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CHOCTAW NATION

# BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

September 2013 Issue

## Tribal Council meets in regular August session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on Aug. 10 at Tvshka Homma.

Council members voted to:

- Approve applications for Water Resources Management and Planning, Health Care Innovation Awards, Water Rights Negotiation/Litigation Program, grant extension for Legal Assistance for Victims, Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Tribal Courts Assistance Program extension, Indian Health Services, Tribal Self Governance Program and Planning Cooperative Agreement.
- Approve the Jones Academy's Student/Parent and Employee Handbook.
- Approve the revised Policies and Procedures for the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Approve the annual budget for Education Talent Search Program.
- Approve the installation of electric distribution facilities at Tvshka Homma.
- Approve the disposal of surplus equipment by the Fixed Assets Department and a grazing lease.

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the council chambers at Tvshka Homma.

### What's inside

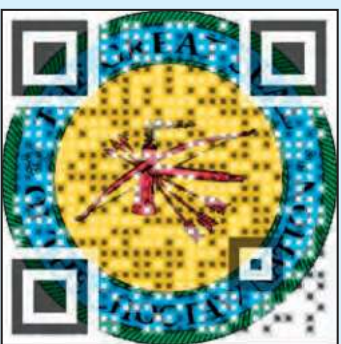
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### The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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Choctaw Nation: JUDY ALLEN

**Chief Justice of the Choctaw Tribal Court David Burrage administers the oath of office to six tribal council members on Monday morning at the Labor Day Festival ceremony. Being sworn in is Delton Cox, Ted Dosh, Joe Coley, Anthony Dillard, Jack Austin and James Frazier.**

# Nation looks to the future

## Six Tribal Council members sworn into office for new terms

By LISA REED  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Attendants braved 100-plus high temperatures to be a part of the Choctaw Nation's Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma.

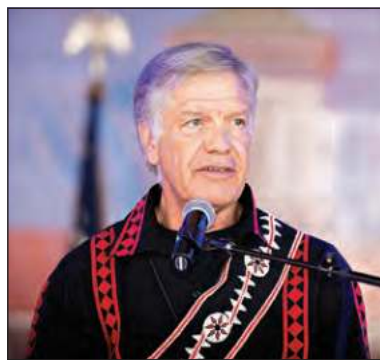
Opening with the pageantry of crowning the 2013-14 princesses on Aug. 29, the five-day festival provided cultural events, sports, concerts, arts and crafts, and just plain fun.

Young ladies from the Choctaw Nation's 12 districts entered the Thursday night pageant to vie for the top titles. Chosen to represent the Nation for the next year are Miss Choctaw Nation Callie Curnutt of Wister, and Junior Miss Kayleigh Powell and Little Miss Isabelle Cox, both of Durant. First runner-up for Miss Choctaw Nation is Rebeckah Boykin of Hugo and second runner-up is Cherish Wilkerson of McAlester. In the junior miss division, first runner-up is Adrianna Byington of McAlester and second runner-up is Karen Crosby of Wright City. Little Miss first runner-up is Savannah Herndon of Soper and second runner-up is Lailah Walton of Antlers.

The princesses made their first public appearance at the Inter-Tribal Pow Wow on Friday, Aug. 30.

Prior to the pow wow, an unveiling of a new sculpture was held along the walking path in front of the Capitol building. Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the Tribal Council paid tribute to the late Charley Jones, a former councilman and historian who vastly contributed to preserving the Choctaw culture. The bust, created by sculptor John Gooden, was placed in the circle garden with busts of Chief Pushmataha and the Rev. Allen Wright.

"Every story I tell, I tell in honor of Charley Jones," said storyteller Tim Tingle before a packed



Choctaw Nation: DEIDRE BACON

**Chief Pyle delivers his State of the Nation address at the Labor Day ceremony in Tvshka Homma on Monday morning.**

audience at Monday's Labor Day celebration. "He showed me the road and pointed the way and he taught me how to walk it."

Tingle shared a story about two 10-year-old boys, one was he and the other was his great-great-grandfather, John Harms. At the conclusion, Tingle played Amazing Grace, and then asked the audience to sing the words with him in honor of all those who went before and all those who help us remember to keep our eyes on where we are going.

"You cannot keep your eyes on the bloody footprints of the past. You must keep your eyes on where you are going," Tingle said.

Also on Monday, six council members stood before Chief Justice David Burrage to repeat the oath of office for another term. Serving the Choctaw Nation for the next four years are Delton Cox, District 4; Ted Dosh, District 9; Joe Coley, District 6; Anthony Dillard, District 10; Jack Austin, District 7, and James Frazier, District 12. Serving the Choctaw people in the other six districts are Councilmen Thomas Williston, District 1; Tony Messenger, District 2; Kenny Bryant,

District 3; Ronald Perry, District 5; Perry Thompson, District 8; Bob Pate, District 11. This group of men work relentless hours to ensure the best decisions are made for the Nation and its citizens.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle began his State of the Nation Monday morning with exciting news of Tvshka Homma's wins to become the Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament champions.

"Something historic happened last night after midnight," he said, "Our Tvshka Homma team played not just with their legs and arms, but with their hearts." Coaches and members of the Tvshka Homma team filed in front of the stage to resounding cheers and applause.

"We won this weekend for the first time against a Mississippi team," said Chief Pyle, who was on hand at 2 a.m. when the final win over the Warriors sealed the championship. "They had to play them twice" in the double-elimination tournament. "They beat us first and we were one and one. We had to play them again. The second game began after midnight and they were extremely tired.

"True champions play when they are really tired and really down," Chief Pyle said. "When you don't have much energy, you play on spirit alone. That's what our team did. I am so proud. Now our team is the champions. Thank you for giving us all something to remember."

"This year's Labor Day Festival theme is 'Your Land, Our Land - Choctaws Going Green,'" Chief Pyle continued. "And speaking of land, this year, Choctaw Nation went to the council and they approved the purchase of a large tract of land - 44,000 acres of our original homeland to help preserve our heritage and create jobs.

"The Choctaw Nation has always been protectors of the environment, especially water, and we continue to fight for the protection

of this precious natural resource in southeastern Oklahoma.

"An important part of going green is recycling. In fact, we have already recycled almost 5 million pounds of trash that would have otherwise gone into landfills."

Chief Pyle paused for a moment and then asked all members of the armed forces to stand. "Thank you. We appreciate all you have done.

"Many years ago in World War I, Choctaws were able to help prevent the German Army from intercepting messages. They didn't understand our Choctaw language. They helped save thousands of casualties and helped bring the war to an end. In World War II, there were more tribes who helped by using their Native language.

"Now, we have been invited to the United States Capitol to accept the congressional gold medal on behalf of our Code Talkers in November. We are so proud of this!

"I want to personally say thank you to our employees," Chief Pyle said in closing. "They volunteered their whole weekend up here, but that's just part of it. They work hard all year long to make this Labor Day Festival possible."

### See more Labor Day photos on Pages 13-16



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# Values passed on through generations



*From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The priorities of our ancestors are passed on to us through examples of the way each generation lives. The way we talk, where we work, how we spend our money, where we live, how we use our time, and the way we treat others – all of these things are lessons to the people who surround us and watch us. In other words, we better “walk the talk.”

Driving in to the Capitol grounds this year for the Labor Day Festival I was thinking about the great values that the Choctaw people have and all the things our tribe has to be proud of. Choctaws are known for honesty, integrity, love of family, perseverance and faith in God. In this next year, that Christian faith will be outwardly illustrated with the construction at Tvshka Homma of a beautiful chapel, which will be prominently seen by visitors to our Choctaw Capitol. This chapel may be used for special occasions throughout the year, as well as for the Sunday services at the Labor Day Festival. The Council, Assistant Chief and I will be very excited about updating you on the progress of this chapel as the

architects’ drawings are further developed, the building work begins and the first service is held there.

Storytelling is another way of passing on values to young people. During this year’s festival, there were ample opportunities to hear Choctaw tales filled with good morals.

Even while playing, Choctaw people are teaching principles of good living to others. Stickball is a teaching tool to the players – teaching teamwork, responsibility, resilience, hard work and resolve. Stickball also teaches unity and loyalty – very important values for today. It is uplifting to see some of the ways of our ancestors being successfully utilized by the “modern” Choctaws.

The more “experienced” in life I get, (notice I didn’t say older!) the more I realize that my children and grandchildren are watching me and the way I live my life. I want to be a good example, so it is important to have a healthy, productive lifestyle, and also to be spiritually fit.

The Choctaw Nation and Choctaw people have remained true to their values for many generations. What a great tribe to be aligned with and learn from! We are all very fortunate.

Yakoke to you all!

## Chaplain’s Corner

### Filled with gratitude

As Christians we have much to be thankful for. We thank God for our Choctaw people and for our great Choctaw Nation.

We thank God for His love. He loved us first before we loved Him (John 4:19). We thank Him for His Only Begotten Son (John 3:16). We thank God for the Gospel: the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, (I Corinthians 15:1-4) the answer to the needs of every individual worldwide, especially in these last days.

There are so many things to be thankful for. Even if you are not a Christian you must admit there is much to be thankful for.

All the blessings that you enjoy come from God’s hands. We read in the Gospel of Matthew 5:45 “...for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the thankful that you have been spared to hear God’s message of salvation.”

Although God hates your sin – sinful behavior (in thought, word and deed), He does love you, the person, and He “...is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

Now, I would like to consider with you what may be regarded the greatest thanksgiving text in all the Word of God. There is nothing comparable to it.

We read in Matthew 26:27 the record of our Lord Jesus Christ standing before His disciples “...took the cup, and gave thanks...”

The cup contained the “fruit of the vine” which represented the blood which He was soon to shed for the sins of the world. It was the cup of death, and yet with the very shadow of the cross upon Him, He could thank God.

Crowded into that cup were the sins of the world, the wrath of God and the sacrifice of Himself. Instead of shrinking from it and crying out to be delivered, He quietly bowed His head and thanked God. The crucial hour was upon Him – the moment for which He had been born and which had brought Him into the world. He was ready to accomplish the redemption of mankind.

All the agonies He was to experience in those awful hours, as He hung a bleeding victim on Calvary, were represented by the cup He held in His blessed hand – and He thanked God.

All through Old Testament days when the brazen altar stood in the court yard, as lambs and bullocks were brought to the sacrifice they came bleating and bellowing. But the true Lamb of God “gave thanks.” There was no shrinking from danger as the cattle seem to do as they are led to the slaughter. There was no trembling and no voice of regret that He had come to the fatal hour.

In the Garden of Gethsemane when Satan sought to impose upon Him a premature death, Jesus cried out to His heavenly Father to let this cup pass from Him.

He shrunk from the idea of dying in any other way than upon the cross as had been predicted in Scripture. Such a death would have defeated the whole scheme of divine redemption.

Satan would have been the victor and man would have been eternally hopeless.

The cross with all that it entailed was His goal, and praise God, He reached it, and when He had accomplished what needed to be done, and God’s righteousness had been vindicated and our sin debt had been completely paid, He cried out,



**REV. BERTRAM BOBB**  
Tribal Chaplain

“It is finished.” (John 19:30).

Jesus looked upon the broken bread and the wine in the cup, which was to be sipped by all His disciples, as something very significant.

The full measure of it was known only to Himself, yet He could “thank God.” Thanksgiving can go on no higher, His blood has saved the entire human race, and rises to sprinkle the Mercy Seat in the Throne room of the Almighty.

Have we thanked God for the death of Jesus and do we rejoice in His finished work in our behalf?

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.” (II Corinthians 9:15).

My friend, we should be thankful because we know that we are sinners! (Romans 3:23).

Jesus said, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:32).

The truth about this matter is that everyone is a sinner, and that no one will ever be saved except they recognize their sinful condition and cry “...God be merciful to me a sinner.” (Luke 18:13).

We should also be thankful because we do not have to save ourselves.

If we were saved by our own efforts, we could never know when we had done enough to save ourselves – a neverending task. God makes it very plain in His Word, the Bible, in Titus 3:5, that it is “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...” and that “...it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9).

Be thankful for the glorious future that awaits us for “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” (I Corinthians 2:9).

The blessed Lord on His throne pours out His blessings then waits for the expression of gratitude, the expression of thankfulness, that should come from our hearts. Does He hear it?

Does He receive it? So often from the statement in Romans 1:21: “...neither were thankful...” He does not receive our expression of gratitude.

We read in Colossians 3:15 “...be ye thankful.”

Isn’t it strange that God would have to command us to give thanks.

We read in Psalm 106:47 that we are saved and separated in order that we may give thanks to God.

The world gives no thanks. The ungodly never bow the head in gratitude to the God of their lives.

It is those who are saved from the penalty of sin, death, and have been set apart as God’s people who are filled with thanksgiving.

Surely we will not rob God thanks due to His name, and prove to be ungrateful and unthankful to the God who has done so much for us.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can do that today, even right now.

Confess or agree with God you are a sinner and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith.

Pray for the United States and its leaders. Pray for our men and women in the armed services of our country. Pray for the Native American nations and their leaders.

## Pride in heritage demonstrated by crowds at cultural events

*From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

This year’s Labor Day Festival was made extra-special with the unveiling of a bust of historian Charley Jones. It is an annual event that a statue is added in a place of honor at the Capitol, and I was thrilled to see former Councilman Jones receive this mark of distinction. Charley Jones shared a tremendous amount of history with Choctaw Nation, and I feel he would have been pleased with the abundant opportunities to be involved in cultural activities during this year’s festival.

Tribal heritage was evident everywhere. The new Miss Choctaw Nation (Callie Curnutt’s) talent at the Princess Pageant was performing storytelling. Even the stage decorations at the pageant, floor to ceiling panels featuring photos of Wheelock, showed tribal history, added a great effect to the occasion. The other young ladies, with song, dress and sign language, all made it a wonderful cultural event.

After running in the 5K Saturday morning, I made a visit over to the traditional village where people were taste-testing banaha and tanchi labona after the Choctaw dancing. Seeing children mush fingers through clay at the pottery teaching booth reminded me of making my first bowl a few years ago alongside my son. Although it may not be the prettiest piece of Choctaw pottery, that bowl is proudly displayed in my office! This year, the new challenge I took on was to begin making a set of stickball sticks. Taking raw wood and an axe, carefully splitting, shaving and bending, an hour later I began to see the shape form. I was really excited! It made me have an even higher respect (if that is possible) for the much-admired late Sidney White, who is considered one of the greatest stickball stick makers of all-time.

Staying in the stickball mode, it was an honor to join the exhibition play on Sunday afternoon, along with Councilmen Williston and Dillard. Later, watching the awesome stickball team at the third annual tournament rise victorious after a hot battle with the Mississippi team was a great moment for me. Not just because Tvshka Homma were the new champions, but because there were close to 100 team members on the field, and hundreds more Choctaws in the stands, cheering them on. The excited whoops from the new champs and their fans embodies the motto of “growing with pride hope and success.”

To me, this growth from just a few people who played stickball as an exhibition a few years ago to a hundred players winning a tournament this year epitomizes the revitalization of interest in the Choctaw culture.

