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CHOCTAW NATION

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

September 2014 Issue

Tribal Council  
holds regular  
session

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met for its regular session on Aug. 9 at Tvshka Homma. Council members voted to approve the following measures:

- The Choctaw Language program welcomed newest instructor, Lincie Battiest Maye of Broken Bow.
- Approval of disposal of surplus equipment.
- Approval for the sale of discontinued medical equipment.
- Approval of grant application for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Project for American Indians with Disabilities.
- Approval of budget for the Educational Talent Search program.

The Choctaw Nation's Tribal Council holds its regular session at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tvshka Homma.

Over 18  
years old?

Don't forget to update  
your membership card

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

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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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Keeping our Choctaw Nation strong

Chief Batton talks about values, culture, and growth in first State of the Nation

By LISA REED  
Choctaw Nation

A highlight of this year's Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival was the Monday ceremonies and the first State of the Nation delivered by Chief Gary Batton. He addressed the crowded amphitheater on the Capitol grounds, saying "Our Choctaw Nation is achukma hoke, we are doing extremely well!"

Chief Batton shared successes from the past year, including the opening on Aug. 29 of the Bertram Bobb Chapel at the entry of the Tvshka Homma Grounds. The first church services and traditional singing were held during the festival. The Rev. Bobb was recognized as a true spiritual leader of the Nation.

Sunday's services at the Chapel also included a tribal member's trek from Texas to return a hymnal that originally belonged to the Bobb family and was signed in 1929.

"God is going to lead this great Choctaw Nation of ours. Our culture will keep us unified and strong," Chief Batton said. "It's our servant leadership, it's our values and respect for our elders, honor, integrity, and family. That's what's going to keep our Choctaw Nation strong."

Another success is the way the Choctaw language is being taught and kept alive. It is good to hear the language being spoken on the grounds, he said, and good to hear it sung in the National Anthem. Many of our original speakers have passed away, but they have left a legacy that our second generational speakers are carrying on. Chief Batton's grandfather taught him some Choctaw words and he said his son, David, can speak twice as much. A challenge was given his grandchildren—"I want Jeffrey and Kaylynn to learn to speak it better than David."

Preservation of our culture includes the game of stickball, or "little brother of war." The team, Tvshka Homma, was formed in 2011 and the Choctaw Nation started its first youth league with approximately 168 kids participating.

The annual Labor Day Stickball Tournament was won by the Mississippi Choctaw (MBCI) this year. Tvshka Homma came in second and Beaver Dam won third.

Chief Batton described the championship game as a game of honor, a game of integrity. "At the very end we all got in the center of the field and said a prayer for everybody. I am so proud to see our tribal members playing the game of stickball again."

Choctaw artists have been recognized more this year as a way to preserve our culture. The artistry is a way they can keep a job for themselves and do the things they love to do. There are 293 on the artist registry and it continues to grow.

The annual art show was held in the Capitol Museum during the festival with exemplary works entered in several categories. Best of Show went to J. Dylan Cavin's "For Some the Music Comes Easy."

A life-size statue was dedicated to Tribal Councilwoman Charlotte Jackson. It was unveiled by her children, Kevin Jackson and Pat Jones. Women attending the unveiling received a commemorative button celebrating the life and contributions of a strong Choctaw female leader. After the unveiling, family members and friends of Jackson's agreed that the statue represented the true spirit of her giving ways to her culture and her communities.



Chief Gary Batton gives the annual State of the Nation report during the 2014 Labor Day Festival at Tvshka Homma.

Other ways the Nation is preserving culture include classes on pottery, beadwork, and basketmaking. Summer camps are held on culture and stickball as well as other activities that are now a part of our culture such as football, softball, basketball, baseball, and golf. This summer, 2,015 Choctaw youth participated in those camps.

Education, training, and job fairs have helped increase skill sets and annual income for many Choctaws. "Our Choctaw people are first in line," Chief Batton said for jobs.

The Choctaw Nation is also reclaiming its land base. With the purchase of Winding Stair Ranch this year, 44,382 acres were added and 11 Choctaws employed, with more jobs becoming available.

The growth of the Nation includes planning for the future—investing in businesses, health, and saving for our children.

"To me, the most important part is about our culture, our history, and our pride of being the great Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma."

Successes

- Stickball team Tvshka Homma sent 80 players to the first World Series.
- Development of youth stickball league with 168 active participants.
- Development of first Council of Wisdom—Laura Mackey and Alfred Harley.
- Tribal historian and counselor Olin Williams appointed as employee Chaplain.
- Cultural Services Department held more than 400 hands-on classes.
- Choctaw artist registry has tripled.
- Choctaw Nation received Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of Native American Code Talker contributions.
- Age change to allow for more seniors to receive storm shelter assistance.
- New market-style food center open in Durant with two more scheduled for Broken Bow and McAlester.
- Grand opening of new Wellness Centers.
- Choctaw Career Development helped over 5,000 with additional training and employment opportunities.

Future for Choctaw people

- Scheduled opening of new facilities including the Stigler Independent Center, McAlester Community Center, McAlester Head Start, McAlester Food Distribution, McAlester Wellness Center, Wilburton Wellness Center, Broken Bow Food Distribution, Poteau Clinic Expansion, Bethel Community Center, Bethel/Battiest Head Start, Durant Health Clinic, Tribal Headquarters, and Cultural Center.
- Choctaw Nation acquisition of Durant clinic Oct. 1. and Poteau Clinic expansion.
- Choctaw Nation car tags available beginning Jan. 1, 2015.
- New Independent Living Community scheduled to open in Stigler.
- Plan of 20 percent funding to prepare for future foundation for children and grandchildren.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the grand opening of the Bertram Bobb Chapel on Aug. 29.

See special 2014  
Labor Day Festival  
and Pow Wow  
section pages 17-20!

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2014-15 Royalty



Kyra, 11, is a Choctaw STAR student and is on the Principal's honor roll. She has completed the Chahta Anumpa Aikihvna and the OSU Nutrition Program.

Little Miss Choctaw Nation  
Kyra Wilson, Dist. 9



Summer, 13, was Little Miss Choctaw for 2011-12 as well as State of Oklahoma Youth Leader of Tomorrow for 2011-12.

Junior Miss Choctaw Nation  
Summer Moffitt, Dist. 8



The 17-year-old new Miss Choctaw Nation has placed first at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair for the past two years.

Miss Choctaw Nation  
Nikki Amos, Dist. 2

# FAITH, FAMILY AND CULTURE

## Fellowship in The Old Ways



From the Desk of Chief Gary Batton

This year’s Labor Day Festival was great and I was glad to see so many sharing the time with their family and friends.

I often think of the term “old ways,” especially with the events during the weekend, beginning the first night with the princess pageant.

The young ladies said Yakoke to their mothers, their grand-mothers or their aunts for their support or for making their dress or jewelry. It reminded me of the theme chosen for the festival – Honoring the giver of life – our women and all they do.

Choctaw families came together that night to encourage the girls. They continued to come together for the next four days in the old ways.

We had our traditional dances, games, gospel singing and good food.

I saw boys and girls carrying their stickball sticks in bags on their backs as they walked all over the grounds – more this year than ever before. It seemed such a natural thing for them to do.

Exhibition stickball games were played Sunday afternoon with different age groups. The exhibition games gave the youngest a chance to learn and the oldest a chance to run out on a field again to battle.

The stickball tournament games were awesome and hard-fought. Tvshka Homma placed second, losing to MBCI (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) in the championship game. I will never forget what happened after the game. Everyone gathered in the middle of the field to pray. The teams, the coaches, families, friends and spectators all came together to pray for the injured players and everyone’s safety as they left the field. It was very moving.

Another example of continuing traditions is one of the families in the tent area who has been staying in the same spot for 27 years. They said this was the time their family always comes together for their reunion. That means they have camped there since I began working for the tribe.

It’s this fellowship in the “old way” that makes our festival so special. We relive what we did at the Labor Day Festival while we begin planning for next year with the people we care about the most.



Chief Batton crowns 2014-15 Miss Choctaw Nation Nikki Amos.

## Choctaw Day of Prayer

The Choctaw Nation is strong because it is built on faith. As Chief Batton said during his Labor Day State of the Nation, God is going to lead our great Nation.

When I was a lot younger, I attended Bertram Bobb’s Bible Camp. One of the highlights of the weekend for me was watching Brother Bobb as we unveiled the sign in front of the new chapel at Tvshka Homma. He loves God and he loves the Choctaw Nation.

The chapel has been named the Bertram Bobb Chapel to honor his decades of service. His camp near Antlers has provided a positive influence on thousands of youth over the years and his Biskinik newspaper column reaches almost 90,000 households every month. At 90 years old he still has the heart of a servant and will never retire from sharing God’s Word.

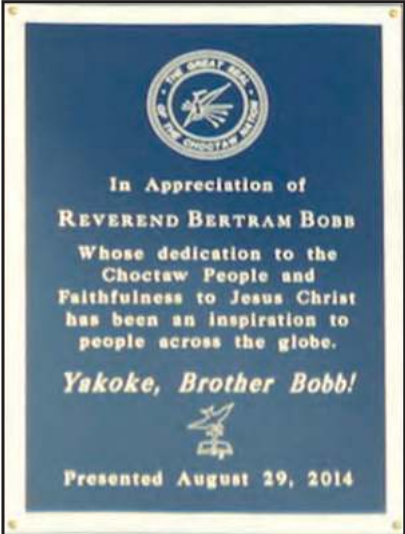
I also had the opportunity to be a part of the early-morning Choctaw Day of Prayer. It was the first time to have church services in the chapel. Services began as the sun came up and the bell was rung that Sunday morning to call all to worship. The chapel was overflowing with people lining the walls and spilling out the doors. We enjoyed hearing Brother Bobb preach again and his memory for scripture always amazes me. The end of the day brought Choctaws back for a traditional singing and Choctaw hymns were lifted up by truly joyous voices.

It was a blessing to have the chapel on the grounds and an even larger blessing to have our Choctaw brothers and sisters to share it with.

I am amazed at the amount of people who tell us they are praying for the tribe and us. I appreciate your prayers very much. As long as we continue to put God first, all other things will fall into place.



From the Desk of Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.



Appreciation plaque presented to Bertram Bobb for dedication.

## Spotlight on Elders

with  
Leo Smallwood



Leo Smallwood receives recognition with his family on the Rattan High School baseball field.

By **PAYTON GUTHRIE**  
Choctaw Nation

Student. Teacher. Veteran. Coach. Principal. Rancher. Choctaw.

Leo Smallwood has lived a full life at the age of 97 serving his local community in Rattan.

Leo was raised on a farm as a middle child, “just right with the big ones to run over and the little ones not to bother with,” with three brothers and one sister.

“We dug out of the ground mostly what we lived on,” Leo said.

After graduating from Rattan High School in 1936 Leo followed his older sister to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in order to pursue his education. By working as a janitor, washing dishes in the cafeteria, and by milking cows, Leo Smallwood managed enough hours to get a temporary teaching certificate.

Leo’s first teaching position was in the sawmill community of Frazier Valley. Leo would ride horseback to school over the hills by way of pig and cow trails in order to teach 42 children at a salary of \$65 a month.

“Being young and inexperienced I got quite an education,” Leo said about his first year teaching.

In February of 1942, Smallwood was drafted into the United States Army. After basic training Leo was positioned as an Army teacher for the cadets who didn’t know how to read or write. That assignment lasted about 18 months at Fort Sill before Leo was deployed overseas.

“I was sitting in South Hampton, England, when the invasion started,” Smallwood said,

“the ground where I was sitting was shaking from the bombardment and the water would shimmer from the explosions.”

Six days after D-Day Leo Smallwood crossed the English Channel to patrol the hedgerows before taking part in the Battle of the Bulge.

Upon returning from the service he continued his studies at Southeastern where he met his future wife, Jane. He would receive his Bachelor’s degree in 1946 and his Master’s degree from North Texas State in the early 1950s.

Leo Smallwood became Coach Smallwood for Rattan High School upon completion of his Bachelor’s degree. He coached all levels of boys and girls basketball and created the school’s baseball program. Coach Smallwood changed Rattan from the ground up event changing the school’s colors from black and orange to green and white, as they remain today.

His time at Rattan led to over 625 baseball victories and 15 district titles. His basketball teams fared equally well winning over 600 games and 9 district titles.

After coaching and teaching for over 20 years, Leo transitioned into the role of Principal for the next 20 years, giving over 40 years of service to the Rattan School System.

The Rattan School System recently recognized Coach Smallwood for his works with the sports programs and his time as principal at Rattan High School. After the baseball game the fans and baseball players stood in recognition of his leadership of intramural sports at Rattan.

## Chaplain’s Corner Christian Choices

We are thankful for another year of God’s blessing for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and friends.

Today, there are many people who seem to have no purpose for living, no motivating challenge.

Jesus Christ doesn’t call us to be bystanders. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, he or she becomes a member of the Body of Christ. It means that you have chosen Jesus Christ and you are following Him.

“Are you a Christian?” I mean a true Christian, a born-again Christian. There are many people who have a wrong idea of what a Christian is. They say, “A Christian is a person who prays.” Christians do pray, but prayer doesn’t make a Christian. Or people say, “A Christian lives by the Golden Rule.” But living by the Golden Rule doesn’t make you a Christian.

A person may be sincere, but that doesn’t make him a Christian. Some people think a Christian is one who keeps the Ten Commandments. Everybody has broken the commandments. We read in the Book of James 2:10: “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

If we break one commandment, we have broken them all. That is called “SIN” in the Bible.

Some people say, “A Christian is a person who goes to church.” Yes, a Christian ought to go to church, but attending church doesn’t make one a Christian.

What is a Christian?

First, a Christian is a person who has made a choice.

Second, a change has taken place in his life. And third, he has accepted a challenge.

Now, I emphasize very briefly these three things.

First, a Christian is a person who has made a choice. All the way through the Bible we are asked to make choices. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden made the wrong choice. They rebelled against God. They chose to try to rebuild their world without God, and they made a terrible, tragic mistake. We read that record in Genesis 2 and 3. They broke God’s law and passed the results of their disobedience on to Cain and Able, their children, and they have passed the results on to you and to me.

We are all sinners, and we are capable of sin and we all sin.

We have to choose. Read what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter ye in at the strait gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

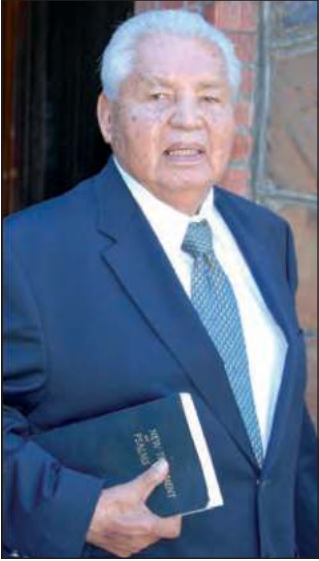
He said that only a few people are on the narrow road that leads to heaven. The majority are on a broad road that leads to judgment, destruction and hell. Which road are you on?

It is what you do about Jesus Christ, His cross and His resurrection that counts. If we enter that narrow gate at the cross and say, “Yes, Lord, I believe, I turn from my sins; I am willing to change my ways of living,” we will walk on the narrow road which may be rocky and rough and tough. But at the end will be Heaven. As we walk on that narrow road, God will give us new power, a new love and new joy.

Second, a Christian is a person whose life has been changed. That is done by the Holy Spirit. The moment you receive Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God comes to live in your heart. We read in II Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Christ is One who does it. He transforms your life, He makes you a new person. Has a change taken place in your life?

Third, a Christian is a person



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

who has accepted a challenge. Jesus said, “...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24).

In other words, when we deny self, we deny selfish ambitions, we deny selfish, sinful pleasures. Then we turn and take up our cross. What did Jesus mean by that? He is saying that when you go and tell people that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior they may laugh at you. They may make fun of you. Maybe your friends will no longer have anything to do with you. You will have to pay a price.

Some people resist the idea of a choice of any sort. But Jesus taught that there are two roads and you have to choose which road you will take. We cannot travel both roads. Jesus does not allow us to be neutral about Him. Jesus demands that we decide about him.

The Bible teaches that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). He loves you. He is interested in you. He loves you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3). And He wants to forgive you. He wants to come into your life and into your home and into your work to help you.

What do you have to do? You have to be willing to say, “God, I am a sinner.” That is repentance. You have to be willing to turn from sin. Then by faith commit your life to Jesus Christ and put Him first from now on. You can pray a prayer something like this: “O God, I am a sinner, I trust Jesus as my Savior.”

God doesn’t make that choice for us. God gave his Son to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life, and He helps us to make the choices by sending His Holy Spirit to convict us. But we make our own choice. God doesn’t make the choice for us. God gave His Son to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life, and He helps us to make the choice by sending His Holy Spirit to convict us. But we make our own choice.

Will you continue to pray for America? Pray for our Chief, Assistant Chief and the Tribal Council members as they lead our Nation. Remember our service men and woman in our armed services.



The Durant Police Department and Choctaw Nation partnership against Impaired Driving reminds you:

The driver is safer when the roads are dry; the roads are safer when the driver is dry.

**DON’T DRINK AND DRIVE.**

# Choctaws serving Choctaws and their Communities

## Chief Batton gives Promise Zone update

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

Chief Gary Batton was the keynote speaker at The Gathering—the first meeting of an annual business summit. He focused on what could potentially be one of the biggest impacts on local business: the designation of parts of southeastern Oklahoma as a Promise Zone.

“One of the reasons we were awarded the designation was our capacity, we’ve been able to improve things here in southeastern Oklahoma,” Chief Batton said. “Today, we have about 6,200 employees and for an economic impact, we invest back into the state of Oklahoma about \$1.8 billion dollars every year.”

