



June 2018 Issue



by Kristina Humenesky

Chief Gary Batton and representatives from the City of San Diego, California; Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority, Herndon, Virginia; Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka, Kansas; Lee County Mosquito Control District, Ft. Myers, Florida; Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Memphis Tennessee; North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, North Carolina; North Dakota Department of Transportation, Bismarck, North Dakota; The City of Reno, Nevada; and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska learned they had been chosen for the initial Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or drone, Integration Pilot Program, or UASIPP, when U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao made the announcement on Wednesday, May 9.



A drone flown by Choctaw Nation Video Production Audio Visual Technician Joseph Jefferson flies over Tvshka Homma during the Trail of Tears on Saturday, May 19. The Video Production Department frequently uses footage gathered by a drone to help tell the stories of the Choctaw Nation. Still shots taken from drone video footage have been used in the "Biskinik" to get unique views of locations and events.

Choctaw Nation Selected to Participate in FAA Drone Program Known as UASIPP

by STACY HUTTO

The Choctaw Nation made history on Wednesday, May 9.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced Choctaw Nation was one of 10 selectees to participate in the initial Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or drone, Integration Pilot Program, also known as UASIPP.

The participants came from a pool of over 200 tribal, state and city governments.

"We are looking forward to helping today's winners unlock the enormous potential of drone operations, which will create new services and jobs in their local communities," said Secretary Chao.

The Choctaw Nation's proposal focused on agriculture, public safety and infrastructure inspections, as well as planned Extended Visual Line of Sight, or EVLOS, operations over people and nighttime operations.

The day the awardees were announced Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Chief Gary Batton said, "The Choctaw Nation is very happy about today's announcement, and we believe this reflects very well on our continued work and efforts to identify and grow economic opportunities for our region.

We realize that this technology has the potential to change our daily lives in many positive ways."

He also stated, "This program will enable and foster technology and creativity in a safe environment."

Currently operators of drones must fly within visual line-of-sight, never fly near emergency response efforts, do not fly near other aircraft or people unless granted a waiver and fly only during daylight, or civil twilight, at or below 400 feet, among other regulations.

The program will help the U.S. Department of Transportation and FAA develop a regulatory framework that will allow more complex low-altitude operations; identify ways to balance local and national interests; improve communications with tribal, state, and local jurisdictions; address security and privacy risks; and accelerate the approval of operations that currently require special authorizations.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration website, the partners have an aggressive 90 day schedule for high profile EVLOS and night operations.

Also being tested is advanced weather

infrastructure.

The data gathered from the testing could extend to a wide range of operations and be used in many different geographical locations.

"The Choctaw Nation has always supported technology innovations," said Chief Batton.

"We look forward to participating in this important UAS initiative and helping the U.S. remain globally competitive in emerging aviation technology fields. We are excited to promote job growth, economic development, and important educational opportunities for our citizens and our neighbors in southeastern Oklahoma," Batton said.

Choctaw Nation will be working with CNN and Green Valley Farms Living Laboratory in Cleveland County in breaking regulations regarding drones, with permission of course.

Other Choctaw Nation partners include Flirtey, AirXOS, a GE venture, uAvionix, AirMap, TDRS, LLC; DII, LLC; Oklahoma State University Unmanned Systems Research Institute and the University of Oklahoma.

Green Valley Farms Living Laboratory is located between Lexington and Purcell and sits on 3,500 acres.

It is located about 15 minutes south of the University of Oklahoma's Norman campus.

This is convenient due to the University of Oklahoma being one of the partners working with the Choctaw Nation.

Due to the range of features on the land Green Valley Farms Living Laboratory can be used for a variety of research.

According to their website, testing and research can be some for unmanned and autonomous systems, precision agriculture, weather science and atmospheres, emergency response and disaster recovery, utilities' maintenance, safety and surveillance and energy/pipeline safety and surveillance.

The terrain at Green Valley Farms will be beneficial in testing EVLOS and the site offers an open space setting with access to FFA Class G/E airspace, depending on elevation.

Warren Thomas, the Managing General Partner of Tinker Business & Industrial Park, of which Green Valley Farms Living Laboratory is an extension of, said they want to bring the same approach they use to the Choctaw Nation.

Thomas stated they bring together

public, private and educational entities to make innovative advances.

Choctaw Nation's Choctaw Hunting Lodge is unique in research capabilities.

Thomas said some of the features that make the Choctaw Hunting Lodge unique is the physical size, the biodiversity and that it contains over 25 miles of unrestricted air space.

Many international companies that call Tinker Business & Industrial Park home are in the forefront of drone research. Choctaw Nation will give them the opportunities to test close to home.

Thomas said the partnership between TBIP and Choctaw Nation has the potential to foster globally significant, high paying careers.

Flirtey, another Choctaw Nation partner, is an independent drone delivery service.

The company has worked with NASA, John Hopkins University of Medicine, Remote Area Medical New Zealand Land Search & Rescue, Domino's and 7-Eleven to make medical deliveries to rural healthcare clinics, ship-to-shore deliveries of medical samples and deliveries to people's homes.

On March 25, 2016, Flirtey completed the first fully autonomous, FFA approved urban drone delivery in the United States.

The first autonomous delivery by drone was made to an uninhabited residential setting in Hawthorne, Nevada.

In keeping with Flirtey's vision to reinvent the delivery process for humanitarian efforts, the delivery consisted of food, water and a first aid kit.

This was another first for Flirtey. Months before the autonomous delivery Flirtey conducted the first FFA approved drone delivery of a series of urgent medical deliveries to a rural healthcare clinic.



Graphic from www.gvflivinglaboratory.com

Green Valley Farms Living Laboratory is 3,500 acres between Purcell and Lexington. It is also 15 minutes south of the University of Oklahoma's Norman campus making it an ideal location for testing and gathering data for the UASIPP.

Another partner, AirMap, is a startup company specializing in building software and systems to help drone operators fly only where it is safe and legal to do so.

Eventually AirMap wants to be able to give drone operators information on the safest route to fly.

To determine the safest route, AirMap would take into consideration more than just static rules, terrain and obstacles.

Shifting traffic conditions, weather, temporary flight restrictions and more would also be taken into consideration.

Considering there are over 400,000 registrants in the Unmanned Aircraft System, or UAS, registration system, with more people registering every day, the data AirMap gathers while partnering with Choctaw Nation will go a long way towards avoiding traffic jams in the sky and helping drones stay in their legal airspace.

CELE

Remembering the Past and Looking to the Future



Chief Gary Batton

lege and career-training years.

Summer is an exciting time for youth in the Choctaw Nation. Several opportunities to grow, become independent and self-confident are provided through sports, educational and cultural camps, summer school, and summer jobs and internships.

The Choctaw Nation Special Projects Department kicked off two months of summer fun with stickball camp in May.

It also has camps lined up for cultural enrichment, wildlife conservation, golf, softball, baseball, basketball and football. The youth are able to learn about their heritage and expand their skillsets.

A Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Camp will be held June 24-29 at Jones Academy for students in the 9th through 12th grades.

Science and technology are everywhere, in everything we do. STEM Camp offers the students a chance to be hands-on as they meet fun and exciting challenges.

This summer's STEM Camp will be full of workshops, recreational fun, and team building activities including an intense and engaging workshop provided by NASA.

College tours included during STEM Camp are the University of Oklahoma's American Indian Institute, as well as its Engineering Department and an overall campus tour.

Some of the topics covered will include a robotics session with Sphero, engineering design, and graphic design, just to name a few.

The Partnership of Summer School Education (POSSE) is providing intervention in reading and math for 4,100 kindergarten through third-grade students who are attending the summer learning program.

Students are attending at 40 host sites and come from 74 of the 87 school districts in the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation.

In addition to the morning academic intervention, students are provided enrichment activities in the

afternoon in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Students will also participate in physical education, Choctaw cultural activities and go on three theme-related field trips.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) helps prepare youth 16 to 21 years of age for entry into the workforce. It provides opportunities during the summer to gain experience with on-the-job training.

This is the fourth year we have offered the Internship Program. The program has opportunities for students who live throughout the United States and partners with several programs within the Nation such as WIOA, Higher Education and Career Development as well as several colleges.

Empowering our youth to be leaders with good values, a servant attitude, and the knowledge to be stewards of the Choctaw Nation is one of the most significant things we can do for us all.



by Wyatt Stanford

During the Summer of 2017, the Choctaw Nation employed 38 interns in several programs throughout the Choctaw Nation.

The grounds of Tvshka Homma were full of people on May 19, all honoring the thousands of Choctaws removed from Mississippi to start a new life in a new land.

As I always do, I looked at the families gathered together on that beautiful, warm Saturday and thought of the tragedies occurring along the Trail of Tears and the many obstacles met by those who survived.

It is because of their values of faith, family and culture, and of their resiliency and strength (Tushka/warrior) that we are the tribe we are today.

Today, the Choctaw Nation is one of the strongest tribes in the United States. The Nation has close to 200,000 members and over 10,000 employees, making a positive impact on lives around the world.

Focusing on Choctaw youth is one of the ways we help build a stronger Nation. Education literally begins with parents before the babies are born and there are services available from birth through col-

Choctaw Nation Health Services Continue to be Innovative in Providing Exceptional Services in Southeastern Oklahoma



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Congratulations to the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority on being nominated for the Indian Health Service's National Director's Award for Exceptional Group Performance for Health Promotion and Wellness for their impact on the youth and elderly within the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation.

A nurse practitioner, and several pharmacists and pharmacy technicians were involved in the

project.

They targeted one school and one community center within each of our 10½ counties for a total of 22 events with 876 students and over 1,000 adults attending one of the events.

The medication safety group discussed proper storage of medication, disposal sites within each county and appropriate home disposal of medications. They were able to provide valuable information and resources to all participants.

Congratulations also go to the Choctaw Health Care Center Pharmacy in Talihina for winning the Indian Health Service National Director's Award for sustained and improved performance during 2017.

The CNHCC pharmacy worked with health administration and tribal leadership to expand services designed to improve patients' care and develop innovative and far-reaching programs to improve access as well as increasing the amount of revenue that the pharmacy portion of the healthcare system recoups.

With clinics in Atoka, Broken Bow, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau and Stigler, and the hospital and clinic in Talihina, the Choctaw Nation offers many



by Stacy Hutto

A grand opening ceremony for the Durant Wellness Center is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26 in conjunction with the grand opening of the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters. The grand opening will begin at 10 a.m. The Durant Wellness Center had already won awards for its unique design and is currently open to tribal members and first responders.

services including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health, surgery, physical therapy, dental, optometry and behavioral health.

The Lois White Burton Pharmacy Refill Center in Poteau assists in filling eligible prescriptions for tribal members throughout the United States.

Providing access to wellness centers is another way to help stay fit. There are 13 wellness centers offering opportunities to work out with top-of-the-line fitness equipment, to pick the fitness class that works with your lifestyle, and to take advantage of the staff's extensive knowledge as they help you find the best fitness plan for you.

Grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for the new wellness center in Poteau on May 31 and in Durant on June 26 in conjunction with the grand opening of the new headquarters facility.

Good nutrition is vital to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and summer is time to gather an abundance of fresh food from the garden.

For anyone who is not able to have their own garden, farmers market programs are available to help make the fruits and vegetables more ac-

cessible.

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program for WIC (Women, Infant and Children) provides fresh food from local farmers throughout the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation.

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program for Seniors offers vouchers to eligible seniors age 55 and up that can be exchanged for locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey.

The farmers provide a much-needed opportunity for us by growing and selling a bounty of fresh food and in turn, we help the local farmers maintain the ability to keep producing on their farms.

More information about Choctaw Nation's health programs and facilities can be found on ChoctawNation.com.

As we improve our health, we add longevity and a quality of life that gives us a chance to enjoy every day.

Inter-Tribal Council Meets in Cherokee Nation for First Quarterly Meeting of 2018

by CHARLES CLARK

Leaders of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole nations met for 2018's first quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Cherokee Nation was host at the tribe's Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa.

Items passed April 29-May 1, included a resolution "Supporting the Government-to-Government Relationship Between the United States and Protecting Tribal Sovereignty."

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker presided as this year's president.

Chief Gary Batton presented an update on progress within the Choctaw Nation and extended an invitation to the ribbon cutting of the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant.

ITC also passed the following resolutions: supporting OK SB 86, to protect tribal interest in bypass development; passage of OK HB 3076, to add individuals to the OK Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board; Indian Health Service's recommended changes to Support Cost Policy; Community Health Representative and Health Education programs; opposing elimination of Indian and Native American Dept. of Labor Workforce Innovation-Opportunity Act funding; and opposing elimination of the BIA Housing Improvement Program.



by Lisa Reed

Choctaw Chief Gary Batton addresses the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes and updates them on the Choctaw Nation. Seated, from left, Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Seminole Principal Chief Greg P. Chilcoat, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd and Cherokee Principal Chief Bill John Baker. The Council's first quarterly meeting of the year was held in the Cherokee Nation at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Catoosa.

