



BISKINIK

January 2017 Issue

Scoring a WIIN for SE Oklahoma Water

By STACY HUTTO

Five years of negotiation and compromise on behalf of the Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, City of Oklahoma City, and the State of Oklahoma paid off on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, when President Barack Obama signed the [Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act](#), or the [WIIN Act](#) and it became [Public Law No. 114-322](#).

The WIIN Act was presented to President Obama on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, after it passed the Senate with a 78-21 vote. The WIIN Act passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 360-61. The purpose of the WIIN Act is "to provide

for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources and for other purposes," according to the bill.

Among the 277-page WIIN Act is "[Sec. 3608 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation Water Settlement](#)."

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation Water Settlement section approves, ratifies, and confirms the Settlement Agreement the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, State of Oklahoma, and City of Oklahoma City announced during a press conference on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016.

The President's signature ended all litigation regarding the Nations' claims to water in Sardis Lake. It also ended the stream adjudication (combining litigation) that the State of Oklahoma filed in the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

According to Chief Gary Batton, "the Choctaw Nation filed the lawsuit against the State and Oklahoma City to protect the Nation's treaty rights received under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek."

From the beginning all parties involved in the Settlement process agreed existing water rights must be

upheld and spelled out by the Settlement Agreement and that everyone in Oklahoma continue to have the right to access future groundwater and surface water supplies.

The new law regarding Sardis Lake laid out water use for allottees, or enrolled members of the Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nation, who own land in the settlement area.

Allottees will be allowed to divert and use six acre feet per year of surface water per 160 acres for domestic use. An allottee may divert water under Sec. 3608 (5)(B)(iii) without a permit or any other authorization from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

An allottee may drill wells on their land to take and use for domestic purposes five acre-feet per year, or any greater quantity allowed under state law. Under Sec. 3608 (5)(C)(iii) an allottee may drill wells and use water under the without a permit or any other authorization from the OWRB.

As previously reported, the Water Settlement Agreement listed instances when the City of Oklahoma City can use water from Sardis Lake and where the water was to be taken.

Terms of the agreement include: 20,000 acre feet of water from Sardis Lake will be reserved on an annual basis for use within the 10-county area surrounding the lake. Water will

not be taken directly from Sardis Lake but from the Kiamichi River near Moyers Crossing.

The agreement protects Sardis Lake by outlining baseline lake levels and also protects in stream flows of the Kiamichi River.

From April 1 through August 31, the City of Oklahoma City may have water released from City Sardis Storage whenever the Sardis Lake surface elevation is at or above 595 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL).

From September 1 through March 31, the City may have water released when the Sardis Lake surface elevation is at or above 595 feet MSL.

Although Oklahoma City can withdraw water from Sardis Lake under certain conditions, the required lake levels are mandatory and cannot be violated at any time.

Sardis Lake currently runs at 599 feet MSL.

"Oklahoma City lakes must be maintained at 65 percent during a moderate drought and 50 percent during a severe drought. If their lakes are not at 50 percent during a severe drought they cannot draw from our water during a severe drought," Chief Batton said.

The WIIN Act gives jurisdiction regarding the Water Settlement Agreement to the federal court for the Western District of Oklahoma. The Choctaw

Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, the State of Oklahoma, the City of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust (formerly known as the Oklahoma City Municipal Improvement Authority), and the United States each have the right to bring action to the federal court in regard to the Water Agreement.

In regard to any action brought pertaining to the Water Settlement any claim by the United States immunity from suit is waived. The Choctaw Nation Chickasaw Nation also sovereign immunity regards to only the Water Settlement Agreement.

The new law also looked to the future and called for a Settlement Commission to be formed. The Settlement Commission will be comprised of five individuals. The Governor of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Attorney General, Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and Governor of the Chickasaw Nation will each appoint a member. The fifth member of the Commission will be jointly appointed by the four individuals already appointed by the various agencies.

The role of the Settlement Commission, should the Oklahoma Legislature approve out-of-state use or diversion of water, is to review proposals and their potential economic and environmental impacts.

The Settlement Commission's report on any proposal would be forwarded to the legislature for consideration on whether and how to proceed on a proposal.

If there are proceeds from out-of-state water sales, the proceeds can only be used for water infrastructure, with the original treaty territory being favored when and if the funds are available.

The decision of the Commission on the distribution of these funds is final and not subject to review by the courts, or legislature.

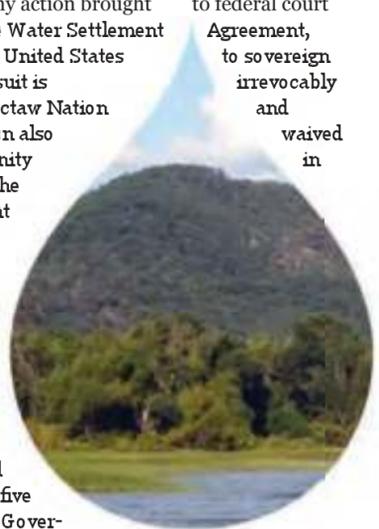
According to the new law, the Secretary of the Interior has until Sept. 30,

2020, to publish a statement of findings in the Federal Register that conditions in the Settlement Agreement, such as the dismissal of lawsuits, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board issuing the City Permit, the final documentation

of the Kiamichi Basin hydrologic model being on file at the Oklahoma City offices of the OWRB and the Atoka and Sardis Conservation Projects Fund has been funded as provided in the Settlement Agreement, among other conditions have been met.

An alternative later date can be set as long as it is agreed upon by the Secretary of the Interior, Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, the State of Oklahoma, the City of Oklahoma City, and the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust.