The Promise Zone initiative is an anti-poverty program meant to provide resources such as grants and tax incentives to help improve conditions in persistently high poverty communities. The Choctaw Nation is one of five locations granted the Promise Zone designation.

“We want to make sure that we go back and focus on our tribal members,” Chief Batton said. “Sometimes [members] want to be entrepreneurs, they want to have their own businesses. And that’s what we want to encourage.”

The Nation and officials with the Promise Zone are working to implement tax credits to businesses in the zone, according to Chief Batton.

“We are trying to get promise zone tax credits so we can allow every business in the Promise Zone designated area to receive those tax credits,” he said. “Hopefully this will grow some of those companies that are currently here and increase new companies which come into our area.”

Sara-Jane Smallwood, Public Policy and Research Analyst for the Choctaw Nation, said several advancements have been made in the Promise



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Chief Batton giving the keynote speech at The Gathering on Aug. 10. Updates included a Promise Zone tax credit.**

Zone Initiative. Chief Batton and other leaders with the Choctaw Nation have met with top officials at the White House and federal agencies according to Smallwood.

“One of the things we want to make sure to do is collaborate on a national, state, county, and the city level all so we can make sure to make a difference,” Chief Batton said.

For such efforts, an REI Innovation award was given by Rural Enterprises Incorporated to the Choctaw Nation for working with its partners and coordinating the Promise Zone with local,

state, and national partners.

Chief Batton said the Promise Zone is more than making sure we can create businesses, it is also about creating jobs for our tribal members and for people here in southeastern Oklahoma.

“What they are asking us to do is lead this effort to make sure we can coordinate,” Batton said. “Our issue is to bring this together so we can collaborate with every school and every city so we can improve the lives of not only our tribal members but all of these communities. What do we always say? The rising tide brings everyone up together.”

## Health Service workers honored



Photo Provided

**Award recipients stand alongside Chief Batton displaying artwork received for quality health service.**

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Nation Health Services employees received awards during the 11th Annual Oklahoma City Area Director’s Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Awards Ceremony at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City on July 17.

“This is something that was started about 10 years ago with Indian Health Service,” Teresa Jackson, Senior Executive Officer for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Health Services, said. “What they wanted to do was recognize employees that were outstanding in their areas.”

Dignitaries including Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Austin, Todd Hallmark, and Kelly Mings were in attendance while each award recipient was recognized for distinguished service in the efforts of improving the health and wellbeing of patients and communities.

Awardees were honored with length of service awards, peer recognition awards, as well as competitive awards like merit and area impact awards. They were given carefully selected pieces of Native American

artwork, which were donated by Tribes 131 Fine Art Gallery of Norman.

David Wharton, Chief Risk Officer and Health Informatist for the Choctaw Nation, earned the Area Director’s National Impact Award. Wharton was hand-picked by the Area Director, RADM Kevin Meeks, as having a national impact for his work overseeing, collecting, and analyzing data used by governmental entities such as IHS and the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services.

Jason Hill earned the Area Director’s Area Impact Award for his work serving as the Chief of Medical Officer and Residency Director for the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority. He oversees medical staff and the family practice residency program. Area Director RADM Kevin Meeks selected him for his impact on the Oklahoma City service area, which includes parts of Kansas and Texas.

Ashlee Harden, Clinical Pharmacist at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, earned a Merit Award. The award recognized Harden’s sustained superior accomplishments during her time with the Nation over the last 4 years, and as

Manager of the Pharmacy-Based Anticoagulation Clinic.

Ross Green earned the Commission Corps Honor Award and Commendation Medal.

Three employees won Length of Service awards. Judy Daniel has worked 40 years; Dennis King 30 Years; and Sandra Reavis 30 years.

One Peer Recognition Award went to a single employee for each Choctaw Nation facility. Misty Fox from the McAlester Clinic, Candice Vaughn from the Poteau Clinic, Doris Winlock from the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Stephanie Storey from the Idabel Clinic, Miranda Taylor from the Broken Bow Clinic, Wendi Eubanks from the Atoka Clinic, Nancy Linn from the Hugo Clinic, and Gwen Hendrix from the Stigler Clinic all received Peer Recognition Awards.

“We did very well, and these awards reflect the quality of service we provide,” Brandy Griffin, Media Relations Officer for Choctaw Nation and Area Director’s Awards Ceremony Committee Member, said. “The most important part of this is recognizing these people and their service to Native Americans.”

## Blue Thumb teaches youth to protect natural resources

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

The Broken Bow Boys and Girls Club of the Choctaw Nation hosted a day of water conservation education with the help of Oklahoma’s Blue Thumb Program on July 29.

Blue Thumb aims to show citizens their power to make decisions which help keep water resources clean. Volunteers from the program visited the Boys and Girls Club to teach the children throughout the day in honor of local river guide, conservationist, and fisherman, James “Jimbo” Jones.

“He was a guide on the river before there was even a Broken Bow Lake, he grew up on the river,” Dennis Wilson, Blue Thumb Volunteer said. “Jim was all about teaching kids. Fishing was more than just fishing, it showed you how to be responsible, told you what conservation was about.”

The goal for the day was to have various stations set up so the members of the Boys and Girls Club could come in smaller groups and volunteers could give quality lessons. Cheryl Cheadle, Blue Thumb Coordinator, said.

One booth was dedicated to fish printing. Children stepped up, smeared ink on a fish replica, and pressed it against a paper sheet with conservation tips on the back. The children were excited to be able to learn hands on and bring home an educational souvenir, Wilson said.



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Jeri Fleming and Dennis Wilson demonstrate erosion to members of the Broken Bow Boys and Girls Club of the Choctaw Nation using a stream trailer.**

“It’s better to educate and show them why we need clean water than it is to say ‘don’t dump your oil down the storm drain,’” Wilson said.

Another area was dedicated to viewing the life found in streams and lakes, both with a microscope and in the hands of the children. “A lot of these kids might have been fishing, but before today they didn’t know about what else was in that water,” Wilson said.

Cheadle led a hands-on watershed model of a small community and let the children pour colored water where common pollutants are found. “Anything that happens on this model is going to end up having an impact on the stream or lake,” Cheadle said.

“This could be a bit of a

leaky car, antifreeze, or an oil leak, and of course you have a lot of people putting out pesticides,” Cheadle said, while the colored waters dripped onto little homes and fields. “What happens is, eventually you are going to get a rain, and that rain carries various things into the streams that then carry them into the local lake.”

A connection the volunteers bring up is how frequently drinking water comes from a lake, and many people enjoy fishing and recreation at lakes and streams.

“We wanted to help these kids get a feeling for what lives in the stream, what can impact a stream, and how to take care of streams and rivers, and that’s really what we’re set up to do,” Cheadle

said. “It’s very critical that children connect to nature and get outdoor time. It will help them develop a heart to care for our land and water. Then they can grow up in a world where their grandchildren will still have beautiful natural areas.”

Citizens and employees of the Choctaw Nation, like Cyndi Johnson and Stephen Moffitt with Environmental Health, volunteer for Blue Thumb as well as working to protect natural resources for the Nation.

The Choctaw Nation Environmental Office does volunteer creek sampling for Blue Thumb in southeastern Oklahoma, Cyndi Johnson, Water Quality Technician with the Environmental Office, said.

**Gary Batton**  
Chief

**Jack Austin Jr.**  
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.

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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.



# Choctaw Tags Available for Tribal Members Beginning in January

## Where do I go to get my Choctaw tag?

Choctaw tags can be purchased at any Oklahoma tag office.

## Why are State tag offices selling Choctaw tags?

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

## Will my Choctaw tag be mailed to me?

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

## When can I get my Choctaw Tag?

January 1, 2015.

## What are some benefits of the Choctaw Tag Compact?

The tag is legally recognized by State of Oklahoma, it will be registered in the DMV system, all Choctaws pay the same price, and it can be purchased at any Oklahoma tag office.

## Why did the Choctaw Nation make a compact with the State?

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

## Will Choctaw Farm Tags or Commercial Tags be issued?

Not at this time.

## Do I need to live in Oklahoma to get a Choctaw tag?

Yes.

## How many tags can I get?

There is no limit on the number of Choctaw tags you can purchase as long as a Choctaw tribal member is one of the owners on the vehicle title.

## Do I have to live in the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation to get a Choctaw Tag?

No. The Choctaw Nation has made this benefit available to all Choctaw tribal members who live anywhere in Oklahoma.

## Is there an additional charge to get a Choctaw tag instead of a State of Oklahoma tag?

No. You will save money because the Choctaw Nation will send you a partial rebate.

## Some people are saying that the Choctaw tags are the same thing as a specialty plate. Is this true?

No. See the table below for a comparison.

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

## If I buy a Choctaw tag, will state or local programs supported by tag sales get less support?

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



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

### New/Used Non-Commercial Vehicle Registration

#### Can I go to any licensed Oklahoma tag agency?


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

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

1. The owner or co-owner listed on the vehicle title must be a Tribal member and present a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership Card to the tag agency at the time of registration.
2. You must pay all of the regular fees that non-tribal members pay to register a vehicle.

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

1. After paying all regular fees, a refund of 20% of the registration fees paid to the State of Oklahoma will be mailed to you. (See example of rebate chart below)
2. You should receive your rebate within 60 days of registering your vehicle and getting the CNO tag. The rebate will come directly from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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

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

### Non-Commercial Tag Renewal

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

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

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

1. The owner or co-owner listed on the vehicle title must be a Tribal member and present a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership Card to the tag agency at the time of renewal.
2. You must pay all of the regular fees that non-tribal members pay to obtain a renewal tag for a vehicle. (See chart showing current State renewal tag fees)

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

1. After paying all regular fees, a refund of \$20 of the renewal tag fees paid to the State of Oklahoma will be mailed to you. (See example of rebate chart below)
2. You should receive your rebate within 60 days of renewing your tag and getting the CNO tag. The rebate will come directly from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

 Rebate Chart	Non-Commercial Renewal Tag Fees  *2014 rates	Vehicle Age:	1-4 years	5-8 years	9-12 years	13-16 years	17+ years
		Annual Fee:	\$91	\$81	\$61	\$41	\$21
		Member Rebate:	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
		Member Cost:	\$71	\$61	\$41	\$21	\$1

# Everyone has a story to tell



Storytelling festival participants and attendees on Aug. 16 in Oklahoma City. Photos by Zach Maxwell

## OKC Choctaw Alliance takes new approach with storytelling festival

By ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation

Everyone has a story. It's in the telling of those stories that brings people together.

The Oklahoma City Choctaw Tribal Alliance (OCTA) hosted its second annual Storytelling Festival on Aug. 16. A variety of people gathered to tell their stories and those of others in vastly different forms.

"The concept was originally spoken storytelling," said organizer Phyllis Been. "But I thought, there are other ways to tell a story. You have other ways to be creative. It's becoming a lost art."

A mix of elders and youths joined Been on the OCTA Community Center stage, blending music, art, and dance into the traditional spoken word story.

The result was a slice of the Choctaw experience that transcended hundreds of years of tribal history. Stella Long told of her encounters with forest animals; the family of Medal



Madeleine Freeman, left, performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language then Isabella Cornell, right, brought in the first storyteller with an honor dance.

of Honor recipient Tony K. Burris shared memories of their brother; and 15-year-old Madeleine Freeman read tales of the Kowi Anuk Asha and chose a Pearl Jam song for a sign language performance.

Stella Long was the first to speak, introduced with an honor dance by Isabella Cornell. Long recently published her first children's book called Sarah's Music. She published the book after nearly losing her voice, inspired by Been's reminder that there are other ways to share stories.

She told of playing a flute by a lake and "baby turtles started gathering around close."

"Soon, large turtles were sticking their heads out," she said. "I thought I was at a school building full of little children."

D.J. Battiest-Tomasi, a counselor from McAlester, played songs on two wooden flutes.

"Being Choctaw, this music is traditional to me," she said.



The family of SFC Tony K. Burris at the OKC Storytelling Festival.

"It was played in the woods as a warning, and men would play the flute while courting. We're all related and we all share so much. It's part of our being indigenous to this land."

Nicholas Charleston told a "Shukha Anumpa" story called Nita Micha Chula, or the Bear and the Fox. He mixed Choctaw and English. "Long ago, the Choctaw elders would tell these stories, Shukha Anumpa, to the children to teach them something good," he said.

After lunch, a Choctaw Nation video was shown about the life of US Army Sgt. Tony K. Burris, who was killed in action during the Korean Conflict and won the Medal of Honor. Three of his sisters were in attendance at the event.

Sweet Inspirations Choir, made up of elders from two Native American churches, entertained the gathering with hymns in Choctaw and English. Their story, the group said, was spreading the message of Jesus Christ.

This brought a blending of Choctaw spiritual traditions, just as artist D.G. Smalling's works about his grandfather accomplished the same. His grandfather, World War I Code Talker Calvin Wilson, would take his Bible to the forest and "stomp dance" around it, blending two long-standing faith traditions.

"We're finally at a place in our history where it's all right to be expressive," Smalling, a new member of the OCTA board, said. He explained that stomp dances are "practiced in the woods secretly... You're not just dancing with people you can see, you're dancing with those who were, those who are and those who will be."

Madeleine Freeman, the 15-year-old former OCTA prin-

cess and reigning OKC Public Schools JOM Princess, kept the forest theme going with a reading about the Kowi Anuk Asha, or "little people of the woods." It is one of the most lasting tales of Choctaw folklore.

She also opened the gathering with a performance of the Lord's Prayer in sign language, and ended her time on stage by doing the same to "Future Days" by Pearl Jam. The effect was to display the cross-generational themes experienced by younger Choctaws in a modern, pop-culture infused world.

"It's an honor that I've been given the opportunity to continue the stories and traditions we have," Freeman said. "Lots of people don't know where they came from, so it's good to have events like this to continue our traditions and keep them alive."

OCTA President Della Eisel said the storytelling event represents a renewed push to bring activities to the 100-member organization, including beadwork classes, Choctaw language lessons and weekly meals for elders. She thanked Chief Gary Batton for his efforts to support the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance.



Artist D.G. Smalling explains his creations which were inspired by his grandfather Calvin Wilson.

"We're trying to get people interested in teaching these classes," Eisel said. "We're just getting started on some of this. We're partnering with Choctaw Nation on our culture and it's going to let us do a lot more."

The group is already planning an overnight event in October that will include making Choctaw pottery, a cook-out and more storytelling. The group is proving that no matter where there are Choctaws gathered, the tribe's stories and traditions will be shared and taught.

For more information about upcoming events in the Oklahoma City area, visit the Alliance website [www.ok-choctaws.org](http://www.ok-choctaws.org).

## Native beadwork thrives in Poteau

By ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation

One of the most popular forms of cultural expression for Choctaws – colorful, detailed beadwork – is thriving in community center classes around the region. The Biskinik sat down with one such group in Poteau recently for a close-up view of the art of beading.



An example of beadwork by a member of the Poteau class includes a Choctaw Great Seal by Alta Ruth Bentley.

Connie Veerkamp and her daughter Christy Dickson are leaders at the Poteau class, which has been held weekly at the Dale Cox Community Center for four years. There are 10 to 18 participants in each class, where Dickson guides novices and more advanced beaders in such styles as the brick stitch, peyote stitch and square stitch.

The end results are rosettes, medallions, collars, earrings and lanyards of a stunning variety of patterns and colors.

"We have people that have various degrees of skill and we all teach each other," Dickson said. "I can sit down and teach three different stitches at once. I teach because, in the tradition of Choctaws, seniors teach the younger generation. So I am teaching the seniors and they can teach their children and grandchildren."

But there's much more to a beading group than strings, looms and the colorful little stars of the party. In Poteau's case, like many others, the group elects officers, holds fund-raisers and makes periodic "bead trips" to specialty stores in Tahlequah, Choteau, Skiatook, Tulsa, and Bentonville, Ark.

The trips are a fun chance for the group to bond and they also pick up books and patterns for their craft. While many of the patterns are uni-



Peggy Wiser, Lena Mills and beading instructor Christy Dickson look over a loom with a head-band in progress. At right, one of the Poteau beading class members strings along.

versal or inter-tribal, there are plenty of unique Choctaw designs based on familiar motifs like the diamond and starburst. "I love everything about it," said Alta Ruth Bentley of Talihiina, a two-year class member. "It's relaxing and it keeps both your mind and your hands working. And you feel good when someone asks, 'Will you make me one?'"

"This is our heritage and it's very important," she said.

### 10th Annual Choctaw Nation

# BIGFOOT 5K



5 km / 1 mi run  
Honobia, OK

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 4**

**Timed Event  
REGISTRATION  
IS FREE!**

**Race Begins  
at 10 a.m.  
Registration  
from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

For information, contact  
Doris @ [dgwinlock@cnhsa.com](mailto:dgwinlock@cnhsa.com)  
or Teresa @ [mtedavis@cnhsa.com](mailto:mtedavis@cnhsa.com)  
or call 918-567-7000  
ext. 6958 or ext. 6044

# Ten rules to live by, KidsHealth.org

Summer is coming to an end and the school year has begun. This time of year tends to present some challenges for healthy lifestyles for kids and adults. With all the added activities squeezed into the day with school, work, sporting events, meetings, practices..and the list goes on. Sometimes, this can all be overwhelming. The contributing writers from Kids Health have developed 10 key rules to live by:

**1. We are in control of the supply lines.**

Decide which foods to buy and when to serve them. By having healthy options such as fresh fruits and veg, whole grains, lean meat and low fat/ fat free dairy, healthier choices are easier to make. Also, by setting times for meals and snacks this will help to keep blood sugar more stable and have a much happier household.