BISKINIK

JUNE 2018

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Front Page Photos by Stacy Hutto

Biskinik Mission Statement: To serve as the source of information for Choctaw Nation tribal members by delivering community news through a variety of communication channels.

Stay Connected. ChoctawNation.com features access to information about tribal history, culture, news, services, government, businesses, applications and contacts. The Choctaw Nation's official publication, the BISKINIK, is available to tribal members by mail and archived editions are on ChoctawNation.com.

www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma

www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.youtube.com/ChoctawNationOK

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to be Observed June 15

by JIMMY SMITH

The Choctaw Nation Elder Advocacy program would like to join the rest of the world in recognizing June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 66/127, designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It represents the one day of the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day started in 2006 and keeps growing every year. Elder abuse is not only a problem with our elderly, it is a global issue that affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community. Each year there are hundreds of thousands of older persons abused, neglected and exploited here in the United States. It is estimated that it costs the elderly at least \$2.6 billion in losses every year through financial abuse and exploitation.

The Choctaw Nation Elder Advocacy program has been and will continue to raise awareness through as many ways as we can. One way that we raise awareness is by attending the weekly Senior Citizens Luncheons at the Choctaw Nation Community Centers every Wednesday. If you see us and have concerns or questions please come talk to us, we will gladly answer any questions you have. We have been writing articles for the Biskinik over that past several months explaining elder abuse and will continue to do so.

If you would like to know more about information about the Elder Advocacy Program or questions about elder abuse please contact the Choctaw Nation Elder/Vulnerable Adult Advocacy Program at 1-877-285-6893.

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NURSERY NEWS

Ridgleigh Lane Newcomb



Ridgleigh Lane Newcomb was born on Feb. 14, 2018 at 3:40 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Ridgleigh is the daughter of Lane and Paige Newcomb, and has a big sister, Brecklyn.

She is the granddaughter of Brent and Tiffany Newcomb and Wayne and Melissa Burrows. Ridgleigh is the great-granddaughter of Jerry and Peggy Newcomb, Randall and Linda Robinson and Debbie McCown.

Ethan Douglas Shafer



Ethan Douglas Shafer was born Feb. 20, 2018. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Ethan was welcomed home by his parents Grant and Shannon Shafer (Benson) and big brother Dylan and sister Haven.

He is the grandson of Jim and Jane Benson and Larry and Patty Shafer all of Collinsville, Oklahoma.

Ava Marie Hilton



Ava Marie Hilton was born May 3, 2018, at 2:54 a.m. at the Talihina Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19 inches long.

She was welcomed into the world by her parents Charles Hilton Jr. and Trish Burgan Hilton.

Ava has one brother, Racin and four sisters, Kelli, Charley, Tamra and Faith.



Recipe of the Month Grilled Salmon



Recipe by Carmen Robertson

Ingredients

- 4 filets of salmon
- Lemon
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Preparation

1. Preheat grill to medium heat.
2. Season salmon with salt and pepper.
3. Place on grill flesh side down 3 minutes.
4. Use spatula to flip salmon over.
5. Grill additional 4 to 6 minutes or until flesh is light pink.

Nutrition Facts:

Servings 4
Serving size 142 grams
(per serving)
Calories 178, Total Fat 8 grams, Trans Fat 0 grams, Cholesterol 75 milligrams, Sodium 71 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates 3 grams, Dietary Fiber 1 gram, Sugars 0 grams, Protein 26 grams, Vitamin A, 0 percent, Vitamin C, 26 percent, Calcium 1 percent and Iron 1 percent.

For further information, you may contact Choctaw Nation Nutritionist Carmen Robertson (800) 522-6170 ext. 2733, email crobertson@choctawnation.com, or go to a Cooking with Carmen demonstration.

Location	Days	Hours
Antlers 580-298-3161	Every Tue.	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Atoka 580-889-5825	Mon. Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Battiest 580-241-5458	1st & 2nd Tue. Every Month	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Boswell 580-380-2518	1st Thurs. Every Month	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Broken Bow 580-584-2746	Daily Mon. - Fri	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Coalgate 580-927-3641	1st Wed. of Every Month	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Durant 580-920-2100 x 83517	Daily Mon – Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Hugo 580-326-5404	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Idabel 580-286-2510	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
McAlester 918-423-6335	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Poteau 918-649-1106	Daily Mon. – Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Smithville 580-244-3289	1st Thurs. Every Month	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Spiro 918-962-5134	Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Stigler 918-867-4211	Mon. & Tue.	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Talihina 918-567-7000 x-6792	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri.	8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wilburton 918-465-5641	Every Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
Thursday: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Antlers: 400 S.W. "O" St., (580) 298-6443
Broken Bow: 109 Chahta Road, (580) 584-2842
Durant: 2352 Big Lots Pkwy, (580) 924-7773
McAlester: 3244 Afulotta Hina, (918) 420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

July 2018

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for:
Closed: July 4, 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: July 2 & 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for:
Closed: July 4, 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: July 9 & 20, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for:
Closed: July 4, 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: July 10 & 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MCALESTER
Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for:
Closed: July 4, 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: July 13 & 23, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays July 1-31, except for:
Closed: July 4, 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: July 3 & 18, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Spiro Hoop House Food Demo: July 11 and 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Farmers Market Promotion Program Helps Local Farmers

by LARRIANN CHAMBERS

Farmers Market Season is just around the corner. The Choctaw Nation Farmers Market Promotion Program has been teaming up with multiple community markets across the Choctaw Nation tribal boundaries to promote local farmers and their local produce.

The goal of the Farmers Market Promotion Program is to assist in developing, improving and expanding local direct producer-to-consumer markets for tribal members and tribal communities, while creating training and educational opportunities for farmers and ranchers within and/or serving the Choctaw Nation.

If you would like more information on the program or information about the farmers market in your community, contact Macy Vansickle (580) 924-8280, ext. 4276 or email mvensickle@choctawnation.com.



Provided by Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach

Tribal Extension Agent Macy Vansickle, right, delivers promotional materials for the Pittsburg County Farmers Market. The materials were provided by the Farmers Market Promotion Program.

Attention CHOCTAW ARTISTS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A JURIED AND JUDGED CHOCTAW INDIAN ART SHOW, LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

**Choctaw Nation
Division of Tribal Services**

Cultural Services
Labor Day Art Show
Ext. 2377

Please complete the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the 2018 Choctaw Indian Arts Show held Labor Day weekend at Tvshka Homma, OK. **Must be 18 years of age & a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to participate.** Categories include: Painting, graphics, cultural, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, & basketry. **Please complete the form and mail to the address below.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: **Shelley Garner - CNO Cultural Services
PO Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702**

1-800-522-6170 FAITH ♦ FAMILY ♦ CULTURE



OKLA CHAHTA

4



Randy Goins demonstrates how to lace stickball sticks during the Bakersfield meeting. There were many activities to try.

The 2018-2019 Okla Chahta Clan of California princesses were announced during Saturday's festivities.

These young ladies will spend the next year sharing Choctaw culture with others throughout the state of California during their year-long reign.

Pictured left to right: Chief Gary Batton, Little Miss Taloa Felihkatubbee; Senior Miss Torey Dolan, Junior Miss Nizhoni Felihkatubbee and Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.



Jon Kenieutubbe presented the Choctaw Nation with items belonging to his late uncle, Lewis Wade, who served during World War II. Pictured left to right are Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., tribal councilmembers, Thomas Williston, Anthony Dillard, Jennifer Woods and James Dry.



A new addition to the gathering was presentation of the story "To Us It Wasn't Code." The play recounts the history of the Choctaw Code Talkers and the young men whose history we honor today.



District 1 Councilperson Thomas Williston has a friendly chat with Don Scott at the Idabel Wild Onion Dinner.



The cooks at the Idabel Community Center prepare fried catfish, beans, banana and banana pudding for the guests of the Wild Onion Dinner on May 10.



Chief Gary Batton laughs with several elders at the Wild Onion Dinner.



Jan Storey, long-time resident of Idabel, Oklahoma was invited to speak during the Wild Onion Dinner held on May 10.

Wild Onion Dinner photos by Apryl Mock

Okla Chahta, Lawton and Lubbock photos by Vonna Loper

LAWTON COMMUNITY MEETING



Brad Joe leads a group of tribal employees in singing Hymn 138 for the Lawton crowd. Choctaw hymns are always a treasured portion of the cultural meetings.



Chief Batton is pictured with Vera Marie Bonds who assisted with the door prizes during the Lawton Community Cultural meeting on April 21.



Marie Arnold was eldest in attendance at the Lawton Community Cultural meeting. She traveled from Maysville, Oklahoma.

LUBBOCK COMMUNITY MEETING



Billy Tidwell was the eldest in attendance at the Lubbock Community Cultural meeting held on April 22. He was born in Bokchito, Oklahoma and several of his children attended the meeting with him.



David Batton shares information regarding traditional weapons with guests at the Lubbock meeting.



Bryson Ward helped give away the door prizes at the Lubbock Community Cultural meeting. He was given a basketball with the Choctaw seal as a token of appreciation from Chief Gary Batton.

LETTERS

I am looking for my brother, Robert Allen Cooper. He was born May 3, 1943 and is the son of Eden and Nancy Cooper. If anyone knows him, or his whereabouts, please ask him to contact us. We can be reached at (817) 679-1264 for Lou Smith, or (903) 905-1908 for Yvonne Hughes.

Lou Smith
Arlington, Texas

EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center March Health Fairs

Talihina
Wednesday, June 13

Broken Bow
Wednesday, June 20

All Health Fairs begin at 10 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center unless otherwise noted.

Noel & Roxie Baker Family Reunion

Saturday, June 2 at 8 a.m.
Sardis Lake South Shelter

Bring a side dish, dessert and refreshments. Meat will be provided. Also, bring photos and memories to share.

For more information,
Georgia at (580) 236-4402 or Mary D. at (580) 982-6300.

14th Annual Broke Shoulder Family Reunion

Friday, June 8 - Saturday, June 9

Sac and Fox Nation Multipurpose Center
215 N. Harrison in Shawnee

For more information call,

Serena Underwood at (918) 820-2629,
Wynona Lumpmouth at (623) 581-9864, or
Renda Walters at (405) 693-2945

Parnell Family Reunion

Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Smithville, Oklahoma

Any relatives of Tom and Roxie Parnell are invited to bring a covered dish and enjoy the day.

For more information contact
Doylene Vaught (580) 244-7276

Louise Hamrick (580) 244-3478

Sharon Youndblood (580) 244-7372

Ardis Keiss (918) 427-6050

Golden Wedding Anniversary Concert

Saturday, June 9
Choctaw Community Center
Talihina, Oklahoma

The concert honors Preston Jr. and Joann Fobb Ludlow. A luncheon will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by the concert from 1-5 p.m.

For more information, contact Joann Fobb Ludlow at home
(918) 592-0203 or cell (918) 607-2145.

22nd Annual King Family Reunion

Saturday, June 9 at 10 a.m.

Tate Memorial Chapel, Free Will Baptist Church
Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma

Descendants of Judy (King) Potts, Robert King, Ada (King) Spring, William Joseph King and Lillie Josephine (King) McGee are invited to attend the reunion.

Bring a covered dish, family pictures, family tree and a good story.

For more information, contact
Janelle Kirkes, (918) 522-4309, or
Vernis King, (918) 522-4410

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK at your home or if your address needs to be changed, our Circulation Department would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

Circulation is monthly. Deadline for articles and photographs to be submitted is the first day of each month to run the following month.

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.



Jefferson-Wade-Prock Reunion

Saturday, June 9, at 10 a.m.

Robber's Cave State Park in Wilburton, Oklahoma
The reunion will be held at the usual area
in the North Picnic area.

For more information, contact Etta Baskin at (580) 579-2332

62nd Annual Gospel Singing

Saturday, June 16 at 7 p.m.

St. Matthews Presbyterian Church
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Go seven miles east on Hwy. 70, turn right and follow the signs. The MC is Henry Battiest. ReDefined, the Capitchers, the Battiest Brothers, Rejoice and Revealed, plus many more will be there. Concessions available and everyone is welcome.

For more information,
(580) 306-7158

22nd Annual Fathers Day Gospel Singing

Sunday, June 17

Black Jack Church East of Rattan

Black Jack Church is 11 miles east of Rattan on SH 3. The start time for the singing is 6 p.m. and supper begins at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Mary Woody at (580) 372-5114.

42nd Annual Livingston Buck & Angeline Mitchell White Reunion

June 23 at 10 a.m.

Eat at noon.

Dale Cox Community Center in Poteau
Bring a covered dish, dessert and/or soft drink, as well as your genealogy and/or any old pictures.

For more information contact

Kim White Robertson (918) 647-6153

Traci Cox (918) 677-2235 or

Facebook: Livingston Buck & Angeline Mitchell White Family

Boston-Willmond Family Reunion

Saturday, June 30, 12 - 5 p.m.