Sardis Lake photos by Krislan Winnett



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On this page:

Sardis Lake near Clayton is pictured at sunset and various other times and seasons. Chief Gary Batton, General Counsel Michael Burrage, and other state officials participate in a forum at the 2016 Annual Meeting for Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy on Oct. 27, 2016, in McAlester.

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 newspaper, is available to tribal members by mail and archived editions are on ChoctawNation.com.

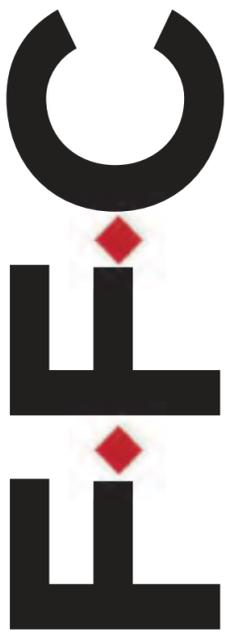
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Biskinik — it's more than just a paper. We're providing communication and information for our tribal members whether it's through print, digital TV, or whatever else our media future holds. And reflecting this change, we unveil our new look, clean, simple, and the Choctaw Nation tribal member's connection to the future. Our voice is your voice.



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Success Begins with Setting Goals and Keeping Them



By Charles D. Clark

Betty Baker speaks with Chief Gary Batton during the annual Christmas and employee awards ceremony. Baker recently celebrated her 87th birthday. She has worked for the tribe for 38 years at the Choctaw Nation WIC program in Hugo. She is an inspiration to many people as she comes to work every day to help make a difference in people's lives.



should be **Attainable**. They should push us, but it's important they are achievable. The goals and time frames should be **Realistic** and a **Time line** helps motivate us.

I can think of many examples of struggles and perseverance to succeed. And, success isn't always having more money. Sometimes, it is as basic as having peace. A lady in Atoka stands out to me as one of the most optimistic people I've known. She has stage 4 cancer and recently held a celebration of life party. She celebrates this life and the life to come.

Another Choctaw lady, Betty Baker, is an inspiration to us all. We wished her a happy 87th birthday on Dec. 16 at the Choctaw Nation's annual Christmas and employee awards ceremony. Betty has worked for the tribe for 38 years, all of those years for the Choctaw WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program in Hugo. She is still a dedicated full-time employee coming in to work every day to make a difference in someone's life.

Three generations of Choctaw women devote their lives to their family business—Luksi Creations—in Oklahoma City.

Catherine Stairs passed her love of beading on to her daughters and a granddaughter. They have combined talents and efforts to create Luksi Creations. They fill a need for local beaders by providing a place to buy supplies and showcase their bead work, helping keep our culture alive.

James Winchester is an inspiration in many ways. An alumnus of the University of Oklahoma and currently long snapper for the Kansas City Chiefs, James tweeted, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

These people have set goals—they believe and have faith, and they are focused on the good to be achieved.

As we reflect on the New Year, let's think of all the opportunities we have to sustain our families and our tribe. We can build on the legacy we have been given by providing a better one for generations to come.

May God bless you in the New Year and I hope you have success in every goal you want to achieve.

Faith, Family, & Culture

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New Year's resolutions are easy to make and hard to keep. Goals are key to our successes and as we start the New Year, I'd like to ask everyone to think about how we can make this world

a better place.

Being Choctaw is about doing the greater good. Our tribe is built on a foundation of faith, family and culture with values of servant leadership, accountability, integrity, honor, responsibility and teamwork. We look beyond tomorrow, next week or even next year. We want our children and grandchildren to do better.

Research shows that specific and challenging goals have better results, and I have learned that if I write mine down I will fulfill them.

SMART goals teach us to think through our objectives. We should be **Specific**, ask ourselves what is the goal and how much time would it require. We should have **Measurable** goals that provide specific feedback and hold us accountable. The goals

Small Changes Can Have a Big Impact on Health



The New Year has become a time to focus on habits to improve our health. Chief Gary Batton and I have a wish for everyone to be in good health. As a tribe, we have strived to heighten awareness of the need for a healthier lifestyle.

Personally, I'm thankful I made the decision last year to change my lifestyle. With the help of Chief Batton's Miko Challenge for employees, I started watching what I ate and began moving more.

Small changes as simple as choosing to walk instead of hopping on the four wheeler, or choosing to skip dessert can have big impacts. I stayed committed through the whole year and feel much better.

I have more needed energy to help me keep up with my youngest, Sam, and grandson Dawson. We all have our reasons to improve our health we just have to take that first step.

Many of the senior groups at the Choctaw Community Centers are proactive. They have incorporated fun activities such as line dancing or chair volleyball as their workout at the Choctaw Wellness Centers.

Families or friends can do these things anywhere. There are 5k runs open to all ages so we can encourage our youth to get involved, walking or running together as a family. Kids need at least one hour of physical activity every day.

Health is always a top priority for the Nation. New health care services and technology will be available at the new Choctaw Regional Medical Clinic in Durant. Currently, the clinic in Durant provides only family medicine.

With the opening of the new clinic in February, services will also include pediatrics, pediatric dental, dental, audiology, internal medicine, physical therapy, speech therapy, respiratory therapy, radiology, psychiatry, podiatry, pulmonology, general surgery, ENT (ear, nose, throat), cardiology, orthopedics and an outpatient surgery center.

The clinic will have a wide bore MRI that is better for patients with claustrophobia. There will also be mammography tomosynthesis, or 3D technology, providing screen-



By Waddel Hearn Jr.

(above) **The Choctaw Nation Regional Medical Clinic in Durant is expected to be completed in February 2017. The medical center will have a wide range of services, as well as a wide bore MRI, which is better for people with claustrophobia.** (right) **The aerial photo of the medical center shows the size and scope of the building.**



By Sylvanus Aerial Photography

ing and diagnostic breast imaging to improve the early detection of breast cancer. A vacuum tube system will transport medications and specimens throughout the facility. It is truly a state-of-the art facility for regional care.