Historian Charley Jones would have been proud of the many Choctaws participating in our great heritage. It was a great year for his statue to be unveiled so he could be a part of this.



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If you are a Choctaw Nation Tribal Member, age 18 or over, who already has a business, or you possess a skill or a hobby you think would make a successful business, please check out the article on Page 10 of this Biskinik and the letter from Chief Pyle.

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# From rotors to wings

## Black Hawk pilot selected for Army fixed-wing program

By LARISSA COPELAND

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

For a man who grew up in Durant on what he calls, “the wrong side of *both* tracks that run through the town,” Michael Beck has made quite a life for himself and his family while serving in the military.

Beck, a 32-year-old U.S. Army chief warrant officer stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, is a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot who has just been accepted to the Army’s fixed-wing flight program – a feat achieved by only 180 soldiers annually, according to the Fort Rucker Public Affairs Office at Fort Rucker, Ala., a very small selection compared to the nearly 4,000 soldiers the Aviation Training Brigade trains as helicopter pilots each year.

Beck is excited and understands the odds were against him when he decided to apply for the program. “It was actually a huge surprise because not many pilots in the army get to do this,” he said. “I fly a Black Hawk right now and after this I’ll be dual-rated to fly both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft for the military.

“Only a small percentage of people in the military are accepted to flight school in general,” Beck continues. “But then within the fixed wing community in Army aviation, it’s an even smaller number of personnel that are chosen. I was incredibly surprised and very blessed that they selected me.”

Beck is scheduled to attend the three-month Fixed Wing Qualification Course at Fort Rucker next summer. At the school at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Beck will be trained on a number of aircraft but will specialize in piloting the Beechcraft C-12 Huron, the military variant of the twin-engine turboprop aircraft commonly known outside the military as a Beechcraft King Air.

“At the school, they put you through multiple airframes to teach you different maneuvers but then you specialize in one,” he explains. “My training will culminate with the C-12 qualification.”

Before he goes to the school though, Beck is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan, which he’ll leave for later this month. It will be his third combat deployment overseas.

“I was in Iraq for the previous two [deployments],” he says. “I was there for the initial invasion into Iraq and then I went back again in 2006.

“The first time I worked on Apache attack helicopters as a crew chief,” he says. “The second time I went out I was running a quality control office as a technical inspector at Camp Taji. Basically, we were the guys who inspected the work of the guys who work on the helicopters.”

This deployment will be quite a bit different for him than his first two – it will be his first since training to be a helicopter pilot three years ago. As opposed to being one of the soldiers on the ground working on or inspecting the aircraft, he’ll be one of those flying the missions.

“We will do a combination of air assault, which is putting troops into the battle space of the enemy, and ‘med chase’ missions, where we fly as the gun ship for the MEDEVAC helicopters, being their wingman.

“We will probably also be doing a lot of moving of personnel and equipment to central locations since at the end of the day we’ll be shutting down Afghanistan,” he says. “It’s kind of weird because I was there for the initial invasion in Iraq and now I’ll be there when we close up Afghanistan.”

Beck says he is excited to be able to go back overseas, however, there is one major drawback – his family. “When it comes to deployments, I don’t mind going. The only thing that bothers me is having to leave my family behind.”

Beck and his wife, Melanie, have three children, Gillian, 13, Grayson, 4, and Madelyn, 1-and-a-half.

It was, in fact, his family that led him to choose a career in the military. While his family life and career are both great and exactly what he wants now, that wasn’t always the case for Beck. The life he leads now is one far removed from the life he had as a child growing up in Durant.

“I grew up in a very poor family,” he explains. “My mother was 15 when she had me and she didn’t know who my father was. She was a drug addict and was in and out of prison my whole childhood. I bounced around a lot, ended up in a couple of foster homes, even lived in a junkyard on Ninth Street for a while. It was pretty bad.

“When I was a kid living on the east side you could walk down the street and there was used drug needles, a lot of violent people and drug addicts around me when I was younger, and most of them were my family members,” he says. “When you grow up in an environment like that, it changes you and who you are. You know, if you don’t start to fit in, if you don’t start meshing with that group of individuals...well, they’re violent. They will beat you until you start beating back and once you start beating back you’ve basically become a similar individual. It’s unfortunate.”

Attending school as a child early on was never a problem for Beck though. “I’ve always done really well at school but I never had anyone in my childhood tell me why it was important.”

When it came to his education, food was often his incentive for attending. “Most of the time I went to school because they had food there. In the morning I would get breakfast and then I’d get lunch,” something he might not have received at home.

“Just to give a background,” he elaborated, “there was a guy named Mr. Crawford who owned a pig farm in town when I was little and he would go around to the local grocery stores and pick up the produce or bread or whatever that was out of date or expired. Before he would go to his pig farm though, he would drive really slowly in front of my grandmother’s house and all the little kids would run out yelling ‘Mr. Crawford! Mr. Crawford!’ We’d all jump on the back of his truck and he’d act like he wasn’t going to stop but he always did. He’d let us get up there in the back and dig through the stuff and pick out any fruit or food that we wanted to eat. Food was always a big motivator for me. They had food in school so I went to school.”

Beck attended Jones Academy for a short period of time during his fifth grade year. “I actually enrolled myself there because I thought it’d be a good place to live. They had food, entertainment, a place to live...but I didn’t stay there too long.”



Beck works on an Apache Longbow attack helicopter, the aircraft he worked on as an enlisted soldier.

Beck went back to Durant Public School and attended from elementary until his sophomore year of high school.

“Whenever I got into high school, well, I never really talk about this, but there were bullies in school, and for a long time I kept getting in fights. There would be people picking on other little kids and so I always got into fights when I was in middle school and in high school. When I was in 10th grade I decided I wasn’t going to let other people dictate what I did or didn’t do,” he says.

“No one really hung out with me in high school,” he explains. “I came from a bad family. And to be honest, I probably wouldn’t have let my kids hang out with me either. That’s pretty bad!”

When he was 12 years old, his life took a turn. His mother went back to prison and he ran away from home. The state also came and took away his sister and three brothers.

“I think the thing that stood out between me and the rest of my family was that I never thought that the way they were doing things was right,” he explains. “I thought ‘why are people acting this way?’ The way I rebelled as a teenager was that I said I was never going to do drugs, drink alcohol, never going to smoke cigarettes, never going to do these behaviors that they were doing. I never liked it there and that’s why I ran away. Shortly after that, the state took the other kids away. Since I was gone I was never included in it or something, I don’t really know.”

It was during his early high school years that his life took another abrupt turn. “During my ninth grade year, I was about 14 years old, my mother was back and she talked me into moving back in with her. She’d met a guy and they were going to get married so we moved down to Victoria, Texas, close to Corpus Christi on the Gulf of Mexico.

“So, I trusted her, I moved back in with her and we headed down to the beach. Within two days, he left her. We were stranded.

“I had to get a job so for my first ninth grade year, because I missed so many days I had to repeat it, I worked at a Viking Inn motel that was being repaired. We lived out of our truck until I got the job at the motel and they let us stay in one of the rooms while I helped with the construction and my mom helped out in the restaurant.

“I also worked on a shrimp boat out on the Gulf of Mexico until we earned enough money to come back to Durant.” Beck was supposed to graduate high school in 1999 but that didn’t happen.

“I didn’t quit school though, I was kicked out,” he says, for causing trouble at the school. “The principal called around to the other local schools and said not to let me in, even though I had really good grades. I had a 3.8 GPA. Looking back though, I understand why [the principal] did that.

“I went back this year, even shook his hand, and told him I understand why he did what he did. I said ‘I don’t hold it against you.’”

He moved around a lot after getting kicked out of school, living with friends, one of his mother’s ex-boyfriends, family and eventually living in a rental property owned by the Rawls family, a family who “adopted” him.

“I never lived with them but they helped me out a lot. Basically I helped take care of their rental property and they let me live in a trailer house of theirs. I maintained their property and helped with their businesses.”

Charlotte Rawls is the one who prompted Beck to go to college.

“I was literally sleeping on a piece of plywood in a garage when Charlotte came in. She knew my mom had recently gone back to prison and a bunch of my friends were in trouble and she said, ‘I know you’ve never thought about it but I’ve paid for you to take an ACT test.’ I didn’t even know what the ACT was at the time.”

“She told me, ‘No pressure but I did some research and the Choctaw Nation will help you pay for your school while you go because you’re Choctaw. You don’t have to do it if you don’t want to this time.’ So I thought about it and thought sure, I’ll take it since she paid for it and then I took the test.”

And he did well...very well.

“Apparently, I’m really good at taking tests,” he says with a laugh. “I got into Southeastern [Oklahoma State University] without a GED because I scored pretty high. They accepted me based off of my ACT score. They said if I can score that high on the ACT then I’ll have no trouble with the GED. So they let me start college. I think I was in class for two weeks before I ever took the GED test.”

It was there at Southeastern that he met his future wife, Melanie.

“I went there for only a semester and that’s when we were blessed with a little baby, so I had to get a ‘real’ job,” he says.



Chief Warrant Officer Michael Beck poses in front of a UH-60 Black Hawk, the aircraft he currently flies in the Army.



Photos provided

The Beck family – Michael and Melanie and their three children, Gillian, Grayson and Madelyn.

**“I’ll go to the school and tell them about the things I’ve done... I let them know there is more to life out there.”**

– Michael Beck  
CW2, U.S. Army

“That’s when I joined the military. I was determined that my kids wouldn’t have the same upbringing that I did.”

He joined in January 2001 and has rapidly moved up the ranks, excelling at all the endeavors put in his path, earning numerous awards and commendations along the way.

“I joined initially because I needed to get some stability, mature and to have a job for my kids.

“It’s funny though because with all my trouble growing up, once you get to the military, they don’t know all that,” he says. “They judge you based on how well you do there. Since I’ve been in the military I’ve graduated at the top of every school that I’ve been in.”

He says when he joined the military he told his family in Durant he was leaving and never coming back...and he didn’t for about five years.

Now, he and his family make it back to visit several times a year. “Normally, whenever we go back to Durant, I’ll go over to that side of town and I’ll talk with the little kids. I’ll visit the school and tell them about the things that I’ve done. I’ll see kids in my old neighborhood out playing and we’ll walk up to the gas station; I’ll buy them drinks and just talk to them. I let them know that there’s more to life out there.

“There are so many places and things I’ve seen since I’ve been in the military that I would have never got to see if I hadn’t joined. There are a lot of moments, just different places around the world where I see something new that I would have only read about or seen on TV. It just changes your perspective on the world as a whole.”

As for his relationship with his mother, he says, “I’m older now so I try not to hold a lot of that against her. She was 15, basically a kid, I guess. But there are choices that people make in their lives and I don’t think she ever chose any that were to the benefit of her children. I had a problem with that for a long time.”

Beck doesn’t dwell on this though; that dark past is now behind him, and his future continues to look bright.

“I plan to slowly transition out of that full-throttle [rotary wing] mentality and spend extra time with my family,” he says, “while gaining a whole new extra skill set that will be more marketable when I get out of the military, so I think it’s a blessing. I think it’s going to be really, really great.”

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# The flu and you



## What is influenza (the flu)?

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness. At times, it can lead to death.

### Who should get a flu vaccine?

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine, especially if you are at high risk for complications, or if you live with or care for someone who is high risk for complications.

### Your family may be especially vulnerable to the flu.

Influenza poses a greater risk to certain people, including pregnant women, children, and elders, who are all at high risk for flu-related complications. In fact, pneumonia and flu are a leading cause of death among Native elders. The flu also can cause certain health conditions, including diabetes, asthma, and heart and lung disease, to become worse. Pneumonia and bronchitis are examples of serious flu-related complications, which can result in hospitalization and sometimes even death.

### The influenza vaccine is safe.

#### You can't get the flu from the flu vaccine.

People have been receiving flu vaccines for more than 50 years. Vaccine safety is closely monitored annually by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Hundreds of millions of flu vaccines have been given safely to people across the country for decades.

The viruses in the flu shot are killed and the viruses in the nasal spray vaccine are weakened, so neither vaccine can cause the flu. A flu shot can have mild side effects, such as soreness or swelling where the vaccine was received, a mild fever, or aches. Mild side effects of the nasal spray can include runny nose, headache, sore throat, and cough. Any side effects you experience are not contagious to others and should disappear within 2 days.

#### When should I get a flu vaccine?

It's difficult to know when flu activity will peak. So vaccination before December is best to ensure protection. However, even getting vaccinated in December or later can be protective because influenza disease can last as late as May. It takes 2 weeks after getting the vaccine for your body to develop an immune response against influenza.

## Flu Clinics at Choctaw Nation Community Centers

Additional dates will be added as soon as the flu vaccine becomes available.

- 09/11/13 Durant and McAlester {if flu vaccine is available}
- 09/18/13 McAlester {if flu vaccine is available}
- 09/25/13 Wright City, Bethel, Spiro and Hugo
- 10/02/13 Atoka, Stigler and Smithville
- 10/08/13 Talihina
- 10/09/13 Wilburton, Antlers and Crowder
- 10/16/13 Spiro, Idabel, Coalgate and Crowder
- 10/23/13 Broken Bow, Bethel

### Why do I need to get a flu vaccine each year?

You need a flu vaccine each year because influenza viruses are always changing and immunity wanes over time. Each year, experts identify the influenza viruses that are the most likely to cause illness during the upcoming flu season. Your flu vaccine protects against those viruses. It does not protect against other viruses (such as colds or stomach viruses) or against very different influenza viruses not in the vaccine.

### Signs and symptoms of the flu

People sick with influenza feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever\* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (very tired)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

\*Not everyone with the flu will have a fever. You can be sick and contagious without running a temperature.

### Help prevent the spread of the flu

- Get a flu vaccine each year.
- Stop the spread of germs, including influenza viruses:
  - Cover your coughs and sneezes
  - Wash your hands often
- If you're sick, stay home
- Take antiviral drugs if they are prescribed for you.

**PROTECT YOURSELF.  
PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE.**

## Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN

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

### Recipe of the Month

#### Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Chips

Recipe from Taste of Home – Jessica Robinson

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup finely chopped fresh strawberries
- 1 medium navel orange, peeled, sectioned and finely chopped
- 3 medium kiwi-fruit, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 can (8oz) un-sweetened crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 - 1/2 tsp. Splenda

**For the Cinnamon Chips:**

- 10 whole wheat or multi grain tortillas (8 inch)
- 1/4 cup Brummel & Brown spread made with natural yogurt
- 1/3 cup Splenda
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

**Directions:**

In a small bowl, combine the first six ingredients. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

For chips, brush tortillas with Brummel & Brown; cut each into eight wedges. Combine Splenda and cinnamon; sprinkle over tortillas. Place tortilla wedges onto lightly sprayed baking sheet. Bake at 350 for 5-10 minutes or just until crisp. Serve with fruit salsa.