**2. When a meal is prepared kids need to make the choices of what they will eat or not eat.**

We all like to have some say in our lives and by allowing kids to decide if they want to eat a certain food or not is helping them to grow and have confidence in themselves. Besides if step one is implemented in the home, the foods they will be choosing from will be healthy choices. Just be sure to provide a balanced meal with lean meat, non-starchy vegetables, whole grains, fruit and low fat/ fat free dairy.

**3. Quit the “clean-plate club.”**

When your kids and you feel they/you have had enough to eat then stop and be done with the meal. This helps everyone to be able to listen to their own bodies when they feel full. When the response to feelings of fullness is noticed everyone is less likely to overeat.

**4. Start them young.**

Food preferences are developed early in life, so offer variety. Likes and dislikes begin forming even when kids are babies. You may need to serve a new food on several different occasions for a child to accept it. Don’t force a child to eat, but offer a few bites. With older kids, ask them to try one bite. If they don’t like it they don’t have to eat it.

**5. Rewrite the kids’ menu.**

Who says kids only want to eat hot dogs, pizza, burgers, and macaroni and cheese? When eating out, let your kids try new foods and they might surprise you with their willingness to experiment. You can start by letting them try a little of whatever you ordered or ordering an appetizer for them to try.

**6. Drink calories count.**

Soda and other sweetened drinks add extra calories and get in the way of good nutrition. Water and milk are the best drinks for kids. Juice, 100% juice, is adequate at no more than 4oz in a day if that.

**7. Put sweets in their place.**

Occasional sweets are fine, but don’t turn dessert into the main reason for eating dinner. When dessert is the prize for

eating dinner, kids naturally place more value on the cupcake than the broccoli. Try to stay neutral about foods.

**8. Food is not love.** Find better ways to say “I love you.” When foods are used to reward kids and show affection, they may start using food to cope with stress or other emotions. Offer hugs, praise, and attention instead of food treats.

**9. Kids do as you do.**

Be a role model and eat healthy. When trying to teach good eating habits, try to set the best example possible. Choose nutritious snacks, eat at the table, and don’t skip meals.

**10. Limit TV and computer time.**

When you do, you’ll avoid mindless snacking and encourage activity. Research has shown that kids who cut down on TV-watching also reduced their percentage of body fat. When TV and computer time are limited, they’ll find more active things to do. And limiting “screen time” means you’ll have more time to be active together.

### Recipe of the Month

## Slow Toasted Granola

(Recipe from Better Homes and Gardens)

**Ingredients: Use Nonstick Cooking Spray**

- ½ cup honey
- ½ cup applesauce
- ¼ cup canola oil
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 5 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cups regular rolled oats
- 2 cup sunflower kernels
- ½ tablespoon ground flaxseeds or wheat germ
- ½ cup golden raisins (optional)
- ¼ cup chopped pitted whole dates (optional)

**Directions:**

1. Lightly coat a 3 ½ or 4- quart slow cooker with cooking spray; set aside. In a small bowl whisk together honey, applesauce, oil, peanut butter, and cinnamon.
2. In the prepared cooker combine oats, sunflower kernels, and flax seeds. Stir in honey mixture.
3. Place the lid off-set on the cooker to vent it. Cook on high-heat setting about 2 ½ hours or until toasted, stirring every 30 minutes.
4. Spread oat mixture on a sheet of foil to cool. Add dried fruit if desired. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 5 days or freeze for up to 2 months.

**Nutrition Facts:**

Amount per serving: 1 cup  
Calories 234, Fat 10g, Sat. fat 1g, Polyunsaturated 4g, Monounsaturated 4g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 35mg, Carbs 35g, Fiber 4g

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

## Labor Day Festival and Pow wow 2014 Healthy Living Education and Service Sites



Across from the Tvshka Homma capitol building the Choctaw Nation Health Services had lines winding around the tent to receive tips, advice and literature about healthy Living.



Teresa Cearly receiving free immunizations at the Choctaw Nation Caring Van.



Lee Driver visiting the Healthy Living tent looking for information and educational materials.

**Breastfeeding is a special time for everyone.**

Most people think of breastfeeding as something just between mom and baby. The truth is, breastfeeding is a special time for everyone. Breastfeeding gives mom, dad, grandparents, and the entire family a reason to be proud and become a part of the new baby's life.

For more information about how you can support a breastfeeding mom, call  
Choctaw Nation WIC  
1-800-522-6170  
Extension 2507

Free help

Free help

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

**1 800**

**QUIT NOW**

784-8669 OKhelpline.com

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

**WAREHOUSES & MARKETS**

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

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES**

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

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**ANTLERS**

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
**Oct. 1:** Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 1-3:30 p.m. (market open)  
**Oct. 8:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
**Closed:** Oct. 30-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 9, 10-2

**DURANT**

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
**Closed:** Oct. 30-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 13,10-2

**McALESTER**

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

**POTEAU**

Market open weekdays Oct. 1-29, except for:  
**Closed:** Oct. 30-31 for inventory.  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 9, 10-2

## NURSERY NEWS

**Riley Steven Deweese**

Brandon and Andrea Deweese are happy to announce the arrival of their baby boy Riley Steven Deweese who was born on June 6, 2014 at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth,TX. At birth Riley weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 inches long. He joins big brother Bintlee Thomas Deweese. Maternal grandparents are Steve and Sharon Holloway of Azle,TX. Paternal grandparents are Paula Talley of Denison,TX and Karl and Pam Deweese of Wilmington, NC.

**Kasen Lee Thomison**

Kasen Lee Thomison was born July 17, 2014 at WNJ, Sherman, Texas. Weight 8 pounds 10 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Shaun and Kimberly Thomison. Sisters are Chelsie and Kaidence Thomison. Grandparents are Paula Talley from Denison, Texas and Brenda and Denny Taylor from Oklahoma.

**Robert Lee Heitt**

Briton and Ramona Heitt of Norman announce the birth of their son, Robert Lee Heitt. Robert arrived at 9:18 p.m. on Friday, June 27, 2014, at OU Medical Center, Oklahoma City. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 inches in length. The proud big sister is Brielle Heitt. Paternal grandparents are Martin Heitt of Cedar Rapids, IA, and Paige Martin of Norman. Maternal grandparents are Ramona Hale of Norman, and the late Robert Hale. Living paternal great-grandparents are Jim Heitt of Cedar Rapids, IA, Mary Doyle of Bella Vista, AK, and Sally Warner of Norman. Living maternal great-grandparents are Geneva Simmons of Norman, and Benjamin Espinosa of Midwest City. Deceased great-grandparents are Dorothy Koos, Gerald Warner, and Louis Hale.

## Choctaw Nation WIC

*WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN*

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

### Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

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

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

**Choctaw Nation Family Invest. Ctr.  
210 B. Street, Poteau, OK 74953  
September 22  
9:30-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.**

# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Turner storms toward athletic success

Keionte' Turner found success in several sports, receiving titles and trophies all before the age of 10.

Playing baseball, Turner competed with the Boomstick Bandits in the Little League World Series in Bixby in 2012 and 2013. He went to regionals with the Durant Lions in coach-pitch baseball in 2013.

With basketball, Turner played an undefeated season with the Tigers in 2012 under the coaching of Jason Wilerson. He also won the Northwest Heights Elementary Hoop Shoot in 2013.

Turner also plays football and runs track. He placed 1st in the 3rd grade track meet in both the 60 meter and quarter mile runs.

He also succeeds academically to support his athletic goals. Turner has made mostly A's, and his favorite subject is math.

Turner plans on going to college and competing academically and athletically there before moving on to play professionally. He likes all of the sports so much, he has not decided which one to turn into a career.

His mother, Wendy Bully, and grandparents Alvin Bully and Joan Thompson are all proud of his success so far and look forward to what the future holds for him.



## Carver graduates with diploma and degree

Congratulations to Hallie Carver, who graduated on May 17, 2014 from Arrowhead Park Early College High School in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In addition to her high school diploma, Carver graduated with an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Dona Ana Community College in Las Cruces.

She will be attending Edinboro University in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, after a hard earned break during the Spring 2015 semester.

Hallie is the daughter of John and Zenobia Carver of Las Cruces. Her maternal grandparents are Raymond and the late Paula Hodge of Palmdale, California. Maternal great-grandparents are Hallie Paul and Zenobia Tyler of Orlando, Florida, and the late William and Evelyn Hodge of Orlando.



## Amos becomes Licensed Practical Nurse

Congratulations to Dayla Amos for becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse. Parents Mike and Vicky Amos wish to express pride in her for staying strong when times got hard. Her family wishes to congratulate her for all of her accomplishments.



## Davis named 2013 Driver of the Year

Ben Davis, of Springfield, Mo., was honored by his colleagues for his work as a city bus driver.

Davis, known for taking on extra shifts and being available whenever needed, was selected as the 2013 Driver of the Year.

His selection was based on job performance, courtesy, neatness, attendance, safe driving, and good attitude.

Davis is the son of the late Jesse and Ennessie Davis of Wright City. He is a 1971 graduate of Wright City High School. He, his wife Noreen, and son Russel Davis have lived in Springfield for the last 30 years.



## Youth Group creates beaded jewelry

The District 10 Youth Group met in the Atoka Community Center on Aug. 9 to participate in traditional arts and crafts.

The five young Choctaws made beaded chokers and sun catchers, worked with feathers, and enjoyed pizza and picante sauce made from vegetables in the community garden.

The Youth Group is open for Choctaw children from age 8 to 15 and is held on the second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## Gray sisters run in Junior Olympics

Jessie Gray, of Overbrook, qualified for the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympics held in Des Moines, Iowa while in the 6th grade at Plainsview School in Ardmore.

Gray placed several 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes during the last track season in the 800 yard, mile run and 3,200 relay.

She is the daughter of Chris and Gwen Gray, and sister to Madie Gray, all from Overbrook. She is the granddaughter of Harry and Delores Marris of Overbrook, Phil Gray of Madill, and Debbie Beason of Shreveport, La.



Madie Gray, of Overbrook, traveled with the Plainview Track Club from Ardmore to Des Moines, Iowa, for the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympics.

Gray was the top finisher at the Junior Olympics. She won state titles in track and cross country as a sophomore at Plainview High School and continued a strong career with a third place finish at the Junior Olympics in the 3,000 meter run in the 15 and 16 year old division with a run time of 10:44.29. She added a 6th place finish in the 1,500 run with a 4:53.44 run time.

She is the daughter of Chris and Gwen Gray, and sister to Jessie Gray, all from Overbrook. She is the granddaughter of Harry and Delores Marris of Overbrook, Phil Gray of Madill, and Debbie Beason of Shreveport, La.



## Elders explore eight states in eight days



Pittsburg Senior Citizens recently travelled together eight days through eight states, taking in the sights along the way.

Highlights of their trip include visiting Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands National Park, the Crazy Horse Memorial. They also visited Pike's Peak, the Cowboy National Hall of Fame, the Garden of the Gods, and Custer State Park.

## Robinson honors Nation, presents flag



Justin Robinson (USAF) and wife K'Lee Robinson presented a Choctaw Nation flag to Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. in August. The flag was flown over Iraq on July 1 in a USAF C-17A Globemaster III aircraft.

The Robinsons are from Durant and both are citizens of the Choctaw Nation. Chief Batton extended his appreciation of Robinson's "servant leadership."

"Going back to the Bible, there is no greater thing than to lay yourself down for a friend," Batton said. "To me, it is humbling to receive something like this. I see (Justin) as a hero. This is about freedom and our way of life."

Assistant Chief Austin, himself a US Army veteran who served in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, also expressed his appreciation.

The flag was presented to Choctaw Nation on behalf of Robinson and "the men and women of the 816th EAS DET-2, and the crew of Moose 48, while deployed to Ali-Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, supporting America's war on terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom," according to a certificate presented with the flag.

## Silva accepted into academy, turns 18

Congratulations to Jose A. Silva, who has been accepted to the Thunderbird Youth Challenge Academy.

His mother, Michael, his sister and brothers, and grandmother Janice all express pride in his accomplishments. His family also wishes him a happy 18th birthday.



# Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

## October 2014

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

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

## Anniversary Announcements

### Couple Celebrates 70th

Leon and Mildred Wade have been together for 70 years.

The couple celebrated their 70th anniversary Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014 at the Oklahoma City Family Church.



### Couple Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Reverend Donald and Clara Jones will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Big Lick Indian United Methodist Church in Snow.

The event will start at noon, beginning with a lunch reception which welcomes attendees to bring a covered dish to share.

The family asks those interested in attending to contact them before Oct. 4. Kay Jones can be reached at (918) 605-8201, and Clara Jones at (918) 482-4492.

# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Looking for descendants

I am looking for descendents of my family Thomas Cooper who married Abby? James Cooper married Mary Fannin, George Washington Cooper married Susan Caroline Stafford. Her parent was William Stafford and Hannah? Andrew Jackson Cooper married Jane B. Laney and Sarah Foster. My address is Nichols, PO Box 83, Pittsburg, OK 74560.

Nichols

## Information concerning Grandfather

My name is Deborah Ann Peterson Avila and I am trying to locate information concerning my grandfather. His name is Jackson Turner or possibly J.D. Turner for short. I am requesting information from anyone connected to him. My mother's name is Sylvia Lee Turner born in 1927. My grandmother's name is Opal Lee Mayo and was born 1911. If you have any information concerning Jackson Turner, please notify me at 208-899-6436.

Deborah "Debbi" Avila

## Thanks for help with honoring

Many thanks to the Executive Committee of the association, Dr. Lee Hester (and Jenny), Chester Cowen, Cyndi Quелlette, Beth Lawless, Dale, Mindy Pannell, (fundraising) and Tana Eliza who did an awesome job selling and talking to people. All volunteered over the weekend at our Code Talkers booth during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival to help raise money for a granite marker to be placed on the WWI Choctaw Code Talkers Highway. The Choctaw store in Colbert also has our merchandise.

We appreciate all the descendants who attended our annual meeting. Yakoke to Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. for being part of our meeting Sunday and Chief Batton for attending all of them in the past. Our goal is to honor our Code Talkers by preserving the history and making the public aware of these men that did incredible deeds for our country. Thank you volunteers for your dedication and hard work.

Nuchi Nashoba, CCTA President

## Support appreciated

As a recent college graduate, I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its support in obtaining my undergraduate degree. The Choctaw Nation's Higher Education Program is a potent tool for empowering and enlightening Choctaw youth intent on pursuing knowledge and personal excellence. The financial aid provided to me was an immense help, and it allowed me to focus completely on my studies. I graduated this past May from Southwestern Oklahoma State with a degree in Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement and managed to receive the honor designation of Summa Cum Laude. Both the encouragement and financial support provided by the Choctaw Nation is greatly appreciated.

Dakota Kemp

## Looking for relatives

Looking for relatives of Sandy Alexander Hickman. There was a photo of the Hickman family taken at the Trail of Tears. If you may be related, I will share the information I have. I can be contacted at merrycarnes@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Merry Carnes

## Thank you for scholarships

My name is Chance Pruitt and this spring I graduated with a B.A. in International Security Studies from the University of Oklahoma. If it had not been for the scholarship aid I received from the Choctaw Nation, I am not sure I would have completed my studies at OU. Therefore, I personally want to thank former Chief Pyle, Chief Batton, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. for helping me achieve this dream. From here, I will serve my country in the U.S. Air Force where my degree will provide a crucial foundation in my career. Thank you again for your generous support.

Chance Pruitt

## Looking for heirs of Anderson Winship

Looking for any of the following heirs of Anderson Winship. Hiawatha Lee Winship, Michael Ray Winship, Barbara Ann Winship, Connie Sue Winship, Billie Jean Shannon, Gabrielle Fayth Winship, Tanja Gail Winship, Kenneth Ross Winship Jr., Donna Gail Winship Cartwright, Bechy Lynn Winship Merker, Clifford Daniel Winship, Pamela Dale Frazier, Angela Ruth Frazier, Terry Don Winship, Jimmy Harold Winship, Jr., Vandell Winship, Kenneth Earl Winship, Barbara Kay Winship Battiest, Celestine Winship Harley, Onieda Winship, and Denita Ann Winship. If you have any information of heirs, please contact David Whitmarsh at 405-229-3243.

David Whitmarsh



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Choctaw Casino & Hotel is searching for qualified applicants to fill Part –Time and Full Time Positions

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**Choctaw Event Center**  
**3400 Choctaw Road, Pocola OK**

Bring this ad for a chance to win Great Door Prizes

## To The Biskinik

You are to be complimented on the superb story in the July Biskinik about the Choctaw Nation at the Smithsonian. It detailed well all of the activities the tribal members introduced to the public and I am most hopeful the Nation will continue this wonderful event. As a member of the Nation who has not been back to Caddo for too many years, it provided an opportunity to introduce my grandson our traditions. We spent all day Friday enjoying all of the activities. As you had in the story, the grandson was pulled into the Stealing Partners dance, tried his lung power on Les's blowgun, participated in the beading class, and we all greatly enjoyed the hymns and Tim Tingle's stories. We purchased several of Tim's books for ourselves and our other grandchild. While we did not join in the stickball game, it provided an opportunity to sit with Tim and discuss his work. Please come back to the Smithsonian so we can celebrate together again.

Cliff Schexnayder



## My destiny

This year in Tvshka Homma was the best by far. I was not able to schedule an appointment to return a hymnal that belonged to the Bobb family, however, as it turned out, my destiny was to make the trek to the new chapel and present the hymnal to Reverend Bobb myself during opening first services of the Betram Bobb Chapel. Thank you Lord or this opportunity!