It's exciting to watch the advances being made. Another one designed for tribal members is the new mobile app from the Choctaw Nation Health Services—myCNHSA. It provides access to your medical information and helps you keep up with appointments, lab work, demographics and Choctaw Referred Care status. It makes it easier to refill a prescription or schedule an appointment. And, it's available any time of the day or night for your convenience.

The services, technology and education are available. Good health depends on the person having the willingness to take the necessary steps to maintain or improve their health. I'm thankful I made that choice and want to encourage you to plan for a future, one that will keep you with your friends and family, welcoming many new years to come.

OUR LEGACY Emmaline "Happy" Carney



Emmaline "Happy" Carney is 89-years-old and still helps with assistant coaching in Tannehill, Oklahoma. Carney is a member of the Oklahoma Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame.

By KENDRA GERMANY

Emmaline "Happy" Carney was born on April 27, 1927, in the very house she lives in today. A native of Tannehill, Oklahoma, "Happy" has spent much of her life in the small town near McAlester.

Happy attended Tannehill Schools where she played baseball on the school team. She went on to study at Haskell. Happy and her sister Betty went on to Lawton to attend nurses aid courses at Comanche Nation College. She had planned on attending Oklahoma State University, but soon had to return home to take care of her ailing parents. Happy cared for her parents until they passed away.

Happy stayed in her hometown and recalls the moment her life changed.

While exercising in the school gymnasium, Happy was stopped by a staff member. "One of the teachers caught me out there," Happy said.

The teacher happened to be a coach and asked Happy to help her coach the basketball team.

"I started helping her with basketball. After a few games, she told me you can have them [the basketball players]," laughed Happy.

Since Happy wasn't certified to coach in

the State of Oklahoma, Happy has been an assistant coach at Tannehill ever since. She still coaches today at 89-years-old.

"I started when I was about 34, so it's been awhile," joked Happy.

But, it isn't just basketball that Happy truly excels at coaching. Happy also helped coach the track and softball teams. She has made quite the name for herself in the world of softball in Oklahoma.

In 2006, Happy was inducted into the Oklahoma Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame.

The Tannehill softball field is even named "Happy Carney Field."

So how did the small town native from Tannehill, Oklahoma get inducted into OASA Hall of Fame?

Happy put her heart and soul into the game. Preparing the field before each game and traveling with her team all across the state to play games.

Happy went above and beyond for her players. Although she has no children of her own, Happy made an impression on each and everyone of her players, treating each one of them like family.

Happy made her students treat academics with the same regard as sports.

"I always told them, that as much as I

enjoyed them playing ball, winning wasn't all of it. They had to study," said Happy. "That's what I still teach."

Happy keeps tabs on all of her former students. Keeping up with their sports and careers.

"When they go to high school, I follow them in the papers, where there playing ball and what there doing. When I see their pictures, it just makes me glad," said Happy with a smile.

When asked if she thinks she has had an impact on the lives of those who have played for her, Happy gave a humble answer.

"I think so. Some of them became coaches. I feel good about it," said Carney. "They thought I enjoyed what I was doing and enjoyed they way I coached."

One of Happy's former players is inducted into the OASA Hall of Fame for coaching as well.

Happy has been sick on and off recently and makes it to the school as much as she can. She credits the children for giving her the drive.

"The kids seem to like me so that helps," joked Happy.

Happy received her nickname for a reason. She always makes it a point to stay happy. That is her advice for younger generations.

"Just be happy. That's all it is. Just be happy with what you do and enjoy it. If you don't enjoy it, it's nothing."

To see the video version of this story, visit ChoctawNation.com.

CHOCTAW STORE

MEET THE ARTIST

Darrell & Teresa Potts

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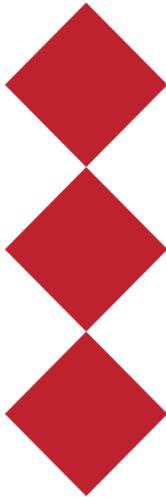
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Birth Defects Prevention Month

By ERIN ADAMS
Halito,

Happy New Year! With the New Year before us, many will be thinking of changing their diets to decrease weight, gain strength and improve their health. The start of the New Year, January, is also the time to recognize National Birth Defects Prevention Month. Most people would not put birth defects and fad diets together. However, depriving the body of vital nutrients, which most fad diets do, can contribute to possible birth defects even before pregnancy occurs.

According to Centers for Disease Control reports, birth defects affect 1 in 33 babies

every year. For many babies born with a birth defect, there is no family history of the condition.

Many birth defects are diagnosed after a baby leaves the hospital. Birth defects like cleft lip or spina bifida are easy to see. While others such as heart defects are not.

Birth defects can greatly affect the finances not only of the families involved, but of everyone. In the United States, birth defects have accounted for over 139,000 hospital stays during a single year, resulting in \$2.5 billion in hospital costs alone. Families and the government share the burden of these costs. Additional costs due to lost wages or occupational limitations can also affect families.

The cause of most birth defects is unknown. Use of cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs, taking of some medicines; and exposure to chemicals and infectious diseases during pregnancy have been linked to birth defects. Researchers are studying the role of these factors, as well as genetics, as causes of birth defects.

While not all birth defects can be prevented, one of the key steps women can take to help in having a healthy pregnancy and baby is diet and lifestyle. The CDC list some very important steps to take for all women who can become pregnant or who are pregnant:

Take folic acid. Women should start taking folic acid in her teens and throughout her life. Folic acid helps a baby's brain and spine develop very early in the first month of pregnancy when a woman might not know she is pregnant.