Ardmore Chickasaw Community Center,
907 Locust St., Ardmore, Oklahoma

Please bring a potluck dish and a prize for the Bingo games.

For more information, call (580) 798-3586.

Wade & Hopkins Family Reunion

Saturday, June 30

Comanche Housing Authority, Comanche, Oklahoma

Black Jack Church is 11 miles east of Rattan on Hwy. 3. The start time for the singing is 3 p.m. and supper begins at 5:30 p.m. Concessions will be available.

For more information, contact Mary Woody at (580) 372-5114.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

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 ½ 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. Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and small businesses. The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and reside within the 10 ½ county area of the Choctaw Nation.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at
(580) 924-8280 ext. 2161 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:

Poteau Community Center
June 8
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, May 12, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held on Saturday, April 14, were approved.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Native American Housing and Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 Indian Housing Plan for FY 2019.
- Budget and recontracting of Choctaw Nation Early Head Start FY 2018-19.
- Dispose surplus capital assets.
- Highway easements on land held by the United States of America in trust for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in favor of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in Bryan County, Oklahoma for Parcels 35-42.
- Underground electric line right of way easement on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land in favor of the Public Service Company of Oklahoma in Bryan County, Oklahoma.
- The adoption of the code of ethics for the executive and legislative departments of the Choctaw Nation.
- Funding for expansion of the Durant Casino and Resort.
- Funding for construction of Atoka Wellness Center expansion.
- Funding for construction of Idabel Wellness Center expansion.

For detailed meeting information on these resolutions and Council bills, go to www.choctaw-nation.com/government/tribal-council/council-meetings-and-bills.

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, June 9, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available by appointment ONLY to provide assistance with simple legal documents free to all Choctaw members. Examples of matters that the attorney may be able to assist with:

- Family law (divorces, custody, child support)
- Contracts and leases
- Guardianships and modifications

The office does not provide representation in court or assist in criminal matters. At this time the legal department is not providing assistance with wills and probate. To make an appointment, or for any questions, contact Samantha Guinn at (580) 380-8149.

June Community Center Schedule	July Community Center Schedule
6-14 Smithville: 10-1 & 1:30-3	7-12 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3
6-28 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3	7-26 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Biskinik Announcement Policy

We welcome all letters from Choctaw tribal members. However, because of the volume of mail, it isn't possible to publish all letters our readers send. Letters chosen for publication must be under 150 words. We require full contact information. Only the writer's full name and city will be published.

All events sent to the Biskinik will run the month of the event or the month prior to the event if the event falls on the first of the month.

We apologize for any inconvenience. This is a necessary adjustment due to rising production and mailing expenses.

Mail to: Biskinik
Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

July 2018

Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Phone: (580) 326-8304; Fax: (580) 326-0115

Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Idabel by appointment

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

Tribal Member Dena Drabek Graduates from Leadership Oklahoma

Choctaw tribal member Dena Drabek of Oklahoma City graduated from Leadership Oklahoma. Founded in 1986, Leadership Oklahoma is a statewide nonprofit organization that educates and connects the state's premier leaders to help make a positive impact on the future of the state.

Drabek is one of 50 Oklahomans selected to participate in Class 31 of the acclaimed nine-month leadership program involving issues-oriented sessions held in towns across the state, including Durant and McAlester. Leadership Oklahoma's Tribal Government and Tourism session was held at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant this spring.

Class 31 learned about tribal history, sovereignty and Native American issues during the three-day session. Chief Gary

Batton along with Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation, and Principal Chief James Floyd of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation participated in small group discussions with Leadership Oklahoma participants. The class learned about the tribes' economic impact and toured the Choctaw Tribal Headquarters.

"The graduates of Class 31 are a talented, diverse group of leaders who will work with the Leadership Oklahoma Network to develop real solutions to make Oklahoma a better state through their involvement in state issues and leadership in the private, public and nonprofit sectors," said Marion Paden, President and CEO of Leadership Oklahoma. "We look forward to their continued involvement and growing commitment to move our state forward."

Leadership Oklahoma main-



Leadership Oklahoma Chairman Brent Kising and Program Committee Chair Jodi Cline present Dena Drabek with a Class 31 graduation plaque.

tains its active network of almost 1500 graduates from 168 communities by offering continual opportunities for professional development, networking and

involvement. Ongoing activities for members to increase awareness of critical issues and to foster the connectedness of the statewide network are provided.

6

Wyatt Stanford Graduates from OU with a 4.0 GPA

Wyatt Stanford graduated with his bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication on May 12.

Stanford is the son of Kimber and James Stanford of Dow, Oklahoma and the grandson of Sam Brown, also of Dow, Oklahoma. He crossed the stage with special distinction and a 4.0 GPA in addition to being named a member of Kappa Tau Alpha Journalism and Mass Communication honor society and Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

During his college career, Stanford served as a research consultant for the Oklahoma Messages Project, a campaign consultant for Palomar: Oklahoma City's Family Justice Center and a photographer and reporter intern for the Biskinik.



Anita Stone Marshall Earns her Ph.D. in Geology from University of South Florida

Tribal member Anita Stone Marshall has earned a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of South Florida. She is pictured here with her grandmother, Gloria Stone, who traveled from Antlers, Oklahoma, to attend commencement in Florida. Anita's research focuses on increasing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to study earth science, and she has also published research about volcanoes. Anita has won several awards while earning her degree, including the Graduate Student of the Year award from the Alumni Association and an honorable mention for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student. Anita wishes to thank all her family and friends for their support while earning her degree.



Brown Receives Bachelor's from Stanford

Lauren Rae Brown will graduate from Stanford University June 17, 2018, with a Master of Science degree in Earth Systems. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology and a Minor in Education from Stanford University in June 2017.

Lauren was vice president of Administration for her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, a teaching assistant and outreach coordinator for the Geokids program, and volunteered at a local educational farm, Hidden Villa. Lauren plans to pursue a career in sustainable agriculture, food access, and environmental education.

She is the daughter of Steve and Robin Brown.



Talihina Elementary Top Four Finalist at POE Excellence in Education Awards

The Professional Oklahoma Educators Foundation recently released the names of the top four finalists for the exemplary award with Talihina Elementary being named to the list. The four state finalists for the prestigious Excellence in Education School Character Award were: Eisenhower High School, Lawton which was named the overall recipient, Talihina Elementary, Elgin Middle School and Webber Falls Elementary.

On behalf of the Talihina Elementary School Principal Kathy Anderson was recognized at the banquet and presented with a plaque and citation to commemorate the exemplary honor and occasion.

Fox Graduates from University of Arkansas Fort Smith

The Fox family is proud to announce the graduation of Brittany Leanne Fox. Brittany graduated from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith magna cum laude May 12 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Minor in Statistics.

She received the Academic Excellence Award in Mathematics and the Outstanding Graduate Award for the mathematics department. Brittany is the daughter of Thurman and April Fox of Poteau and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Brittany is employed at Vitas Laboratory in Barling, Arkansas.



Adult Education Graduation Held May 11

The 2018 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Adult Education Program Graduation was held May 11, at the Eastern Oklahoma State College Mitchell Auditorium. Chief Batton was in attendance to congratulate the graduates on their accomplishment, and to encourage them to continue their educational journeys.

Graduates of the 2018 program were: Sueleta Andrews, Ashley Battiest, Chayse Beard, Melissa Bohanan, Dakota Brand, Kimberly Cantrell, Summer Carney, Hanna Crase, Rylon Dooley, Ada Draper, Amberly Duncan, Jacob Dycus, Caitlin Eagle, Lainie Annalise Kay Fox, Billy James Goins III, Dakota Lee Graham, Keona Haiakanubbi, Aniesha Heaton, Jordan Holy, Shali Isaacs, Craig Jackson, Delia James, Anastasia Kephart, Kendra LaValley, Joesph Lee, Carri McCoy, Leslee Meade, Christina S. Muncy, Kayla Myers, Damonte Nichols, Jason Payne, James Mitchell Peavy, Amanda Pond-Dever, Lilian M. Puckett, Ciara Reedy, Courtney Rhodes, Austin Wayne Rogers, Alyx Samuel, Shayleigh Sharp, Daniel Paul Simon, Ashton Rachelle Stoliby, Chase Tenequer, Shaina Thomas, Rafael Uribe, Desiray Watkins, Jahshua White and Carol Anne York.

Don't have anyone to give your box tops to?
Here's how you can help!

Each year, the Choctaw Nation will select a school district within the Nation to be the recipient of the Box Tops Program.

It's simple: Buy the products; clip the Box Tops; drop off or send the Box Tops to the Choctaw Nation and help earn cash for things the school needs like: school supplies, playground equipment, teacher training, computers, etc.



Send to:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Jerry Tomlinson
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

Yakoke to all of the Biskinik Readers
for all of your Box Top contributions!

**You are making a
difference!**

For further information, contact Jerry Tomlinson at 800-522-6170

Living out the Chahta Spirit

Jones Academy Class of 2018



Merriel Dakota Howell is the 18-year-old daughter of Elise Allen of Lukachukai, Arizona and Gordon Powell of Pawnee. Her maternal grandmother is Maria Allen. Her paternal grandparents are Hilda and Walsworth Howell. Merriel is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She was active in FCCLA and yearbook at Hartshorne High School. She participated in 4-H, Learn and Serve and the Native American drum group at Jones Academy. She also played an important role in the success of the Jones Academy Botball teams. Merriel has applied at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas where she plans to major in Sociology.



Andres Lujano is the 18-year-old son of Ernestine Bearshead and grandson of Rose Neconie of Tulsa. Andres is a descendant of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. He first came to Jones Academy as a third-grader in 2008. He has excelled as a student-athlete. He played two years of varsity football at Hartshorne High School. He was named Co-Receiver of the Year and will play in the Annual Lake Eufaula Classic All-Star Football Game in June. Andres also played three years on the high school basketball team, where he made the Black Diamond All-Conference team. He has been selected to play in the EOSC Kiamichi All-Star Classic in Wilburton in late May. In track and field, Andres was a finalist as a miler in state competition and was on Hartshorne High School's four-man relay team that qualified for state. Andres is in the National Honor Society and he tutors elementary students in reading. He has received the Wilbur and Laverne Smith Foundation Scholarship from EOSC where he is enrolled for fall classes. Andres is interested in majoring in Physical Education.



Desirae Elizabeth Dawson is the 18-year-old daughter of Charley Dawson of Hennessey and Clinton Dawson of Oklahoma City. Desirae is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She was active in 4-H, Tae Kwon Do and Learn and Serve at Jones Academy. Desirae joined the Health Occupations Students of America organization at Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester. She also participated in FCCLA at Hartshorne High School. Desirae plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall and pursue a career in Nursing.



Gabriela Marie Bernal is the 18-year-old granddaughter of Rose Neconie of Tulsa. She is a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. Gabriela first enrolled at Jones Academy as a first-grader in the fall of 2006 and completed all 12 years of her education at Jones Academy. She has been an active member of the 4-H club at Jones Academy. Gabriela has made the Honor Roll for seven semesters in high school and is a member of the National Honor Society. She will enter Kiamichi Technology Center in Atoka in the fall and pursue a career in Cosmetology.



Jax A. M. Mendenhall is the 18-year-old son of Dawn and Eric Hathcoat. He is from Sapulpa and a member of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma. Jax first reported to Jones Academy as a freshman in August 2012. He was a member of the Hartshorne High School baseball team for three years and varsity basketball team for two years. While at Jones Academy, Jax was active in the PACE 5K and 10K running program and Learn and Serve. He also mentored elementary students in math. Jax plans to continue his education and pursue a career in Athletics.



Danielle Andrea Enriquez is the 17-year-old daughter of Daniel and Carla Enriquez of Poteau. Danielle is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She was the CNO District 6 Junior Miss Princess for 2018. During her time at the academy, Danielle was a participant in Learn and Serve and was also active in FCCLA and varsity softball at Hartshorne High School. At Kiamichi Technology Center, she was a member of the Health Occupations Students of America. In this year's HOSA competition in Norman, Danielle's team placed first in the district level contest. She was elected to the National Technical Honor Society at KTC and was also inducted into the National Honor Society at Hartshorne High School. Danielle is enrolling at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith to pursue a career in Nursing.



Anthony Alexander John is the 18-year-old son of Timothy John of Carthage, Mississippi and Melissa Bell of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Anthony is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Anthony was active in the PACE 5K and 10K running program and Learn and Serve at Jones Academy. He was also a member of the varsity baseball and basketball teams at Hartshorne High School. Anthony's lifelong dream has been to operate his own barbershop. His current plans include pursuing a career in Cosmetology.