Bertha M. Williams Bason

# EVENTS

## Marris Reunion

The Marris Reunion will be helped Oct. 3-5 at Camp Bond 2901 S. Camp Bond Road, Tishomingo 73460. Hotel rooms are available for \$50 a night. Supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. with hamburgers and hot dogs. For more information please contact Harry Marris at (580) 504-1017 or Carol Ibarra at (903) 261-2158.

## OKC School of Choctaw Language

The OKC Community School of Choctaw Language (all phases and childrens classes) will resume 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 9 at the Choctaw Tribal Alliance Center 5320 South Youngs Blvd. Oklahoma City 73119. For additional information please contact (405) 672-5653.

## American Indians Contest Pow Wow and Indian Fair

Bacone College Center for American Indians Contest Pow Wow and Indian Fair will be held Friday through Sunday Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, Bacone College Campus, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee. Sign in begins at 2 p.m. Dance categories: Men's - Southern Straight, Traditional, Fancy, Grass Women's - Cloth, Buckskin, Jingle, Shawl and Tiny Tots.

The public is welcome and there is excellent camping available. All drums and dancers are welcome. Community dinner will begin at 5 p.m. with Grand Entry to follow beginning at 7 p.m. For additional information about event details, please call (918) 687-3299.

## Monthly Gospel Singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 3 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at (580) 760-6127.

## Revival Week

There will be a revival 6-7 p.m. Sunday through Friday Sept. 28 through Oct. 3 at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main Caddo. Speakers Sunday - Charles McHerron, Broken Arrow, Monday - Sue Chancellor - Kenwood, Tuesday - Fred Lowe, Checotah, Wednesday - Beth Rose, Buffalo Valley, Thursday - Derryak Phillips, Wewoka, Friday - Freddy Vill, Bridgeport, Texas. For additional information please call (580) 760-6127. Everyone is welcome!

## Dwight Mission Reunion

The Dwight Mission annual reunion will be held on Oct. 4. Dwight Mission alumni are encouraged to bring their class photos for the reunion. Sign in will be held from 8:30-10 a.m., program begins at 10 a.m. Lunch served at noon. Please RSVP by Sept. 29 by calling reunion Chair Levada Smith-Wildcat at (918) 773-3096. Meeting will be held at the Dwight Mission dining hall.

## Jones Academy Reunion

The Jones Academy Reunion will be held 10 a.m. Oct. 18 at Jones Academy. The reunion is open to all former students with dinner and lunch to be served. It is time for all to get together to share old stories and reminisce. For more information, please call Tully Choate at (918) 455-7255.

## Circle of Nations Conference

The Ninth Annual Circle of Nations Christian Leadership Conference will convene Sept. 12-13 at Arrow Heights Baptist Church, 3201 South Elm Place, Broken Arrow. For additional information about featured speakers, programs, or worship times, please contact Theresa Hinman at 918-724-1952 or visit [www.circleofnations.net](http://www.circleofnations.net).

**3rd Annual Homestead Event and Gospel Singing**

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Farming Demonstrations

Kerr Center – Making Bio Char ARSCA – Rainwater Harvesting

Crafts, too many to list but will include

Native American Beading, Pottery, Basketry, Flutes Cultural Demonstrations

Choctaw Preservation Department Homesteading Demonstration

Jelly Making – Canning – Herb Drying – Waste Not Want Not Hands on Quilting Bee

We will provide quilt to be quilted, needle, thread, and scissors, bring a thimble if you choose

Ole Fashion Gospel Singing

MC Edward Palmer – Durant \* Pianist Daniel Adams – Red Oak

Sound - Native Sound \* Manager- Josh Frazier

Choctaw Congregational Sing a Long / English

Congregational Sing a long song sheets will be provided

13 Special groups

Singing under tent \* Bring a lawn chair

Hot Dogs, Soft Drink, Water, Baked goods for sale

# Youth of the Nation

Ashley Artigues, YAB member

One of the most incredible things about Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (CNYAB) is learning the meaning of “family”. Until I joined this organization, I had no idea what it felt like to leave a group of people and really miss them. I learned what it was like to stay in touch with friends and advisors that had helped us overcome countless obstacles. I learned how to handle ugly situations to the best of my ability and to enjoy the good ones. CNYAB has made the biggest impact on my life and I will never forget what I've learned.

Since I am supposed to talk about one experience, person, or event that has influenced me I suppose I will talk about Kristen Lovell. Now, I didn't know Kristen extremely well, but I did know that everyone who knew her loved her. She was an all-around, great girl. During my freshman year, she got into a tragic car accident and she didn't survive. Watching my CNYAB family grieve made me upset even though I didn't know this girl. That's the beauty of having family. When they hurt, you're hurt. When they are having the time of their lives, so are you. Through Kristen, I learned that there are so many occasions when we will have to pull together to get through good times and bad, and that I wouldn't want to have anyone by my side but my fellow “Yabbers”.

My favorite memory from CNYAB was the year we couldn't have our annual conference at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, Texas. I liked this year's conference so much more because it was held in Tvshka Homma and we didn't have cell phone service. Now, this might sound crazy, but I enjoyed not having cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, etc., because we were able to bond more closely and really get into the activities we had going on. Everything was so much more special that year. The dance, our classes, and just our “hang out” time were so much more peaceful. I will remember that year for the rest of my life.

Everyone always expects the seniors to have it all figured out. People might ask, “Where are you planning on going to college?” or “What will you major in?” But the truth is, I just don't know yet. I know that these tools that CNYAB has given me will remain embedded in my memory. I know that whenever I get in a tough situation, I can think back on how I handled it during my YAB days, I know that if I ever get sad or discouraged, I can remember what my CNYAB “family” felt like and that will brighten any dark day I might have.

2nd Place Essay Winner



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All applicants must be 18 years of age or older

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<http://careers.choctawnation.com>

# Education

## Choctaw high school students participate in NNAYI program

Four Choctaw Nation high school students were included in a 28 group of teens to participate in the 16th Association of American Indian Physicians' National Native American Youth Initiative (NNAYI) program.

Choctaw Nation 2014 NNAYI scholarship winners and attendees were: Ashton Megli, a student at Lake Ridge High School from Mansfield, Texas, Rebecca Folsom, a student at Daniel Webster High School from Ogden, Utah, Connor Chadwick, a student at Putnam City High School from Warr Acres, and Quinton Impson, a student at Putnam City High School from Oklahoma City.

The NNAYI program is a summer scholarship program designed to familiarize students with careers in the healthcare industry by touring medical colleges and facilities, interacting with Native



Photos Provided

**Choctaw high school students accepted to summer medical program for Native American youth. NNAYI participants (Left to right) – Ashton Megli, Rebecca Folsom, Conner Chadwick, Quinton Impson.**

American health care professionals, and participating in interactive workshops and lectures. Lecturers were special guest speakers in various fields of medicine such as researchers, educators, and physicians. The professionals that students met are part of the program as mentors and role models with the intent to help encourage and inspire more Native American students to pursue medical

careers. NNAYI Program Director Gary Lankford explains, "It's important for the students to hear from these health care professionals. They're successful Native Americans who serve as role models and mentors. They inspire our students to continue their education and set high goals."

Some of the field trips included tours of the National Institutes of Health, George Washington

University School of Medicine, Georgetown University and Association of American Medical Colleges.

The NNAYI scholarship summer program is available to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors 16 years of age or older with room and board, travel, and meals paid along with all events.

The program is considered intense for students participating as well as highly

competitive with winners chosen based on panel review of Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) members who choose the best applications.

The application process includes the application, a personal statement, school transcripts, letters of recommendation, and proof of CDIB tribal enrollment.

According to AAIP, NNAYI was created in 1998 to increase the number of

American Indian/ Alaska Native students entering health professions and biomedical research. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for admission to college and professional schools. Students also receive information regarding financial aid, counseling, and other college-related assistance."

AAIP adds, "Over the past decade, more than 573 students have received scholarships to attend the NNAYI program" with the application process beginning in the spring of each year.

For additional information about the AAIP or the NNAYI scholarship program, visit [www.aaip.org](http://www.aaip.org) or call (405) 946.7072.

## Elizabeth Guerino Wins Native Essay Writers Contest

Elizabeth Guerino, a Choctaw Nation student, recently won the HK Law Native Essay Writer's Contest. There were five first-place winners nationally with over 100 Native high school students to have submitted essays. Winners receive a scholarship towards the college of choice and an all expense paid

trip to "Scholar Week" in Washington D.C. Guerino's essay, A Past, a Future, and a Spoon, can be found on the Young Native Writers website at <http://www.nativewriters.hklaw.com/ESSAYS/2014/index.asp>. To learn more about the Young Native Writers Essay Contest visit [www.niea.org](http://www.niea.org).

## Choctaw Higher Ed. helps granddaughter of Original Enrollee accomplish dream

Susan Elizabeth Snead Zimmer-Allen of Salisbury, Maryland graduated from Boston University with a Master of Music Education degree. She previously earned a Bachelor of Music Performance from Texas Tech University and a Master of Music Performance from Yale University. She is employed as Director of Music at Wicomico Presbyterian Church in Salisbury and is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Music at Salisbury University. Susan is the granddaughter of Original Enrollee, the late Edward Paul Snead of Idabel and the daughter of the late Honorable Judge Edward Paul Snead, Jr. of Roswell, New Mexico. She wishes to thank Freda Nixon and the Choctaw Higher Education Program for their support and generous financial assistance.



## American Library Association chooses Aaron Novinger for Scholarship

Aaron Novinger has been chosen by the American Library Association (ALA) Office for Diversity's Spectrum Scholarship. One of 50 exceptional students, Novinger has been invited to attend a Leadership Institute along with the American Library Association 2015 Conference. As a Spectrum Scholar, Novinger is also, enrolled in a mentorship program and will participate in a national library diversity initiative, along with many other networking and professional development opportunities. Novinger is completing a Master of Library Science (MLS) program at Emporia State University in the fall of 2015 with a concentration in Leadership and Administration.

### Choctaw student receives National Honor

Kayla Tucker recently received a national honor for superior academic achievement. Tucker is Choctaw and will be a junior this fall. From Fort Smith, Ark., Tucker has been selected to become a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, personalized items, and publicity honors.



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Nation hosts first annual ‘Gathering’

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation hosted The Gathering, the first of an annual business summit organized by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO) aimed at serving Native American businesses, at the Choctaw Nation Casino Resort in Durant from Aug. 10-12.

“The Gathering brings together Native American businesses to give them an opportunity to learn about federal contracting, tribal procurement, how they can do business with the tribes, and how they can grow their business,” Annetta Abbott, Executive Director of the Jim Thorpe Native American Games and AICCO Board Member said.

Representatives from the Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, and Muscogee (Creek) Nation, among others, attended the summit. Trade show vendors talked about their services, speeches were given by business leaders and government officials, and artisans displayed their artwork and wares.

Chief Gary Batton spoke as the keynote speaker for the summit. “Everyone always asks in Indian Country why is business such a big focus?” Batton said. “It’s because it is part of what allows us to be independent. That’s the reason why business is important, and it is the reason why having these types of functions is important.”

Three services offered by the Choctaw Nation provide support for Choctaw entrepreneurs and small business owners, and each service was present at The Gathering.

Choctaw Asset Building (CAB), the Native American Business Resource Center, and the newly created Preferred Supplier Program sent representatives to the summit to explain how they work to support and grow Choctaw businesses.

Dawn Hix, with Choctaw Asset Building, said CAB’s Matched Savings Program is income-based and aimed at people wanting to buy a house, start a business, or further their education. Choctaw entrepreneurs can take advantage of the program when saving money to start a business. The Matched

Savings Program will match up to \$2,000 at a two-to-one rate, meaning an entrepreneur who saves \$2,000 of their own money will receive \$4,000 from the program, for a total business start-up savings fund of \$6,000. First-time home owners can save at a three-to-one rate.

Jill Reyna, Native American Business Resource Coordinator, said the Native American Business Resource Center helps any Native American living in the 10.5 counties wanting to start or expand a business.

“They receive help with a business plan, public funding, getting their Limited Liability Company (LLC), whatever each different business owner needs,” Reyna said. “We are here for any tribal member who wants to own a business at the beginning of the process, we help them get off the ground.”

Boyd Miller, Commodity Manager of the Preferred Supplier Program, said the objective of the program is to promote and grow Choctaw-owned business, promote buying Indian-owned and buying local, so that we can employ more Choctaws and



Photo by Brandon Frye

Attendees of The Gathering collect for a day of speeches, vendor visits, and networking at the Choctaw Casino and Resort. They are among the many working to make business in southeastern Oklahoma more successful.

benefit the tribe while becoming more self-sufficient.

With business owners wanting to do business with the Choctaw Nation, “We make sure they meet the requirements and match them up,” Miller said. “That’s what distinguishes our program, the door is not going to close after they contact us. We are going to send them wherever they need to be at that point to help them

grow their business.”

With the services the Choctaw Nation provides Choctaw entrepreneurs, “They all work hand-in-hand,” Miller said. Support is available throughout the process. From saving business startup money, to finding support getting off the ground, and ultimately being matched up with business opportunities, new Choctaw business owners can rely on the Nation’s help.

The Native American Business Resource Program and the Choctaw Asset Building Program can both be reached by calling Choctaw Nation Career Development at (866) 933-2260 and asking for the respective program. Boyd Miller with the Preferred Supplier Program can be reached at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2889 to answer questions about doing business with the Nation.

Choctaw sisters whip up a tasty gravy business  
Chocolate’s gone Choctaw



By ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation

Choctawesome!

Such is true for chocolate gravy. A pair of Choctaw sisters have been packaging and selling chocolate gravy mix for three years – and now their enterprise has linked up with the Choctaw Nation’s Preferred Supplier Program.

Cathy Nutt of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and sister Pat Prigmore of Oklahoma City are partners in Haughty Mae’s Chocolate. They package a variety of cocoa-based mixes available at [www.haughtymaeschocolate.com](http://www.haughtymaeschocolate.com).

Soon, this Choctaw-made delicacy will be available via a new website promoting goods and ser-

vices offered by Choctaws.

“The whole point is to get everybody networking between different vendors on this preferred supplier list,” said Boyd Miller, Commodity Manager for the Preferred Supplier Program. “This shows what Choctaw Nation is doing to promote Choctaw-owned businesses. These ladies knew to come to Choctaw Nation through the Preferred Supplier Program to help develop their product.”

The sisters visited Choctaw Nation Headquarters in August to demonstrate the versatility of their chocolate gravy, pouring it over biscuits, fruit and into pie crusts. Miller said James Wallace and his crew at the Headquarters cafeteria were particularly gracious hosts.

Nutt and Prigmore

use a family recipe for Haughty Mae’s, which was their mother’s nickname. “Haughty Mae” Hatcher learned the recipe while growing up in hardscrabble southeastern Oklahoma during the Great Depression.

“Haughty Mae” married Floyd Thompson, who attended Goodland Academy as a child. The couple raised their family in Hugo, but the sisters have maintained links to the Choctaw Nation despite relocating to other parts of the U.S.

Nutt says the Choctaw Nation helped put her and her children through college. Like many Choctaws, they looked for opportunity in other parts of the country but never forgot some of their southeastern Oklahoma roots, including foods like chocolate gravy.

“Chocolate gravy was cheap,” said Nutt. “It’s an Oklahoma thing and it’s unique. You cannot find chocolate gravy just anywhere.”

This Southern twist on breakfast gravy may have developed when Hershey’s cocoa powder arrived on country store shelves, according to a 2010 article on Kentucky.com.

However, the same article quotes The Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America which puts the origins of chocolate gravy squarely within the boundaries of the ancient Choctaw Nation.

The encyclopedia “theorizes that chocolate gravy might have been an offshoot of a trading network between Spanish Louisiana and the Tennessee Valley.” The main land route for this network would have been the Natchez Trace in Mississippi.

Now the breakfast treat has come full circle at the hands of Nutt and Prigmore. They hope to make their gravy and drink mixes available to casino buffets and gift shops operated by the Choctaw Nation and its partners.

“We’re coming back to our roots,” Nutt said. “We were raised on this. We wanted to name it something that integrated with our Choctaw heritage.”



Photos by Zach Maxwell

Boyd Miller (center) with the Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program, poses with Haughty Mae’s Chocolate Gravy proprietors Cathy Nutt (left) and Pat Prigmore (right).

Citizen runs two businesses

By BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation

Lena Kopp, a hard working businesswoman whose days do not end unless she makes them end, turned two ideas into businesses with the help of her husband, family, and the Choctaw Nation.

“It was my husband’s idea,” Kopp said. “He called me one day while he was in Alabama working—he is always coming up with these business ideas—he said we are going to open a drug and alcohol collection facility.”

This was the Summer of 2012, the beginning of what is now called Kopps on the Run, a facility serving the Hugo area and beyond by processing drug and alcohol tests—like what happens when a company hires on a new employee.

“We did the research, and that benefited us. The clinics have to see patients before they can perform drug tests, and people were having to wait several hours just to get a drug test done, whereas our facility is a walk-in clinic open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.”

With Kopp’s hard work, this business took off, all while Kopp cared for a large family and a new child. The



Photo by Brandon Frye

**Lena Kopp stands in her work area.**


business grew to include mobile testing, and Kopp said they are even looking to open a facility in another location.

Kopp started working on the second business last year.

“I had to wait to get Kopps on the Run up and running,” Kopp said. “It got to the point where the first business gave me time to sit and wait, so I jumped into the school.”

4-C Welding is set to officially open in September.