Have regular medical checkups. Make sure medical conditions, such as diabetes are under control. Whether Type 1 Diabetic, Type 2 Diabetic or Gestational Diabetic keeping daily blood sugar within normal limits is vitally important.

Have tests for infectious diseases and get necessary vaccinations, and do not use cigarettes, alcohol, or other drugs.

Folic acid can be in a multivitamin and foods. Taking a vitamin with folic acid in combination with having foods and beverages rich in folate are encouraged. Multivitamins should have 400 micrograms of folic acid and prenatal vitamin should have 600 micrograms of folic acid. When folic acid is naturally in food, it is called folate.

Foods rich in folate are beans, lentils, pinto beans, black beans, leafy green vegetables, spinach, romaine lettuce asparagus, broccoli, peanuts, citrus fruits, oranges, and grapefruit.



NURSERY NEWS

Emersyn "Emy" Jane Royer



Emersyn

"Emy" Jane Royer was born on May 23, 2016, at 1:09 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. She weighed 8 pounds and 5 ounces and 20 inches long.

Emy is the daughter of

Zachary and Jessica Royer. She joins her sister Allie Elizabeth and brother Brody James.

Emy is the granddaughter of Kurtis and Kristie Lund of McAlester, Josh Champion of Haileyville, Michael Royer of Wilburton, and Lucinda and James Butler of Weatherford. She is the great-granddaughter of the long time employee of Jones Academy, Sam Brown of Dow, the late Sharon Anderson, the late Jim and Nona Champion of Haileyville, Penny Lund and the late Kerm Lund of Wilburton, Barbra and the late Charlie Lawrence of Wilburton, and the late Jane Royer Nimrod. She is great-great-granddaughter to Thelma Ivey of Dow.

MaKayla Jenae' Hotella



MaKayla

Jenae' Hotella was born at 8:33 a.m. on Nov. 21, 2016, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center.

She weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and 18.1 inches long.

Her parents are Ashley and Matt Hotella of Talihina. MaKayla is the granddaughter of Mike and Tonja Smalling, Falfa, and Leon Hotella of Bengal and Donna Hotella Talihina.

She is the great-granddaughter of Hubert and Norma Anderson, Falfa, and the late George Ray Green and Janie Pyle, Talihina. MaKayla has numerous aunts, uncles and cousins whom adore her.

Beef & Bean Chile Verde



Recipe by
Eating Well Magazine

Recipe of the Month

This recipe will benefit those needing to increase folic acid intake as well as those just wanting to eat healthier for the New Year.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Ingredients | • 2 teaspoons ground cumin |
| • 1 pound 93% lean ground beef | • 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste |
| • 1 large red bell pepper, chopped | • 1 16-ounce jar green salsa, green enchilada sauce or taco sauce |
| • 1 large onion, chopped | • 1/4 cup water |
| • 6 cloves garlic, chopped | • 1 15-ounce can pinto or kidney beans, rinsed |
| • 1 tablespoon chili powder | |

Preparation

Cook beef, bell pepper and onion in a large saucepan over medium heat, crumbling the meat with a wooden spoon, until the meat is browned, 8 to 10 minutes. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin and cayenne; cook until fragrant, about 15 seconds. Stir in salsa (or sauce) and water; bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in beans and cook until heated through, about 1 minute.

Nutrition Facts, Serving Size: 1 1/2 cup
Calories: 379 Sodium: 682mg
Total Fat: 12g Total Carbohydrate: 29g
Saturated Fat 1g Dietary Fiber 6g
Cholesterol 0mg Potassium 774mg

I hope you will enjoy this nutrient packed dish to start the New Year off!

For further information you may contact Erin Adams, RD, LD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center (800) 349-7026 ext. 6959.

Nation Receives Oklahoma Blood Institute Award of Appreciation



(Left to right) Michelle McGuire of the Oklahoma Blood Institute presents Brenda Gabbart, Blood Drive Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation and Chief Gary Batton with an award of appreciation.

Michelle McGuire, an account consultant with the Oklahoma Blood Institute presented the Choctaw Nation with an award of Appreciation on Dec. 20.

Brenda Gabbart, Blood Drive Coordinator for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Chief Gary Batton accepted the award on behalf of the Nation.

According to Gabbart, in 2016 alone over 700 lives were saved thanks to blood donated during blood drives hosted by the Choctaw Nation.

For more information on how you can help save lives by donating blood, visit www.obi.org.

Quincee Madilyn Ludlow



Quincee

Madilyn Ludlow was born on Dec. 13, 2016, at the Choctaw Nation Health Service Authority in Talihina. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and 20 inches long.

She is the daughter of Quintin and Shania (McKosky) Ludlow of Talihina.

She is the granddaughter of Naomi Ludlow. Quincee is the niece of Reba Ludlow, Abbi-Gail Ludlow,

and Marlena Montes of Talihina. She is also the granddaughter of Tori Hibdon and William McKosky of Talihina. Quincee is also the niece of William McKosky III and Tanner McKosky of Talihina.

She is the great-granddaughter of Boyd and Floreane Ludlow of Talihina, and Nikki and the late Jim Hibdon of Talihina. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Katherine Leach. Great-great-granddaughter of late Martson James Ludlow Sr., late Serena Bernice McKinney and late Reba Jones Meashintubby. Quincee is also the great-niece of Stephen Ludlow and Rachel Ludlow of Talihina.

She was also welcomed by her cousins Kolby Ludlow, Philbert Ludlow and Ilyiana Huntley.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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Open 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Friday; 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 Afullotha Hina, (918) 420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr Ave, (918) 649-0431

February

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays February 1-28, except for:
Closed: February 20, 27, & 28.