**Nutrition Facts:**

Makes 10 servings  
Calories: 104, Sodium: 145mg, Total Fat: 2g, Total Carbohydrate: 18g, Saturated Fat: 0g, Dietary Fiber: 2g, Cholesterol: 0mg, Protein: 3g

I hope you all enjoy this fun and colorful recipe! For more information contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

## NURSERY NEWS

### Devin Redenius

Devin Shane Redenius was born July 2, 2013, at McAlester. He weighed 6 pounds and was 19 inches long. He is the son of David and Samantha Redenius and brother to Serenity and David Jr. Redenius.



### Kattie Couch

Proud big sister, Kimmie Sue Couch would like to announce the birth of her little sister Kattie Louise Couch born at 8:23 a.m. on May, 2013, at EOMC in Poteau, to Ronnie Jr. & Natallie Couch from Poteau.



Kattie Lou weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Ron & Debbie Adams of Poteau and Rob & Wanda Lawrence of Poteau. Paternal grandparents are Ronny & Wanda Couch of Poteau.

### Savannah Spears

Savannah Rae Spears was born on June 27, 2013, weighing 10 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 21.2 inches long.



She is the daughter of proud parents Brad and Danielle Spears of McAlester.

She is the granddaughter of Clyde and Alice Ann Spears of Gowen, Rhonda Willmott of Damon Valley, and Carl and Kelly Willmott of Michigan.

Great-grandparents are the late Earl and Francis Spears, Mary Alice and the late Joe Benedict, Barbara Parker and the late Carl Willmott Sr., James Moore and the late Juanita Harvey.

Brad and Danielle would like to express their appreciation to the Talihina Health Care Staff for their dedicated service, thoughtfulness, and excellent care.

### Braicen Wickson

Braicen Cruz Wickson was born on June 7, 2013, at 3:08 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center in Talihina. He weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 3/8 inches long.



Parents are Wesley and Carisa Wickson of Hugo. Grandparents are Dora Ward of Hugo and the late Woodrow Caldwell. Also Freddy and Rachel Battiest of Wright City. Brothers are Guillermo and Manny and sister Siomara.

### Bailey Cooper

Bailey Rae Cooper was born on July, 7 2013, in Paris, Texas, at 2:05 p.m. She weighed 9 pounds and 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.



Welcoming the little Chahta girl are parents Andrea Cooper and Timmy Harvey of Hugo. Grandparents are Earl Blagg and Amy Cooper of Sawyer. And great-grandparents are Roland and Patricia Cooper of Coalgate. Proud uncles are Colt Blagg and Roland Blagg and special untie Desirae Cooper.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
**Oct. 9:** Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)  
**Oct. 16:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
 Closed Oct. 30-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 11, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
 Closed Oct. 30-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 1, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### MCALESTER

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
 Closed Oct. 30-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 7, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
 Closed Oct. 30-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 15, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Staff will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon.

### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

- Bethel:** Choctaw Community Center
- Broken Bow:** Choctaw Community Center
- Idabel:** Choctaw Community Center
- Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center

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## 20 ways to enjoy more fruits and vegetables

Building a healthy plate is easy when you make half your plate fruits and vegetables. It's also a great way to add color, flavor and texture plus vitamins, minerals and fiber. All this is packed in fruits and vegetables that are low in calories and fat. Make 2 cups of fruit and 2 1/2 cups of vegetables your daily goal. Try the following tips to enjoy more fruits and vegetables every day.



- Variety abounds when using vegetables as pizza topping.  
 Try broccoli, spinach, green peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms and zucchini.
- Mix up a breakfast smoothie made with low-fat milk, frozen strawberries and a banana.
- Make a veggie wrap with roasted vegetables and low-fat cheese rolled in a whole-wheat tortilla.
- Try crunchy vegetables instead of chips with your favorite low-fat salad dressing for dipping.
- Grill colorful vegetable kabobs packed with tomatoes, green and red peppers, mushrooms and onions.
- Add color to salads with baby carrots, grape tomatoes, spinach leaves or mandarin oranges.\*
- Keep cut vegetables handy for mid-afternoon snacks, side dishes, lunch box additions or a quick nibble while waiting for dinner. Ready-to-eat favorites: red, green or yellow peppers, broccoli or cauliflower florets, carrots, celery sticks, cucumbers, snap peas or whole radishes.
- Place colorful fruit where everyone can easily grab something for a snack-on-the-run. Keep a bowl of fresh, just ripe whole fruit in the center of your kitchen or dining table.
- Get saucy with fruit. Puree apples, berries, peaches or pears in a blender for a thick, sweet sauce on grilled or broiled seafood or poultry, or on pancakes, French toast or waffles.
- Stuff an omelet with vegetables. Turn any omelet into a hearty meal with broccoli, squash, carrots, peppers, tomatoes or onions with low-fat sharp cheddar cheese.
- "Sandwich" in fruits and vegetables. Add pizzazz to sandwiches with sliced pineapple, apple, peppers, cucumber and tomato as fillings.
- Wake up to fruit. Make a habit of adding fruit to your morning oatmeal, ready-to-eat cereal, yogurt or toaster waffle.
- Top a baked potato with beans and salsa or broccoli and low-fat cheese.
- Microwave a cup of vegetable soup as a snack or with a sandwich for lunch.
- Add grated, shredded or chopped vegetables such as zucchini, spinach and carrots to lasagna, meat loaf, mashed potatoes, pasta sauce and rice dishes.
- Make fruit your dessert: Slice a banana lengthwise and top with a scoop of low-fat frozen yogurt. Sprinkle with a tablespoon of chopped nuts.
- Stock your freezer with frozen vegetables to steam or stir-fry for a quick side dish.
- Make your main dish a salad of dark, leafy greens and other colorful vegetables. Add chickpeas or edamame (fresh soybeans). Top with low-fat dressing.\*
- Fruit on the grill: Make kabobs with pineapple, peaches and banana. Grill on low heat until fruit is hot and slightly golden.
- Dip: Whole wheat pita wedges in hummus, baked tortilla chips in salsa, strawberries or apple slices in low-fat yogurt, or graham crackers in applesauce.

\*See "Color Your Plate with Salad" at [www.eatright.org/nutritiontipsheets](http://www.eatright.org/nutritiontipsheets) for more tips on creating healthy salads

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## EVENTS

**In A Good Way Homestead event**

The In A Good Way Homestead event will be held Sept. 21 at noon at 13359 SE 1101 Ave. in Talihina. There will be demonstrations and vendors; Choctaw senior citizen booth with fry bread, Indian tacos, drinks and baked goods; Kerr Center Gravity Flow Irrigation demo; NRCS Q&A; OK Agrability Q&A; OK Farmer/Rancher Association Q&A; farming/gardening demos (composting, biochar, raised beds, hoop house); Waste Not Want Not demos; rainwater harvesting; alpacas; quilting bee; learn Choctaw crafts; and craft sales. Free admission and door prizes will be given. Bring lawn chairs and plan to enjoy Choctaw fry bread and Indian tacos.

If you have any questions, call 918-718-1302.

**Labor family reunion**

The Labor family reunion will be held Sept. 28 at the Rebel Hills Guest Ranch, 3.5 miles east of Antlers. On Highway 3, turn north on Ethel Road and go one-half mile. Please bring a covered dish and any family photographs you may have.

If you have any questions, you may call Betty (Labor) McMahan at 580-298-3318.

**Tonihka, Going reunion**

Descendants of Jowickes Tonihka and Fannie Going will be getting together for a family reunion on Oct. 4 and 5 at Salt Creek Lodge north of Idabel on the old Broken Bow highway. A fish fry will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. and gospel singing at 6 p.m. On Oct. 5, activities begin at 10 a.m., dinner at noon and the day will conclude by 6 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Rose at 580-612-2725, Betty at 580-212-5188, Peggy at 580-236-7276 or Myrtle at 580-212-4095.

**Dwight Mission alumni reunion**

A Dwight Mission alumni get-together will be held Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The meeting will take place in the mission dining room with lunch starting at noon. Bring your family, friends, school pictures and share your experience while at Dwight Mission. For more information, call Linda Smith Wildcat 918-773-3096.

**Native Women Speaking**

A fall break mother/daughter retreat, Native Women Speak, will be held Oct. 16-18 at the Choctaw Nation RV Park and Lodge in Durant. Come join other Native women and girls for a three-day retreat to talk about how to protect yourselves, your families and your communities from HIV. There will be discussions of community, relationships, healing from historical trauma, living in balance and building a healthy future.

There is no cost. All meals and lodging are provided. For more information or to register, call 580-226-4238 or email mamaknowsinc@att.net. Space is limited.

**Native American Horticulture Conference**

The Native American Horticulture Conference will be held Nov. 21 at the Wes Watkins Center in Stillwater. This conference will provide a horticulture overview of Native Americans' contribution to both historical and current-day foods, ornamentals and medicine. For more information, contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404 or stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu.

**Senior Celebration**

Free food, live music, Bingo, door prizes. Everyone 50 and over is welcome! Senior Celebration will be held Friday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bypass Church of Christ in Idabel. For more information contact Leigh Fielder-Jackson at 580-212-8847 or Betty Beaman at 918-704-6450.

**Thanks to the Choctaw Nation**

The Choctaw Nation cares about its members. I appreciate so very much all it does for my fellow Choctaw members and myself.

The Choctaw Nation's elder care is next to none. My mom doesn't drive and she has to rely on Choctaw transit to get to her doctor appointments. The transit drivers have always been so kind and considerate and have really taken care of her.

On a typical day to my mom's physical therapy, she had an episode with her heart. Jon, in physical therapy, personally made sure she was taken care of in the Talihina emergency room. The van driver, Kathy Anderson, was notified and she sat by mom's bedside, contacted me and kept me informed of each test that was taking place. Kathy stayed with mom until I could get to the hospital. Even after we were sent to Tulsa, Kathy continued to call and check on mom's condition.

Mom is now doing well and back in therapy. Kathy is still driving mom to her appointments and our family is greatly appreciative of her.

Choctaw Nation, you have a great employee with Kathy. Also, thank you to Councilman Anthony Dillard and the District 10 administration for all they do to help my mom.

Wendy Wyrick

**Thank you**

I just wanted to thank the Choctaw Nation and the professionals at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic for my new dentures. It has been 20 years since I have had a smile. Thank you for all of your contribution.

Bry Coleman

**Win a wearable hunting camera**

at a Choctaw Travel Plaza

An in-store drawing will be held at each location on Friday, Oct. 18, for the wearable video camera, ideal for hunting. Customers simply put their name and phone number on the back of their receipt to sign up. Multiple entries are encouraged!



LeFlore Public Schools STAR students were honored with Choctaw STAR stickers and Walmart gift cards in recognition for earning good grades. Students who earned straight A's received \$25 gift cards and students with A's and B's received \$10 gift cards from the Choctaw STAR program.

**NOTES TO THE NATION****Thank you for education assistance**

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation for providing the scholarships during my time as an undergraduate. The Nation has been so much help to me, and I am grateful for its generosity and assistance.



Julia Martinez

**Billy thankful for assistance in education**

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation and the Scholarship Advisement Program and Higher Education department for their support and assistance. I graduated from Palo Alto University in California with a Bachelor of Science in Business Psychology. The opportunity will afford me the chance to further my career opportunities, and I thank you for that.



Billy Dick

**Thankful for help through education**

Long ago, my father was the first male to earn his college degree with help from the Choctaw Bureau of Indian Affairs. After Dad finished his degree at the University of Central Oklahoma, formally CSU, the BIA wanted to send him to law school, but his dream was to teach and coach, so he completed his master's degree in education. This will be his 43rd year working with students, and my mother has also taught for over 40 years. Both my parents' careers have been in the Frisco Independent School District and FISD named a school, Charlie and Charlotte Mooneyham Elementary School, in honor of my parents in 2007.

The Choctaw Nation helped me to earn my degree from Texas Christian University, and 11 years ago I became a teacher and coach in Frisco ISD. Most recently, the Choctaw Nation helped me to complete my master's degree in school counseling from Lamar University.

Currently, I am teaching English and serving as the girls' basketball head coach at Frisco Liberty High School in Texas. This past school year, our basketball team was a regional finalist and was one of the top eight teams in Texas. The area coaches presented me with Coach of the Year honors.

With great humility and gratitude, we thank the Choctaw Nation for providing direction and for helping with our education. With whatever honor or hardship that my family experiences, we will always remember that we are part of the Choctaw Nation and hope that in turn we can serve and honor the tribe for generations.

Mari Ann Mooneyham Harrison

**Thank you for financial support**

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation for the financial support through the Higher Education program throughout my time attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. As I'm sure many of you know, every penny is a blessing while you are a student. Upon graduating, I was commissioned into the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers and received orders to White Sands Missile Range, N.M. I have recently returned from a combat deployment in Afghanistan and am reminded of the sacrifices my ancestors have made for our country and how much we are blessed to be here.

I plan to continue to serve my country whether in or outside the armed forces as my great-great-grandfather, Peter Conser, did while he was in the Lighthouse serving the Five Civilized Tribes. Thank you again for your support that has allowed me to serve my country. God bless, and please remember to pray for our country and those who lead it.

William James Conser

**Thanks for help in time of loss**

My sincere thanks goes out to the Choctaw Tribal Assistance program for its help in taking care of the expense of the cremation of my sons, Clyde A.E. Young and Loren A. Young Jr. It was very much appreciated. Without the help and support, the love and kindness of the Lord, my family and friends, I could not bear this terrible loss.

Julia M. Hider

**Seeking information on grandfather**

My name is Raychele Flowers, and I am seeking information on my grandfather. My mother has not seen her father in over 20 years. Growing up, my brother, mother and I stayed close to him. I am now 36, have four daughters and would love for him to know not only my children, but my brothers as well. He has a wonderful bunch of grandchildren he should know about.

I would love nothing more than to find my grandfather, for not only my mother, but for our whole family. My grandfather was born Rodney Gayle Flowers, April 10, 1938. He was born to Janie and Cecil Flowers.

If you know of any information, please contact me at P.O. Box 3103, Chelan, WA 98816 or call me at 509-670-5179 or email at raycheleflowers@hotmail.com. I hope we can find a source of help to find our long-lost loved one. Thank you.

**Katie thanks Higher Education**

I received a bachelor's degree in psychology in May 2013 from Northeastern State University, and I would like to tell the Choctaw Nation Higher Education department how much I appreciate all it has done for me in helping me receive my college education.

Katie Herr

**Thank you, Higher Education**

I graduated on May 10 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I truly appreciate all the help I received from the Choctaw Nation Higher Education department. Thank you so much!

Latricia Lewis

**Thankful for Choctaw Nation Recycling**

The Enhancing Furniture's Environmental Culture (EFEC) has passed its audit. In other words, effectively reducing its carbon footprint. A large part of our success has come from the Choctaw Nation in providing us with the resources and opportunities to recycle our smaller items as well as our bulk Styrofoam. We wanted to say thank you to the Choctaw Nation. We don't know what we would have done if the Choctaw Nation hadn't established a local recycling center.

Christy Snead

Atoka Service Center Manager, Ethan Allen Retail Inc.

Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief

Gary Batton  
Assistant Chief

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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



BISKINIK 2013

# PEOPLE YOU KNOW



The District 10 Choctaw veterans gathered at the Atoka Choctaw Nation community center in June to celebrate Veterans Day. Pictured are, from left, (front row) Carl Tucker, Anthony Lloyd, Sherman Armstrong, Forest Calvert, Joe Hayes, Ted LeFlore,

Bob Vickey, (middle row) Rayson Nicholas, Steve Shields, Fred Platt, Kenneth Wilson, James Alford, Snake Norman, Carl McBrayer, Don McBrayer, (back row) Ron Scott, Councilman Anthony Dillard and John Burleson.

## Perry brothers reunited after 28 years

Alan Perry, 63, has been waiting and praying for 28 years that he would see his brother, Ronald Stephen Perry IV, 66, after he last saw him in 1984 in Portland, Ore. Those prayers were answered on Aug. 2, when Ronald stepped off a bus in Durant after the daughters of the brothers made contact over Facebook.



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

"I was very, very nervous before he got here," said Alan, a Calera resident and member of the Durant Choctaw Senior Center. "I have done a lot of praying over this," he continued, as he expressed how he had always hoped to see his brother again. The two had not spoke a word in almost 30 years, according to Alan.

Alan and Ronald were both U.S. Marines in the '60s. Ronald, who was discharged several years before Alan, lost contact with his family and his Choctaw roots after his time in the service.

Before the separation, Alan had a daughter with a unique name – Rhienna. As the years went on, Ronald also had a daughter, and eventually she found Rhienna on Facebook. Upon seeing that name, Ronald knew this was his brother's child and reached out.

Alan explained that it had always been a prayer of his that he would see his brother again. Many thought him to be deceased, but Alan kept the faith that he would return.

Upon Ronald's return to Oklahoma, he was greeted by not only Alan, but by members of the senior center and Choctaw Nation. Alan maintained close ties with the Choctaw people and has often shared his hopes of being reunited with his brother. Many shared in Alan's joy as they heard of the homecoming.

According to Alan, the brothers plan to spend much time together and "get to know each other all over again." It is his hope to get him acquainted with his Choctaw roots and introduce him to many things about the culture of his ancestors.

## Happy birthday, Pauline

Happy 95th birthday to Pauline Labor Robertson. Nine family members celebrated with her at a local restaurant. Pauline now resides at the Valley Inn Nursing Home in Mancos, Colo. She was born July 14, 1918, in Bennington to Virgil Labor, an original enrollee, and Pearl Labor. She is very proud of her Choctaw heritage and appreciates the help some of her grandchildren have received from the tribe to attend college.



## Kara studies abroad

Kara Synhorst studied at Oxford University this summer and completed the international studies program for SMU-in-Oxford. Kara is a student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She is the granddaughter of Charles McClure of Dallas, the great-granddaughter of the late original enrollee Ruby Marx McClure.



## All Jones Academy Alumni 2013 Reunion

Halito, chim achukma? Hey, Jones Academy Classmates, it's only a few more weeks until Oct. 19. That's when the reunion will be at the same place. We will gather at the gym. Look forward to seeing all of those of you that can make it. Good conversation, retelling and reminiscing all of our old stories about the places and things that happened there in the old days. Chow time looks good at the mess hall, too, so you don't want to miss that. We will also be taking a group picture before lunch, so you don't want to miss that – a picture of infamy.

Tully (Tali) Choate, Class of '49

Registration – Oct. 19 – 10 a.m. at the gym Jones Academy, Hartshorne, Okla.

Lunch – 12:30 at the Mess Hall

Supper – 5:30 at the Mess Hall

DON'T FORGET! – SEE YA THERE

## Emily wins Miss Rodeo Oklahoma

Emily Miranda Smith was crowned Miss Rodeo Oklahoma Princess 2014 at the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City after four days of intense competition. Contestants competed in horsemanship, speech, modeling, personality, appearance, impromptu questions and written test. The horsemanship competition was held at the world-famous Lazy E Arena in Guthrie.



Emily, age 11, will be in the sixth grade at Altus Intermediate School. She will be representing PRCA rodeos all across the state of Oklahoma. "I love rodeo, I love Oklahoma and I love my western heritage," Emily said. "I am so excited to have this privilege and opportunity to represent rodeo and be an ambassador for rodeo and our western heritage across my home state." In addition to her rodeo queen responsibilities, Emily also participates in rodeo herself as a goat tyer and breakaway roper and has been doing so since the age of seven.

According to Miss Rodeo Oklahoma National Director Kathy Shumway, the role of the Miss Rodeo Oklahoma Titleholders is rigorous. "Emily will have a great deal of responsibility and work in front of her, but I know she is up to the task. The girls keep a very busy schedule with rodeos, speaking appearances and riding in parades and other events," she said. "We are excited to have Emily as our 2014 princess and know she will do a great job representing rodeo and the state of Oklahoma." Contestants must first compete for a local title before they compete at the state level. "The girls work extremely hard to get to this level and we keep them busy throughout the year," said Shumway.

Emily entered the Miss Rodeo Oklahoma competition after winning titles at the Oklahoma 89er Days Rodeo in Guthrie and the Will Rogers Stampede PRCA Rodeo in Claremore. In addition to her rodeo activities, Emily is an accomplished vocal performer and enjoys participating in both softball and basketball. She is an honor student with a 4.0 GPA. Emily lives just outside of Altus on the family cow/calf operation.



This Choctaw family is celebrating five generations. Pictured is Musette Finney Ward, Jackie Ward DeWitt, Lisa DeWitt Spliethof, Jennifer Spliethof King and Chloe King. The family says they are blessed to have five generations of women in the family. Congratulations.

## Choctaw author Ty Burson wins award

Tyrone Burson, Ed.D., author of "Let Sleeping Dragons Lie," has won the New Writers Contest hosted by Deep Sea Publishing, LLC. The title also advanced through the first round selection of the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award.



Burson is Choctaw through his great-grandfather and is a former linguist for the U.S. Air Force. He is also a retiree from the Air National Guard and currently teaches middle school in Alexandria, Va.

## Choctaw Housing Authority Affordable Rental Housing

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

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

## Elder Residential Housing

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

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

All applications may be obtained online at choctawhousing.com under services, Affordable Rental Housing or by calling Tracy Arcey 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.



## Hyahwahnah turns 80

Happy birthday to Hyahwahnah Kaniatobe Wells, who was born Sept. 9, 1933, in Tom. She is the daughter of original enrollee Watson Kaniatobe and Emma Kaniatobe (Weathers). She currently resides at Lake Texoma in Pottsboro, Texas.



## Happy birthday, Camran

Happy first birthday to Camran Lee Knight on May 9. Camran is the son of Ricky and Stacy Knight; the little brother of Hannah, Cierra and Kierra; and the grandson of Linda and Lee Knight. He celebrated with family and friends.



## Happy birthday, Earline

Happy 83rd birthday to Earline Bullard Dilbeck of Carson City, Nev. Earline is proud of her Choctaw heritage and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is also proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



## Jazmyn turns 1

Happy birthday to Jazmyn Hope Valliere, who turned 1 year old on Aug. 6. Jazmyn is the daughter of Chris and Crystal Valliere of Durant, granddaughter of Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Robert and Cynthia Valliere of Lafayette, La. Jazmyn's big brother, Malachi, wishes her a happy birthday as well. She celebrated her birthday with a Minnie Mouse-themed party with numerous family and friends in attendance.



## Happy birthday, Cruz

Happy birthday to Cruz Matthew Renteria, who turned 3 years old on Sept. 6. Cruz's parents are Jerald Renteria and Rocky McGaha and grandparents are Jamie Greenwood and Lupe Renteria. His aunts are Annie and Jessica Renteria and great-grandparents are M.T. Greenwood and the late Mildred Cole Greenwood.



## Logan awarded Eagle Scout

Logan Dakota Hale, 18, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. His court of honor was held May 12, and he is a member of Ardmore's Troop 3, sponsored by the First Baptist Church. For his Eagle Scout project, Logan planned and oversaw upgrades to the community children's shelter, including restriping the parking lot and weatherproofing the privacy fence. He began his scouting career with Pack 100 in Tishomingo. After earning the Arrow of Light Award, he crossed over into the Boy Scouts of America and eventually made his way to Troop 3. Logan completed 24 merit badges, attended camps in Arkansas, Virginia and Florida, and became a PADI-certified scuba diver at Sea Base.



Logan is the son of Larry and Christy Hale of Ardmore. He graduated from Dickson High School on May 17.

## Miss Choctaw Nation given gift at festival

Miss Choctaw Nation Callie Curnutt was shopping at all the different arts and crafts booths that were set up at the Tuskahoma festival when she felt a tug on her dress. As she turned around she saw a little girl saying, "Princess, princess, please come to my booth for I want to give you something." She escorted Callie to her grandparent's booth. Callie admired all the beautiful pieces of jewelry and accessories that were on the table. Callie asked the little girl her name, and she replied, "Marcella." Marcella is nine years old and has been helping her grandma make jewelry. She asked her grandma if she could give the princess something that she had made and she said yes. Shown here is Marcella giving Callie a piece that she had made.



## Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans.

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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

# Jr. Miss Cheyenne Shomo says farewell

Halito! My name is Cheyenne Rae Shomo, and I am ending a great and memorable chapter in my life – being your 2012-13 Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This past year has been a fun, amazing, crazy and blessed year. It has gone by way too fast. I still remember the night I won, I can't believe it has been a year already.



I would like to say yakoke to my Lord Jesus Christ, who gave me a talent to be able to be in front of people and sing Choctaw hymns. Without Him, I wouldn't be in front of people. He has really blessed me. To my dad, thanks for always believing I could do anything in life. Without you, I wouldn't get half of the things I do, or like mom and my sisters say, I'm "spoiled rotten." Dad, I love you so much; you have made so many sacrifices for our family and you have always put us first before yourself. You are the world's best dad! Mom, thank you for going everywhere with me this year. I love you, this year had been a blast, and you're the best mom ever. I still remember the day of the pageant last year, and you were more nervous than I was. You are my number-one fan. To all my sisters, Brittney, Trista, Tiffany and Whitney, thank you for being the best big sisters ever and always believing in me and having my back. I love you all to the moon and back. Nanny, you're the best, thank you for everything and being my number-one fan, too. I love you. To my nieces and nephews, Jayda, Eden, Kylee, Kristin, Layla, Noah and Jr., Aunt Chey Chey loves you so much, all of you are growing up too fast. To my church family at NaYimmi Baptist, thanks for always keeping us in prayer as we traveled.

To the Chief and Assistant Chief and Tribal Council, thank you for all that you do for the Choctaw Nation. Chief Pyle and

Assistant Chief Batton, the Choctaw Nation could not have asked for better people to watch over the Nation and run it. You two are amazing. We have become really close friends as you two have seen me grow up from being Little Miss to Jr. Miss.

To Faye and Elaine, thank you for being the best princess (royalty) coordinators ever. This year would not have been amazing if it weren't for you two. We had so many laughs.

To Josephine and Cheyenne, you don't know how hard it was for me to write this! Josephine, thank you for being a little sister to me. You're the best Little Miss ever. Good luck to you in your future, because you have a really bright future ahead of you. Thank you for all the great laughs, I'm sure I will miss you.

To Cheyenne, the night we won, we had to find a way for both of us to be called something different besides "Cheyenne," but it didn't work! I'm going to miss you. You were like another big sister to me. To Josephine and Cheyenne, you two are great people. I love you guys, just because we gave up our titles, doesn't mean we can't spend time together. Remember, we are the 2012-13 Choctaw royalty.

Good luck to those beautiful contestants of the 2013-14 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant. Every single one of you is a winner. To the three winners, good luck on your great journey. You will have a great year, just remember, represent the Nation to the best of your ability.

I hope I represented the Choctaw Nation with the best of my ability. I tried hard in everything I did. This is not the end of the road, and I hope to see you again on the stage running for Miss Choctaw Nation. As I give up my title, I will remember this quote: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."



Choctaw Nation: DEIDRE BACON

Larry Hooker takes aim at the August bow shoot in Tvshka Homma.

# Monthly bow shoots help keep tradition alive

By DEIDRE BACON

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Bow shooting has been a Choctaw tradition for many centuries. Bows were a way of life for Choctaws. They used them to protect their families and provide food and shelter.

Today, in an effort to revitalize traditional archery, Choctaw Nation hosts bow shoots every second Saturday of the month, starting in March and ending in October. The competition begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m., with lunch provided.

What began as a small group about five years ago has now flourished into about 25 participants at each competition, said Pam Waugh, bow-shooting instructor.

The competition is broken into different age classes: 5 years and under Co-ed, 6-8 years Co-ed, 9-13 years Co-ed, 14-16 years Boys and Girls, 17-19 years Boys & Girls, 20 & Over Women and Men. A CDIB is not required to participate.

Participants are allowed to use handmade or commercial longbow or recurve bows, but compound bows are not allowed. A traditional handmade bow is provided for those who do not have a bow.

The targets that are provided are 3-D models of two turkeys, three deer, two bobcats, two bears, a pig and coyote. Each target has 50-, 40-, 30-, 20- and 10-point spots. Each participant gets two arrows per target. Waugh says, "if really good they can get 100 points per target."

The bow shoots take place at the capitol grounds near the tent area, in the woods.

"It's kind of like they are shooting these live animals but they're not" said Waugh.

First, second and third place prizes are awarded for each age group at the end of each shoot. At the end of the season, total points are calculated and a trophy is given to the winner. A turkey shoot is held Nov. 9 and turkeys are given out as prizes.

Larry and Cathy Hooker, traditional bow makers, and Waugh make traditional bows. Larry says, "It takes straight bois d'arc wood that doesn't have many knots, and takes about three days to complete one."

Larry and Cathy say they do sell to individuals but mainly sell at their booths at the Labor Day Festival and the Antlers Deer Fest. "We custom order whatever they want," says Larry. "We can make it." The price for the bows varies from approximately \$40 to \$600.

Waugh recently became state certified as a 4-H archery instructor. "Pretty much all that are coming out right now know how to shoot, but when they started out they didn't," she says. "I'm willing to teach anybody."