Shelby Faye Tushka is the 18-year-old daughter of Michelle Tushka of Broken Bow and the late Anthony Scott. Shelby is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Shelby first reported to Jones Academy in the fall of 2007. She was 6-years-old and in the second grade. Over the years, Shelby has participated in many of the extra-curricular activities offered at Jones Academy. She has been active in high school softball and basketball for four years. She will attend EOSC in the fall where she is the recipient of a foundational scholarship. Her academic aspirations include a degree in Scientific Research.



Marley Jade Black is the 18-year-old daughter of Georgia Black and Alvin Pollock of El Reno. She is the granddaughter of Sanetta White of Bartlesville and Phillip Black of El Reno. Marley is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe. She participated in FCCLA at Hartshorne High School. She was also active in Learn and Serve, and the P.A.C.E. runners' program at Jones Academy. Marley has registered at Redlands Community College in El Reno. She is planning to complete her general studies at RCC and then apply for the College of Optometry at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.



Graduates are not listed alphabetically due to space constraints.



Summer Ashtin John is the 17-year-old daughter of Timothy John of Carthage, Mississippi and Melissa Bell of Philadelphia, Mississippi. She is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Her guardians are James Bell and the late Hansy Bell. During her years at Jones Academy, she was a participant in 4-H and the P.A.C.E. running club. She also participated in track and field, softball, basketball, FCA and FCCLA. Summer has enrolled at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton where she will attend classes in the fall. She is a recipient of the EOSC Residential Scholarship. She aspires to major in English and become a college professor.



Cherokee Ann Marie Madden is the 18-year-old daughter of Kimberly Powell and Jeffrey Madden of Holdenville. Her maternal grandparents are Virginia and Samuel Powell. Cherokee is an enrolled member of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma. Cherokee has participated in FCCLA and yearbook at Hartshorne High School. She has been in Learn and Serve and 4-H activities at Jones Academy and also on the Principal's Honor Roll. She is enrolled at Seminole State College in Seminole for the fall. Cherokee plans to pursue a career in Mass Media Communications.



Daniel Jorge Marquez is the 17-year-old son of Jennifer Bearshead and grandson of Rose Neconie of Tulsa. Daniel is an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. He has attended Jones Academy since the sixth grade. Daniel has been a student-athlete participating in track and field, football and basketball at Hartshorne High School. For two years in a row, he has been part of four-man relay teams that have qualified for state competition. He was also part of the PACE 5K and 10K running program, Bothall and Learn and Serve at Jones Academy. Daniel has taken classes at KTC for two years in Construction Technology. In the summers, he works for his uncles in construction. Daniel wants to further his training in the building and construction trade at Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah.



Alexis Wren Lyons is the 18-year-old granddaughter of Betty Grant and Kent Lyons of Macy, Nebraska. Alexis is an enrolled member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. While at Hartshorne High School, she excelled both at basketball and in the classroom. Alexis was named the McAlester News-Capital Defensive Player of the Year. She earned MVP honors for both the Tushka Basketball Tournament and the Pick and Shovel Classic in Hartshorne. Alexis was also chosen as the MVP of her district at the Black Diamond Conference. She was recently selected to All-State in the Mid-East 3A-4A Region. In her academics, Alexis made the Superintendent's and Principal's Honor Rolls. She was inducted into the National and Oklahoma Honor Societies and was also selected to the (KTC) National Technical Honor Society. Alexis has received an athletic scholarship to play college basketball at East Central University in Ada. She plans to major in Kinesiology.



Preston Lee Stoliby is the son of Serena Stoliby of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Preston is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He has attended Jones Academy since 2014. Preston was a part of the inaugural and successful Jones stickball teams. He has also participated in and supported the traditional Native drum group. Preston was a member of FCCLA, High School Choir and the National Honor Society at Hartshorne. In choir, he was part of an ensemble that made the state competition. Preston is enrolling at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith with plans to study Media Communications.



Justin Dewayne Johnson is the 17-year-old son of Lena Johnson of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Justin is an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He started in three years of high school football where he played on offense and defense. He was named the Black Diamond All-District Defensive End and Co-Defensive Player of the Year. Justin is planning to enroll at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, play college football and major in Sports Medicine.



Alexzandra Kaylee Stroble is the 18-year-old daughter of Maggie Lewis of Weleetka and Vernon Stroble of Eufaula. Alex is a member of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma. While at Jones Academy, she has been active in the 4-H Club as well as CrossFit. Alex has been a student at KTC in McAlester for two years and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She took part in the teacher Prep-Early Care & Education program. She has tutored students at Jones Academy Elementary School and has developed a passion for teaching. Alex is enrolled at EOSC for fall classes. She plans to major in Education and become a school teacher.



Mayan Sunbear Fox is the 19-year-old son of the late Glen "Todd" Fox. Mayan is from Fort Yates, North Dakota. He is a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. He first enrolled at Jones Academy in August 2015. Mayan was involved in 4-H, Tae Kwon Do, CrossFit and the CNO P.A.C.E. runners program at Jones Academy. He studied auto mechanics at Kiamichi Technology Center in McAlester for two years. Mayan has registered at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota where he will study Business Management.



TeQuanna Rain Poor Bear is the 18-year-old granddaughter of Joyce Bear Robe of Pine Ridge, South Dakota and daughter of the late Michael Steele. TeQuanna is a descendant of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. While at the academy, she was active in the P.A.C.E. program, Learn and Serve and the robotics Botball team. TeQuanna attended class at KTC and studied Biomedical Services. After high school, she plans to major in Biomedical Engineering at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

OBITUARIES

Chery Ojeda-Walker



Chery Ojeda-Walker, 60, passed away March 21. Chery was born on June 15, 1957, to Mamie Lou (Clarke) and Larry Ray Walker in New Mexico. Chery was preceded in death by her parents. Chery is survived by her daughters Bridget Amos and Sonja Twohatchet; and son Anthony Celiey. For the full obituary, please visit [Striffler-Hamby Mortuary](#).

Cornelia Grose



Cornelia Grose, 88, passed away Jan. 7, 2017.

Cornelia was born on Oct. 7, 1928, to Joel and Eva Samuel in Smithville, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Shirley "Billy" Grose; son Gene Grose; daughter Shelia Hogan; and her parents.

Cornelia is survived by sons Harold and Jerry Grose; daughter Donna Weed; brother-in-law J. C. Taylor; sister-in-law Katherine Taylor; 16 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Barnes Friederich Funeral Home](#).

Marty Fox



Marty Fox, 56, passed away April 23.

Marty was born on May 10, 1961, in Amarillo, Texas to Elmer and Irene (Pittman) Fox.

Marty was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his siblings Shirley Cheaney and spouse Hal, Butch Fox and spouse Lana, Oscar Fox, Peggy Dos and Ilene Stowe and spouse Gary; and children Chandy Niles, Mark Fox and Mattie Tonubbee.

For the full obituary, please visit [Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home](#).

Olivia Raby



Olivia Marie Raby, 65, passed away March 5.

Olivia was born on Feb. 5 1953, to Imogene Maxine Bacon and Benny Owens in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Olivia was preceded in death by her father.

She is survived by her mother; daughters Gena Marie Jones and Kennie Dawn Smith and spouse Orie; grandchildren Nita Jones, Shaeli Raby, Amanda Harjo, Moses Harjo and Miko Orie Smith III; and brothers Thomas, Floyd, Kenneth, David and Dwight Davis.

For the full obituary, please visit [Burkhart Funeral Services](#).

Opal Collier



Opal Lee Collier, 92, passed away March 6.

Opal was born on Sept. 24, 1925, to Wid and Ruby Fulgham in Haywood, Oklahoma.

Opal was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Decota and Dorothea; and her daughter Donell.

She is survived by her son Rodney Collier and spouse Barbara; granddaughters Angie Styles and spouse Mike, Ladonne Bourbeau and spouse Charlie and Whitney Sanchez and spouse Marcos; grandson Alan and spouse Renee; great-grandchildren Charlsie, Elyssa, Damian, Mason, Kaylee, Kaitlyn, Austin, Joshua and Micaiah; and nephews Richard, Edward and Bounce.

For the full obituary, please visit [Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home](#).

Jammy Watts



Jammy Lyn Watts, 49, passed away Nov. 20, 2017.

Jammy was born on July 11, 1968, to Joyce Dean (Slack) and Winford Ray Watts in Talihina, Oklahoma.

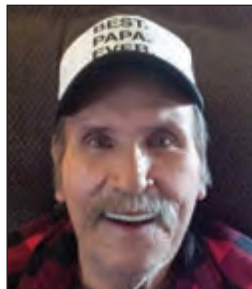
He was preceded in death by his father.

Jammy is survived by his mother; brother Lloyd Watts and spouse Mary; sisters Tammy Watts, Debbie Watts, Linda Watts, Teresa Garrison and spouse and Sean and Oma-Nell Clay.

Jammy was laid to rest at Rattan Cemetery in Rattan, Oklahoma.

For the full obituary, please visit [Miller & Miller Funeral Home](#).

Lyndell Finch



Lyndell Wayne Finch, 71, passed away April 23.

Lyndell was born on April 14, 1947, to Bodgie Finch and Leola (Thorpe) Finch in Hugo, Oklahoma.

Lyndell was preceded in death by his father; brother Bodgie "Bubba" Finch Jr.; son Lyndell Finch Jr.; and a grandchild Adam Smelser.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Sherry Finch; sons William Finch and Ricky Finch; daughters Kassie Finch and Yzetta Mata; mother; brothers Larry Finch, Robert Finch, Eddie Finch, Haskell Finch and Clifford Finch; sisters Gail Thompson, Paula Finch and Janice Jones; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

For the full obituary, please visit [Miller & Miller Funeral Home](#).

Moses Cooper



Moses I. Cooper, 58, passed away March 20.

Moses was born on Aug. 25, 1959, to Mose Sampson and Lorena Mae (Scott) Cooper in Stringtown, Oklahoma.

Moses was preceded in death by his parents; and grandson Carl Stoeckert Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Cooper; daughters Yolanda Bertis, Anna Stoeckert and spouse Tom and Amber Cooper; sons Moses Cooper Jr., Steven Cooper and Kenny French and spouse Carrie; brothers Tony Robinson, Raymond, Roland Cooper, Johnny, Frank, Sampson and Nelson Cooper; sisters Marylou and Linda Sue Cooper; and grandchildren Autumn, Arianna, D.J., Brianna, Lorena, Tiffany, Sierra and Brianna.

For the full obituary, please visit [Atoka Funeral Home](#).

Colleen Seaman



Colleen Anita (Denny) Seaman, 62, passed away Jan. 16.

Colleen was born on Oct. 29, 1955, to Robert "Bob" Denny and Anna Denny in Prague, Oklahoma.

Colleen was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Keith Seaman; her maternal grandparents Garland Standridge and Lula Standridge; and her father, Robert "Bob" Denny.

Colleen is survived by her mother Anna Denny; siblings Alan Denny, Charlene Strong and spouse Cliff and Charlotte Fox and spouse Keith Seaman.

For the full obituary, please visit [Matthews Funeral Home](#).

Peter Anderson



Peter "Pete" Maytubbe Anderson, 68, passed away Feb. 16.

Pete was born on Feb. 3, 1950, to James Ralph and Margaret Louise (Andrews) Anderson in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Pete is survived by his daughter Raven Flamand and spouse Dale; grandson Caden James Flamand; brothers Jimmy Anderson and spouse Delores, Billy Anderson and Johnny Anderson and spouse Cinde; and sisters Virginia Glynn and spouse James, Vivian Mazar and spouse Walter, Mary Wilkett and spouse Davey and Patricia Anderson.

For the full obituary, please visit [Chaney Harkins Funeral Home](#).

Matthew Billy



Matthew Colton Billy, 18, passed away Feb. 25.

Matthew was born on April 13, 1999, to Simon and Deborah Billy in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Matthew was preceded in death by his maternal great-grandparents, J. T. and Elsie Box and Elton Lee and Lizzie Carney; and paternal great-grandparents Cecil and Violet Perkins and William and Rhinna Billy.

Matthew is survived by his parents; sisters Brittany Rice and spouse Shannon and Kayla Billy; maternal grandparents Athel and Doris Box; paternal grandparents Edmond and Addie Billy; aunts and uncles, Sheila and Ron Steelman, Shannon, Shane, Glenn, David, Lance, Rhonda, Connie, Tracy and Glenda; and nephews and nieces Shyla, Andrew, Cason, Carter, Jaxon, Jaycee, Elyzabeth and Paislee.

For the full obituary, please visit [Evans Funeral Home](#).

LaNora Wood



LaNora Ann (Stickle) Wood, 88, passed away April 22.

LaNora was born on Dec. 17, 1929, to Willie and Myrtle Lee (Parnell) Stickle in New Home, Oklahoma.

LaNora was preceded in death by her husband of 36 years, Gerald Wood; sons Jerry and Robert Lee "Bobby" Wood.

She is survived by daughters Mary Ann Izzarelli, Donna Wood, Valrie Pelzer and spouse Gerhard and Vivian McDaniel and spouse Kent; brother Tommy and spouse Brenda Stickle; 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brumley Funeral Home](#).