Cooking with Carmen: February 9 & 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

BROKEN BOW

Market open weekdays February 1-28 except for:
Closed: February 20, 27, & 28.

Cooking with Carmen: February 1 & 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays February 1-28, except for:
Closed: February 20, 27, & 28.

Cooking with Carmen: February 3 & 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

MCALESTER

Market open weekdays February 1-28, except for:
Closed: February 20, 27, & 28.

Cooking with Carmen: February 15 & 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

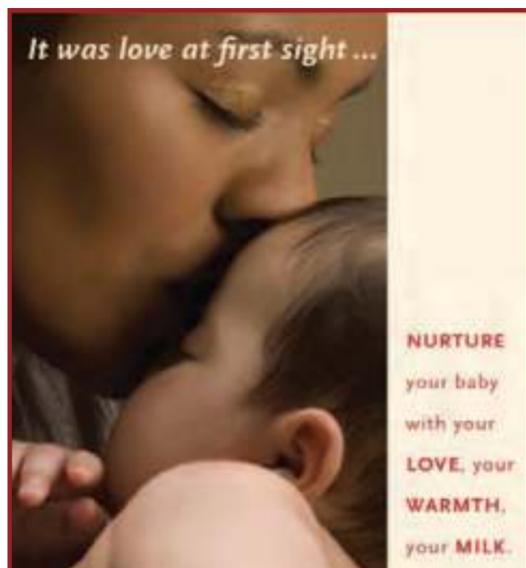
POTEAU

Market open weekdays February 1-28, except for:
Closed: February 20, 27, & 28.

Cooking with Carmen: February 7 & 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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2017 Classes

Durant Jan. 9, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.	Poteau Jan. 11, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.
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Babies were Born to breastfeed. Give your baby the only thing they need: your breast milk and nothing else.

For more information about how you can give your baby milk made just for them, call 1-800-522-6170 ext 2507.

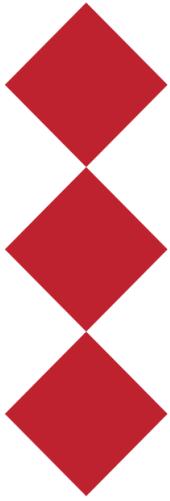
provided by Massachusetts WIC

Choctaw Nation WIC



WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN

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



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Former Jones Academy Student Graduates USA

Former Jones Academy student Melissa Elizabeth Canterbury (Class of 2009) graduated from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama, in May 2016 with a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education. Canterbury attended Jones Academy for five years. She was on the President's List at USA and is continuing at the school in pursuit of a Master's degree in Early Childhood. Canterbury married the "love of her life" in July of 2016. She is currently teaching third grade at an elementary school in Mobile. In recent correspondence to Jones Academy, Melissa expressed her gratitude to Jones Academy and the Choctaw Nation: "I honestly



couldn't have finished school without the help of Jones Academy and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I will forever be thankful for having the opportunity to attend Jones Academy. Without the help of ya'll and Choctaw Nation, I wouldn't have been able to pay for school. Jones Academy and Choctaw Nation also taught me a lot about my heritage."



LittleBull Ends First Quarter with High Honors

Brianna LittleBull, a seventh grade student at Wapato Middle School in Wapato, Wash. ended the first quarter with a 4.0 GPA and perfect attendance. She is the daughter of LeRoy and Kathy LittleBull. Her grandparents are Lyda Ann Thompson and the late Truman "Mack" Thompson. LittleBull is the great-granddaughter of the late Simon and Sammy Peters.

Lopez Writes Report on and Builds Dream Catcher for School Project

Haidon Lopez is a 7-year-old student at Plato Elementary School in Duncan. He is in the second grade.

During Native American Heritage month his school project was to make a dream catcher and to write a report over the meaning of dream catchers.

Lopez is the son of Amber Brea. He is the grandson of Clayton Cox and great-grandson of Betty Cox.



Book "Schools for the Choctaws" Introduced with Launch Reception



An updated version of "Schools for the Choctaws" by Dr. James D. Morrison is ready for public viewing, 40 years after the completion of the original manuscript.

Dr. Morrison was a history professor and Dean at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. This book follows the educational endeavors of the Choctaw Nation from their ancestral homelands in Mississippi to their new homeland in Indian Territory.

The original manuscript was done in the 1970s on an old manual typewriter and several copies were made for distribution to college libraries. Joy Culbreath and Kathy Carpenter have spent almost two years finding and researching old photos, plus getting the manuscript re-typed and maps redrawn.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will formally launch this book at a reception beginning at 2 p.m. on Jan. 24, 2017, in the lobby of the North Event Center. The event is open to the public.

Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer Releases Book

Choctaw Author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer's has released her latest book "Touch My Tears: Tales From the Trail of Tears."

According to Sawyer, the book was a result of a fellowship she received through the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian.

Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears is a collection of Removal stories, Sawyer composed along with nine other Choctaw writers.

Sawyer says she is honored with how the book has been received by both Native and non-native audiences.

The book follows the journey of the Choctaw people, as they were forced to leave their homelands to preserve their people.

According to Sawyer these stories not only capture the history and culture, but also the spirit, faith and resilience of the Choctaw people.

Touch My Tears: Tales from the Trail of Tears is available for free download at www.sarahelisabethwrites.com/free-book/



By Kendra Germany

Choctaw Asset Building 2017 Financial Education Class Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 21, new Choctaw Community Center located at 3105 Elks Rd. in McAlester, behind the Happy Day's hotel.

Saturday, Feb. 11, in Stillwater. Location to be determined.

Saturday, March 11, Choctaw Community Center, 2049 E.

Washington, Idabel.

Saturday, April 8, Choctaw Career Development Lab, 2807 Enterprise Blvd., Durant.