# Little Miss Josephine Gilmore says goodbye

Halito, chim achukma? Hello, how are you? My name is Josephine Rose Gilmore, I am the 2012-13 Little Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I would first like to thank my God for giving myself, Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray, Junior Miss Cheyenne Shomo and her mother, Tina, for the traveling mercies for being the ambassadors of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I would also like to thank Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, all of the Choctaw Nation councilmen and my councilman, Ted Dosh of District 9, for all the support that you have given to me this year. Thank you to the pageant coordinators, Faye and Elaine, for all the support and the opportunities they've given me this year and with helping us learn the Lord's Prayer and God Bless America in sign language. Also, for all the help in the beginning of this princess reign. I can tell you, both of these ladies can do magic with what they do for the tribe and the princess tribal events. Thanks for the memories and the great pictures we had all collected over the year.



you for the confidence you gave to me and the passion to learn more about my Choctaw heritage and culture. I will do my best to keep it going with my arts and crafts, storytelling and Choctaw language, along with the exciting and competitive game of stickball, and most of all, the love of the Lord and the Bible. Thank you to Shirley Barboan and Mrs. Scott for making my beautiful dresses. Thank you, mom, for the beautiful jewelry, and thank you, dad, for being my father. Thank you to my great-aunt, Lillie Roberts, for making my beautiful Choctaw collar necklaces. Thank you to the Choctaw social dancers of Durant for including me with the Choctaw social dances in Washington, D.C., and in Bakersfield and Norman. Thank you to the Okla Chahta Clan of California for your hospitality, and thank you for the snack and water, I love the basket. To the

Mississippi Choctaws, thank you for your wonderful hospitality. To Lanena Grace John, thank you for helping me understand why it is important for me, as a young Choctaw lady, to keep up with my culture and heritage. To my great-uncle Herbert Jessie, who is a member of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard and always tells me I did a good job and to keep it up. I am always happy to see you at the pow wows, parades and wherever we go to represent the Choctaw Nation. Uncle Herbert, you are doing an awesome job of representing the Choctaw veterans and the great Nation of Choctaws with a whole lot of pride.

A special thank you to Uncle Jimmy Wade, grandmother Josephine Wade and both of my grandfathers, Evan Boom Boom Gilmore and Hanson Wade, who have all passed away. I know you are watching over me and I have put smiles on your faces. Each of you have put a wonderful blessing in my life with the storytelling, telling about the little people and why the moon is red and the language that was used in World War I. You have also taught me how to make banana and the corn shuck dolls. I will keep these traditions and the ones I have yet to learn and pass them on to my children one day.

Good luck to the 2013-14 Choctaw Nation royalty contestants. Thank you for allowing me to represent, with great pride and joy, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as your 2012-13 Little Miss Choctaw Nation. Thank you to my friends and family, to Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray and Junior Miss Cheyenne Shomo.

Good luck to the 2013-14 Choctaw Nation royalty contestants. Thank you for allowing me to represent, with great pride and joy, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as your 2012-13 Little Miss Choctaw Nation. Thank you to my friends and family, to Miss Choctaw Nation Cheyenne Murray and Junior Miss Cheyenne Shomo.

# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OCTOBER			1	2 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	3	4 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	5
	6	7 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	8 Antlers by appt.	9 Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	10	11 Wright City by appt.	12
	13	14 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. <small>Columbus Day (observed) Thanksgiving Day (Canada)</small>	15	16 McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	17	18	19
	20	21 Crowder by appt.	22 Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	23	24	25 Atoka by appt. Coalgate by appt.	26
	27	28 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	29 Wilburton by appt.	30	31 <small>Halloween</small>		

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

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



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

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

## UNCLAIMED FUNDS

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctaw Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds (uncashed payroll checks) that may be due to these individuals. If you are an employee or former employee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and your name is listed below, please contact:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
Attn: Angie Ansel, Payroll and Employee Services Accountant  
or by phone at 580-924-8280 ext. 2467.

- |                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Cochran, Melinda | Johnson, Landon | Prince, Justin    |
| Collett, Claudia | Keeling, Amanda | Shearwood, Joseph |
| Diehl, Patricia  | Laroque, Diana  | Smith, Michelle   |
| Hinson, Kamron   | Payne, Tommy    | Wheeler, Jo Ann   |
|                  | Pierce, Nikki   |                   |

# Faith-based seminars encourage healthy mental habits

## Three-day event focuses on prevention, awareness

By DEIDRE BACON

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The desire to reach out to the community and show those in crisis there is hope and that the church cares led Durant area pastors and leaders to seek the assistance of the Choctaw Nation program, Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative, or MSPI.

The MSPI hosted multiple events for this cause through collaborations with the local pastors and leaders, as well as numerous Choctaw Nation departments, including Behavioral Health, Community Health Representatives, and the Event Center.

According to Karen Hearod, director of Behavioral Health Services, several unfortunate events are why this area was chosen. "We targeted this area because we've had some tragedies in the last couple of months," she said. "We wanted to do something for the community."

The Choctaw Nation hosted a three-day



Choctaw Nation: DEIDRE BACON

**Jonny Diaz follows seminar with uplifting music**

event Aug. 7-9 at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant that focused on suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

"The Power of Three" opened the weekend and featured guest speaker Eric Weaver and Christian artist Jonny Diaz.

Weaver, a retired New York police sergeant, incorporated his more than 23 years of professional and personal experience into his dynamic and interactive presentation. He provided a real-life, faith-based approach to mental health issues, mental illness, warning signs, suicide awareness and prevention.

Diaz, who is known for his songs, "Scars," "More Beautiful You" and "Stand For You," contributed to the night with encouraging and uplifting music.

"Eric Weaver spoke of offering hope to those who may have felt they were hopelessly dealing with mental illness or trying to support a friend or loved one that was affected by mental illness," said Melanie Jones, program director of Choctaw Nation MSPI. "And everyone enjoyed the concert that followed, performed by Jonny Diaz."

MSPI, which is funded with a grant from Indian Health Service, hosted a similar event in McAlester in January and, according to Jones, "had a phenomenal response." More than 1,000 people attended that event and numerous individuals reached out for help from counselors and pastors, who were on

hand at both events to support those in need.

Over the next two days, Weaver provided additional training on the warning signs and symptoms of mental illness called "Emotional Safety and Survival: Awareness and Prevention in Law Enforcement and Emergency Services." Approximately 20 local police, fire, dispatch and sheriff's department personnel were in attendance.

In the powerful seminar, Weaver discussed openly how his life was riddled with personal struggles, as well as battles with stress, depression, self-destruction and suicidal behaviors. He also discussed how his recovery allowed him to develop and command the Rochester Police Department's Emotionally Disturbed Persons Response Team.

The stressful occupation of the first responders oftentimes makes them susceptible to these struggles. According to Hearod, "First responders have a lot of secondary trauma from what they see and don't often recognize that and reach out for help."

Anyone in need of help because of suicidal thoughts or knowing of someone who is in an emotional crisis can call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Assistance and referrals are offered 24/7.

# Prepare for emergencies now: Information to get ready

It makes sense to have the tools and the plans to survive an emergency



## Recommended Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit:

Water one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
Food at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
Flashlight and extra batteries
First Aid kit
Whistle to signal for help
Filter mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
Moist towelettes for sanitation
Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
Manual can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
Unique family needs, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula or diapers, and important family documents

## Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

Prescription medications and glasses
Infant formula and diapers
Pet food and extra water for your pet
Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
Cash or traveler's checks and change
Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
Fire Extinguisher
Matches in a waterproof container
Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
Paper and pencil
Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## Preparing Makes Sense.

The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a terrorist attack or other emergency. We must have the tools and plans in place to make it on our own, at least for a period of time, no matter where we are when disaster strikes. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense.

### 1. Get a Kit

of Emergency Supplies

#### Get ready now.

Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer. While there are many things that might make you more comfortable, think first about fresh water, food and clean air.

Consider two kits. In one, put everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you have to get away. You'll need a gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation. Include in the kits a three-day supply of non-perishable foods that are easy to store and prepare such as protein bars, dried fruit or canned foods. If you live in a cold weather climate, include warm clothes and a sleeping bag for each member of the family.

Some potential terrorist attacks could send tiny microscopic "junk" into the air. Many of these materials can only hurt you if they get into your body, so think about creating a barrier between yourself and any contamination. It's smart to have something for each member of the family that covers their mouth and nose, such as two to three layers of a cotton t-shirt, handkerchief or towel or filter masks, readily available in hardware stores. It is very important that the mask or other material fit your face snugly so that most of the air you breathe comes through the mask, not around it. Do whatever you can to make the best fit possible for children.

Also, include duct tape and heavy-weight garbage bags or plastic sheeting that can be used to seal windows and doors if you need to create a barrier between yourself and any potential contamination outside.

### 2. Make a Plan

For What You Will Do In an Emergency

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Develop a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together

when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Consider a plan where each family member calls, or e-mails, the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Be sure each person knows the phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. You may have trouble getting through, or the phone system may be down altogether, but be patient.

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the attack, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger. Watch television and listen to the radio for official instructions as they become available.

Create a Plan to Shelter-in-Place. There are circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as sheltering-in-place and sealing the room can be a matter of survival. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to shelter-in-place and seal the room. Consider precutting plastic sheeting to seal windows, doors and air vents. Each piece should be several inches larger than the space you want to cover so that you can duct tape it flat against the wall. Label each piece with the location of where it fits.

Use all available information to assess the situation. If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to shelter-in-place. Quickly bring your family and pets inside, lock doors, and close windows, air vents and fire-place dampers. Immediately turn off air conditioning, forced air heating systems, exhaust fans and clothes dryers. Take your emergency supplies and go into the room you have designated. Seal all windows, doors and vents. Understand that sealing the room is a temporary measure to create a barrier between you and contaminated air. Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions.

Create a Plan to Get Away. Plan in advance how you will assemble your family and anticipate where you will go. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency. If you have a car, keep at least a half tank of gas in it at all times. Become familiar with alternateroutes as well as other means of transportation out of your

area. If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Take your emergency supply kit, unless you have reason to believe it is contaminated and lock the door behind you. Take pets with you if you are told to evacuate, however, if you are going to a public shelter, keep in mind they may not be allowed inside. If you believe the air may be contaminated, drive with your windows and vents closed and keep the air conditioning and heater turned off. Listen to the radio for instructions.

Know Emergency Plans at School and Work. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places your family frequents. Talk to your children's schools and your employer about emergency plans. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If you are an employer, be sure you have an emergency preparedness plan. Review and practice it with your employees. A community working together during an emergency also makes sense. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together.

### 3. Be Informed

About What Might Happen

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family communications plan, are the same for both a natural or manmade emergency. However there are significant differences among potential terrorist threats, such as biological, chemical, explosive, nuclear and radiological, which will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. By beginning a process of learning about these specific threats, you are preparing yourself to react in an emergency. Go to www.ready.gov to learn more about potential terrorist threats and other emergencies or call 1-800-BE-READY (1-800-237-3239) for a free brochure.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected.

### 4. Get Involved

In Preparing Your Community

After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. Join Citizen Corps, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger and better prepared. We all have a role to play in keeping our hometowns secure from emergencies of all kinds. Citizen Corps works hard to help people prepare, train and volunteer in their communities. Go to www.citizencorps.gov for more information and to get involved.

## Choctaw Nation Head Start, pre-school recruiting now

The Head Start program of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma continues to recruit prospective students for the 2013-14 school year. The program serves children who will be at least 3, but not 5, years of age, by Sept. 1. Although we have a Native American preference, non-Native Americans are welcome and no CDIB is required. Families of children with special needs are strongly encouraged to apply. The Head Start program assists families in obtaining needed support services for children with special needs.

Choctaw Nation Head Start provides

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

The Choctaw Nation Head Start

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

For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Center in your community or www.choctawnation.com. Also, you may contact, the Durant administration office at 1-800-522-6170, Ext. 2219 or 2555.

**CHOCTAW CASINO**

**Help Wanted**  
**Seeking Choctaw CDIB Members!**

\*\*\*Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, OK is looking for Choctaw applicants for the following Full-Time & Part Time positions\*\*\*

**Full-Time**

**EVS Deep Clean Staff**

**Part-Time**

**RV Park**  
**EVS Staff**  
**Hotel Front Desk Clerk**  
**Hotel Housekeeping**

Choctaw Casinos is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination Act. Please attach copy of CDIB Card if applicable.

Apply in person at Choctaw Casino Human Resource Office.  
4216 Hwy 69/75, Durant, OK, or online @  
<http://careers.choctawnation.com> for jobs with any of our Choctaw Casinos.



# Baker celebrates 35 years as tribal employee

By **CHRISSE SHEPARD**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

In July of 1978, Choctaw Nation WIC employee and full-blooded Choctaw member Betty Baker came to Durant seeking a job to work for her tribe. This year, she celebrated her 35-year anniversary as a tribal employee and couldn't be happier with the career she has held and the program she has helped strengthen over the years.

Baker turns 84 years old in December and was born in Valliant. She married George Dukes Baker when she was 19 and they made their home in Hugo. She attended school at Wheelock Academy when she was about 6 years old, then went to Chilocco Indian School when she was 16.

Until she attended school at Wheelock and learned to speak English, Baker said she only spoke the Choctaw language.

When she began her job as a WIC employee in 1978, Baker made many house visits and handed out vouchers throughout McCurtain County. "I remember I did outreach, going to homes to get pregnant women, children and infants to join the WIC program," she recalled.

Though some days were more challenging than others, Baker has always held high dedication to her job and the responsibilities that come with it.

"We did a lot of traveling," she said, remembering a particularly tough day on the job when she had to drive from Clayton to Wilburton while the roads were covered in snow. "We had to travel at a snail's pace," she described. "We came back down a mountain road, very slowly, and I was awfully scared of the sharp curves. It was so nice to make it home okay."

Baker said she used to travel all over McCurtain County for her job at the WIC program. She was asked to travel to Broken Bow, Idabel, Smithville, Bethel and Wright City, all while residing in Hugo with her family.

Baker has five children. Losing her oldest daughter to diabetes has played a role in her job with helping WIC members with their health, she said.

One winter, Baker went to a site in McCurtain County to spend the day passing out vouchers and nutrition information, only to find the facility was a mess when she arrived. Since she had to use the kitchen, she took it upon herself to clean the place from floor to ceiling.

Another memorable day Baker recalled was when she was locked out of a facility and she had to issue vouchers and help participants from the hood of her car. "We didn't have cell phones back then," she laughed.

"In the beginning of the WIC program, we had blank vouchers," Baker explained. "We had to fill all the spaces, dates, sites, food listings, how much food, and complete one voucher per week. I would work on these at nights at home for the next day."

Throughout the years, Baker said she has encountered great participants in the program, which makes her job more enjoyable. She's worked with over eight directors of the program and several chiefs and assistant chiefs of the tribe.

During her time working for the program, Baker said she has obtained several skills that have helped her, not only specifically related to her job duties, but a social aspect as well.

"I've learned to give healthy food nutrition and proper vitamins," she said, for an example, as well as people skills and being kind to everyone with whom she interacts.

Some of her job responsibilities today include visiting with WIC participants, helping to set up appointments and home visits and helping new members go through certification.

Baker is pleased with how the Choctaw Nation has grown the past several years, saying how happy she is with her new office space and the Choctaw Nation facility in Hugo. "It's a very nice location," she said. "And the maintenance team really keeps the grounds beautiful."

She said she couldn't choose just one aspect of her job that is her favorite, because she loves all of it each day. "That's why I've stayed with it all of these years," she said, smiling.

Being an employee for 35 years, Baker gets to experience something very fulfilling and rewarding that most people may not realize. The children she was able to help through the WIC program when she began employment are now

**"It's always good to hear people tell me that I've helped them."**

– Betty Baker



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSE SHEPARD

**Betty Baker celebrates her 35-year anniversary with her co-workers at her office in Hugo.**

mothers to children who she gets to help today. "The babies grew up to be the moms I am serving now," she stated. "It's always good to hear people tell me that I have helped them and their family."