Emilio "Milo" Titsworth



Emilio Bruno "Milo" Titsworth, 18, passed away Sept. 20, 2017.

Milo was born on Sept. 10, 1999, to Keith Titsworth and Melissa (Elrod) Harrison in Ada, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Odell Titsworth.

Milo is survived by his parents; maternal grandmother Roberta Bertis; sisters Shaun and Camron Stick and Lindsey Elrod; aunts Stephanie Elrod, Amanda Bolic, Brittany Bertis and Jennifer Jordan; as well as numerous cousins, family and friends.

Milo was laid to rest at Oaklawn Cemetery in Sulphur, Oklahoma.

For the full obituary, please visit [Hales Funeral Home](#).

Laura Wells



Laura Jean (Samuels) Wells, 61, passed away Feb. 25.

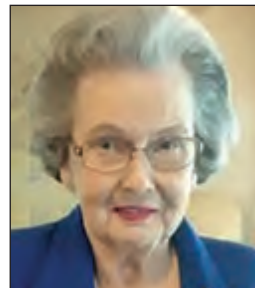
Laura was born Dec. 15, 1956, to Eli Samuels and Minerva (Ward) Samuels in Talihina, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son Sheldon Samuels; brother Virgil Samuels; sister Naomi Taylor; and nephews Bryan and Joshua.

She is survived by daughters Angela Oglesby and spouse Thomas and Billie Gunn and spouse Marquise; grandchildren Savannah, Blake, Alexis and Dontre; great-grandchildren Melanie and Blake; brothers Leland and Gavin Samuels; and sisters Ura Leach, Loretta Heuberger, Sherlene Baxter, Lois Samuels, Ruby Taylor, Sharon Walker, Lea Samuels and Olivene Wadley.

For the full obituary, please contact [Bunch-Singleton Funeral Home](#).

Anna Denny



Anna Lue (Standridge) Denny, 86, passed away March 28.

Anna was born Nov. 17, 1931, to Garland and Lula Myrtle (Casey) Standridge in Eufaula, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Robert "Bob" Denny; daughter Colleen, sister Bettie Carol, brother Garland Wayne and her parents.

She is survived by her daughters Charlotte Fox and Charlene Strong and spouse Cliff; son Alan Denny; son-in-law Keith Seaman; granddaughters Christen Seaman, Casey Strong and Carey Munoz; and grandson in-law Sean Strong.

For the full obituary please visit [Matthews Funeral Home](#).

Betty Bratcher



Betty Bratcher, 65, passed away April 10.

Betty was born on May 24, 1952, to H.G. and Elsie (Bob) Precise in Dallas, Texas.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband of 21 years, Keith Bratcher; children Chad Wood and spouse Nicole, Scott Bratcher and spouse Jean and Kelsey McGee and spouse Mike; grandchildren Isabella Wood, Zachary and Colby Bratcher and Madison McGee; and brother Huey Precise and spouse Judy.

For the full obituary, please visit [Restland Funeral Home](#).

Alice Teague



Alice Betty Lee Teague, 79, passed away April 21.

Alice was born on Sept. 5, 1938, to Levi and Pansy (Wynn) Airington in Lindsay, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Annette Baker; and sisters Lillias Wyatt and Eva Calhoun.

Alice is survived by her husband George; son George Allan Teague and spouse Sheila; daughter Sheila Teague; brothers Ernie Airington and spouse Wilma, Travis Airington and spouse Rebecca, Richard Airington and spouse Nelda and Levi Airington; sisters LaDonna Turner and spouse Mack, Gayle Morris and spouse Kenneth and Sherry Braddock; grandchildren Geneva, Terra, Sadie, Michael, Amanda, Dustin, Trevor, George, Jeremy and Bryant; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

For the full obituary, please visit [Jackson Funeral Home](#).

Obituary Policy

Obituary submissions are for Choctaw Nation tribal members only and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes. Family members/individuals may submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspaper through a funeral home service. Full-length handwritten notices will not be accepted. The Biskinik strives to serve all Choctaws, therefore, any handwritten notices received will be searched online for official funeral home notices. If none are found, efforts will be made to contact the family and make arrangements for an official notice. Due to space limitations, there is a 150 word limit for obituaries. The online issue of the Biskinik will contain links to the full obituaries.

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

HALITO!
Chahta Anumpa Kil Ikhvna!
 Let's learn the Choctaw Language!
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

June 1 through August 9 for the
 Chahta Anumpa Internet Classes
www.choctawschool.com

Need more information? Please call.
 (800) 522-6170
 JT – 5163 or Junior – 4021 or Lillie – 2101

YAKOKE!

**Community Based Social Work
 General Assistance Program**

- Are you out of work with no income?
- Do you need assistance with personal needs?
- Have you applied for or are you awaiting on an answer from Social Security?
- Have you been living with a family member?

If you answered yes to these questions or have questions about general assistance, we are here to help you.

If you are an adult member of a federally recognized tribe residing in the 10.5 counties, please contact us today to see if you qualify by calling 800-522-6170, ext. 6045.

Joining together to bring you a helping hand.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Choctaw Nation Career Development

2018 Career EXPO

(866)933-2260 www.choctawcareers.com
 Location: South East EXPO Center
 4500 W. Highway 270 McAlester, OK 74502
 Contact: Rhonda Mize (580)931-7624



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2018 Labor Day Volleyball Tournament

If you are interested in entering a team into the **Labor Day Volleyball Tournament**, please contact Crystal Thompson at 580-924-8280 ext. 2926.

New Labor Day Recycling Prize Reward



Each year the Choctaw Nation Recycling Center offers a prize reward for turning in a sack of recyclables to the recycling booth. This year, instead of t-shirts, the prize reward will be a Luksi hat made of 100 percent recycled materials.



Choctaw Nation Hugo Properties 202 Supportive Housing Program

One bedroom apartments available for single individuals or married couples. Income based on 30% of monthly income. Amenities available are on site mailboxes, laundry room and clubhouse access. Utilities not included.

For more information contact the Property Manager, Samantha Griffin at 580-317-9119 or stop by 802 N. 16th Street, Hugo, OK 74743

CHOCTAW CASINO & RESORT—DURANT
 JUNE 28th & 29th, 2018

CHOCTAW SMALL BUSINESS ACADEMY

2018

MOTIVATIONAL BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT BRINGS BUSINESS OWNERS TOGETHER TO LEARN, CONNECT AND BE MOTIVATED TO TAKE THEIR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO REGISTER
 Choctaw Tribal Members: \$49 | Non-Members: \$99
 e-mail: bhamilton@choctawnation.com

Choctaw Nation
 Small Business Development Services

BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

WHAT: Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

WHO: Children, Older adults, Outside workers, People with disabilities

WHERE: Houses with little to no AC, Construction work sites, Cars

HOW TO AVOID: Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages, Stay cool in an air conditioned area, Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes

During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°	Inside 109°	Inside 118°	Inside 123°
	Time Elapsed: 20 minutes	Time Elapsed: 40 minutes	Time Elapsed: 60 minutes

HEAT ALERTS: Know the difference.

HEAT OUTLOOK	HEAT WATCHES	HEAT WARNING/ADVISORY
Minor Excessive heat event in 3 to 7 days	Excessive heat event in 12 to 48 hours	Major Excessive heat event in next 36 hours

DID YOU KNOW?

Those living in urban areas may be at a greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas.

Sunburn can significantly slow the skin's ability to release excess heat.

During 1999-2009, an average of 658 people died each year from heat in the United States.

\$30 BILLION estimated total cost of the 2012 US drought and heatwave.

Choctaw Nation Emergency Management | CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Choctaw Nation Online Academy

Do you have access to wifi and a computer?
 Are you interested in earning your high school equivalency diploma?

The Choctaw Nation Online Academy is open to students in all counties within the United States who have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB). To enroll in the academy, please call our Adult Education office and request an application packet. You may also print an application packet from our website at www.choctawnation.com (Click on Tribal Services tab, then Postsecondary tab.) Once you have completed an application packet, please mail to Choctaw Nation, Adult Education, P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702. You may also fax to 580-920-3161.

You may contact Lisa Bebout at 800-522-6270 ext. 2122 for further questions.

Need to raise your ACT score?

ACT-Prep Workshop

Learn Strategies to Increase Your ACT Scores!

For Choctaw Tribal Members who have graduated from high school or have a GED.

Choctaw Nation Career Development
 Contact us for dates and locations.
 (866) 933-2260

Chahta Anumpa Aikhvna

Lesson of the Month

Verb Forms

kanvlli (v): to move; to step to one side; to remove; to shift; get out of the way
kanvllichi (v): to move objects; to cause to move; to remove; to take out of the way
wiha (v): for someone to physically move; to change the place of residence
wihachi (v): to cause to move
wihat vla: to move and arrive here
wihat ona: to move and arrive there

- Ish kanvlli maka chi. *You will have to move.*
- Hattak mvt pa binili tuk osh kanvlli tuk. *That man was sitting here then moved.*
- Aiimpa ma kanvllichi. *Move that table.*
- Chi topa ya kanvllichi li tuk. *I moved your bed.*
- Hvsh wiha chi ho? *Are you (all) going to move?*
- Onnakma e wiha chi. *We will move tomorrow.*
- Kvta hosh hvchi wihacha chi? *Who will move you (all)?*
- Pioshi akosh pi wihachi tuk. *Our son moved us.*
- Svshki yvt California amitit wihat vla tuk. *My mother moved here from California.*
- Katimmikma wihat vla chi? *When will he/she move here?*
- Chi chukka wihat ona la chi. *I am going to move to your house.*
- Chulai fokalikma wihat ona sv bvna. *I want to move there around July.*

* wihachi changes to 'wihacha' for future tense, the last vowel changes to an 'a.'

www.choctawschool.com

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

Traditional HSE Classes	Bryan County, Durant	Choctaw County, Hugo	Leflore County, Poteau	Pittsburg County, McAlester
HSE classes will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. You may print an application packet online at www.choctawnation.com (Click the Tribal Services tab, then Postsecondary tab) before the first class or you may enroll the first night of class with the instructor. For further questions, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant Adult Education office at 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. (A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.)	Beginning date and time July 10, 2018, Tuesday Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation New Tribal Complex 1802 Chukka Hina Dr., Durant (Check in with receptionist at entrance.)	Beginning date and time July 5, 2018, Thursday Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center 408 N. "M" Street, Hugo	Beginning date and time July 2, 2018, Monday Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Carl Albert College, Ollie Bldg., Room 1220, Poteau	Beginning date and time July 3, 2018, Tuesday Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern Oklahoma State College McAlester Campus, Clark Bass Building, McAlester
Distance Learning HSE Classes	Atoka Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Atoka Vocational Technology Center	Bethel/Battiest Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center	Wright City Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center	
Distance Learning HSE (High School Equivalency), classes are available at the locations below. Distance Learning Technology is implemented in these classes which allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. Students are able to interact with the instructor as she prepares students for the HSE exam. Classes meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have questions about these classes, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required. Enrollment for the new classes begins the first day of class and closes to new students on the fourth day of class.	Antlers Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm Old Choctaw Nation Community Center	Smithville Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center		
	Coalgate Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Atoka Vocational Technology Center	Talihina Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Old Choctaw Nation Community Center		



Iti Fabussa Dyeing For Color



Photo Provided

Tom Colvin recently held a dye workshop where he shared different traditional Choctaw dye recipes. Those attending the workshop were able to use different materials to make dye. For pictures of different dye baths made during the workshop go to ChoctawNation.com.

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What colors are you wearing today? Do you think our ancestors wore these colors 300 years ago?

Choctaws have long dressed in beautiful, unique clothing.

For hundreds and thousands of years, our people used a variety of plants, minerals and techniques to color our handiwork.

These pieces were not just functional, but also aesthetically pleasing.

The process of dyeing is complex, yet rewarding and speaks to the refined artistic

eye of Choctaw makers. The process of dyeing was just one of many steps in making clothing for our Choctaw ancestors and required very special ingredients: native Southeastern plants containing rich colors.

Our relationship to the land is tied in with a strong understanding of the resources we have. Our homelands were rich in plant resources and these are a precious part of making colorful textiles and other artisan work.

An early account about our people described how “[Choctaws] prepare a kind of cloth out of the bark of [mulberry] and with its root dye it yellow” (Romans 1776).

The March 2017 ‘Iti Fabvssa’ featured mulberry bark yarn, but the plant’s root is also good as a dye. Southeastern native dye plants include black walnut, hickory, bois d’arc, poke, bloodroot, sumac, sassafras, dock, onion, oak and mulberry.

From tanned hides, to basketry, to fabric, Choctaw artisans dyed animal and plant products shades of black, brown, yellow, orange and red; purples, greens, and blues could also occur.