Kopp offered a word of advice for other Choctaws interested in starting a business. “There are so many programs if you are a tribal member. Just jump off into it. Keep moving forward. When an obstacle comes up, solve it and go to the next one.”



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA (REAP 9007)

- WHAT IS THE SECTION 9007 PROGRAM?**
  - This section directs the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.
  - Since fiscal year 2003, Oklahoma has provided 97 applicants with assistance totaling \$10,333,029.
- WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**
  - Agricultural Producers and Rural small businesses—an entity is considered a small business in accordance with SBA’s small business size standards.
- WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE PROJECTS?**
  - Energy efficiency projects typically involve installing or upgrading equipment that results in a significant reduction in energy use from current operatives.
  - Energy efficiency improvements verified by an energy audit or assessment.
- HOW MUCH ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM?**
  - Minimum Grant Amount: \$1,500
  - Maximum Grant Amount: \$250,000
  - Grant requests must not exceed 25 percent of the eligible project costs.
- WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?**
  - Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
  - For grants in the amount of \$200,000 or less, applicants should follow the simplified grant application criteria and procedures in USDA regulation 4280.109.
  - The Notice of Solicitation Availability (NOSA) provides complete details on the application process. A copy of the NOSA will be available in pdf format, as published in the Federal Registrar. Application information can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/energy/>.
- WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS?**
  - Small Business—Install energy efficient equipment and lighting in a restaurant using a RASERS, install energy efficient equipment in a linen cleaning facility using a RASERS, install new boiler system and high efficiency dry kilns, and energy conservation and efficiency for office/warehouse for calibrated day lighting controls, lighting controls, lighting design alternatives, conditioning of outside air, and insulation.
- WHO SHOULD THE APPLICANT CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?**
  - Additional information can be obtained by calling Jody Harris, Rural Energy Coordinator, at (405) 742-1036.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender”. To File a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). (Fact Sheet revised 8-2013)

# OBITUARIES

## Robert Odell Bowden

Robert Odell Bowden passed away June 1, 2014, at his home in Oklahoma City at the age of 83.

Robert was born May 15, 1931 to Ruben and Annie Lee (Williams) Bowden in Frogville. Robert was of the Baptist faith. Robert graduated from Greenville High School in 1950. He served in the Army from 1952-54 and was stationed in Korea. Robert was a great welder and worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, South Africa, Alaska and Ecuador. Robert was proud of his Indian heritage and will be greatly missed.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Ruben and Annie Lee Bowden; sister-in-law, Sharon Bowden; brothers-in-law, Dale Holt, George Cullum and Okie Phillips; niece, Anita Holt; great-nephew, Brad Holt; and uncles, Buck Williams and Tom Williams.

Robert is survived by his daughter, Robin “Missy” Osborn and husband Terry of Moore; son, Butch Hamilton of Jefferson City, Tenn.; stepsons, David and Lou Ann Lively of Durant, Terry and Dawn Womack of Tuttle; brothers, Bill and Darlene Bowden, Bob Bowden and Charles and Marcia Bowden of Ardmore, Jim and Frankie Bowden of Choctaw; sisters, Gladys Holt of Stillwater, Novella and Bill Shebestor of Madill, Jean Cullum of Mead, Alta and J.B. Mapp of Ardmore and Paula Phillips of Newnan, Ga.; granddaughters, Karley Osborn and Blaklyn Lively; grandsons, Zack Lively, Carson Osborn and Caulyn Osborn; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Graveside services with military honors were held at McAlester Cemetery, Overbrook, with Rev. Wayne Fite officiating.



## Otis Jefferson

Otis Jefferson, 84, of McAlester, passed away July 20, 2014 at his home.

Otis Jefferson was born Jan. 11, 1930 in Pittsburg County to Wallace and Delphia (Pearce) Jefferson. He attended Jones Academy and later Haskell High School. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and had a rank of Sergeant First Class. He worked at the Carbon Coal Mines and was a cattle rancher and farmer. He enjoyed coon hunting and fishing.

He was preceded in death by parents; sister, Ruth Jackson; brothers, Wallace, Ulis, Johnny, and Cleno Jefferson.

Surviving relatives include son Don Sandoval and daughter-in-law Beth; granddaughter Corey Megan Bresch; two great-grandchildren, Aleia Bresch and Ava Bresch; brother, Thomas Jefferson; two sisters, Loretta Wooley and Alice Hayes; special nieces, Carol Sibole and Iris Hallbert; special nephew, Chuck Hallbert; sisters-in-law, Lela Jefferson and Clara Jefferson; numerous other nieces, nephews, and cousins.



## Caroline Thompson

Caroline Thompson, 97, passed away July 19, 2014.

She was born Caroline Fulson on Feb. 20, 1917, to her parents Andrew Fulson and Julia Gardner Fulson in Bokchito. She was the second child born to this union. She attended school in Oklahoma.

Caroline met Victor Ray Morgan Thompson in Oklahoma and they were soon married on Dec. 1, 1935. After marriage they moved to Paris, Texas and began a family. They were blessed with four girls and four boys in this union.

Caroline accepted Christ at an early age. She was a member of Mount Zion Methodist Church and became an active member of Tudor Street Church of Christ. She later became a devoted member of MLK Church of Christ until her death.

Caroline was employed as a cafeteria worker for Paris Independent School District. She was well-liked by all of her co-workers. Caroline was a devoted housewife, mother and homemaker. She loved to fish and her favorite hobbies included quilting, cooking, gardening and telling jokes. Her favorite TV programs were The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune and Judge Judy. She always opened her home to everyone and made them feel welcome.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Victor Thompson; her parents Andrew Fulson and Julia Dunford; five siblings, Inez Andrew, Arthur Fulson, John D. Lawrence, Willard Dunford and Harvey Dunford.

Caroline leaves to mourn her eight children, Pauline Wilson, Margaret Watts, Victor Thompson, David Thompson, Laurence Thompson, Ruth Washington, Juanita Laird, and Harry Thompson; 22 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, family and special friends such as Harry Moody, Gregg Evans, Charles Fullbright, and Albert Desmond.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to her youngest daughter Juanita who was so devoted in taking care of her from the beginning of her illness until the end; Arthur Fulson for being our family reunion captain; Eugene Dunford for traveling the farthest to attend her homegoing celebration; Carolyn King for her kindness for regular visits, food and offering to stay for us to have a break.

Mother we loved you, but God loved you more.

## Joseph Joel ‘Joepoy’ Morris

Joseph Joel “Joepoy” Morris, 67, passed from this life on Aug. 2, 2014 in Idabel. He was born July 23, 1947 in Talihina to Nelson and Agnes (Kellett) Morris. He married Iwana Loman July 15, 2006 in Antlers.

Joseph loved to tell stories, laugh, and joke. He enjoyed cooking and thought of himself as “the grillmaster.” He loved sports and was always there to watch his grandchildren play. He loved watching cowboy shows. He took pride in his lawn and he was especially proud of the fact that he was a full blood Choctaw and a United States Veteran.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Nelson & Agnes Morris.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Iwana Morris of the home; son, Joseph Nelson Morris and Karen Jenkins of Nicoma Park; daughter, Bernina Morris of Leupp, Ariz.; son, Brent Shaw and wife Kelli of Antlers; daughter Leslie Shaw of Ada; daughter, Ashley Youngblood and husband Douglas of Coweta; grandchildren: Reed, Braden and Paige Shaw, Mason, Emily and Brooklyn Johnson and Teagen Wilkerson; sister, Sue Davis of Clayton; sister, Toni Cody and husband Cleo of Antlers; sister, Faye Crawley of Ada; as well as numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Interment was at Antlers Cemetery under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service.



## Glen Dale Hudson

Glen Dale Hudson, 71, passed away July 31, 2014 at his home in Hochatown.

Glen was born Feb. 23, 1943 in Honobia, the son of George Hudson and Ada Bell Simmons Hudson. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. He married Ann Harris on June 22, 1989 in DeQueen, Ark. He was employed by Weyerhaeuser Company for 30 years. Glen was an avid fisherman, enjoying fishing with the love of his life, Ann. He was a member of the Tri-Lakes Bass Club in Broken Bow, where he enjoyed the sport of competitive bass fishing.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents, George and Ada Bell Hudson; brother, Bobby Hudson; sister, Mildred Benbow; and grandson Roary James Hudson.

He leaves to cherish his memory, wife, Ann of the home; sons, George Hudson of San Antonio and Robert Damm of Broken Bow, daughters, Alice Dennis of Weatherford, Texas and Lea Anna Pond with husband John of San Antonio; sisters, Doris Webb of Valliant and Bernice Benefield of Birmingham, Ala.; 12 grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many special friends.

Interment was at Hochatown Cemetery.



## Luveda Louise Earls

Luveda Louise Earls, 92, of Summerfield, passed away Aug. 1, 2014 in Ponca City. Louise was born Jan. 10, 1922 in Reichert/Summerfield to John Christopher & Ora (White) Cox. She was a homemaker.

Louise was preceded in death by her husband, Monroe Earls; her parents; brothers, Orbria, Ivan, Dale, John Jr. and Harold Cox; sister, Reba Loyd.

She is survived by her daughter Sharon Stewart of Ponca City; son, Leonard Earls of Summerfield; four grandchildren, Tammy Allison, Amanda Theriot, Caleb Allison and Alicia Earls; nine great grandchildren; sister, Freda Barrick of Scottsdale, Ariz.; brothers, Jim Cox of Bonita Springs, Fla., Sherman Cox of Oklahoma City, Delton Cox of Pocola; other relatives, loved ones, and friends.

Interment was in Summerfield Cemetery, Summerfield, Okla.



## Albert Edmond Simon

Albert Edmond Simon, 87, passed away on June 2, 2014, at his home in Calera.

Albert was born April 20, 1927 in Achille, the only child of Amos and Linnie (Arkansas) Simon. After the death of his mother, he was raised by his aunt Emma and grew up with his cousins, Henry and Lula Mae Gibson.

Albert was a full-blood Choctaw and fluent in the language. Albert enlisted in the Army and served in WWII. He was with the 8th Army Air Corp under General Doolittle in Okinawa in the South Pacific then was honorably discharged.

Albert was a farmer in his early years then moved to California and worked as a laborer in various factories. His last job was a machinist in an aluminum factory, then he retired while in California.

Albert was licensed and ordained. He served as pastor of First Indian Baptist Church in South Gate, Calif. twice. In Oklahoma, he pastored New Jerusalem in Soper for two years then was called to pastor Durwood Baptist Church in Mannsville for almost 18 years until his illness started affecting him. He also served eight years as moderator for the Choctaw/Chickasaw Association. Albert served the Lord preaching, singing and playing the piano. He enjoyed reading and studying the Bible. He will be greatly missed.

Albert is survived by his wife, Loretta Simon; his eight children, Alvin Dale Simon, Marvin Simon, Michael Simon, Norma Cook, Gary Simon, Alberta Diangelo all of California, Melvis Wilson of Calera, Lena Tiger of Shawnee; mother of his children, Rosie Simon Jim; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild and another great-grandchild on the way.

Interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery.



## Betty Ruth Beard

Betty Ruth Beard, 87, passed away May 31, 2014, in Mountain Home, Ark.

Betty was born in Fort Smith, Ark., on April 12, 1927, on her mother’s birthday, to John and Frances Fisher Coley. She had one brother, Jack.

She married Cyril Beard on Nov.

24, 1945, in Torrance, Calif. Cyril and Betty were both born in the Fort Smith hospital and delivered by the same doctors two years and six days apart. Betty met Cyril, her husband-to-be, in May of 1943; he was 18 and going into the Navy and she was 16.

Cyril’s aunt and uncle lived in Los Angeles, so he would go to their house (he was stationed in San Pedro, Calif.). Sometimes they brought him down, other times Betty would take the bus from Torrance, Calif.

When Betty and Cyril were married in November of 1945, she was 18 and he was 20. Even though he was in the Navy, he had to go to court and be made a ward of the state (his parents were deceased), then the judge gave his consent to marry. They lived in Torrance, where their daughter Diane was born on Nov. 14, 1946. They then moved to northern California where Cyril was very lucky to get into the Civil Service – surveying government farmlands. He was later promoted to supervise the inspectors. Betty worked as a telephone operator.

Betty and Cyril’s son, David, was born Sept. 1, 1949. They started their journey down California, living in several places until they ended up in San Diego in 1953. They lived there the rest of their married life. Their son died in 1977 and their only grandchild, Brian, was born in 1978. Cyril died in December 2002.

Betty and her daughter Diane (husband Lloyd) moved to Mountain Home, Ark., in February 2004. Betty loved all of her friends, church, bowling, golf, and the Red Hats. She signed her notes: “Be seeing you.” She also wanted to give special love to her adopted children, Ernie and Sue; her friends, Lue Dean and Russell Fires; and her beloved late Virginia Reed.

Betty lived in Mountain Home since 2004, moving from San Diego. She was a member of the Twin Lakes Baptist Church. She was a very busy lady playing bridge, golf, bowling and line dancing. Betty traveled a lot, was a member of the Red Hat Society and played Bunco with several of her friends.

Betty is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Lloyd Newell of Mountain Home, Ark.; and her grandson, Brian Giagiozis of San Diego, Calif.



## Martin Louis Killingsworth

Martin Louis Killingsworth, 88, of Eufaula, passed away on Aug. 7, 2014 in Tulsa. Martin was born on Feb. 27, 1926 in Muse to Louis Monroe and Linnie (Williams) Killingsworth. He attended school in Muse. Martin was married to Mary Jane Sinyard, who preceded him in death in 1989. He worked as a cook for 33 years at the Talihina Indian Hospital. On May 18, 1995, Martin married Frances Fontella Beasley. They were happily married for 19 years. He was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Linnie Killingsworth; two sons; step-daughter, Fontella Evera Johnson; five brothers; Leo, Ray, DC, Gene, and Velton; and one sister, Faye.

Survivors include: wife, Frances Killingsworth, of the home; daughter, Wanda Jane Thomas and husband, James, of Eufaula; step-daughter, Cylvia Lynn Hayes of Bend, Ore.; step-sons, Lee Marvin Johnson of Puerto Rico, Kenneth William Johnson of Seattle; sisters, Delois Edwards and husband, Jimmy, of Muse, Reba Louise Clark of Wichita, Kansas; sister-in-law, Margie Killingsworth; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Burial was at the Prairie Grove Cemetery under the direction of Hunn Black & Merritt Funeral Home & Crematory.



## Virginia Mae ‘Cookie’ York

Virginia Mae “Cookie” York, 79, a former preschool teacher and librarian assistant at Warren High School, passed away of natural causes July 29, 2014 at her home in Downey, Calif. Family members were at her side when she died.

She was born in Poteau on May 20, 1935, the daughter of Rev. Eddie and Jewel Brown, is survived by her husband of 61 years, Rev. I.C. York; sons, Vaden Scott York (wife Blanca) and Nathan Todd York; and daughter, Tonya Zan Fujita (husband Gene); one brother; three sisters; and several grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

During her employment years in California, she worked for the Weiser Lock Co. in South Gate, the Downey Unified School District as a librarian assistant at Warren High, and in the ticket office for the Downey Civic Light Opera. A pastor’s wife, she played the piano and worked as a preschool teacher.



## Ret. Master Sergeant John V. David, Jr.

Retired Master Sergeant John V. David, Jr. died Aug. 13, 2014 at the age of 80. Master Sergeant David was born May 9, 1934 in Fort Towson. He enlisted in the United States Army on Jan. 7, 1953, in Maricopa County, Ariz. He served for 21 years and retired on July 31, 1973 at Fort Sill.

His service stations included Korea, Vietnam, Germany and various posts in the United States, including two tours of advisory service to the Colorado National Guard. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, United States Vietnam Service Medal, United Nations Korean Service Medal, The Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Aircraft Crewman Badge.

He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 751 Lawton, Korean War Veterans Assoc., Chapter 319, 2nd Infantry Division (Indian Head) Assoc. and the Disabled American Veterans, Joe N. Cain, Chapter 56 of Lawton.

After his retirement he completed his education, earning a BA in Business from Cameron University of Lawton. He worked for 23 years for the State of Oklahoma, mostly in the Department of Agriculture where he traveled the state and was instrumental in developing farmers’ markets and marketing “Made in Oklahoma” products.

John (J.V.) was devoted to his family and loved them dearly. Upon his retirement from the state, he spent a great deal of time landscaping his backyard which became a showplace. He and his family traveled a lot and John was well known for his very detailed travel itineraries. He was a member of First Baptist East Church of Lawton. He will be sorely missed by his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Jaine David and John Virgil David; and one sister, Delores Jean David.

Master Sergeant David is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruthie L. (Taylor) David; daughter Kathleen M. Talley and husband, Marty R. Talley of Lawton; son Kenneth W. David and wife Greta David of Grand Junction, Colo.; brother-in-law Buddy Taylor and wife Paulette Taylor of Arizona; five grandchildren, Jason David Martin and son Hunter of Texas; Cristi Talley of Oklahoma City; Chad Talley and wife Rachel Talley of Lawton; McKenzie Talley of Lawton; and John Robert David of Grand Junction, Colo.; one brother, Johnathan David of Fort Towson; two nieces: Johnnie L. Newton and Mary Marie David; uncle Wyndle and aunt Nadine David.

Burial was at Rattan Cemetery under the direction of Burkhart Funeral Service.



## Haskell Battiest

Haskell Battiest, 62, of Broken Bow, passed away Aug. 1, 2014 at Hills Nursing Home in Idabel. He was born Nov. 25, 1951 in Wright City, the son of Leo and Ethel (Watson) Battiest.

