd with a smile. Fruit baskets were awarded as door prizes to residents who attended.

During the event, Choctaw Nation employees worked booths aimed at serving local residents in an assortment of health related ways.

Medicaid Education Coordinator and Certified Application Counselor Karen Massey taught attendees about how the Affordable Health Care Act and how it impacts them, stressing the need to register with the government as receiving Native health care.

Sarah Fennewald, with the Choctaw Nation Office of Environmental Health taught attendees about the ways the Choctaw Nation helps members obtain and install carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers.

Annette Choate and Crystal Hensley, both Registered Nurses, measured blood sugar and taught attendees about diabetes.

Lee Ann Sherrill, RN, took members’ blood pressure. Bob Hodge, from Bethel, took advantage of every booth at the event.



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Mary Lou Baker, from Bethel, takes a break after serving lunch to the attendees of the Bethel community health fair.**



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Wanda Bohannon (far right), from Battiest, receives health related information from (far left) Karen Massey, Medicaid Education Coordinator and Certified Application Counselor, during the Bethel health fair. Massey attended the event to inform residents about how the Affordable Health Care Act affects them.**

Tony Messenger, District 2 Council Member, speaks with Battiest resident Wanda Bohannon during the Bethel health fair.



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Lee Ann Sherrill measures Bob Hodge’s blood pressure during the health fair held in Bethel Sept. 24. Members of the community gathered to discuss issues, get health related information, and receive a quick check up.**



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Marilyn Jefferson, from Bethel, shows off her door prize, a fruit basket, for attending the Bethel area health fair.**