Very traditional colors often used were black, white, red and yellow. The Choctaw language has many words for the dye process like laknvchi, for dyeing yellow, lusa-chi, for dyeing black, hummvchi, for dyeing red, lusakbi-chi, for dyeing brown, or okshauvshlich, for bleaching a material.

The coming of Europeans to North America and the Trail of Tears had a huge impact on the dyes available to our people in the 1700s and 1800s.

During this time, new dye plants like indigo for blue

and madder for red were brought in from other parts of the world.

Choctaws traded for these plants, or grew them in gardens, dyeing with them to create new colors in their clothing.

While the introduction of European dye sources were incorporated in Choctaw clothing and textile work, these did not replace the need for natural dyes.

With the move from the homelands to Indian Territory later on, our access to the plants and landscape shifted.

While we still knew many of the land resources in our new territory, we had to find new places to gather, adapt to the different materials native to the area and deal with the loss of some of our precious natural resources and knowledge over time.

Using dye plants is an old and effective method to color material.

The necessary elements for dyeing a textile include water, a container, heat, dye material (bark, roots, flowers, stems, leaves, etc.), and finally the material to dye.

In addition, many people use a mordant. A mordant is the ingredient that makes the dye chemically bond with the textile, to help the color last through washings and exposure to light.

Mordants could be found as tannins in bark or nut hulls, in alum, or in metals like iron, copper and tin.

For our ancestors, these mordants likely came from the iron in the pots that contained the dyebath, or naturally the dye of barks or nut hulls.

A dye could come out a different color every time if any part of the process is different.

Choctaw women making, coloring and decorating their clothing or basketry would have been able to make a huge variety of color shades.

In interviews with Choctaws in the 1930s, a few individuals recalled specific plants and processes they, or their mothers used for dyeing and making clothing.

One woman described her own dye process as follows, “I used to save the juice from poke berries so that I

would have dye and red paint all year when the berries were out of season. To make a dye that won’t fade you have to put salt or [copper] in the solution. Red Oak bark solution makes a rather purple color. With indigo you make all shades of blue, green walnut hulls make a tan or brown color and just the other day I colored a few things with walnut hulls” (Cherry 1937).

Choctaw women applied dyes to yarn, woven fabric, or even painted them on cloth surfaces to create patterns.

Tom Colvin, a Louisiana native and master basket weaver, recently shared several traditional Choctaw recipes for dyeing river cane.

When Tom came to Choctaw country, he gave a dye workshop where we used sassafras roots, bloodroot and black walnut hulls to dye textiles.

Throughout our history, our people have created incredible art with great expertise and knowledge of our natural resources.

The Historic Preservation Department holds monthly workshops to collectively learn traditional textile techniques.

If you have knowledge to share about traditional textiles or would like to join us in learning about our precious traditional textile arts, please contact Jennifer Byram at jbyram@ChoctawNation.com or at (800) 522-6170 ext. 2512.

Editor’s Note: For references and more photos please visit ChoctawNation.com and click on History & Culture.

2018 CHOCTAW TRAIL OF TEARS COMMEMORATIVE WALK



The Color Guard leads participants up the final hill of the 2018 Trail of Tears Walk on May 19.



The Springman family traveled 150 miles to participate in the walk. They are descendants of Julia (Tecumseh) Springman. *Front row:* Brylee Ince, Eddie Ince, Thelma Howell, Paxton Davis, Lisa Springman, Florene Wenzel and Haylin Page Scyrkels. *Back row:* Tony Springman, David Springman, Gail Ince, Terri Davis and Kayla Davis.



Chief Gary Batton addresses the crowd before the annual walk.



The Choctaw color guard lead the way during the 2018 Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk in Tvshka Homma. 2018 is the 20th Anniversary of the color guard.



People of all ages filled the Historic Choctaw Village with prayers, memories and fellowship as they came together to remember this significant event.



Participants take the 2.5 mile commemorative walk in honor of their ancestors who made the journey to Oklahoma nearly 200 years ago during the Indian Removal Act.



Ellanorra Wilson, 1, catches a nap while her mom serves lunch following the Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk.



Mary Frazier shows off her traditional beading talents.

Photos by: Apryl Mock, Jason Hicks, Kelsey Brown, Lisa Reed, Stacy Hutto and Vonna Loper.

More photos can be found at <https://choctawnation.smugmug.com>



Chief Gary Batton and Assistant Chief Jack Austin, Jr. presented framed United States flags and certificates to seven current members of the Choctaw Color Guard: John Barry, John Burluson, Herbert Jessie, Terry Loman, Shirley Mantaghi, Ron Scott and Melvin Tom.

Summer EBT for Children Apply Now!

STUDENTS RECEIVING
FREE AND REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS
MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE FOOD THIS SUMMER!

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2018.

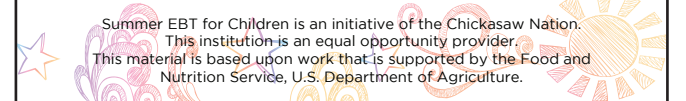
To apply online, go to www.Chickasaw.net/SummerEBT.
To apply over the phone, call (580) 272-1178 or (844) 256-3467
(8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday).

This federally-funded program is open to both Native American and Non-Native students. Qualifying families will receive an EBT card (works like a debit card) that allows you to purchase healthy food for the summer.

To qualify for Summer EBT for Children, your child must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in a participating public school district in grades pre-k (4 year old program) - 12th grade for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Available to any child in the 10 1/2 counties receiving free or reduced lunches.
- Participation in this program will not impact any government assistance you and your child currently receive.
- Information provided by you on the consent form, or any records obtained for this program, will be kept confidential as allowed by law, and will be used only for this project.
- Once approved, Summer EBT cards will be mailed to the address you provided, along with a list of participating stores and a food card shopping list that will help you identify approved food items.

To learn more, call (580) 272-1178 or
(844) 256-3467 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.



Summer EBT for Children is an initiative of the Chickasaw Nation. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material is based upon work that is supported by the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Second Installment of Choctaw Children's Series Released

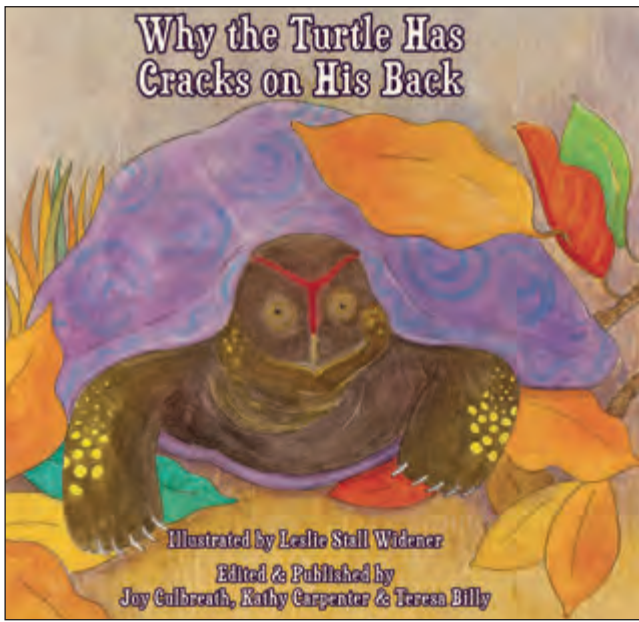


Photo Provided

The second book in a series of Choctaw children's books has been released.

"Why the Turtle Has Cracks on His Back" is the second offering in a series of children's books developed and published by Joy Culbreath, Kathy Carpenter and Teresa Billy.

Each release in the series will feature a traditional Choctaw "shukha anumpa" or "pig tale."

Each shukha anumpa teaches a lesson and presents readers with humor and often, a unique element of surprise.

The books are beautifully illustrated by Leslie Stall Widener, whose use of vivid color is sure to entice youngsters.

Each book introduces young children to several Choctaw words and includes a separate Choctaw to English translation.

The first installment in the series, "The Turkey Who Liked to Show Off" was released in December of last year.

"Why the Turtle Has Cracks on His Back" and "The Turkey Who Liked to Show Off" are available at the Choctaw Store.

The Choctaw Store is located at the Choctaw Welcome Center in Colbert, Oklahoma.

The books are also available for purchase online at www.Choctaw-Store.com.

Copies will soon be available at the brand new Choctaw Nation Headquarters in the main lobby bookstore.

Updates will be posted to the Choctaw Store Facebook page.

Be sure to like and follow the Choctaw Store so you don't miss the next release of this beautiful series.

YAB Seniors Recognized at Tvshka Homma Banquet



High school seniors were recognized for their service to the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board on April 11. YAB students contribute hundred of hours of community service during their high school careers, improving their home towns and learning to take active roles in their communities. *The 2018 YAB seniors are, in no particular order: Ayreona Parish, Zach Skelton, Jagger Meshaya, Johnathon Shores, Kaleb S'Andridge, Michaela Cayton, Shania Lawrence, Yasmine Myers, Melina Ludlow, Dayla McGarra, Laura Culpepper, Ashlyn Donaho, Dallas Earley DALton Kardokus, Jessica Sockey, Nicholas Stark, Winter Lowery, Kaitlyn Daniel, Kaytlen Sennett, Olivia Rolland, Darius Martinez, Johnathan Plata, Emily Stevens, Erin Caldwell, Graci Massengale, Bayleigh Parker, Nathan Dunken, Isaiah Montano, Lauryn Rader, Allie Sellers, Sierra Smith, Jose Gonzalez, Juanita Gonzalez, Samantha Colson and Avery Allen. Not pictured: Treyton Lester, Kylie Webb, Michael Miller and Zane Jacobson.*

Ruby, Joel Zamora Observe 65 Years of Holy Matrimony

Ruby and Joel Zamora celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 13. They attended church services at Kelsey Memorial United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, where their original nuptials took place on May 10, 1953.



Garcia Wins Scholarship

Modesto "Mo" Rudy Garcia was awarded the National Johnson-O'Malley Chief Earl Old Person Scholarship in April.

Mo is the son of Rudy Garcia and Tammy Garcia.

He was also selected to serve on the President's Leadership Council at the University of Oklahoma, where he plans to pursue a degree in Engineering.



Reuben, Betty Burge Mark 66th Wedding Anniversary



Betty and Reuben Burge celebrated their 66th anniversary on May 31.

Reuben and Betty are close with their family and have been blessed with two children, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Happy anniversary Betty and Reuben!

May you celebrate many more anniversaries together in the future.

Martinez Earns Doctorate from Oklahoma College of Dentistry



Carmen Martinez graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry with a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree on May 12.

Carmen is a Broken Bow native and her parents are Enita and Miguel Martinez.

Carmen is a first-generation college graduate.

"My greatest contribution to my culture is to inspire

others with my story. Although the road to get here was filled with obstacles and challenges I truly believe it was meant for me. I now have the opportunity to motivate and mentor future generations of students and to use my skills to give back to my community," Martinez said.

She would like to thank her local councilmen, Tony Ward and Thomas Williston for their support.

At the College of Dentistry Convocation, Carmen was recognized for the Multicultural Achievement Award, the Eleanor J Bushee Award and the Operative Dental Award.

Carmen will begin a General Practice Residency at the Veterans Affairs office in Oklahoma City this July. Congratulations, Dr. Carmen Martinez, D.D.S.

Hearns Mark 50th Anniversary



Delbert J. Hearn and Colene K. (Leach) Hearn celebrated 50 years of marriage on May 10. They were married in Wofford Heights, California in 1968 and are currently enjoying their retirement on their ranch.

Jack Voyages to Ireland, Honors Choctaw History



Derek Jack, the great-grandson of Andrew Jack, grandson of Doki Jack and son of Michael Jack took a trip to Ireland in December.

Derek traveled to Ireland to visit the "Kindred Spirit" monument to honor the memory of his grandfather, Doki Jack.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Reuben Burge turned 86 years old on May, 14. Happy birthday Reuben! With love from your family.



Naomi "Rita" Stanley turns 76 on July, 5. Happy birthday Rita! May you have many more to come.



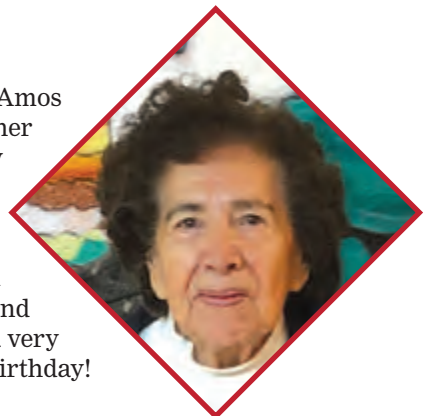
John W. Landrum turns 75 on June, 22. Your family sends you love and thanks for taking care of them. Happy birthday John!



Frankie Sheffield will celebrate her 80th birthday on June, 24. Her children send thanks for her guidance, love, joy and laughter. They hope the coming years are filled with blessings. Love, Patti, Chris and Michael.