Haskell was a member of Myrtlewood Baptist Church in Broken Bow. He enjoyed singing, playing the guitar and enjoyed fellowships. Haskell was a member of Choctaw Nation District 2 Senior Citizens.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Allen Battiest; and sister, Carrie Louis.

Haskell leaves to cherish his memory, one brother, Louis Battiest; two sisters, Barbara Sue Battiest and Margaret Battiest Hernandez all of Broken Bow; one son, Aaron Battiest of Oklahoma City; special aunt, Liz John of Tyler, Texas; several nieces, nephews, friends.

The family wants to say a special thank you to Vada Green with Mays Hospice.

Interment was at Broken Bow Cemetery.



# Something good was done this day: Repatriation journey brings honor

By **SHELIA KIRVEN**  
Choctaw Nation

Recently, I had the privilege of being asked to be a member of a small group from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to travel to Mississippi for a tribal repatriation and reburial. I was humbled by the opportunity and knew being a part of such an event would be one of the most honorable things that I would ever get the chance to do in my lifetime.



**Collaborating staff members present (left to right) from the Historic Preservation Lindsay Bilyeu and Daniel Ragle, from Cultural Preservation Sue Folsom, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., from the USACE Chris Koeppel and Sarah Koeppel, Director of Historic Preservation and Tribal Archaeologist Dr. Ian Thompson, Senior Heritage Resource Technician and Tribal Chaplain Olin Williams, and Chief Gary Batton.**

Before the trip, I decided to look up the word “repatriation.” The word’s meaning is defined by Merriam-Webster’s dictionary as “to return (someone) to his or her own country.” The definition was proper and fitting, as we would be reburying ancient unearthed remains in the Mississippi homeland from which they came. Many times human remains are unearthed due to events such as construction or highway expansion. On this particular occasion, the remains were donated back to the Choctaw Nation by a private individual with the assistance of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. A partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the tribe allowed for the repatriated remains to be reburied.

Dr. Ian Thompson, Director of the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department and Tribal Archaeologist explained, “The remains came from an individual who lived in what is now western Mississippi before European contact. He or she did not call themselves Choctaw, but was nonetheless ancestral to today’s Choctaw people, through subsequent mixing of his or her descendants with Choctaw communities. Through this

mixing, this person’s genes and culture live on in the Choctaw community today.”

Before arriving at the burial site, we had a chance to stop off at the US Army Corps of Engineers office where Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Cultural Preservation Executive Director Sue Folsom were greeted by Sarah Koeppel, District Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison, and Chris Koeppel, Environmental Section Team Leader for the USACE. The group then met with Colonel John W. Cross, District Commander. We were able to hear how the USACE became involved in this particular reburial project. We were also informed of what their division does for the State of Mississippi and how they work in conjunction with the tribes. Colonel Cross stated that he was happy with the relationship that the Corps and the Choctaw Nation share. He stated that they have always had a good relationship with us and we partnered well on the different issues. Colonel Cross went on to say that the Choctaw Nation was very helpful in the flood of 2011 and he gave his heartfelt gratitude.

After the visit with the USACE, the group, including the two archaeologists from the USACE who had been instrumental in this project, traveled to the reburial site to join Dr. Thompson and three of his staff members who had already been there doing the preparation work.

As we gathered around and the reburial ceremony was conducted, I couldn’t help but think of how this burial was different from any other that I had ever attended. Because I didn’t know the identity of the individual, I found myself wondering who the person had been. What was their story? Did they somehow realize that their earthly body had been disturbed from its rest? I was hoping that now they would finally be at peace, knowing that they had been carefully prepared once again for burial and that the persons who had laid them to rest at their final destination were the leaders of our great tribe.

As the Chief and Assistant Chief placed the first shovels of earth into the ground, I will never forget the sound of the dirt as it fell and how the earthen wall looked inside the grave, each layer of soil representing centuries of time and different eras.

I couldn’t help but wonder if the remains could even have been one of my ancestors. I often think about my Choctaw ancestors from Mississippi. I wonder about their lives and how the removal affected them. I wonder how they lived; think about their heart aches, about the things that made them happy and even the simple things of life that were taken from them. I always wish that I could know more. As I stood at the grave that day, I couldn’t help but wonder if that could have been one of my people. And then I realized that it was, because the Choctaw people are one family.

What remains with me is the thought that Olin Williams expressed, that something good was done that

day. Much effort went into making sure that the event was carefully and strategically planned to be the most honorable that it could be for the reburial of this ancestor. I know that these events have happened before. There have been other repatriations and reburials, and I know that as much effort and great care had gone into each one of those, as did the one that I had the privilege to be a part of.

Following the burial, a great rain came around a half hour later on a perfectly sunny day. One of the group stated that the rain was a cleansing and we all agreed that the rain was fitting for what had just taken place.

On the way home, I asked Chief Batton how he felt about the day’s event. He said, “It was humbling and emotional. We don’t know if this person was female or male, a brother or a sister, but I do agree with Ian



**USACE Colonel John W. Cross, Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. study a map of the Mississippi River and how it has changed over the years.**

and Sue that to bring the remains home is honorable and they are hopefully now at peace. I also think that it brings peace for the tribe too. Just think what that ancestor did for us. As sure as there is death, there is life. It makes me reflect on the people who have gone before us, grandmas, grandpas, fathers, brothers, in some ways it is a sad thing. But it is the way of life. There’s hope for our tribe, hope for our people, and hope for our families.”

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. said that, “For me I felt the sense of honor in what we were doing and closure. We don’t know about the individual person, but what we do know is that it was something right and honorable. As Ian stated, making a wrong a right.”

My heart ached for the person whose remains were disturbed. At the same time, I rejoiced that they were buried at a location where they will not be disturbed again. Hopefully they are now at peace and rest, and I hope that somewhere, somehow they were looking down upon us and were proud of what took place that day in their honor.

## Choctaw Country in southeast Oklahoma, your tourism destination

By **BILL GRANT**  
Contributing Writer

After 43 years of operation, the name Kiamichi Country, Inc., as such, is no more, and the association will now be known as Choctaw Country, Inc.

The idea of joining forces with the Choctaw Nation has been floating around for some time and as of July 23, at our Board of Directors meeting in Wilburton, a resolution was adopted to make it happen. A request form was acquired from the Secretary of State’s Office in Oklahoma City and on Aug. 11, the request was granted.

The Association’s operation will continue as in the past with the two entities coming together to achieve the same goal—to better promote tourism and recreation in our 10 county area.

To my knowledge, Kiamichi Country was organized by KEDDO (Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma) as of July 10, 1971, with a board member from each of only seven counties at that time. The only individuals I came to know were A.A. Sewell from Choctaw County and Fred Stovall from Latimer County. The other counties were LeFlore, Haskell, McCurtain, Pushmataha, and Pittsburg.

It was part of a plan by Lt. Gov. George Nigh to divide Oklahoma into six regions and aid the state in tourism and recreation promotion. His belief was that six grassroots organizations around the state would know their needs and possibilities better than Oklahoma City. His idea came from an organization in northeast Oklahoma working on tourism and carried the name of Green Country. Although it may have been incubating in his mind, he probably had thought that it would become the third largest industry in the state.

I served on the Board of Directors for a time and had left, but when A.A. became president, I rejoined and did my best to help. However, Mr. Sewell passed away and Ed Edinger became president.

On the way home from the Dallas Travel Show, Ed Edinger died in my pickup, leaving it to Amie Bookout of Idabel to succeed him as president. I signed on as the Executive Director around 1988.

My good friend, Noel Pence became president of the board and helped the Association, but had to resign because of health problems. Presently, Wade Thomson of Wilburton is President; Karen Wages of Poteau is Vice-President; Joe Webb of Hugo is Secretary; Cynthia Johnston of Red Oak is Treasurer; and Kim Green is Administrative Assistant for Choctaw Country at the KEDDO Office located in Wilburton.

Through the years, the word Kiamichi has been big in Southeast Oklahoma, taken

from the Kamichi Bird by French explorers long ago. We think the bird came from South America.

The name appears as Kiamichi Mountains, Kiamichi River, Kiamichi Vo-Tech, the Kiamichi Trace (US 271 from the Red River to Fort Smith) and in the title of many songs that I have written and recorded that were played in 34 states and seven countries. We began as The Kiamichi Mountain Boys.

Choctaw has also been a big word in our history and continues to be so. The Choctaw were the first of the Five Civilized Tribes moved here by the U.S. Government beginning in 1830. They established the first tribal government here in Indian Territory in 1834. The word Oklahoma came from a Choctaw word meaning “Red Man.”

Their survival of an almost impossible situation came out of their removal here. Many lives were lost on the trail and many died from sickness after they arrived. Through hard work and endurance they have come from a near poverty level to well-respected citizens taking care of their people. The Choctaw have built hospitals, schools, clinics, senior citizen facilities, roads, etc., and developed many programs benefiting the communities.

For some time, the Choctaw Nation did not have a tourism budget although they had created much tourism through their activities and were always good customers and worked with Kiamichi Country. Now they have a tourism budget and some good people doing tourism promotion. They are now in charge of the Welcome Center at Colbert.

On Nov. 26, 2006, Kiamichi Country was given three more counties—Atoka, Bryan, and Coal—by the state which gave us all of the Choctaw Nation except half of Hughes County. Four members of their promotion department were already on our board, representing Bryan, Coal, and McCurtain Counties. Therefore, the idea evolved to become one in promotion, so here we are. Hopefully, we can do a bigger and better job in promoting tourism and recreation in Oklahoma.

Our name change came on the eve of one of the Choctaw’s big events, the annual Labor Day Festival at the Tvshka Homma complex. This is one of the three largest gatherings of Indians in the U.S., a full five days of action-packed activities which ends with a large dinner and the State of the Nation address by the new Chief, Gary Batton.

Again, one of the exciting activities will include a group of the famous Choctaw Ponies voted by the State Legislature as “The Heritage Horse of Oklahoma.” These ponies have blood lines that go back to the horses brought by the Choctaws on the Trail of Tears trip from their native lands in the east.

Also, our name change comes on the eve of our kick-off ad sales for the 2015 Choctaw Country Travel and Vacation Guide. One hundred thousand copies will be distributed throughout the central U.S. Watch for us—WE WILL BE MOVING AND SHAKING!

# Choctaw Artist Bazaar

Friday, October 10th from 9am to 4pm

Choctaw Travel Plaza  
Across from Choctaw Casino in Durant, OK  
West Side of Hwy 75 South Bound

# Haknip Achukmaka

## Good Health: CNHSA health fairs in full swing

The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority is hosting several health fairs at Choctaw Nation Community Centers.

A variety of programs attend each fair to disseminate information, provide on-site health services and generally link Choctaw Nation programs with tribal members.

These health fairs have been held in a wide range of locations within the Choctaw Nation this year. Previous locations include Broken Bow, Poteau, Talihina, Wilburton and McAlester. Upcoming health fairs will be held in Bethel on Sept. 24 and Crowder on Oct. 15.

For more information about Choctaw Nation Health Services, visit website [www.cnhsa.com](http://www.cnhsa.com).



Reba Baker at the Poteau Health Fair with Sarah Fennwald of the Office of Environmental Health.



Chief Gary Batton shares a moment with Dixie Owen during the CNHSA Health Fair at the Dale Cox Community Center in Poteau.

Story and  
Photos by  
ZACH MAXWELL  
Choctaw Nation



Councilman Delton Cox, Chief Gary Batton, Peggy Wiser and husband Jerry Wiser of Summerfield at the Poteau Health Fair. Cox is an uncle to Mrs. Wiser.



Wanda Ward received information at the Poteau Health Fair on July 30.



Iona Parker has her blood pressure checked by Community Health Nurse Brandi Burris during the Poteau Health Fair on July 30 at Dale Cox Community Center.

### Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program

*Distracted Driving . . .*

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

Taking your eyes off of the road for 4.6 seconds at 55 mph is like driving the length of a football field without seeing where you are going.

But because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.

The best way to end distracted driving is to educate all Americans about the danger it poses.

So when you get a text message or phone call, take time to think about distracted driving, your safety, and safety of others before picking up the phone. It can wait.

[www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/facts-and-statistics.html](http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/facts-and-statistics.html)

**Information provided by**  
**Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program**  
*Derek Anderson & Keosha Ludlow*

### Hansen named member of FEMA Advisory Board

Jeff Hansen, Emergency Manager for the Choctaw Nation, has been named to the National Advisory Council for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The council was established by the enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters.

The council advises the FEMA administrator on all aspects of emergency management. The council incorporates state, local, and tribal governments; nonprofit, and private sector input in the development and revision of the National Preparedness Goal, the National Preparedness System, the National Incident Management System, and other related plans and strategies.

Hansen will serve on the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Subcommittee as a “non-elected tribal government official.”

“One of the goals I have is bringing disaster response in Indian Country to light,” said Hansen. “I hope to show that some of the policies being written also need to address our tribes.”

Hansen was appointed to serve a three-year term on the 35-member FEMA National Advisory Council. The elected tribal official serving on the council with Hansen is listed as James Akerelrea, a member of the Yu’pik people of central Alaska.



Photo by Zach Maxwell

**FEMA appoints Choctaw Nation’s Jeff Hansen to the National Advisory Council.**

### Perry is new Bryan County Veterans Services Officer

Bryan County Veterans Services is pleased to announce that Alan Perry of the Choctaw Nation is the new Veterans Services Officer for the area.

Perry joins Paul D. Conley in this capacity. Native American veterans and spouses of deceased veterans in Bryan County are urged to sign up for VA benefits.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) assists all veterans through the county service office, located in the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library in Durant.

The Veterans Service Office is open Monday through Thursday from noon until 4 p.m. For information call (580) 931-9905 or (580) 380-3956.



Photo By Zach Maxwell

**Alan Perry is one of the new Veterans Services Officers for Bryan County. He encourages all veterans and their spouses, especially Native American veterans, to come see him and sign up for veterans benefits at Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library in Durant.**

# Choctaw Resistance to Removal (Part IV)

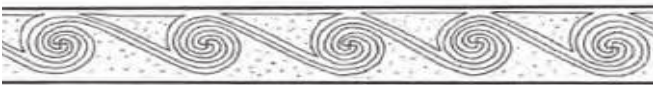
This month’s edition of Iti Fabvssa concludes a four part series examining ways in which Choctaw people resisted Removal from the homeland and the Trail of Tears.

Editor’s Note: This month’s Iti Fabvssa is the final submission in a four part series.

The previous three editions focused on armed resistance, on contesting the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty, and on refusing to remove from the Choctaw homeland. This month, Iti Fabvssa focuses on a more passive, but not less important way that Choctaw people have resisted leaving the homeland, bringing a part of the homeland with them to Oklahoma.

Many of the Choctaw people who traveled the Trail of Tears in the 1830s had the opportunity to take very little with them. Many were only able to take what they could carry in their hands. In surviving collections of Choctaw family heirlooms brought from Mississippi to what is now Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears, one of the most common objects are small, carefully crafted clay eating bowls. These are made in the traditional Choctaw style, except that they are smaller than the communal eating bowls usually used in Choctaw households during this time period.

Why were these small bowls carried west 550 miles to what is now Oklahoma in relatively large numbers? The functional purpose of the bowls is obvious, but there is probably a deeper reason. From a traditional Choctaw perspective, the earth, and particularly the Choctaw homeland are sacred. The earth is seen as the mother of all life. The course of life follows a circle, and after death, an individual’s body returns to the earth to decompose and then to be reincorporated into the bodies of new plants and animals. From a traditional perspective, the Choctaw ancestors are literally a part of the earth of the home-



## Iti Fabussa



A Choctaw clay bowl, carried to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears (Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum).

land, as well as the plants and animals there. The respect that early Choctaw people had for the earth is seen in the care and effort that was put into building large earth mounds.

That same respect is also evidenced in the small, unassuming eating bowls that were carried across the Trail of Tears. These bowls, made from native clay, sand, and burned animal bone, are literally a small part of the Choctaw homeland, but they are more than just that. Their raw materials were mixed together and shaped according to a pottery tradition developed by the hands of 100 generations of Choctaw potters living in the Choctaw homeland. When Choctaw people brought these bowls with them on the Trail of Tears, they were bringing objects that were simultaneously pieces of the homeland and symbols of the ancient indigenous relationship that Choctaw

people maintained with that homeland. By carrying these small, but highly significant clay bowls, Choctaw people were able to resist being removed from at least a small part of the homeland on both a physical and an intellectual level.

While the clay eating bowls are the most concrete example, the technique of resisting Removal by taking a part of the homeland to Oklahoma was and is accomplished in a variety of ways. The Choctaw ancestors were Indigenous people. They considered themselves as a living part of their homeland, intimately connected with the plants, animals, soil and water around them. These connections influenced all aspects of Choctaw traditional life and thought. Choctaw language, traditional food, traditional political structure, oral histories, and all other aspects of Choctaw traditional life ultimately originate out of the hundreds of generations of time through which Choctaw people interacted with the homeland as Indigenous people. Even 184 years after removal began, the Indigenous relationship that Choctaw people had with the homeland is still manifest in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma today through words in the Choctaw language that describe plants and animals in the homeland, through social dances that honor animals from the homeland, through ancient stories, passed down from generation to generation that are set in the homeland, through traditional foods that come from plants and animals native to the homeland, and through traditional arts that incorporate materials from the homeland. Because the Choctaw homeland is an inseparable part of Choctaw traditional culture, as the Oklahoma Choctaw community works to preserve and strengthen aspects traditional culture, we are also resisting the separation from our homeland that Removal entails.