Baker is an exceptional employee of the Choctaw Nation with her kind heart, hard work and dedication, always being prepared and happy to help someone in need, opening her home to those struggling.

Baker wanted to thank everyone who helped make her 35 years a great experience and who have congratulated her on her anniversary with the tribe. "Thank you for remembering this 'ol lady'," she said. "People ask me when I'm going to retire, and I just tell them, 'when this body says quit'."



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

**Morgan Steve stops by the Choctaw Nation headquarters in Durant on her way to begin her freshman year at Bacone College. Pictured are Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Cultural Resources Executive Director Sue Folsom, Kerry Steve, Morgan Steve and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.**

## Steve to attend Bacone College on track scholarship

Morgan Steve of Durant signed her letter of intent and became the first Native American female to receive a track scholarship to Bacone College in Muskogee. Steve, a 2013 graduate of Durant High School, caught the eye of Bacone officials during the recent Jim Thorpe Native American Games in Oklahoma City where she won gold in both the shot put and discus.

While in high school, Steve lettered in softball three years, basketball four years and track and field four years. She is a two-time recipient of the Champions of Character award for basketball and was on the Principal's Honor Roll. She finished seventh at the 5A state championship and was signed to Bacone's newly created American Indian Athletes of Promise.

Bacone Track and Field Coach Darin Prince said Steve is not only great on the track but is an outstanding student in the classroom. "These are two key pieces in building a strong women's track team both at the conference level and at the national level that is on par with the success of our men's program," he said.

Steve is the daughter of Morris and Kerry Steve of Durant. She is the granddaughter of Willard and Sharon Polk of Bennington and Jimmy and Vesta Roberts of Boswell. She is the great-granddaughter of Red and Nora Johnico of Talihina.

Her parents expressed their appreciation to the Choctaw Nation Cultural Resources department, the summer camp program and Chief Gregory E. Pyle for sponsoring athletes to competitive games such as Jim Thorpe. With this support Steve's athletic ability was recognized and she has been given the opportunity of receiving a full scholarship to Bacone.

## Bacone College famous alumni

### **Enoch Kelly Haney**

Class of 1962. Currently the Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma in Shawnee. Chief Haney was a State Senator in the Oklahoma Legislature from 1986-2002 and was a State Representative from 1980 to 1986. Renowned artist and sculptor, Haney designed "The Guardian," which is on top of the Oklahoma State Capitol Building.

### **Stephen R. Adkins**

Class of 1965. Chief of the Chickahominy Tribe in Providence Forge, Va. Served on the Jamestown 2007 Federal Commission. Is the first Virginia Indian to hold an appointment as Deputy Director of Human Resources in the current state administration.

### **Acee Blue Eagle**

Class of 1931. World-renowned Muscogee (Creek)-Pawnee Native American artist, lecturer and promoter. Blue Eagle was invited to give a series of lectures on American Indian art at Oxford University in England, and he took Europe by storm. Returning to the United States, he established the Art Department at Bacone College in 1935 and directed the program until 1938.

### **Patrick Jay Hurley**

Class of 1905. Graduated from Indian University (now Bacone College). Assistant Secretary of War to President Herbert Hoover. Appointed General Douglas MacArthur as Chief of Staff U.S. Army. He served as the Ambassador to China under both President Franklin Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower's administra-

tion. (The President's home on campus is named after Patrick.)

### **Dick West**

Class of 1936. Renowned Cheyenne artist, sculptor, lecturer, consultant and teacher, he was the Art Director at Bacone College from 1947-1970. Commissioned by the Franklin Mint to design nine medallions for the United States 1976 Bicentennial. Christ in Gethsemane is one of West's finest pieces of work in the Christ's Series Collection.

### **Herb Snider**

Class of 1954. Chaplain in the U.S. Army for 20 years. Served in Korea and Vietnam. Retired with a rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Respected in the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.

### **Don Chandler**

Class of 1954. Went on to play for the Florida Gators after playing for Bacone JC. Drafted in the fifth round during the 1956 NFL Draft as a kicker and punter by the New York Giants. Chandler was a member of the Green Bay Packers when they won Super Bowls I and II. He was selected as Pro Football's premier punter during the 1960s. He is a member of the University of Florida Hall of Fame, New York Giants Wall of Fame and Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame.

### **Stephen Reagor**

Class of 2004. In 2003, he earned the title of National Champion Calf Roper in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Currently, Stephen is a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and American Cowboys Rodeo Association.

## Native American Women's Ministry Conference

The third annual Native American Women's Ministry Conference to be held at Calvary Temple Assembly of God Church, 2201 N. First Ave. in Durant. This year's theme is "Redeemed," taken from Isaiah 43:1b (NKJV), "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine."

The conference will begin with a healing service on Friday evening, Oct. 4, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Cache Mobile Healing Team from Cache, along with other prayer teams praying for the sick, will be in attendance. If you are in need of prayer or know of anyone needing prayer, please come and bring them with you.

The Saturday morning conference is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. with coffee and donuts followed by registration at 8:30 a.m. There will be three morning classes beginning at 9 a.m., and the morning speakers are Rev. Brenda Battise, ordained pastor of Pentecostal Church of God in Broken Bow, Rev. Karen Logan, ordained pastor of Miracle Tabernacle from Valliant and Rev. Jeannette Hudlin, an ordained minister and a Sunday School teacher from Soper. The morning session will end with lunch being served at 11:45 a.m. The evangelist service will begin promptly at 1 p.m. with Evangelist Dr. Paul and Rev. Elizabeth Dungan President and CEO of The Esther Project from Colorado.

Early registration ends Sept. 15. After deadline, registration at the door will be \$15.

For more information, please contact Rev. Liz Lee at 580-699-0732 or email [nativeamerican.womensministry@yahoo.com](mailto:nativeamerican.womensministry@yahoo.com).

### 2013 NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

#### REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St./Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

\$10.00 by September 15, 2013

**AFTER DEADLINE:**  
\$15.00 AT THE DOOR

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**  
Native American Women's Ministry

**SEND TO:**  
New Beginnings A/G Church  
Mrs. Tuesday Wesley  
P.O. Box 366  
Cache, OK 73527

**No child care will be provided!**

# CBDC guiding growth

Nation's newest venture will change the landscape of economic opportunity

## Picture this

Imagine a program that respects the Choctaw culture, the Choctaw people, and the traditional Choctaw value of stewardship of the land, and uses the power of the past to create the future.

Imagine a way for all members of the Choctaw Nation located anywhere in the world to be part of the economic growth of southeast Oklahoma.

Imagine a place that houses some of the best and brightest business people in the Choctaw Nation whose purpose is to help those who want to start a business, expand their business, or take their successful business to the next level. Imagine that it has experts available in some of the most strategic areas for jobs like Cultural Arts, Technology, Agriculture, Food and Retail, and those experts' job is to help build businesses that will benefit the whole Nation.

Imagine this program showing our youth, our adults, our veterans and our elderly how to participate in the growth and prosperity of the tribal homeland and become strong and effective entrepreneurs. Imagine a program teaching Choctaws in southeast Oklahoma the skills necessary to move forward with starting their own company or working productively for someone who already has. Imagine that those who receive training and support through this program will help create enough jobs that the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will eventually have one of the strongest economies in the United States.

Imagine this program, because it is currently in the formative stage and will launch before the end of this year.

## Introducing the newest Choctaw Nation venture

Chief Gregory E. Pyle has commissioned the formation of the new Choctaw Business Development Center (CBDC) to be based in Durant with virtual connections to every part of the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. The CBDC will focus exclusively on the issues of job creation, economic growth, diversification and sustainability of the Choctaw people for many years to come.

Many successful businesses already exist within the 10-1/2 counties that make up the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. You may have heard of, or even visited, places like Kaben & Shelby Smallwood's business, Symbiotic Aquaponics LLC, that got its start through the FFA leader at Kiowa High School and the Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program, or visited the websites or Facebook pages of Carol Epps' Wild Herb Natural Skin Care or Kitty Carnes' Dirty Girl Soaps, each of whom were assisted by the Choctaw Nation's Native American Business Resource Center. Whether you live inside or outside SE Oklahoma, you may have friends or relatives that have a skill or hobby that you have often thought would make a great business someday. The question is, "How can the Nation best focus its combined talents in a way that creates more jobs and a stronger economy for southeast Oklahoma?" One answer is the Choctaw Business Development Center.

Bill Wimberley, chief business and economic development officer for the Choctaw Nation, and his team have spent the last several months identifying opportunities, surveying existing businesses and talking with individuals interested in participating in this new program. His team has discovered that there are many members of the Choctaw Nation who are ready to challenge themselves with the task of creating a business. The CBDC will be the place to help facilitate that creation and significantly increase the chances for success.

The CBDC is designed to help change the landscape of economic opportunity within the Choctaw Nation and southeast Oklahoma by creating and supporting new and existing businesses, thereby creating jobs and infusing capital into the local economies. Although the CBDC headquarters will be located in Durant, its structure will allow it to work across multiple locations within southeast Oklahoma, with the size and focus of each project designed to benefit the area in which that project is placed.

## What is involved?

Interested participants will cover a broad spectrum, from qualified individuals who have never operated a business, to small businesses looking for a place to grow, to medium and large scale businesses wanting to relocate to southeast Oklahoma. To participate in the program, an individual or business applicant must go through a thorough qualification, application and screening process. During this process, it will be determined whether the applicant is ready to be placed into the CBDC program or whether the applicant needs more training, education, preparation, etc. If an applicant is not ready to be placed directly into the program, the applicant will be directed to where he/she can receive the training and education that is needed. If necessary, this additional training and education will be provided in cooperation with existing Choctaw Nation programs. For those Choctaw Nation members who do not reside within the Nation's 10-1/2 counties, the CBDC is the perfect vehicle for those members to connect with businesses and other Choctaw Nation members. These connections can help all members become more successful and help propel the Choctaw Nation to becoming the strongest, most successful, most giving tribal nation in the country.

## The Goal of the Choctaw Business Development Center

The ultimate goal of the CBDC is to assist Choctaw Nation members to find their best path forward to achieve economic success both individually and with the Choctaw Nation as a whole. Staff look forward to learning more about you and your goals and to discovering how all may work together to increase the opportunities available to members of the Choctaw Nation. To help the CBDC be as successful as it can be, please take the survey discussed in this issue of the Biskinik. If you need more information please send an email to Survey2013@choctawnation.com.



Photo provided

**Tribal members who want to start a business, expand their business, or take their successful business to the next level can be a part of the first Economic and Cultural Connection Survey developed by the Choctaw Business Development Center.**

## A message from Chief Pyle inviting you to give 10 minutes

*Halito!*

*There are three questions from Choctaw Nation members I hear almost everywhere I go across the country:*

*"How can we build a better economy and enough good jobs for our members?"*  
*"How can I give back to the Choctaw Nation – what is the best way to do that?"*  
*"How can I learn more about our culture and legacy?"*

*I know the greatest strength of the Choctaw Nation is our people. As such, job creation, economic growth, diversification and sustainability of the Choctaw people and our heritage are paramount to this administration. Recently, the Council and I commissioned and funded the formation of the Choctaw Business Development Center (CBDC) to exclusively focus on these issues. We also commissioned the development of an easy, ten minute survey for you to complete that will let us focus our efforts on the best ways to move forward.*

*Please take the time to complete this important survey. I value your input and your answers will help us design and define the path to our long-term strategic plan and allocation of resources.*

*This survey will ask questions about your education, skills, hobbies, jobs and business interests. It will also offer ways for you to strengthen your connection with the Choctaw Nation in SE Oklahoma.*

*Please go to [www.choctawnationssurvey.com](http://www.choctawnationssurvey.com) to give your input. If you have any questions about this survey, or if you can't or don't want to complete this form on the web, there will be a limited number of printed copies will be available at your local community center in SE Oklahoma. Every CDIB holder who has a Membership Card number can participate in the survey.*

*Please help others in your household or your community fill out their survey online if they are having any trouble.*

*I look forward to hearing from you and will publish a summary of what we learn from the research when it is available.*

*As a way of showing my gratitude for your effort, upon completing the survey, you will be eligible to enter a drawing for a chance to win one of four prizes: an iPad, a donation to the Choctaw Nation Scholarship fund, a signed "Choctaw: A Cultural Awakening" coffee table book, or a beaded flute in the Choctaw tradition.*

*Yakoke,*

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Onnahinlikma ish hopona hinla ho?

*Pronounced:*

Ohn-na-hin-lik-ma ish ho-po-na hin-la ho?

Can you cook in the morning?

*Word Meaning:*

onnahinlikma – in the morning    ish – you (before a verb)  
 hopona – cook (changed from hoponi to hopona for future tense).  
 ahinla – can, may    ho? – question marker

### Onnahinlikma chi pisa la chike.

*Pronounced:*

Ohn-na-hin-lik-ma chi peh-nsa la chike

I will see you in the morning.

onnahinli – morning    kma – suffix added for the future    chi – you  
 pisa – see/seeing    la – I, (changed from li to la)    chike – it will be so

### Tabokolikma chi afamma la hinla.

*Pronounced:*

Tah-bohk-o-lehk-mah che ah-fahm-mah lah hin-lah.

I can meet you at noon.

Word Meaning:  
 tabokoli – noon    kma – suffix for the future    chi – you  
 ahinla – can or may    afamma – to meet  
 la – I, (li changed to la for future tense)    ahinla – can or may

### Tabokolikma impa la chi.

*Pronounced:*

Tah-bohk-o-lehk-mah chm-pah lah—chi(nh).

I will eat at noon.

tabokolikma – noon    impa – to eat    la – I (from li)    achi – future tense

[www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com)

## Kopps on the Run

Lena Kopp is a tribal member with some college education and a lot of training and certifications from NCCER, which is the National Center for Construction Education and Research. Lena worked construction since she graduated high school, starting as labor and working her way up from an ironworker to an iron supervisor. She is also a welder and has recently moved up to a quality control manager (Q/C). All of these things were a great achievement for her, because of being a woman in the construction field, working in power plants, steel mills, paper mills and refineries.

Lena's latest achievement was starting her own business, which is something she has always wanted to accomplish. Starting a drug and alcohol collection facility was her husband's idea, called Kopps on the Run. Since her last baby, who is now 10 months old, they have wanted to have something where Lena could stay home with their six children, instead of traveling. Her next goal is opening a welding school in Hugo.

Lena is a valuable asset to the Choctaw Nation Workforce Investment Act (WIA), On-the-Job Training (OJT) program. She has accepted two participants from the OJT program to complete her training at her business. Not only has she accepted them for employment and training, she has also taught them new skills and has encouraged them to further their education. She has provided them with opportunities to obtain certificates in psyche medics sample collection, hair collection, urine drug collector and allowing them to attend the local Kiamichi Vocational Technology center to be certified in phlebotomy. Along with this training and skills, they have also gained employment at Kopps on the Run upon completion of the program.

Lena has taken a step further by informing many of the surrounding businesses and her colleagues with information regarding the services Choctaw Nation WIA provides. In doing this, it has led to multiple businesses contacting WIA seeking participants to fill available positions.