For more information, please email: dhix@choctawnation.com

CHOCTAW CAREER EXPO 2017

Open to all job seekers!

- MEET WITH TOP-NOTCH EMPLOYERS AND TRAINING FACILITIES FROM ACROSS THE REGION.
- LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE.
- BUSINESSES WILL BE ACCEPTING RESUMES AND INTERVIEWING ON SITE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND • 10AM-2PM

**SOUTHEAST EXPO CENTER
4500 W. HWY 270 MCALESTER, OK 74501**



GUEST SPEAKER: GARY "LIGHTFOOT" DAVIS

Presented By: **CAREER**



For more information contact: Choctaw Nation Career Development at www.choctawcareerexpo.com 866.933.2260

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 easy for anyone to get involved with Box Tops. 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 such as supplies, playground equipment, teacher training, computers, etc.

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

For more information, call Jerry Tomlinson at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2904.

STAR

**FALL AWARDING PERIOD BEGINS
DECEMBER 1, 2016 - APRIL 1, 2017**

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 12/1/2016 AT WWW.STAR.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Follow Us On **facebook**

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the following locations. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she prepares you to take the GED test. In addition, a \$10-per-day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Classes meet three days each week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, for approximately nine weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for HSE/GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Beginning date for all classes is January 2, 2017

Atoka County
Atoka
Monday, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Coal County
Coalgate
Monday, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

McCurtain County
Bethel/Battiest
Monday, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Smithville
Monday, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Wright City
Monday, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

2017 EDUCATION CLASSES

Choctaw Nation Adult Education High School Equivalency (HSE)

Class sessions will meet twice weekly for three hours each day for 12 weeks. Students can enroll only during the first two weeks of class.

Please bring Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Social Security card, and state-issued ID (driver's license, permit, or ID).

The class will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies, and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 per day attendance stipend will be paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the HSE/GED test. Please contact Kathy Bench at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 ext. 2122 for more information. A CDIB is required.

January - March

Monday, Jan. 2, 9 a.m. - noon
Poteau, Carl Albert State College, Ollie Building
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 9 a.m. - noon
McAlester, Eastern Okla. State College, Clark Bass Building
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Hugo, Choctaw Nation Community Center
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Durant, Headquarters South Building

April - June

Monday, April 3, 9 a.m. - noon
Stigler, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.
Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Durant, Headquarters South Building
Tuesday, April 4, 1 - 4 p.m.
Idabel, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, McCurtain County Campus
Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - noon
Wilburton, Choctaw Nation Community Cntr.

Notes to the Nation

Notes to the Nation
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LETTERS

Halito! I wanted to say thank you for the Christmas ornaments. I enjoy them all, but my favorite is the luks, which reminds me of my late mother, Willhemina Baker. This year's Chapel is exceptionally nice too. I have included a photo of my "Choctaw heritage" tree. Thanks again, much appreciated.

Kimberly (Baker) Young

I want to thank Chief Batton and everyone I spoke with for your help. I got the orthopedic shoe I needed to help me walk. I am back walking again! My labs were good and at this time I don't need cholesterol medication. I suffered many losses and my Choctaw mother always said, "You can walk your blues away." I believed her. With that and help from God and you, I am back on my feet and the grief is lessened. From my heart, I thank you.

JoAnn Harmon

EVENTS

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Dec. 10 in its chambers at Tvshka Homma. Committee reports were presented. New business included approval of the following bills:

- Approved disposal of surplus capitol assets.
- Grazing lease in favor of Dustin Morgan on Choctaw Tribal Fee Land in McCurtain County, Oklahoma.
- Approved the FY16 budget for the Choctaw Nation Child Care Development Fund.
- Approved the issuance and funding of debt to Choctaw Defense Munitions, LLC.
- Approved an investment in Crow Holdings Multi-Family Build-to-Hold Fund, L.P.

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

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

Coalgate Community Center
January 6
9-11 a.m.

This is a thank you to the Nation for approving the safe room I recently received. I appreciate it so much. My grandmother, Sarah Combs, enrolled my dad, John Combs, when he was three weeks old. Dad had his roll number and told us kids that there might be benefits later in life. Both of my boys use medical services in Hugo. We do appreciate our membership in the Choctaw Nation.

Thank you so much Chief Gary Batton.

Ruthie Jo (Combs) Yarbrough
Tyler, Texas



Photo Provided

This picture was taken in Wisconsin near John Danner's home. To the left is VAC founder Walt Fricke. Walt and others were busy practicing maneuvers for the Oshkosh, Wisconsin EAA airshow.

John Danner
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

First Annual Youth Deer Hunt at Ti Valley Ranch a Success

Ti Valley Ranch in Blanco hosted 24 Choctaw boys and girls for the inaugural 2016 Choctaw Nation Youth Deer Hunt.

Each hunter filled out an entry form from June to August and two children were randomly drawn from each Choctaw district in September to participate in the deer management harvest.

From Nov. 19 to Nov. 28, the hunters, accompanied by a parent or guardian, arrived at Choctaw Hunting Lodge, formerly known as Winding Stair Lodge, the evening before their assigned day of hunting.

The youth hunters were taught valuable lessons in conservation as well as hunter safety.

"The hunters were taught gun safety and shot placement," Wildlife Manager and Hunting Guide Travis Benes said. "We also had a biologist that taught the youth how to age deer. This is important so that they can preserve deer to meet their true potential."

To ensure the best practices were followed hunters, parents/guardians and guides reviewed the lessons in the stand.

"The guides made sure all safety rules were followed," Executive Director of Agriculture Shannon McDaniel said.

"They reiterated rifle safety and made sure that the children were wearing orange," continued McDaniel.