## A Choctaw welcome, artfully done

By **STEPHENIE OCHOA**  
Choctaw Nation

In July of 2013 the Choctaw Nation reached an agreement with the State of Oklahoma to assume operation of the state tourism information center in Colbert. The Nation retained operation with a 5-year contract. Encouraging visitors and tourism within Oklahoma, as well as utilizing the opportunity to share Choctaw culture, the Nation added a gift shop with Oklahoma and Choctaw items.

As the gateway into Oklahoma via Highway 69/75, visitors can experience the rich heritage of Native Oklahoma along with maps, brochures, and tourist information. Renamed the Choctaw Welcome Center, sales at the travel center have increased tenfold since July of 2013 with over 46,000 people visiting



The Choctaw Welcome Center opens its doors to visitors, giving a cultural and artistic experience.

in June of this year. Part of the center’s success is due to the passion of Choctaw artists whose crafts, items, and goods sold on site as well as many opportunities for visitors and local populations to “Meet the Artist” at the center for discussion, demonstration, or specific highlighted Choctaw cultural goods.

From authors to painters to potters and soap-makers, the Choctaw Welcome Center aids the community as well as visitors across the Oklahoma southern border. The center gives patrons the chance to experience the native culture and the opportunity to purchase unique items made by Choctaw artisans.

## Meet the multimedia artist



A sampling of artist Theresa Prough’s baskets can be seen at the Choctaw Welcome Center in Colbert.

By **BRANDON FRYE**  
Choctaw Nation

Theresa Prough displayed her art and explained her creative process to guests during the Meet the Artist event at the Choctaw Welcome Center in Colbert on Aug. 23. “I am a multimedia artists. I weave baskets, I make pottery, I do beadwork, and I do traditional Choctaw moccasins,” Prough said. “I have been doing beadwork since I was a child, I would sit and watch my grandmother on her front porch as she did her beadwork.”

While she has produced art such as beadwork, purses, and medicine bags most of her life, she continues to evolve artistically by learning art in new media and styles. “I learned pottery through the Cultural Preservation program with Ian Thompson,” Prough said. “I want to start learning how to use herbs and other plants to dye. I’ve got honeysuckle growing in my yard and can use that as a dye to help make baskets.”

Prough is a local artist living in Durant, and she keeps her artwork local. When making pottery, Prough said, “I do this at home. I go out there, dig the clay, and work off of the back porch. We get the mussel shells from Lake Texoma. We take a big old bucket and we go down by the water and pick up the shells out of the sand.”

In addition to staying local, Prough also tries to keep her work close to nature and her traditional roots. “With my products, I try not to use plastic. It is cheaper, but I like to keep it traditional,” Prough said, pointing to the jewelry on display. “These are bone, and these have a more traditional look because I use glass beads. I also use shells and brass.”

Maintaining tradition in her work is important to Prough, but she also enjoys finding ways to embrace modern designs and practical upgrades. With her pottery, she places old designs like the eagle alongside newer depictions of feathers. And with her moccasins, Prough stays traditional but has adapted her designs to fit the needs of Choctaws today.

“With the moccasins, we used to go barefoot. Our feet were more tough, and the moccasins were only worn with travelling or during the winter. You can feel how thin it is, they’re like really nice socks. Now, since we



Photos by Brandon Frye

Artist Theresa Prough talks with visitors at the Meet the Artist event.

wear shoes and our feet are more soft, I put insoles in them and they last longer that way,” Prough said.

She said she makes her art because she loves it, and it is something she can pass on to her grandchildren, which she does now.

Tristan Boucher, granddaughter to Prough, has learned from her grandmother and produces her own dreamcatchers and beadwork medallions. “I like teaching and I like to pass it on. If there is a mission in my life and art, it is to pass on what I know, like the beadwork, moccasins, and baskets,” Prough said. “I have been doing this since I was a child, and if I don’t pass it on it dies with me.”

Prough expressed an appreciation of the help the Choctaw Nation has offered her as an artist. “They are really good with helping to get your name registered and out there, making business cards and making contacts,” she said. “Your name is out there, you’re on the registry, and if somebody is having an event and needs a certain type of artist, there we are all together, all at once. Being a Choctaw artist gives you many perks, it gets you out there.”

The work of Choctaw artists, including Theresa Prough, can be viewed and purchased at the Choctaw Welcome Center in Colbert or online at [www.choctawstore.com](http://www.choctawstore.com).



Beaded detail from one of the artist’s handmade moccasins.

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

### Singular, Dual and Plural Verbs

#### Singular – one

bininli – ‘sit’ or ‘to be sitting’

*Katim ma bininli chi bvnna?*

*Kah-tim-ma bi-nihn-li chi bahn-na?*

Where do you want to sit?

#### Dual – two

bininli – ‘sit’ or ‘to be sitting’

*Katos tuklo mvt kaa pakna chiya.*

*Kah-tos tohk-loh maht kaa pahk-nah chehn-yah.*

Those two cats are sitting on top of the car.

#### Plural – three or more

bininli - ‘sit’ or ‘to be sitting’

*Okla impa hosh binohmaya.*

*Okla- ehm-pah hosh bih-noh-mahn-yah.*

They are sitting there eating.

*katim ma – where  
chi- you*

*bvnna – want*

*tuklo – two*

*mvt – that*

*chiya – two sitting*

*pakna – on top of*

*impa – to eat*

*hosh – subject marker*

*bininli – sit or to be sitting*

*katos – cat*

*kaa – car*

*okla – group*

# Choctaw cultural gatherings

## SEATTLE, WA —



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. (left) and Chief Gary Batton with Roger Amerman and family.



Judith Holder with Dustin Shermar and Jason Shermar at the Choctaw Cultural Gathering in Seattle.



Chief Gary Batton with Tom Monie and Diane Monie of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, at the Seattle meeting.



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. (left) and Chief Gary Batton with Christina A. Breault and her sister at the Seattle meeting.

Thank you Seattle Choctaws for visiting with us!

Photos by  
PAYTON GUTHRIE  
Choctaw Nation



Jake Rae, Lindsay Rae, and Calvin Rae in Seattle.



Choctaw artist Richard W. Welch II and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. in Seattle.



A Choctaw Bible dating to 1867 was brought to the Salem meeting by a Choctaw family. On the right is a page turned to "Lefiticvs Holisso" or the Book of Leviticus. Papers also make reference to the Hickmans of Hugo.

## SALEM, OR —



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. (left) and Chief Gary Batton with the James family in Salem.



Chief Gary Batton and this cutie drew out the winners of door prizes in Salem.



Artists Joanna Kaufman and Leah Hedberg in Salem.



Chief Gary Batton with the Knight family in Salem.

Thank you Salem Choctaws for visiting with us!

Photos by PAYTON GUTHRIE  
Choctaw Nation

## LAWTON, OK —



Mandy Lawson teaches children how to play stick-ball at the Lawton gathering.



Choctaw Dancers and members from the audience dance the Snake Dance in Lawton.



Jessica Anderson and her children Turtle and Hunter Anderson, all from Snyder, learn to make beaded jewelry.

Thank you Lawton Choctaws for visiting with us!

Photos by  
BRANDON FRYE  
Choctaw Nation



Mary Watson, Pam Watson, and Diwala Gibson, three generations, sit down to make beaded jewelry.



Phelicia Scott and Jane Walters from Duncan work on jewelry as mother and daughter.



Karen Gilbert and Anna B. Macomber, both from Hobart, take a break from lacing beads onto strings.



Houston and Shirley Cusher of Shawnee with Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.



Kanda Jackson of Choctaw Nation Cultural Services assists Barbara Tyler of Oklahoma City with beadwork earrings.



Cultural Services Director Sue Folsom caught up with Carol Gardner in Norman. Mrs. Gardner is the wife of the late Chief David Gardner, the first of four chiefs Folsom has worked under during her tenure at Choctaw Nation.



Chief Batton and Assistant Chief Austin pose with the "Benavides Boys" of Norman: Marshall Noah (10), Gabriel Raphael (8), Donovan Landa (6), and Dashiell Danger (5).

## NORMAN, OK

Thank you Norman Choctaws for visiting with us!

Photos by  
VONNA SHULTS  
and  
KAY JACKSON  
Choctaw Nation

Choctaw Royalty send appreciation, love and well wishes for 2014-2015 Princess Pageant Winners



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2013-14 Royalty, Little Miss Choctaw Nation, Isabelle Cox, Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation, Kayleigh Powell, Senior Miss Choctaw Nation, Callie Curnutt.

Sr. Miss Choctaw Nation tearfully says goodbye

Halito and welcome to the 2014-15 Choctaw Nation Royalty Pageant. Sv hohchifo yut Callie Curnutt. I am your 2013-14 Miss Choctaw Nation. I would like to take a moment and thank everyone for coming out to support these wonderful young women vying for their crowns. As it says in Matthew 17:20, ‘If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible. I used this verse last year in my essay portion in running for Miss Choctaw Nation. They say that God hears all prayers. Well this time last year, I was burning up the phone line. Praying that His will be done. This past year, I have tried to continue to do God’s will in representing the Choctaw Nation to the best of my ability. One of my favorite quotes from Disney’s movie UP says, “Adventure is out there!” Well I can honestly say that I have had a lot of new adventures. From almost getting lost in the Redwood Forest, to driving 6 ½ hours in the middle of the night in California. My first adventure was to Los Angeles along with Fresno. That was such an amazing experience to get to see the ocean and the pier. In our downtime the first day, we got to travel around town some. Let me tell ya, it’s much larger than Wister, Okla. We had a wonderful time getting to educate others about our culture. In a few days, we got a van and traveled to Fresno. Before we left that morning, Faye, Elaine, mom and I decided to take a little scenic detour and go see the Redwood Forest on the way. In the meantime Mary Sue Folsom decided that she might ride with us since we were going to get to the hotel straight away. After all, it was just a little scenic detour. Shouldn’t take too long. Right? Wrong. As we turn into the National Park, our GPS decided it was going to die. So we grabbed a map and found the little squiggle road that we would take. Well after 5 hours in the park and 10 hours of driving, we make it to the hotel around one in the morning. Needless to say, Mary Sue has yet to get in a vehicle with us ever again! The next experience was to the Gathering of Nations. That is an experience I will never forget. I thought I had prepared myself for how big it was going to be. I was completely blown away. It was such an honor to be able to represent Choctaw Nation at such an event. Albuquerque was such a beautiful city. In a few short days, we were in Bakersfield, CA. But the 12 hours before that seemed like an eternity. My mom and I traveled to Tulsa to fly to Denver and then catch our plane to Bakersfield. As we are almost to Denver, our pilot comes on and tells us there are some storms headed to Denver. He says that we are going to circle in the air and wait to land, but it shouldn’t take long. After an hour of circling, the pilot comes back on and says we are going to have to divert south twenty miles we are running low on fuel. As we land, we are told that we will be back in the air as soon as possible. We are taxing out on the runway and our pilot informs us that Denver



Sr. Miss Choctaw Nation, Callie Curnutt gives a tearful goodbye at Labor Day 2014.

has so much traffic coming in that they have grounded for the next two hours. As we land in Denver we miss our connecting flight and barely catch a plane to San Francisco. By this time it’s nine o’clock at night, I have to be dressed and ready to go at eight o’clock the next morning. We land in San Francisco and rent a car and mom drives 6 ½ hours and we pull into our hotel at seven that morning. I had made it to perform on time! The only thing that didn’t was my moccasins that were in my suitcase that was still in Denver. After all the traveling experience we had that weekend, I felt like the Griswold family. It was so good to meet the Okla-Chahta royalty. I had a great time while visiting there! Aside from the mental breakdown I had on the plane trying to get there, and also Tracy almost hitting a pedestrian walking across the street. That was a close one! Of course we had to do some shopping while we were there! Isie and I tore that mall up! There was a lesson learned from all of that. My mom can accomplish anything that is thrown her way! Our next trip was to Washington, D.C. It was such a great experience getting to meet people from all over the world and showing them a little bit of our culture. Let me tell ya, from one book nerd to another. If you’ve never heard a British person say “Harry Potter” that is something you need to add to your bucket list. From Chinatown, to Georgetown cupcakes, to the top of the Washington Monument, we saw everything there was to see. Our last trip was to Mississippi to the 65th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. It was so good to see the other royalty and meet the new ones. In our down day, Isie and I hit the water park and had a blast. We also hit a lot of the pawn shops too! As my year as Miss Choctaw Nation comes to an end, I am filled with so many emotions. I am so proud and honored to have represented the Great Choctaw Nation. I would like to thank God, for without him I wouldn’t be standing here today. When I was crowned Greg Pyle was Chief and I would like to thank him, Chief Gary Batton, and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. Thank you for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity. Oh and Chief, I’ll always “have your back!” I would also like to thank my mom. She’s been with me through every step of this experience. You are such an inspirational role model. I’m so glad we have gotten to share this year full of memories. I love

you! To my dad, thank you for believing in me. Especially when I didn’t believe in myself. Thanks for also telling me to get back up every time I’ve failed. I love you! A, you are the best little sister that anyone could have. Even if you did tell me several times that my head was way too big for my crown. I’d also like to thank my “bodyguards” Pinti, Shilup, and Les. It’s been so much fun getting to know all of ya’ll and spending time together on our trips. I’m really going to miss ya’ll. To my Little Miss Isie. I don’t know where to begin. You are such an amazing young lady. I know you will be successful and go far in life. You are such a sweetheart. It has been so much fun getting to know you and spend time with you. I’ll always be here for you if you ever need me. To my Junior Miss Kayleigh. I am so glad to have met you and get to know you this past year. I would also like to thank my councilman Delton Cox and his wife Delores. I cannot begin to thank both of you for everything you have done for me. I hope I made both of you, and the people of District 4 proud. To the councilmen, I have really enjoyed getting to know all of ya’ll better. I will cherish all the laughs and the memories each of you have given me. Even if I almost died of electrocution from the shock pen. To Faye and Elaine, it has been such a memorable, incredible whirlwind of a year. Even if we did have to have seating assignments at the dinner table. I’m going to miss the both of you very much. Last but not least, I would like to thank Amber Tehauno and her family. Amber, you will never know how much the pre pageant advice and motivational texts and speeches mean to me. You had confidence in me when I didn’t. It’s been such a blessing meeting you and your family. I would like to thank everyone that has congratulated me and told me you were proud of me. There was no better feeling than hearing my own people saying they were proud of me. You never knew it but I bit back tears and smiled a little bigger each time. I was shared this quote and I think it fits perfectly. “How lucky am I to have found something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” But as we all know, there is no word for goodbye in the Choctaw language. So I’ll just say, “Chi pisa la chike!” Yakoke, Choctaw Nation. My name is Callie Curnutt and I am your 2013-2014 Miss Choctaw Nation, and I proudly served you! -Callie Curnutt



(Left) Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. pose with newly crowned 2014-15 Choctaw Royalty and 2013-14 retiring Choctaw Royalty, Isabelle Cox, Kyra Wilson, Summer Mof-fitt, Kayleigh Powell, Nikki Amos, and Callie Curnutt.

Little Miss Choctaw Nation welcomes new royalty

Halito, I am Isabelle Cox and I have had the incredible honor of serving as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Little Miss for the past 12 months. This evening marks the end to an amazing journey in my life as your Little Miss Choctaw Nation. Many have made my journey possible, but one thing that I have learned over the past year is that it has been the spirit of every Choctaw that has made my time so meaningful and memorable. My year has been filled with incredible experiences. I am so grateful for the new friends that I’ve made and helping to spread our proud culture to others. Choctaws are indeed growing with pride, hope, and success and I am still amazed that I got the opportunity to see this for myself. To the new Choctaw royalty, you are starting on a journey of a lifetime. I know you will represent our great Choctaw Nation well and continue spreading our proud culture and traditions to those you meet. Your experiences will be unforgettable. Congratulations! Lastly, there are many people that I need to thank. Thank you Chief Batton, Former Chief Pyle, As-



Little Miss Choctaw Nation, Isabelle Cox, during speech at Labor Day.

sistant Chief Austin, and the Tribal Council. Our Great Choctaw Nation is stronger than ever with your guidance and leadership. Thank you Callie Curnutt and Kayleigh Powell for being such good friends and helping me through this past year. Thank you Faye Self and Elaine Thomson for the work that you do to make this such a memorable experience. Thank you to my grandparents Delton and Deloris Cox, you have helped me in so many ways over

the last year and I am truly lucky and grateful to have your support in everything I do. Thank you Mom and Dad, I feel like I can do almost anything with your love and support. You never hesitate in the sacrifices you make for me, I love you. Lastly, I want to thank God for such an incredible family, friends, and future friends throughout the Choctaw Nation. He has truly blessed us all! -Isabelle Cox Yakoke and God Bless!

Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation has a year of memories

“Every good gift and every perfect present comes from Heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning” James 1:17. Halito, Sv hohchifo yut Kayleigh Powell your 2013-2014 Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and this is my journey. On August 29th, 2013 the Lord blessed me with the title Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation and all the praise and the glory goes to him. I can remember standing on the stage, extremely nervous by the time it came to announce the results. The feeling of joy I felt when I heard my name announced was indescribable. I knew right then this was going to be a once in a lifetime experience. The 2013 Labor Day Festival went by quickly. This is where I met my Senior Miss Callie Curnutt and Little Miss Isabelle Cox and from that time on I knew it was going to be an adventurous year representing the Choctaw Nation throughout our travels; it was an unforgettable moment. I had a blast cheering them on to get the Championship title with my auntie. Throughout the entire festival I enjoyed socializing and meeting all the people who attended. It has been a phenomenal culture experience getting to travel representing the Great Choctaw Nation. My first flying trip was to Albuquerque, NM for the 2014 Gathering of Nations. Being able to participate in the grand entry was incredible. It was unbelievable how many dancers and visiting royalty attended. My favorite trip to attend was the 65th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair in Choctaw, Miss. Through my entire stay was able to not only watch, but participate in their Choctaw Social Dances. It is amazing how alive their culture is. It was an honor having the opportunity to meet Phyllis J. Anderson, Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Witnessing the young children speaking their native language, beading, basket weaving, playing stickball, and leading the Choctaw Social Dances was very inspiring. If you ever have the chance to watch their princess pageant, I encourage you to do so. It is a one-of-a-kind pageant. Every night I was able to watch the Men’s World Series of Stickball. Stepping on the ancestral grounds of the Nahih Waiya Mound was a true honor. It is often referred to as The Heart of the Choctaw People (Chahta Alheha Itchokash). Most importantly, I would like to say Yakoke to God for blessing me with this incredible journey and for guiding me each step of the way. I would like



Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation, Kayleigh Powell, expresses love at Labor Day.

to thank Miko Gary Batton, Miko Apela Jack Austin Jr., Tribal Council and my Councilman Ted Dosh for all of their hard work and dedication in making sure the Choctaw people are headed in the right direction. Faye and Elaine, I would like to thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me this year. There was never a dull moment traveling with you two, thank you for all of the laughs and special memories. Isabelle, you are an intelligent, beautiful girl with a bright future ahead of you. Reigning with you has been great. You are like a little sister to me, and I will always cherish the memories and laughs we’ve shared. Callie, sharing this experience with you has been fun. We have shared several laughs and memories. It has been great getting to know you and wish you well in your future. Mom, I love you and thank you for traveling by my side throughout this entire year. I have a special place in my heart where I will remember all of the memories we have made. I thank you for all the sacrifices you make for me. Grandma, I would like to thank you for everything you do for me. You have taught me so much about the Choctaw Culture and heritage. I remember the night you first taught me to bead like it was yesterday. You are a strong Choctaw woman and I admire you for that. You have inspired me to be the person I am today. I love you.

Auntie, my official driver, photographer, and royalty role model, my reign would not have been possible without all of your help. I would like to thank you for all my beautiful Choctaw dresses, beaded jewelry, and for all the guidance and advice you have given me. Joe and Uncle, I would like to thank you for all the support you have given me. Joe, thank you for taking my photos and for making my video. I would like to thank my two guardian angels, Papa and Bubba for making sure I arrived to my destinations safely. I wish you two were here but I know you are in a better place.. I look forward to the day when we are all reunited again. To my successor, Congratulations! You have an outstanding journey that lies ahead of you. The year will pass before you know it. Cherish each and every moment. Remember to always wear your crown with pride and integrity. This is truly a once in a life time experience. As I close this chapter in my life, I know it is not the end of the road. I hope to see you all again when competing for the Miss Senior Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma title. Chi Pisa La Chike! Yakoke! “Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9. -Kayleigh Powell

# Honoring the Giver of Life

## Labor Day 2014

### #ChoctawFest Memories



Welcome to the Labor Day Festival 2014 Biskinik issue. This year's festival saw many new and exciting things for Tvshka Homma participants but also for members of the Great Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. From rides to entertainment, to the crowning of new Choctaw royalty, thousands participated at the 4-day festival and State of the Nation address by Chief Batton. While not everybody was able to attend in body, the spirit of the Choctaw people was felt worldwide this year through our many social media avenues. Be sure to connect with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, your Nation online, and enjoy the Biskinik recap of events. See you next year!

It is estimated the annual 2014 Labor Day Festival and Pow Wow, "Honoring the Giver of Life" event included almost 80,000 participants for exhibits, carnival attractions, cultural expositions, Choctaw pony rides, buffalo tours, entertainment, art awards, stickball tournaments, and other sport competitions. On Monday, closing the festival, Chief Gary Batton gave the yearly State of the Nation address.

The festivities began Thursday evening with the crowning of the new Choctaw Royalty. The new Choctaw Princesses for the 2014-15 year are Little Miss Kyra Wilson from District 9, Junior Miss Summer Moffitt, District 8, and Miss Choctaw Nation Nikki Amos from District 2. The new Royalty took

to their roles by attending events throughout the Labor Day weekend welcoming visitors and tribal members beginning bright and early at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Bertram Bobb Chapel.

The Bertram Bobb Chapel was set in motion during former Chief Gregory E. Pyle's time with the Choctaw Nation and completed just in time for the festival. Nestled on the lush capitol grounds in Tvshka Homma, former Chief Pyle, Chief Batton, and other organizers wanted to have a place for tribal members to worship during the festival and participate in gospel singings. The Chapel was dedicated to Rev. Bobb and worship services were held on Sunday with standing room only available for parishioners.

Along with Rev. Bobb providing services, others were present for traditional gospel singing as well as flute playing giving first services the true Choctaw spirit.

Traditional stickball games, cultural demonstrations, and entertainment were some of the biggest hits with visitors, as well as thousands visiting the Choctaw Village for live examples of the Choctaw heritage seen through cooking, dancing, storytelling, and games.

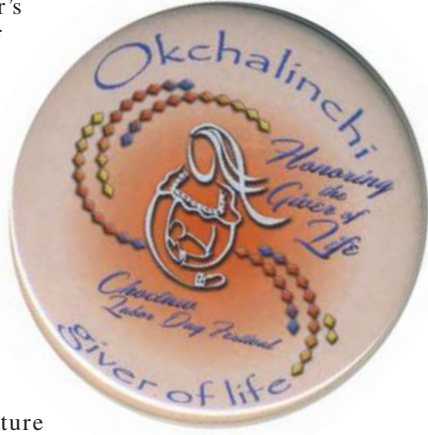
There were several buildings and tents throughout the grounds including the Healthy Living tent, Code Talkers Association and CDIB site where members could update information or ask questions about services. Others traveled to see the vast amount of artisan work all in

one building.

However, much of this year's excitement surrounded Chief Batton's State of the Nation address.

Chief Batton addressed the crowded amphitheater by saying "We are doing well" and introduced the many accomplishments the Nation has seen over the year.

After acknowledging the previous year's successes, Chief Batton then spoke of future plans for the Nation. One of the plans includes the Choctaw Nation car tag initiative where Oklahoma tribal members will receive a discount and tribal Nation designed license plate when purchasing car tags.



Door prizes and car awards were presented along with a medal presented to the eldest Choctaw Nation member in attendance. The festival wrapped up with free lunch for all.

## #ChoctawFest

### Social Media Festival Coverage

@ChoctawNationOK kept online viewers up-to-date during the Labor Day Festival. Staying on top of events was easy thanks to @ChoctawNationOK upcoming events announcements on Facebook. Choctaws across the globe had immediate access to the State of the Nation address by Chief Gary Batton on YouTube. Views for the speech continue to increase. Real time updates flowed out through Twitter.



Chief Batton with the fondly thought of and remembered 96-year-old Ernestine Hooser Hunkapillar of Broken Bow, who was the eldest member in attendance and has since passed.

# Winners



The Fourth Annual Labor Day Festival Stickball Tournament champions are MBCI (on the left). Tournament MVP is Gerren Isaac (center photo). Second place this year goes to Tvshka Homma (on the right). MBCI won the championship 3-0 over Tvshka Homma.



Third Place in the Stickball Tournament went to Beaver Dam of the Mississippi Choctaw Reservation.



Okla Hannali (Sixtown) were Consolation Champions at the Stickball Tournament this year.



Fierce competition followed mutual respect in the Ishtaboli Ohoyo (women's stickball game).



Tough Tough Choctaw winners, Madison Perkins (1st place) and Gregory Grimes (2nd place). Dan Thomas (far right) earned the "Fighting Heart" award.



Gregory Grimes pulling an SUV across the Council Chambers lawn during Tough Tough Choctaw contest.



Tough Tough Choctaw champion Madison Perkins carrying weighted barrels while event organizer Jeremy Loper stands watch.



Checkers champions Jason Baker (center, 1st place) and David Sims (2nd place, second from left) with Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and Tom Williams.



Domino champs Bea Lawrence (2nd place) and Roland Wade (1st place).

# Labor Day Festival 2014



Noah Lindsey of Allen was 2014 horseshoe ringer champion.



Women's single horseshoes winners (left to right) 2nd Ava Hilton; 1st Tiffanie Burchfield; 3rd Claudia Hodge.



Claudia Hodge and Shyla Smith are champions of women's doubles horseshoes.



Men's doubles horseshoe champs are Nicky Slabaugh, left, and Mike Mings.



Nicky Slabaugh, men's singles horseshoes champion.



David Sims is 2014 Men's single horseshoes runner-up.



Women's doubles horseshoes 2nd place finishers were Nakisha and Stephanie Bohanan.



Women's doubles horseshoes 3rd place finishers were Sequina Hunter and Tiffanie Burchfield.



Bunky Impson placed 3rd in the 2014 Labor Day horseshoes competition.



Men's doubles 3rd place horseshoes went to Bubba Sims and David Sims.



Terrapin Race winners (ages 8-12): 1st, Baillee Isaac; 2nd, Meek Laflore; 3rd, Hayden Sallee.



Terrapin Race winners (ages 3-7): Kail Postoak, Berkley Nedham; Dixie Hensley (not pictured).



Labor Day Bow Shoot winners, 14-16 coed division – from left, Sam Jacob, 3rd; Robert Breshears, 2nd; Chase Zinc, 1st.



Labor Day Bow Shoot winners in the 5 years and under coed division – from left, Wyatt Kinslow, 3rd; Riffin Waugh, 1st; Olivia Ellis, 2nd.



Labor Day Bow Shoot winners in men's division – from left, David Edward, 2nd; Kevin Ryan, 1st; Dan Bettinger, 3rd.



Anna Diaz takes home 1st in Bow Shoot's 17-19 coed division.



Labor Day Bow Shoot winners in women's division – from left, Ashley Ellis, 2nd; Sandra Riley, 1st; and not pictured, Christina Waugh, 3rd.



Labor Day Bow Shoot winners, 9-13 coed division – from left, Trey Wilson, 3rd; Madie McDonald, 1st; Triston Ross, 2nd.



Labor Day Bow Shoot winners, 6-8 coed division – from left, Davion Wilson, 3rd; Tristen Kirchen, 2nd; Mattie Wilson, 1st.



Choctaw War Hoops Mens 36 and up champs Mike Converse, Don Tsosie, Sheldon Herrod and Darrell Burris.



Choctaw War Hoops Mini Champs - Front: Jaylee Lopez, Kyler Young, Cale Clay; Back: Addy Clay, Chandler Fleming and Coach Michael Clay.



Choctaw War Hoops 15-18 champions are the "Mavs," Alex Steve, Lauren Billie, Garrett Smith, Jager Sokolosky.



Choctaw War Hoops Women 18 and up champs are the "Savages." Terri Baker, Felicia Maine, and Dajae Gordon (not pictured, Erica Baker).



Free throw contest winners (left to right) Kanice Wesley, 2nd; Kalin Parsons, 1st; and Keyonna Gordon, 3rd.



The winners of the Labor Day 5K race were Robin Ray of Norman and Marcus Tubbs of Wilburton. They are shown with Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.



Choctaw War Hoops 18-35 champs were TJ Broades, Kendell Willis, Justin Richards and Darius Peace.



Free throw winners (13-15) were 2nd, Kyle Bassmore and 1st, Brackus Williams. Third-place Brandon Davidson is not pictured.

## 2014 Art Show

The 11th annual Choctaw Indian Arts Show at the Labor Day Festival attracted 106 pieces by 42 artists. Of those, 28 were sold at the show.

Jane Semple Umsted won the People's Choice Award with 832 votes for her piece *Mysteries of Earth Mother*. Best of Show honors went to J. Dylan Cavin for a ledger art piece titled *For Some the Music Comes Easy*.

Heritage Award winners were Cliff Wilson Jr. for a beaded stickball-themed medallion, Debra Belt for *Choctaw Visions*, and Gwen Coleman Lester for a painting called *Indian Doctor*.

Shelley Tate Garner, Director of Cultural Affairs and Arts Education and Labor Day Art Show Coordinator for Choctaw Nation, said the Friday night reception was well attended with all but five artists able to attend.

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. and the Tribal Council were also present and the signing of the Choctaw Car Tag Compact took place just outside of the Museum doors.

Here are the winners of the seven juried categories from the 2014 Art Show:

- Painting**
1. Gwen Coleman Lester - Gift of Corn 2
  2. Gwen Coleman Lester - Choctaw Labor Day Festival
  3. Kevin Hardin - The Next Generation
- HM: Gwen Coleman Lester - Indian Doctor

- Graphics**
1. Jane Semple Umsted - End of Harvest
  2. Paul King - Hands of Time
  3. Tosh Felikhatubbee - Memories of my Grandmother
- HM: Beulah Mackey-Cloud - Amafo Chito

- Sculpture**
1. Jack Haynes - Two Bears
  2. Marsha Hedrick - Choctaw Mother and Child
  3. Jack Haynes - Stone Fist
- HM: Edmond Perkins - Malvhta

- Pottery**
1. Edmond Perkins - Moundville Serpent
  2. Carolyn Young - Plenty to Share
  3. Mary Frazier - Enduring
- HM: Evangeline Robinson - Water Vessel

- Basketry**
1. Lizabeth B. Mitchell - Miniature Bull-nose Basket
  2. Susan Locke Charlesworth - Choctaw Arrow Basket
  3. Susan Locke Charlesworth - Choctaw School Basket

- Cultural**
1. Karen Broadrick - Oppression
  2. Jarvis Johnson - Turtle Rattle with Beads
  3. Margaret Riley Santhanam - Levicy
- HM: Marsha Hedrick - Raven Platform Pipe

- Jewelry**
1. Kanda Jackson - Beaded Jewelry Set
  2. Jerry Lowman - Turtle pendant with Stickball
  3. Shirley Lowman - Medallion with Stick-ball Sticks in Center
- HM: Jerry Lowman - ID holder and bracelet set.



First place in the art show cultural category went to Karen Broadrick's *Oppression* (left). First place sculpture (right) is *Two Bears* by Jack Haynes.



Art show winners include *For Some the Music Comes Easy* (left) by J. Dylan Cavin which was selected as Best of Show; and Heritage Award winners (above) by Gwen Coleman Lester and Cliff Wilson, Jr.



Art show basketry winners (on left) and 1st-place painting (right) by Gwen Coleman Lester.

# Bertram Bobb Chapel



Chief Gary Batton welcomed visitors to the Chapel and invited them to Sunday night gospel singing.



Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., and Bertram Bobb read the monument on site at the new chapel.



The Bertram Bobb Chapel stands dedicated to Bertram Edward Bobb, Chaplain of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. The Chapel officially opened during the Labor Day Festival and will be available for singings, weddings, funerals, and similar events.

# Charlotte Jackson Monument



Above: The family of Charlotte Jackson stands with event organizer Sue Folsom. (Left to right) Sue Folsom, Pat Jones, Jenley Jones, Kevin Jackson, and artist John Gooden attend the statue unveiling in front of the Choctaw Nation Capitol Building.



The likeness of Charlotte Jackson looks upward alongside a young Choctaw girl.

# Annual Inter-Tribal Labor Day Pow Wow



A young dancer looks on as the Choctaw Nation Color Guard circles round in front of pow wow participants.



Terry Loman and the Eagle Staff lead the Grand Entry.



Presley Byington at the Grand Entry.



Landon Proctor and a girl in traditional dress at the Pow Wow.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Okla Chahta princesses walk during the Grand Entry.



Michael Loman, Choctaw pow wow dancer.

# Choctaw Village



Choctaw Princesses and children dance in the middle of the Choctaw Village.



Rose Billy helps Marni Billy make a basket.



The Wheeler family displays their pottery.

# Traditional Wedding



Jeff and Kellie West say their vows at the traditional wedding held this year at Labor Day.



A group sings traditional Choctaw Hymns.



Nahinli Billy, an up-and-coming story teller, entertains a crowd of onlookers at the Choctaw Village.



Tim Tingle tells one of his many stories.

# Choctaw Pony Rides



Christian Billy pets Streak, the Choctaw Pony, after having trotted around the village with him.

# Labor Day Booths



Jayden Bess gets her face painted at the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board booth.



Cynthia Wilson, Secretary of the Code Talkers Association, welcomes visitors to her booth.



Tracy Horst and Angie Stephens show off the reward for giving recyclables to Going Green.

# Arts and Crafts



Jane Semple-Umsted, painter and registered Choctaw Artist, smiles next to one of her many paintings.



Henry Battiest shows off his wares, made of natural materials like feathers, to interested visitors.



Quilt show winners

Hand Stitched

1st - Sandra Stevens (Fishing)

2nd - Connie May (Tennessee Traveler)

3rd - Sandra Stevens (Dresser Doll)

Machine Stitched

1st - Peggy Newcomb (Snowball and Posey)

2nd - Peggy Newcomb (Summertime)

3rd - Evelyn Brinlee (Evelyn's Creation)

Machine and Hand Stitched

1st - Peggy Newcomb (All Those Swirls)

2nd - Charlene Bengel (Sweet Dreams)

3rd - Mary Sieger (Red & Blue)

• People's Choice Award: Newcomb's Snowball and Posey



Linda Lou Alexander directs all of her attention into weaving a traditional basket.



Pete and Donna Jo Heflin stand ready to explain the process of making natural wood furniture.

# Carnival and Fun



Felicity Noahubi views Kathy Lally's turtle in the Oddity Show dedicated to strange animals.



J0shua Jacob grabs a late night lemonade refreshment during the final evening of the fair.



Tom Dodd enjoys alligator on a stick from Roger Ross at the Rodeo Style Mud Bugs and More Vendor.