Louise Amos celebrated her 91st birthday on May 6. Louise's family and friends send her love and wish her a very happy birthday!



Cantrell Commended for Service



Pow Wow Veteran Dale Cantrell was recognized for 40 Years of Service to the Pittsburg County Powwow. Cantrell received a commemorative plaque and a blanket as thanks for his 40 years of service. Cantrell is still volunteering to help veterans.

LA Skins Fest Writers Lab Helps Native Writers into Industry

by KENDRA GERMANY

The annual LA Skins Fest Native American TV Writers Lab is now underway in Los Angeles. Comcast NBCU, CBS Entertainment Diversity, Netflix, HBO, UTA and Turner will be sponsoring the annual five week program.

Seven Native American writers from across the U.S. were chosen out of over 100 applicants to take part in the immersive lab guided by The Flash producer Gabriel Garza.

The 2018 Class includes:
Siena East – Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma/Pueblo
Erik Fritts-Davis – Keweenaw Bay Band of Ojibwe
Jason Marcus – Iroquois
Sonya Oberly – Nez Perce
Riley Page – Oglala
Vladimir Perez – Taino
Jade Puga – Guachichil/Huastec/Lipan Apache

These students will take part in an extensive program designed to help give Native writers a platform. At the end of the lab, participants will have a completed TV script and will take creative meetings with Skins Fest corporate partners.

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According to Ian Skorodin, LA Skins Fest executive director and member of the Choctaw Nation, programs like this are so important.

“These programs offer a genuine opportunity for Native Americans to work with industry professionals on their scripts and hone their talents. They also meet with several talent agents, managers and network executives to get a better understanding of the industry,” said Skorodin. “Most importantly, we are getting Native American writers staffed on TV Shows.”

According to a recent Writers Guild of America report, two Native Americans were employed in film in 2014, compared to 1,494 white writers. Native Americans accounted for 1.2 percent of the U.S. population in 2014, but represented 0.1 percent of writers in film. This made Natives the most underrepresented demographic group by a factor of 12 to 1.

“It’s important to have representation behind the camera. Natives have been fighting for decades to have real Natives play Native roles. To this day, the film and TV industry still hire non-natives for Native roles. Until we take over the writing, directing and producing positions, we will continue to be misrepresented in the stories, the productions and the overall industry,” explained Skorodin.

That misrepresentation is what led Skorodin to create the program.
“When it comes to the entertainment industry, Native people did not have the same opportunities as other communities. These types of writing labs have been successful in the African-American and Hispanic communities and have addressed the many stereotypes they must endure, by having writers on TV shows and movies,” stated Skorodin. “I addressed this by establishing similar programming. Now we have the same labs and the same opportunities. It’s up to us to take advantage of it.”

According to Skorodin, Choctaw tribal member Siena East was a great fit for the program.

“She offers a unique perspective as a Native woman being raised in L.A. with tribal ties in Oklahoma and New Mexico,” explained Skorodin. “She has a strong writing voice that is extremely raw, funny and has endless possibilities. She will have a great writing career. We are anxious to see her grow.”

East’s sense of humor is evident.

When asked what made her want to get into the world of TV writing, East replied, “The silly answer is I love television and Danny Devito. The serious answer is because I love the way television allows me to tell stories. I love crafting complex,

funny characters, and television is a character-driven medium that allows me to build and explore full people.”

East stumbled upon the writer’s lab while searching online for labs and programs to apply for.

“I’m Native and I’ve always wanted to write for television. So, it was literally the perfect lab for me,” explained East.

She has had her share of challenges as a Native woman in the industry.

“People often have preconceived notions about what I’m like and what I want to write. When they meet me and read my work, they’re always shocked to find out I’m loud, silly and crass,” said East.

“In the past, people really stayed away from stories about minorities, but it’s a great time in television to have a new perspective. I get asked a lot if I’ve written about being Native American and I have to tell them I’m working on it!”

East hopes to gain a lot from this experience.

“For a few months, I’ve been wanting to tell an intimate story about myself and my relationship to my race. The concept originally felt too surface level to me, but I’m hoping in this lab, I’m really able to dig deep and get to a strong, funny and thoughtful place with it,” said East.

She encourages other young Natives to follow their dreams. She has a few words of advice for those with writing aspirations.

“The three pieces of advice that have helped me enormously are write every day, have people read your writing and don’t be afraid to write your story,” explained East. “The third, write your story, is very true for young Native and Choctaw girls. We are the only ones who know our stories, so we should tell them.”

Other upcoming LA Skins events include the 10 week feature film writing lab and they 12th annual LA Skins Film Festival.

The feature film writing lab will run from August to October. Comcast, NBCUniversal, the Walt Disney Company, HBO and Turner will be sponsoring the inaugural lab.

The LA Skins Film Festival will take place Nov. 13 through 18 at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. The LA Skins Fest celebrates Native American filmmakers whose original works are distinguished and offer a new voice in Cinema.

Applications for film entries are available on the LA Skins Fest website. Early deadline is Aug. 20, regular deadline is Sept. 10 and the late deadline will be Oct. 1.

For more information on the writer’s labs, LA Skins Fest or any other LA Skins events, visit www.laskinsfest.com.



Photo Provided

Siena East is a Choctaw screenwriter, director and actress living and writing in Los Angeles. East was among seven applicants to get into the prestigious LA Skins Fest Writers Lab. She has worked on television shows such as “Ray Donovan”, “The Affair” and “There’s... Johnny!”.

McCurtain County Bridge Named for WWI Code Talker Joseph Oklahombi

by APRYL MOCK

The Choctaw Code Talkers are being honored in a unique way.

The Choctaw Nation dedicated the “Joseph Oklahombi World War II Choctaw Code Talker Bridge” in McCurtain County on April 19.

During the ceremony Chief Gary Batton said, “This is to keep our history alive and to remind people of the sacrifices they made for our freedom.”

The bridge crosses Horse Head Creek just east of Wright City, Oklahoma.

This year marks the centenary of World War I. On the 100th anniversary of this great war, the Choctaw Nation reflects on the sacrifice of these brave souls and strives to honor their memory.

The Choctaw Nation, the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, the Oklahoma Legislature and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation have been working together for two years to bring this project to life.

Nuchi Nashoba, president of the Code Talkers Association said, “This is the biggest bridge undertaking in the history of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to date.”

In a serendipitous occurrence, Horse Head Creek held special meaning to Oklahombi.

In 1935, movie producers tried to convince Oklahombi to travel to California to participate in a documentary.

His wife Agnes said he had to stay in Oklahoma and “fish for suckers” in Horse Head Creek.

Oklahombi told his wife “If they can move the creek to Hollywood I’ll go.”

“No one knew this story, and yet the bridge that ODOT selected is over the very creek that meant so much to Joseph,” Nashoba noted.

In another strange coincidence, the unveiling of the bridge was repeatedly delayed, resulting in the



by Deidre Elrod

Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., members of the Tribal Council, Choctaw Nation tribal members and the descendants of several Choctaw Code Talkers unveil the sign at the dedication ceremony for the “Joseph Oklahombi World War I Choctaw Code Talker” bridge. The bridge is located above Horse Head Creek, just east of Wright City in McCurtain County. The 19 Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I and the four who served during World War II are being recognized in their home counties by the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, the Choctaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma. The project is expected to be completed by August of this year.

ceremony taking place on the 100th anniversary of World War I.

This was the first of 23 bridges to be named for the 19 World War I servicemen and the four who served in World War II.

The dedicated bridges will be located in the counties each of the Code Talkers called home and all the signs should be in place by August of 2018.

Choctaw soldiers were the first Native American servicemen to aid in war efforts by using their native tongue to relay messages via radio. The Choctaw language proved to be an invaluable asset, confounding enemy soldiers and protecting valuable intelligence.

Approximately 300 people were in attendance for the dedication, including several descendants of the code talkers.

Choctaw Nation Community Center Opens in Broken Bow

by CHARLES D. CLARK

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Choctaw Nation Community Center in Broken Bow took place on a beautiful Thursday morning in McCurtain County. The standing room only event was held April 26, almost nine months to the day after breaking ground on the site.

The award-winning District 2 Choctaw Singers performed two traditional hymns in the Choctaw language.

In attendance were Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., District 2 Tribal Councilperson Tony Ward, other members of the council, builders of the facility and local and county officials.

“This facility was built for you, our elders,” said Chief Gary Batton, addressing a number of senior tribal members present. “It’s a place to honor you and where we could provide a meal for you. It’s also a place for our families.” Chief Batton pointed out that staff and programming will be in place to assist individuals and help strengthen families. “We are going to have a lot of opportunities when you come here.” Chief Batton addressed the reason for the new Community Center. “The Council has been great. We talk about how we can provide services to our tribal members closer to where you live, how we can create jobs closer to where you live. That’s what it’s all about. That’s the reason why you see these campuses. Here we have a clinic, a gym, softball field, a Head Start and a stickball field will be coming soon. It’s all about faith, family and culture.” Chief Batton concluded, “This Council has done a wonderful job committing the dollars to live that. I hope it makes you proud when you drive up to this facility... it looks absolutely beautiful.”

After introducing members of the Tribal Council, District 2 Councilperson Tony Ward thanked them, the construction workers and others “that played a part” in getting the facility built. He also introduced the Choctaw princesses present and noted that they have “repre-



by Deidre Elrod

Choctaw elders John and Julia McKinney help cut the ribbon April 26 opening the new Choctaw Nation Community Center in Broken Bow. Chief Gary Batton, Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr., District 2 Council Person Tony Ward, and Choctaw Tribal Council, District 2 Choctaw Princesses, local dignitaries, and community members attended.

sented District 2 very well.”

The new facility is located at 1346 E. Martin Luther King Dr. in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. It replaces the one built in 1996 at 210 S. Chahta Rd. It is the latest of several facilities the Choctaw Nation has under construction across 10½ counties in Southeastern Oklahoma.

At 10,287 square feet, the new one is larger, according to staff. More parking has been added as well. The Community Center has the additional convenience of being located between the Choctaw Nation Clinic and Food Distribution Center.

Choctaw Wellness Center Hosts Senior Chair Volleyball Tournament

by CHARLES D. CLARK

The rules for “chair volleyball” are simple: No standing, no spiking. It’s a good thing laughing is allowed. There was plenty of it at the Senior Chair Volleyball Championships on Friday, April 27 in the Choctaw Wellness Center in Durant.

Some of the 26 teams –from 11 Choctaw Wellness Centers or Choctaw Community Centers across 10 ½ counties in southeastern Oklahoma – had to board busses at 7 a.m. in order to make their nine o’clock serves. Still, there was no shortage of enthusiasm among the teams.

“Have you ever seen so many old people having so much fun?” said Jan Edge, of Antlers, who also lays claim to being a direct descendant of Greenwood LeFlore, Principal Chief of the Choctaws in 1830. “When we first started playing we did not have enough people for a team; now we have two teams, plus two extra players.”

That the 177 participants enjoyed themselves was evident. When players were knocked out of the double-elimination tournament, many regrouped, siding with players from other teams and kept playing. In these “side games,” occasionally bouncing out of your chain, spiking and beaming your own teammate with the ball was not only acceptable, but brought even louder gales of laughter.

“Durant won last year,” said Dan Trujillo, fitness specialist in his third year with the Durant center. “The Choctaw Wellness Center in Broken Bow hosted that event.”

Fielding four teams with several overflow players this year, many expected Durant to take it again. But in an odd twist as can only happen in sports, while Durant was the host this year, it was Broken Bow Team 1 that took home the traveling trophy.

Teams played six chair-athletes at a time. The tournament was set up for six courts to play at the same time in a single large gymnasium. Balls used for play in the tournament were slightly larger than regulation volleyballs, some were multicolored beach-type balls, others were clear and filled with glitter.

The championship match saw Broken Bow’s Teddy’s Nitas team vs. McAlester 2’s Team Tvshka. It took less than 15 minutes for Broken Bow to put away the challengers in a 15-10 final score.

Trujillo said, “We started planning this six weeks ago.” While the tournament took some three hours, the memories clearly will last a lifetime for many of the senior athletes.

After lots of hand shaking and words of “Good game,” everyone headed down the sidewalk to the Choctaw Community Center for a spaghetti luncheon prepared and served by Choctaw Nation employees.

Members of the Choctaw Tribal Council were also on hand to cheer on their seniors: District 9’s James Dry, District 2’s Tony Ward, District 1’s Thomas Williston and District 6’s Jennifer Woods.

Chief Gary Batton had a full morning, first attending the ribbon cutting at the new CMC Steel plant, then getting to the Wellness Center and Community Center to congratulate everyone involved in the tournament. “You are setting an example for our youth,” Chief Batton said. “They see you and it tells them they can do this, have fun and be healthy. Five years ago this Council set the objective to make our people healthy, to combat cancer, heart trouble and diabetes. We placed clinics throughout the area, for healing, and now we are putting in gyms, wellness centers for prevention. We are getting there, you are getting there.”