At the end of the hunt 60 percent of the hunters harvested a deer.

"I believe the entire event was successful; I can see the Youth Hunt becoming bigger and better through the years," McDaniel said.

"This was a great opportunity for the children to go on tribal property to learn how to manage wildlife and how conservation works," he stated.

The 2017 Choctaw Nation Youth Deer Hunt drawing is planned for September.

Two tribal members from each district, ages 10-15, will be drawn from the entries.

There will also be a hunter's safety course offered at Tvshka Homma during the upcoming summer.

(Article submitted by Brandon Green.)

Biskinik Announcement Policy

We will accept milestone birthday greetings for ages 1, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and above. Couples may send in announcements of their silver wedding anniversary at 25 years of marriage, golden anniversary at 50 years, or 60+ anniversaries.

News from graduates of higher education only and sports submissions will be accepted as space allows. We do not post wedding announcements.

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

Notes to the Nation Submissions

Send thank you notes and event notices to:

Biskinik, Attn: Notes to the Nation
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

or email to: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

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 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 changed, we 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.



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

A licensed attorney will be available 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

Contact the community center to confirm the attorney will be there before traveling. 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. For questions contact Samantha Guinn at (580) 380-8149.

January Community Center Schedule

1-5 Atoka: 10-1 & 1:30-3
1-12 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3
1-17 Antlers: 10-1 & 1:30-3
1-24 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3

February Community Center Schedule

2-2 Spiro: 10-1 & 1:30-3
2-14 Broken Bow: 10-1 & 1:30-3
2-23 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

February 2017

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



SMALLING

One Line Connecting One People and One Nation Together

By TINA FIRQUAIN

Art impacts people at different intensities depending on what point in life they are at. Each artist's objectives are specific to them and the lives they have lived.

For many Choctaw artists the objective is to preserve the Choctaw heritage. However, there are two different standards that have been set for Choctaw art appearing along the same line.

DG Smalling, a Choctaw artist, explained that he sees Choctaw art as having a dual nature, "I haven't come down on an opinion as to what constitutes Choctaw art because on one end, if a Choctaw makes something, it is Choctaw, but I'm also of the same mind that Choctaw art has to be created by a Choctaw mind, meaning that it has to reflect something at its bedrock that is us.

"That's part of why I think this project [for the Choctaw Casino Resort Durant expansion] is really important, because up to now, we've never had a standard, and this work will become the definitive standard of the generation."

According to Smalling, the artists were able to do the project on their own terms and create the pieces not just for the casino, but to be a collection of art that, for the first time in years, represents the Choctaw Nation as it is at this point in time.

Each artist created pieces that represent the Choctaw Nation like medallions, memorials, dancers, and warriors.

Smalling spoke about how his work represents the Nation at this moment and forward in time. He has one objective for his art, he said, "My end game has been to see how to use the art to help us as a Nation advance on certain issues and use it to open doors."

Smalling is known for his work with a single line, but it took him many years for him to follow the path of the line.

When he started his training, he was a "strict realist" he said, but many people along his path like his art teacher, Penny Mosby, taught him a great deal about art, ethics, discipline, and ambition.

Although he and his family are from McCurtain County, Smalling grew up in Europe because his parents were missionaries and made a transition to aid workers.

He went from Haworth Elementary to a commonwealth school in Leysin, Switzerland, where the arts were a fundamental part of the curriculum. Art was as important as math or English and was considered a core subject. "I think that made a great impact on me."

Since then he has done intense studies and apprenticeships, and refined his discipline over many years.

Now, Smalling takes a subject, whether it's a portrait or landscape and creates a rendition in one continuous line.

Smalling works with the one line in efforts to "contemporize a hieroglyph." He keeps his work light and gives it movement with one stroke of his gel ink pen.

"It has movement and so I still try to keep the perspective of the bodies, to the perspective of the objects, but it is by defini-

tion abstract, and that's what I do," he explained. He creates with the least amount of movement and with a maximum amount of detail.

His inspiration for his art comes from his life. With his parents as missionaries and aid workers, Smalling has seen death, destruction, and calamity.

He spoke about what he wants people to remember about him and realized not many know his story.

He said, "I have catalogued thousands of death. I have been witness to humanity's greatest acts of contrition and peace and love and hatred and atrocity. I've known the murder. I've known the mercenary. I've known the missionary. I've also known people who are just an absolute joy.

"This life for me has been so full. So full. What I have witnessed in my lifetime is more than many normal lifetimes."

Smalling is very aware of the time he has and the time he can't waste because of what he has experienced. The moments are what drive Smalling and his art because according to him moments are fleeting and to be in charge of his life is a gift.

For each project Smalling either conducts research or uses past research to guide his hand.

For the casino project, he said that the research had already been done over years of study, but he had to suss out what pieces of the research were fitting and really translated to the project.

Smalling said that the artist chosen for the project worked fast because they were waiting for such a project. "They have this reservoir behind them already, they don't have to go out and let it gestate. It's been there and it's resident in them. We've been jonesing for a project like this, and we've had things we wanted to do for years."

He creates his art for more than just to be sold. He uses his art to depict Choctaw Nation's sovereignty, the tribe's dynamics, and the history of his people.

With tears in his eyes, he said, "What our older ancients went through to allow me the right to be who I am and offer no one else explanation and to be at this phase in our Nation's history and not be dead, broken, or driven under, we will live lives that are defined by ourselves, for ourselves because of the blood, the sacrifice, the tears, the sorrow that came before us."

He believes that you can't know your heritage without art and he tries to celebrate life and the Choctaw culture.

As for the project, Smalling and the other four artists set a new standard for Choctaw art. According to Smalling, the importance of the collection is the standard and what it means for the tribe and for future artists.