Tiffany Kirkes of the WIA program said Lena has a positive attitude, creative ideas and amazing training she provides with WIA participants. She has fulfilled all requests given with quick responses and complete dedication. The WIA program is very appreciative and truly amazed by all that Lena has to offer.

## Are you over 18 years old?

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

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

# OBITUARIES

## Betty Mowdy Simpson

Betty Mowdy Simpson, 86, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Aug. 1, 2013. Born Oct. 29, 1926, in Waynesville, N.C., she was the daughter of the late Leslie Lenton Mowdy and Elizabeth McLean Mowdy. She was the granddaughter of an original Choctaw enrollee.

She worked in the Pentagon for the Department of Defense and retired from the federal government after 55 years. She lived in Falls Church, Va., for 57 years at the same address.

She married Paul C. Simpson of Berryville, Va., who preceded her in death November 2001.

She leaves two sons, Paul Simpson and James Simpson; two daughters, Elizabeth Lambert with her husband Rodney Lambert and Lori Simpson; a brother, Gordon Mowdy of Klamath Falls, Ore.; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a host of many relatives and friends.



## Daniel E. Williams

Daniel Edward Williams passed away unexpectedly June 15, 2013, at his home in Bacliff, Texas. He was born to Nina G. and Othal E. Williams on Nov. 16, 1951, in McAlester.

Dan attended public schools in Savanna, Stigler and McAlester. He graduated from McAlester High School in 1970; from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, in 1974; and completed two masters' degrees from East Central University, Ada. He taught school in New Mexico and Texas and was currently employed with the Harris County School District in Houston, Texas.

Dan was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He loved OSU Cowboys, Houston Texans, good food and gaming at casinos, especially if he won!

Dan is survived by his mother, Nina G. Williams, McAlester; sister and brother-in-law Deborah and John Serle, Oklahoma City; nephew Travis Serle (Lisa), Norman; niece Elizabeth Rogers (Eric), Edmond; great-nephew Michael Rogers, Edmond; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Othal Williams; grandparents, Frank and Osie Grubbs, Ohlen and Meda Williams; and many loving aunts, uncles and cousins.



## Deborah Evans Williamson

Deborah Evans Williamson, 61, of Marshall passed away at Longview Regional Medical Center on July 17, 2013, in the early hours of the morning.

Deborah was born to Bud and Lora Mae Evans on July 29, 1951, in Talihina. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation, and was very proud of her Native American heritage. Mrs. Williamson was a loving and caring woman, and loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed flowers and hummingbirds.

Deborah was preceded in death by both of her loving parents, Bud and Lora; as well as her brother Robert Boe Evans.

Those left behind to cherish her memory is her husband, Michael Williamson; daughter Lora Robinson with her husband, Roy; son Michael Troy Williamson; stepson Thomas Alan Williamson; granddaughters, Amber and Jenna Robinson; sisters, Shirley with husband Larry Nye, Sue with husband Jim McEvers, and Bertha Ann Lalli; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



## Clyde Allen Eugene Young

Clyde Allen Eugene Young, 52, of Durant passed away April 20, 2012, in Durant. He was born on Feb. 9, 1960, in Fort Worth, Texas to Loren A. and Julia M. (Redden) Young. He moved here from Dallas, in 1992 and worked in construction. He married Christina Elizabeth Bonds in Durant. Clyde loved spending time with his family, playing golf, and was an avid sports fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Oklahoma Sooners.

He was preceded in death by his father, Loren A. Young Sr.; stepfather, Jerred Hider; grandparents, Clyde and Ilene (Nye) Young, and Jesse and Pearl (Ratcliff) Redden.

Clyde is survived by his wife, Christina Young of Durant; son, Clyde Young of Durant; daughter, Heather Young of Durant; mother, Julia (Redden) Hider of Caddo; father and mother-in-law, Don and Sally Boyer of Decatur, Ill.; brothers, Loren Young Jr. of Caddo, and Robert Young of Mead; sisters, Loretta Payton with husband Billy of Balsum Grove, N.C., Deborah Young of Boone, N.C. and Susan Lawson with husband William of Durant; half-sister, Margarie Smith with husband Shon of Wiscasset, Maine; grandchild, Hannah Hammond; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.



## Cheryl Cook

Cheryl Lynne Chambers Cook, formerly of Sand Springs, passed away on April 19, 2013, at her home in McKinney, Texas, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Cheryl was born on Jan. 13, 1947, in Tulsa to Robert and Geraldine Chambers. She grew up in Sands Springs and graduated from Charles Page High School in 1965 before marrying Richard Cook on Dec. 8, 1967. They resided in Whidbey Island, Wash., before moving to Texas in 1970.

She was a woman of Christian faith and generous devotion to family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert G. Chambers; and her grandparents, Eldred and Mattie Nichols, and Travis and Eula Chambers.

She is survived by her husband, Richard W. Cook of McKinney, Texas; son, Michael S. Cook with wife, Martha of Lavon, Texas; and their daughters, Jaclyn, Claire, and Caroline; son, Brian Cook with wife Mary of Richardson, Texas and their daughter, Anna; mother Geraldine J. Nichols Chambers of McKinney, Texas; brother Darrell Chambers with wife, Marian of Overland Park, Kan.; uncle Byrl Nichols with wife, Martha Jo, of Houston, Texas; and eight nieces and nephews.



## Loren Arthur Young Jr

Loren Arthur Young Jr., 54, of Caddo, was born Aug. 1, 1958, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Loren Young Sr. and Julia (Redden) Young and passed away from this life on June 12, 2013, at his home in Caddo.

Loren attended Medomak Valley High School and came to Bryan County 14 years ago, where he has worked as a contractor doing many different jobs. Loren was in the army and served his country from 1976-1979 and was stationed in Germany. In his free time Loren loved to do woodwork, drawing, sports, and loved to watch football and NASCAR.

Loren was preceded in death by his father, Loren Young Sr.; brother, Clyde A. Young; stepfather, Eddie Hider; and his grandparents, Clyde and Ilene Young and Jess and Pearl Redden.

He is survived by his mother, Julia Hider, of Caddo; daughters, Tiffany Batty of Rockland, Maine, Robin Young of Hobbs, N.M.; stepdaughter Terra Sharp of Little Elm, Texas; brother Robert Young of Mead, Okla.; sisters, Loretta Payton of Balsam Grove, N.C., Debby Young of Boone, N.C., and Susan Lawson of Caddo, Okla.; half-sister Marjorie Smith of Wiscasset, Maine; grandsons, Andy and Noah Espinoza of Wilmer, Texas; granddaughters, Michalah Batty of Rockland, Maine, Jessalynn Castillo of North Richland Hills, Texas; step-granddaughter Jaelin Gonzalez; step-grandson Isaiah Martinez; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and friends.



## Edward McCann

Edward "Neal" Cornelius McCann, 57, of McAlester passed away on July 26, 2013, in McAlester.

Neal was born April 11, 1956, in Oklahoma City to Joseph Cornelius and Gladys (Lee) McCann.

He was employed in the past as an oilfield worker and livestock hand. In recent years, he worked as a drywall. He enjoyed watching western movies, family gatherings and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Gladys McCann; grandparents Cornelius and Willie Bea McCann, and Rev. Ed and Lora Lee.

Neal is survived by two sons, Cory McCann with wife Rachel of Red Oak and Joseph McCann with wife Ashely of McAlester; three sisters, Connie Lester with husband Dennis of McCloud, Willeta Goddard of Cleveland, Tenn., and Donna Holbird with husband Robert of Park Hill; one brother, Steve McCann with wife Rita of Fort Cobb; five grandchildren, eight nieces, two nephews, six great-nephews, 13 great-nieces, six great-great-nieces and one great-great-nephew.

## James Edward Ferguson Sr.

James Edward Ferguson, 83, of Durant and long time Hugo resident, left this life on July 31, 2013, to rest at home with the Lord. Born Jan. 16, 1930, in Crosbyton, Texas, James was the son of Roy L. Ferguson and Cordia (Dean) Ferguson. He was married to the love of his life, Dorothy (O'Neal) Ferguson for 44 years.

James Ferguson was a very good man. He lived his life in service to his Lord and to his family. He was a loving husband, wonderful father and grandfather and a devoted Christian. James was an exceptionally good man. There was nothing he liked better than a good long drive in the country or a slice of his mother's coconut pie. He was a genius under the hood of a car and could diagnose any issue just by listening to the motor. Beyond that, he could build a car motor or a piece of furniture. When he was not looking for something to build, repair, or do, James loved to watch sports, especially basketball (his loyalty was split between the Thunder and the Rockets).

James was met in heaven by his wife Dot, granddaughter Jamie Sue (Jenkot) Williams, as well as his parents, and brothers: Forrest, R.L. and Sonny Ferguson.

Left behind to celebrate his life is daughter Jan Jenkot with husband Hank of Durant; sons, James E. Ferguson Jr. of Rattan, Danny Ferguson with wife Linda of Cypress, Texas; and daughter Gail Usry with husband Ronnie of Durant; four grandchildren, Jason Ferguson with wife Heather of Cypress, Texas; Lara Ferguson of Cypress, Texas; Tiffany Morgan with husband Troy of Antlers and Meggan Taylor with husband Caleb of Durant; great-grandchildren, Jordan, Kylie and Cade Ferguson of Cypress, Texas, and McCayla, Cason, and Myka Jai Taylor of Durant; siblings, Oweeda Davenport, Billy Roy Ferguson, Walter Ferguson, Kay Thompson, Sue Eagan, Yvonne Robinson and many nieces, nephews and friends.



## Bobby Joe Pierce Sr.

Bobby Joe Pierce Sr., 69, of Panama passed away Feb. 9, 2013, in Poteau. He was born Jan. 5, 1944, in Phoenix to Harrison Joseph and Vernie (Tucker) Pierce and was retired from Whirlpool.

He was preceded in death by his father; wife, Ollie Pierce; sister, Shirley Moore; and brothers, Leland and Merle John Pierce.

He is survived by a daughter, Bertha Fout with husband Johnny of Shady Point; son, Bobby Joe Pierce Jr. of Greenwood; mother, Vernie Pierce of Panama; grandsons, Joey and Trevor Fout of Shady Point; sisters, Rosie Brady, Patricia Trout, and Coralene Crabtree of Panama; and brother, Richard Pierce of Poteau; along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and loved ones.



## Gary Pebworth

Gary Lee Pebworth was born Feb. 17, 1953, in Amarillo, Texas. He went home to our Lord in Heaven on March 8, 2013. He was the son of Arthur Lee Pebworth and Lenetha (Tanksley) Pebworth. He lived over 40 years in Boswell.

Gary loved to fish on the Muddy Boggy River and was a great carpenter by trade. He could not wait to get well enough to go back to work and to go fishing. Gary was loved and cherished by all of his children and grandchildren.

Gary's survivors include: ex-wife, Cathy Hawthorne; three daughters, Tiffany Murphy with husband Brett of Spring Branch, Texas, Jennifer Pebworth with husband Scott Taylor of Kingsland, Texas, and Sheena Carrico of Boswell; two sisters, Rita Herbison of Stanton, Tenn., and Janit Sutterfield of Clarksburg, W.V.; five grandchildren, Dakota, Bailey, Kayleigh, Taylor and Evelyn; along with many other relatives and friends.



## Mary Matthews

Mary Faith Labor Matthews, 73, of Niceville, Fla., passed away May 30, 2013, at her home in the presence of her loving husband. She was born on July 23, 1939, in Ruby, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Argenta Pearl and Joe T. Kinman; and her brothers, Charlie, Altie and Joe Labor.

She became the wife of Sam Wesley Matthews on Oct. 31, 1957. The family resided in Tucson, Ariz., before moving to Niceville in 1990.

Mary is survived by her husband of 55 years, Sam; daughter Kim Acres, Madison, Ga., with her husband, Kevin, who is a son in Mary's heart; son Roger Matthews, Crestview, Fla.; and daughter, Susie Matthews, Niceville, Fla.; also surviving are grandchildren, Michael Matthews (Lauren), Kristy Pritchett (Joseph), Emily Bradley and Renee Legere; and great-grandchildren, Dustin, Joseph, Lizzie, Myca, Reese, Bella Faith and Wesley.

Mary's greatest passion was her role as the matriarch of her family. She was a very loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and her unwavering devotion was dedicated to giving those she loved the tools, words of wisdom and encouragement to help them live happy and fulfilling lives. She supported all of their dreams and aspirations always inspiring them to give it their all and not settle for second best. She was their biggest fan.

Her interests cultivated beauty. Many of her hours were spent gardening around the beautiful home. Her gardens were colorful and cheerful and reflected her vibrant personality. Her family spent many hours with her in her yard enjoying the fruits of her labor. Sharing plants with her family and others was a thrill for her. She enjoyed sewing for her family, at first, adorable outfits for her children, and eventually homecoming, prom and wedding dresses, not to mention handmade quilts, baby blankets and doll clothes. She became an expert at genealogy and loved her trips to Salt Lake City, Utah, with Sam, where she spent hours in the Family History Library researching more and more on her and her husband's family roots and securing her listing on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma roll books and her recent induction into Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mary was compassionate and reached out to those in need and saw good in nearly everyone she met. She became a member of the First Baptist Church of Niceville. She eagerly looked forward to her Sunday school class.

She took pleasure in spoiling her grandchildren and entertained them to their delight with visits to the library where she instilled in each child the love to read; to the bayou to see the ducks and to swim; to a favorite spot for chocolate malts to celebrate good grades; grilled cheese and tomato soup for a cold; and many hours in fabric stores preparing for the marvelous creations their Mama was about to bestow upon them.

She reveled in solving the world's problems with the Monday night "Maybe Sew's" group of friends that she hosted weekly. She and her dear friends experienced many hours of pleasure; visiting, laughing, and sharing life's experiences, vast knowledge of quilting or crafts and of course a decadent dessert.

## Loyd Francis Dyer

Loyd Francis Dyer, born Jan. 31, 1929, in Eagletown passed away on June 7, 2013, at the Jack Montgomery VA Hospital in Muskogee.

Loyd graduated from Eagletown High School and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was a gunner's mate 3 on the USS Norris, which was an escort for the USS Missouri. Loyd received the China Service Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal, Korea Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Loyd was honored April 2013 at ceremonies in Claremore, as one of two residents of the VA nursing home to receive a medal recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart. In May 2013, he was also honored among the many Korean War veterans at the Claremore VA nursing home for his service during the Korean War. Loyd enjoyed being interviewed in a recent Tulsa World article on the Claremore VA nursing home pets. Loyd's image with Chief Pyle will be in the 2014 Choctaw Nation calendar for November.

Using his GI Bill, Loyd graduated from Southeastern State College in Durant, with a Bachelor's Degree. He also gained additional education in Phoenix, Ariz., for Public Health. Loyd worked as a boys' advisor at Shiprock, N.M., for 10 years, then near El Reno, at Concho Demonstration School for 10 years, and then as a recreational specialist at Sequoyah Indian School near Tahlequah. After retiring from the Bureau of Indian Affairs after 34 years, he then worked for the Cherokee Nation for 10 years, and worked at Food for Less, OK Productions in Tahlequah.