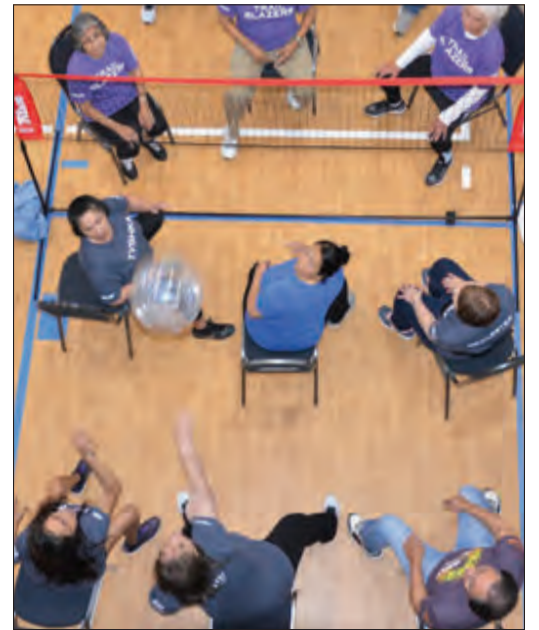


Photos by Charles D. Clark

The Senior Chair Volleyball Championship drew 26 teams and 177 participants from across southeastern Oklahoma. It was held on Friday, April 27 at the Choctaw Wellness Center in Durant.



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Send Us Your Sports and Education Stories!

We want to share your success with all of our tribal members.

Please send in sports and education stories. Submissions are printed in the order received.

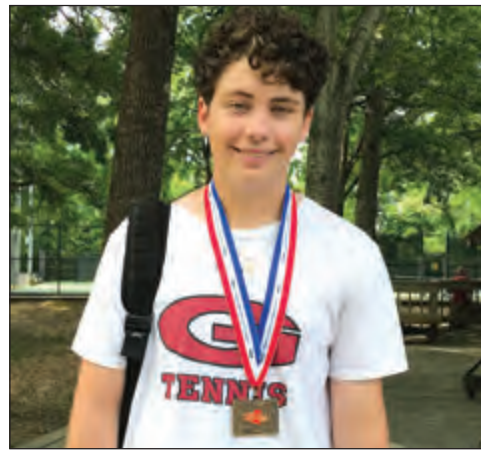
biskinik@choctawnation.com

or

P.O. Box 1210 Durant, Oklahoma 74702

Brewer Wins 5A Mississippi State Title in Singles Tennis

May 9, Wallace Brewer won the 5A Boys Singles title at the Mississippi High School State Tennis Championship in Jackson, Mississippi. He entered the tournament as the number one seed and competed against sixteen 5A schools’ best players. Wallace is the 14-year-old son of the late Wally Brewer of San Angelo, Texas and Hartshorne, Oklahoma. Wallace attends school at Germantown High School in Gluckstadt, Mississippi.



Choctaw Teams Dominate in Oklahoma Junior High March Madness Tournament



Girls All Tournament Team: Boston Berry (All-Star MVP), Tiani Ellison and Ainsley Trapp.

The Junior High March Madness Tournament was held in Okmulgee, Oklahoma from March 21-24. Choctaw Nation Outreach Services took two teams, Oklahoma Chahta girls and boys to the event.

In the junior high divisions there were 10 teams in both the girl’s and boy’s tournament. Both Oklahoma Chahta teams made it to the finals. Oklahoma Chahta girls were seeded as the sixth seed placing a 3-2 record on the weekend and walking away with the runner-up trophy. The Oklahoma Chahta boys were seeded as the third seed placing a 4-1 record on the weekend and claiming the championship trophy.



Boys All Tournament Team: Cale Clay (Tournament MVP), Brat Hallman and Nakni Anna.



COLLEGE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

NEED COLLEGE CLOTHING?

-The Choctaw Clothing grant is a one time only allowance.

-A grant of \$300 is provided for a semester GPA of 3.00-4.00

-A grant of \$250 is provided for a semester GPA of 2.00-2.99

Spring awarding is June 1 - September 1

For more information, please contact Jessica Huffman (800) 522-6170 ext. 2175 or Patricia Gibson ext. 2463

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Paper applications NO longer accepted

Choctaw Nation Home Finance

CREDIT REPAIR LOANS

Loan will include:

- Interest rate of 3%
- Loan Terms up to 10 years.
- Maximum loan amount of \$10,000.
- Loans are available to Future Homebuyers.
- Loans will include collections, charge offs, judgments, liens and repossessions.
- Must be a Choctaw tribal member living within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma servicing area.
- Funds based on a first-come, first-served basis and availability of funds.

To request an application or for additional information, call: 800-522-6170 ext. 6325

10% OFF FOR CHOCTAW TRIBAL MEMBERS & CHOCTAW NATION EMPLOYEES

10% off any purchase, no minimum, for all food or drinks. Must show employee badge or CDIB card to receive. Offer valid through August 31, 2018. Valid only at Chili's Grant, Atoka, and Poteau. Cannot be applied to gift card purchases.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma FAITH • FAMILY • CULTURE

Jones Academy Welcomes New Superintendent

by DAVID SANCHEZ

On Wednesday, April 25, a reception and dinner was held to welcome Patrick Moore as the new superintendent of Jones Academy.

It was a homecoming for the Oklahoma native when Moore and his family joined the Jones Academy staff and students in the academy dining room.

Moore originally hails from Pawnee, where he attended school from kindergarten through his senior year of high school and graduated in 2001.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Northeastern State University.

Moore was a student athlete excelling in basketball.

He earned his Master's degree in Education Administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Moore completed his postsecondary schooling

on a full academic scholarship as a Gates Millennium Scholar.

He and his wife Jamie have daughters, Jaylee, 14, Jayda, 11, and a 1-year-old son Payson.

The new superintendent has a plethora of job experience working with youth beginning at Sequoyah Indian School and the Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah.

He then moved on to Riverside Indian School where he spent 10 years serving in different capacities including high school social studies teacher, athletic director, high school principal and superintendent of the school.

Before coming to Jones Academy, Moore spent this past school year working for the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa serving as administrator and coach at Meskwaki Settlement School.

In addressing the Jones

Academy crowd, Moore acknowledged coming back to Oklahoma has been like coming home and a welcome respite from the cold weather in Iowa.

He and his wife have family here. He spoke briefly to the students and staff and held a question-and-answer session.

The first question he always answers is in regard to his height, as he stands 6 feet 7 inches tall and towers above the crowd.

Moore is soft-spoken and talked to the students in a disarming tone.

He spoke to them from his heart to theirs.

Moore promised them he would be accessible to them, that he would walk the campus and would get to know them.

Moore said that on occasion he would meet with them.

He urged them to look into his eyes with confidence and understanding of their worth, and pride

in their Native ancestry.

Moore is passionate in his desire that they grasp the significance of their lives and their rich heritage.

With the addition of Moore and his family, Jones Academy enters a time of great transition and transformation.

He also brings the splendor of tradition.

Moore is an enrolled member of the Pawnee Nation and is Otoe-Missouria as well.

He has been active in singing and dancing his whole life and enjoys traveling and participating at powwows as a southern straight dancer.

The transition home has not been easy, but Moore was able to persuade his family to agree to the move.

It helped the winters are milder, they have family in Oklahoma and there's a Sonic in town.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Jones



by David Sanchez

The Moore family is the newest addition to the Jones Academy family. (from left) Jaylee, Jayda, Payson, Patrick and Jamie Moore were warmly welcomed during a dinner reception April 25.

Academy staff and students welcome the Moore family and look forward to Patrick's guidance.

Future Native American leaders of the world are developed at Jones Academy.

Summer Food Service Program Helps Feed Oklahoma Children

Choctaw Nation Health Services is participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for Children. SFSP was established to ensure that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.

Free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines are provided to all children ages 18 years and under at approved SFSP sites in areas with significant concentration of low-income children.

Meals will be provided daily free of charge in these designated, approved areas.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, age, national origin, sex, or disability, and there will be no discrimination

in the course of the meal service.

You do not have to be Native American to attend. Last year the program served approximately 9,700 children in the 10½ counties.

The Senior Nutrition workers at the Talihina and Idabel Community Centers, in partnership with the clinical Nutrition Services staff from the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Center, prepare fresh meals daily for the SFSP Program.

The coordinated team effort between Health Services staff and the Senior Nutrition Program continue to make this program successful.

The administrator of the program is Carrie Thrasher, Health Services clinical Nutrition Director in Talihina.

Meals will be provided at the sites and times listed at right.

Locations, Dates and Times for Meals

May 21 – August 10

Talihina Hospital
1 Choctaw Way, Talihina
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

June 4 – July 27

Antlers Food Distribution
400 SW O. Street, Antlers
8:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Broken Bow Choctaw Head Start Building
201 Chahta Road, Broken Bow
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Eagletown Boys and Girls Club
25 School Street, Eagletown
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

McCurtain County Boys and Girls Club
11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Hugo Choctaw Wellness Center

304 Chahta Circle, Hugo
11:30 - 12:00 p.m.

Poteau Boys and Girls Club

305 Clayton Avenue, Poteau
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Ruben White Clinic
109 Kerr Avenue, Poteau
8:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Talihina Hospital
1 Choctaw Way, Talihina
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

June 4 – July 27

Wednesday Only

Wilburton Choctaw Wellness Center
1062 NW 1003 Avenue, Wilburton
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.

June 4 – July 27

Monday, Wednesday Friday

Choctaw WIC Office
408 East Lincoln Road, Idabel
8:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Call for dates

Goodland United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School (580) 317-7718

Kullituklo Methodist Church Vacation Bible School (580) 314-6371

Redland United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School (580) 245-2468

Wright City Seniors Visit Branson, Missouri



Members of the Wright City senior citizens group enjoyed a trip to Branson, Missouri in May. The district seniors hold a variety of fundraisers and activities during the year in preparation of their annual trips.

Pastor Olin Williams

What is Man?

We find in Psalms 8 verse 4, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (KJV)

Why is the human being so important to God? The scripture teaches us that man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Man is a reflection of the triune God, which created him. Being a reflection of the triune God, man has three functions. He has a body, soul and spirit. The body is the material part divinely formed from the dust and the immaterial parts (spirit and soul) were formed from divine inbreathing (Genesis 2: 7). Second, the soul is the seat of emotions. The spirit is the intellect or conscience and spiritual understanding.

Man was structured as a type of the Old Testament tabernacle which was structured in three parts: the outer court (body), the Holy place (soul) and the Holy of Holies (spirit). Each section of the tabernacle possessed its own light. The sun shone into the outer court. In the Holy place, a candlelight illuminated it. In the Holy of Holies, God's Shekinah glory filled the place. God invested in man through Adam this glorious privilege and potential to be commissioned to reflect the character of the triune God on the earth. This was wrecked by the sin of disobedience and caused the fall of man. Man became a sinner and wandered in search of reconciliation with God. But the second Adam (Jesus Christ) came to redeem fallen man.

It is the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit who sheds light on our darkened faculties to allow us to see our need of a Savior. This brings us to the redemption plan of God to redeem man to full salvation. Salvation is of the Lord. Man in his lost state searches for God through religion and attempts to create salvation through his own efforts. However, being in a state of total depravity because of the fall, mankind cannot accept God unless God draws man to Himself. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him," (John 6:44, KJV). Jesus said in (Matthew 22:37 KJV), "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Total salvation is not merely physical religious works, not just religious emotions or mental religious understanding, but an enlightenment of all three.



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

District 6 June Events

Below are the list of activities in District 6 for the month of June.

- Volleyball practice every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Senior citizens lunch every Wednesday at 11 a.m.
- Friday, June 1**, Indian Taco/Bake Sale and Indoor Garage Sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Senior Committee Meeting at 1:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 6**, Money is due for the Senior Citizens Trip.
- Thursday, June 7**, Shopping day. The bus leaves at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 13**, No refunds after this date for the senior citizens trip.
- Friday, June 15**, Senior Citizens Day Trip. The Pioneer Woman Mercantile & Lodge Tour in Pawhuska.
- Tuesday, June 19**, Trip to Wheelock. The bus will leave at 8 a.m.
- Thursday, June 21**, Shopping day. The bus will leave at 9:30 a.m. Trip to Pocola Casino. Bus will leave at 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 27**, District 6 Senior Citizens Committee Election.

LIVESTOCK FORAGE WORKSHOP
JUNE 26

Atoka Choctaw Community Center
1203 W. Liberty Road
Atoka, Oklahoma 74525

6:00 p.m.

Partners include OSU Extension, USDA NRCS, Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach and more.

To RSVP, Contact Harold Stephens
(580) 889-7337

If You're A Choctaw Veteran, We Want You.

Tell us your story for a video library. Send your information to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Advocacy.
veteransadvocacy@choctawnation.com

Contact Roger Hamill
Deputy Director
(800)522-6170 ext. 2160