Loyd enjoyed hunting, fishing, sports, traveling, but he especially enjoyed telling stories with family and friends. He recalled his service to his country in the Navy with pride, while minimizing the hardships he endured during the Korean War. His friends at the Claremore VA nursing home will miss him, especially at the bingo games where he helped others with hearing losses. He was a member of the Black Fox-Harless American Legion in Tahlequah for many years. Loyd volunteered with the Volunteers of America at the Jack Montgomery VA Hospital in Muskogee for seven years.

Beloved "Uncle Loyd" to 28 nieces and nephews in Oklahoma, South Carolina, California, and Nevada, he left this earth for a joyful Dyer reunion with his parents, original enrollees Amanda Barnett Dyer and William Harrison Dyer, and his four sisters and two brothers.

Loyd is survived by his wife, Linda Levi Dyer of Tahlequah; his daughter Michelle Dyer Munoz with husband Jose of Albuquerque, N.M.; his grandson, Markos Munoz of Albuquerque, N.M. Family and friends will miss his mischievous smile and his quick laugh.



## Ella Mae Northcutt

Ella Mae Northcutt, 76, of Spiro passed away on July 27, 2013, in Tecumseh. She was born Feb. 28, 1937, in Atoka to John Chapman and Julie McCade. She was a retail manager for convenience stores.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and daughter, Aretta Cannon.

Ella Mae is survived by her husband Jesse Northcutt of Spiro; son Billy Cannon of Oklahoma City; daughters, Patty Mayes of Olive Branch, Miss., and Vickie Neely of Pink; brothers, Jerry Chapman of Poteau, Lesley Chapman of Oklahoma City, Jim Chapman of Edmond, and Curly Chapman of Texas; numerous other family members, friends and loved ones.

# Choctaw cultural meetings held in Little Rock, Kansas City



Brother and sister Parker and Skylar Scott of Fort Smith, Ark., are happy with the necklaces they made in the beading class at the Little Rock meeting.

Photos by **CHRISSE SHEPARD** | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Choctaw Nation Membership department employee Lerran Preston dance with Emily Kisling and Cheyenne Cox during the wedding dance at the meeting in Little Rock.



Three generations of the Staples family attend the cultural meeting in Little Rock. Pictured are Richard, Scott, Claire and Richard Harvey Gray Staples.



Lena Johnson, who sang Choctaw hymns at the Little Rock meeting with Bubba Johnson and Moses Johnson, talks with Chloe Roberts.



Representatives from the Kansas City Native American Fellowship and the Lawrence Indian United Methodist Church were kind enough to share their singing of traditional Choctaw hymns at the Kansas City meeting.



Caroline Roberts visits with Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton at the cultural meeting in Little Rock.



Choctaw Historic Preservation Director Dr. Ian Thompson shows Rochelle Pruett of Anderson, Mo., a Choctaw bow at the Kansas City meeting.



Choctaw Nation employee shows Bob Emerson a traditional Choctaw flute.



Sissy Cumblidge of Little Rock gets advice on her traditional Choctaw beading technique from Cultural Services employee Kanda Jackson.



Chief Pyle visits with Billy Thornton of Anderson, Mo., at the meeting in Kansas City.



Diane Pearson and Ed Saterlee brought Chief Pyle a basket of gifts from their home state of Kansas at the Kansas City cultural meeting.



Richard Morris, a full-blooded Choctaw member originally from Ardmore and now residing in Lawrence, Kan., was able to visit with Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton at the Kansas City meeting.

Representatives and employees from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma traveled to Little Rock, Ark., on Aug. 1, then on to Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 3 for cultural meetings to bring tribal services as well as informational and educational booths to tribal members.

Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton spoke at each meeting, informing attendees of current news within the Nation.

School of the Choctaw Language instructor Lillie Roberts also provided the audience with a brief lesson in the Choctaw language, teaching them some Choctaw words.

The Choctaw Cultural Services department employees were at both meetings, holding a traditional Choctaw beading class with many excited participants walking away with their own pair of Choctaw earrings they had made themselves.

Choctaw Nation employee Brad Joe shared his talent of playing the Choctaw flute to the audience.

There were many booths available to the tribal members of Little Rock and Kansas City, including Choctaw basketry, pottery and weapons, stickball, traditional jewelry, items from the Choctaw Bookstore and language information, as well as demonstrations of Choctaw dancing with volunteers from the audience joining in. A Tribal Membership booth was also available for individuals to sign up for a CDIB or photo ID.

The next cultural meeting is scheduled to be held in Austin, Texas, on Sept. 26.



Brad Joe, Seth Fairchild, Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the other Choctaw Social Dancers walk into the meeting room in Kansas City.



Serrena Maggard, her grandmother, Juanita Maggard, and little brother Liam enjoyed looking at the traditional Choctaw beadwork in Kansas City.

*Yakoke,  
Little Rock & Kansas City!*

# Labor Day Festival 2013

## Winners



The Third Annual Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament champions are Tvshka Homma.



War Hoops – Women's All Stars 1st place – War Party: Sharon Forte, Natasha Rouse, Kayla Davis



War Hoops – Men's 18-35 1st place – Running Skins: Chris Valliere, Kirk Taylor, Randall Clay, Caleb Taylor, Karahjon Hurd



War Hoops – Age 15-18 coed 1st place – Like Mike: Bailey Scarberry, Oscar Rivera, Ryan Scales, Junior Griffin, Dorian Threadgill, Delvin Johnson



War Hoops – Age 12-14 coed 1st place – Outsiders: Stormy Taylor, Chris Trusty, Ivan Baker, Shantel Smith, Nana Jo Smith



War Hoops – Old Timers 1st place – Jumbo: Naco Hopkins, Brent Shaw, Michael Clay, and Derek



Women's 3 point – 1st place Dayna Dick, 2nd place Misty Madbull



Men's 3 point – 1st place Allen Clay, 2nd place Rock Johnson



Free Throw Winners age 16-18 – 1st place Alethia McKinney, 2nd place Derek Epperoy, 3rd place Tiffany Gantt.



Free Throw winners age 6-9 – from right, 1st place Cale Clay, 2nd place Cason Taylor, and 3rd place Ashia Jordan



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 20 & Over Men's division – 1st Lee Ellis, 2nd Brad Hooker and 3rd David Edwards



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 20 & Over Women division – 1st Christina Waugh, 2nd Rhonda Reiman and 3rd Jennifer Dickson



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 14-16 boys division – 1st Sam Jacob, 2nd Robert Breshears and 3rd Chasey Bohanan (not pictured)



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 6-8 division – 1st Wil Helmsmoore, 2nd Tristen Ross and 3rd Trey Wilson



Women's Doubles in horseshoes – 1st Place – Stephanie Bohanan and Tiffany Bohanan



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 9-13 division at the 1st Chase Zink, 2nd Sarah Haven and 3rd Madi McDonald



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 5 & Under – 1st Wyatt Kinslow, 2nd Riggin Waugh and 3rd Olivia Ellis



Horseshoe Men's Ringer winner – Nicky Slabaugh



Men's Doubles horseshoe tournament – 1st place – David Davis and Phillip Morris



Women's Ringer Champion – Wanda Morris



Labor Day Bow Shoot – 17-19 Boy division – Gefery Diaz



Women's Singles Horseshoe tournament – 1st Kisha Bohanan, 2nd Stephanie Bohanan and 3rd Sue Tait



Labor Day Festival Dominoes tournament – 1st Sylvester Moore and 2nd Roland Wade



Labor Day Checkers Tournament – 1st Jasen Baker and 2nd Johnny Parson



Youth Ringer – Tyler Walker



The 2nd place team in Men's Doubles in horseshoes – Danny Adams and Bunky Impson; Also winning 1st place in Men's Single was Bunky Impson and Danny Adams placed 2nd.



Youth Singles Horse Shoes – 1st Tyler Walker, 2nd Tyler Leao, and 3rd Jaiden Smith



Chris Valliere is overall male winner of the annual 5K.



Ana Hollan is the overall female winner of the annual Labor Day 5K.



Labor Day Golf Tournament 1st place – Gregg Moon, Cyrus Ben, Jon Lowder and Jason Grisham

# Labor Day Festival 2013

## Winners



Terrapin race winners for ages 3-7 – 1st place Snoweagle Rasha, 2nd place James Wortham, and 3rd place Jackson Pollard



Terrapin race winners in the ages 8-12 category – 1st place, Draven Postoak, 2nd place, Jordan Nolin, and 3rd place, Braxton Lemmons Martin



Luksi congratulates 5-year-old McKenzie Petty for winning Best Dressed at the terrapin race.



This year's Tough-Tough champion is Chris Hawk, left, who finished the four-event course in 1:44. Joshua Hensley, right, finished in second place with a time of 2:18.

Jerry and Leslie Flanagan, parents of the late Chris Flanagan, were presented with the Fighting Heart Award. Flanagan, who was a regular participant in the Tough-Tough event, passed away last year.



Chief Pyle congratulates Michyl Pierce Crider on winning the 2013 Ford C-max.



Chief Greg E. Pyle hands the keys of a GMC Sierra to Jerry Tonubbee.



Art Show – Jewelry:  
1st Place: Theresa Renegar, "Corn Dreams"  
2nd Place: Bob Proctor, "Broken Promises"  
3rd Place: Bob Proctor, "The Dancer"  
HM: Chester Cowen, "Where is Tobias?"



Art Show – Sculpture:  
1st Place: Stephanie Rose, "The Little Chahta News Bird"  
2nd Place: Cecil Henderson, "Ruffed Grouse"  
3rd Place: Lyman Choate, "She Speaks to the Animals"



Art Show – Graphics:  
1st Place: Paul King, "At Peace"  
2nd Place: Sandy Sliger, "Beaver's Bend"  
3rd Place: Jane Semple Umstead, "The Snapping Turtle"

Art Show – Cultural:  
1st Place: Michael Rose, "Ball Players Medicine"  
2nd Place: Laura B. Pickens, "Dogwood Arrow"  
3rd Place: Ryan Spring, "Traditional Stickball, buckeye core"



Art Show – Painting:  
1st Place: Karen Clarkson, "Last Gift"  
2nd Place: Dylan Cavin, "Summer Scissortail"  
3rd Place: John Compelube, "Stirring the Pot"  
HM: Gwen Coleman Lester, "Light-horseman"



Art Show – Pottery:  
1st Place: Dan Bernier, "Old Bowl or New Home"  
2nd Place: Marsha Hedrick, "Frog Bottle"  
3rd Place: Edmond Perkins Jr., "Quawpaw Warrior Effigy Vase"  
HM: Vangie Robinson, "Choctaw Pony"



Volleyball 1st place – Diggers  
Lori Hamilton, Devon Frazier, Joe Thomas, Sean Gentry, Josh Carney, Marris McIntosh and Mitzi Doster



Free Throw Champs 10-12:  
1st Jocelyn Smith, 2nd Logan Hewitt, 3rd Calesa Murdock

Free Throw Champs 13-15:  
1st Keeli Tsosie, 2nd Daniel Boswell, 3rd Jordan Scott

**Quilt Show winners**

Hand Stitch – (1st) Sandra Stevens, (2nd) Lois Thomas, (3rd) Jan West

Machine Stitch – (1st) Rebecca Mizell, (2nd) Wanda Leet "Christian Cross", (3rd) Wanda Leet "Fall Leaves"

Hand & Machine Stitch – (1st) Rose Harris, (2nd) Charlene Benge, (3rd) Ruth McCoy

People's Choice Award – Lois Thomas "Giant Dahlia"



The stickball tournament was action-packed from start to finish!



# Festival time!



Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Nation Tribal Chaplain



2013-14 Miss Choctaw Nation Callie Curnutt, Junior Miss Kayleigh Powell and Little Miss Isabelle Cox are crowned Aug. 29 by Chief Greg Pyle, right, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



John Gooden's newest sculpture for the Choctaw Nation is unveiled – the late Charley Jones, a Choctaw historian, language teacher and Councilman. Gooden is pictured with Sue Folsom, executive director of Choctaw Nation Cultural Services.



Christian "Lightning Boy" Billy, 2, of Finley, plays his flute before the pow wow grand entry on Friday night.



Drumming at the pow wow.



Paula Carney leads the Choctaw hymn singing in the Choctaw village.



David Lankford, 13, of Tecumseh tries his hand at beading in the Choctaw village.

Folsom White tells of the importance of stickball and shares memories of his dad, Sidney White, who was known for his hand-crafted sticks and involvement in teaching the sport.



Ranes Riddle with Chief Pyle.



The Rev. Gene Wilson and Chief Gregory E. Pyle are presented medallions for their contributions to conserving the heritage of the Choctaw Nation. Sue Folsom made the medallions which were presented by Assistant Chief Gary Batton, left, and Council Speaker Delton Cox.



Okla Chahta Royalty



Tug-o-war at the fitness challenge.



Brayson Samuel of Mississippi gathered enough plastic bottles and aluminum cans to trade for five T-shirts at the recycling booth!



Councilman Anthony Dillard with two runners from his district, Eldonna Carney and Uhla Nelson, both of Lane.



Tammy Patterson and Mary Laska experiment with the phone at the new Code Talker exhibit in the museum. They are able to listen to military messages given in Choctaw and the English translation.



Savannah Tucker, 9 of Fort Worth, gives pottery making a try in the Choctaw village. This was her first trip to the annual festival.



Brenner Billy provides information on Choctaw basket weaving.



Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma Nikki Amos.



Storyteller Tim Tingle keeps visitors to the Choctaw village enchanted with his traditional stories.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle awarding the "oldest" in the audience - 95-year-old Ernestine Hooser.



Chief Pyle's Physical Fitness Challenge has everyone on their feet.



Social dancing in the village.



Ricardo Chee-chong enjoys his ride on a horse in the Choctaw village.



The Tough Tough contest is a challenge for even the strongest of Choctaws.



Cedric Ketcheshawno demonstrates banana making.



Betheny Pisachubbee-Cole, 3, of Hugo has a great time at the Labor Day Festival.



Tina James, right, of the Choctaw Diabetic Center, does a blood sugar check on Margaret Gipson of Caney in the Healthy Living Tent.



The Going Green Team teaches about water conservation.



Hangtime!



Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Kayleigh Powell, Miss Choctaw Nation Callie Curnutt and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Isabelle Cox pose with Chief Going Streak. The 15-year-old stallion is one of the foundation band of Choctaw Spanish Mustangs. For more information on the horses log onto [thespiritofblackjackmountain.com](http://thespiritofblackjackmountain.com).



Heeeeyyy batta, batta, batta! Swing!



Pow Wow Grand Entry time!

Photos by JUDY ALLEN, LISA REED, LARISSA COPELAND, BRET MOSS, KAREN JACOB, CHRISSY SHEPARD, DEIDRE BACON and RAINETTE ROWLAND  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



The Grand Entry begins.



Michael Plumley, Otee, of Shawnee in his "dressing room," the back of the car.



See more photos online!

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