They have all set a high standard for all the Choctaw artists now and to come and he said he wants to be represented by the younger artists because they have to push their work to the next level.

He also wants the people who look upon all their art to remember Choctaw roots and to look towards Choctaws' future.

Smalling said, "This is a way for us to look at who we are and to offer no explanation to anyone else other than Choctaws because we owe no one else an explanation ever again."



The photos pictured to the left were taken in DG Smalling's studio. The photos on the right page are of DG's work on display throughout the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant.



STIMB

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Billy Wayne Dick

Billy Wayne Dick, 75, of Mead passed away Nov. 7, 2016.

Billy was born July 26, 1941, in Coalgate to Jessie Mae (Hampton) Dick and Joseph Dick.

He is preceded in death by his wife Patricia Ann Dick, father Joseph Dick, mother Jessie Mae Dick, maternal grandmother Eliza Jane Alverson, and paternal grandmother Josephine Monroe Dick.

Billy is survived by daughter Stephanie Renee Sparkman and husband Jim; daughter Kelli Ann Dick; sons Martin Wayne Dick, Billy Wayne Dick and wife Kristina; sisters Betty Jo Moore and husband Cecil, Arvie Jean Dick, Joyce Dean Lewis and husband Artis; six grandchildren Tyler Hawkins, Taryn Hawkins, Kayla Dick, Alexis Dick, Kamiel Dick Waters, and Justin Dick; and two great-grandchildren Ezekiel and Zahra.

Interment was held at Mead Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit brownsfuneralservice.com.

Cassel Osbourn Lawrence

Cassel Osbourn Lawrence, 96, of Tulsa passed away Oct. 1, 2016.

Cassel was born Sept. 27, 1920, in Stuart to Cordellia (Gilbreath) Lawrence and Green David Lawrence.

He is preceded in death by his parents Green and Cordellia Lawrence; stepmother Mary Hickerson Lawrence; sister Cathrine Lawrence Milano; brother George David Lawrence; grandson Michael Stephen Lawrence; and special aunt Rosa Gilbreath.

Cassel is survived by his wife of 75 years Billee Jo (Wooley) Lawrence; sons Charles Allen Lawrence and wife Vivian, David Lee Lawrence and wife Lee-Ann, Danel Rex Lawrence and wife Sheree, and Sidney Osbourn Lawrence and wife Lydia; brother Gilbert Lee Lawrence and wife Wilma; 16 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Pryor Cemetery in Stuart.

To read the full obituary please visit Meaningfulfunerals.net.

Gertrude Lucille "Trudi" Reeves Root

Gertrude Lucille "Trudi" Reeves Root, 80, of Shawnee, passed away Sept. 23, 2016.

Trudi was born June 13, 1936, to Louis and Sylvia Reeves.

She is preceded in death by her father Louis Reeves; niece April Gillham; step-father Charles T. Shephard; mother Sylvia (Bea) Ditzler Reeves Shephard; husband Bob Root; sister Allie Reeves Gillham and grandson Thomas (Tommy) Gardner.

Trudi is survived by two brothers Louis Reeves and Anthony Reeves; two daughters Valerie Gardner and Cheryl Montano; three sons Bill Jameson, Robert Jameson, and Richard Root; 15 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Inez Rose (Sewell) Seifert

Inez Rose (Sewell) Seifert, 91, of Oklahoma City, passed away Oct. 30, 2016.

Inez was born Feb. 1, 1925, in Blanchard, to James Sampson Sewell and Maisie Bessie (Tubbee) Sewell.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, Cecil B. Seifert; her parents James and Maisie Sewell; three brothers Clifton, Jack, and James Sewell; and three sisters Nora Campbell, Bessie King, and Marie Moriarty.

Inez is survived by her two daughters Phyllis Been and Marsha Miller and her husband Gene; one granddaughter Jennifer Turner and her husband Scott; great-granddaughter Julia Turner; sister Wanda Billings; numerous nieces and nephews.

Interment was held at Sunny Lane Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit eisenhourfh.com.

Bunny Rae Toschi



Bunny Rae Toschi, 96, passed away Oct. 1, 2016, in Madera, California.

She was born July 22, 1920, in Caddo to BW McGee and Flossie Crowder.

Bunny's ashes were placed in the ocean off Monterey, California.

To read the full obituary please visit obits.dignitymemorial.com.

James I. Perry

James I. Perry, 95, passed away Oct. 22, 2016.

James was born Oct. 14, 1921, in Muskogee to Billie and Jefferson Perry.

He is preceded in death by his wife Vera of 49 years.

James is survived by children Debbie Andres and husband Larry, Alan Perry and wife Evelyn, Kimberly Tingle and husband Edward; grandchildren Heather Andrews and Edward Perry Tingle; numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces; and special friends Evelyn Boyle, Sid, Judy, Ashley, and Lindsey McCampbell.

Interment was held at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit Star-telegram.com/obituaries.

Jerry Cleve O'Dell

Jerry Cleve O'Dell, 80, of Bakersfield, California, passed away July 23, 2016.

Jerry, was born Nov. 10, 1936, in Pauls Valley, to parents Wensel Krebs O'Dell and Cleve O'Dell.

He is survived by his brother Ray O'Dell; sisters Beverly Gilton (Bradley), Sherril Preston (Bob), Judy O'Dell, Marilyn Frederickson (Frank), his wife and best friend Juanita O'Dell; his daughter Teri Bela; and her children Victoria, Michelle, and Brandon; grandson Gavin; sons Tim O'Dell, Neil Morales, (Leona), Andy Morales, (Dana); grandchildren Monique Morales, Cheyenne Morales.

To read the full obituary please visit Bakersfield.com.

Jerry Thompson

Jerry Thompson, 78, of Durant passed away Oct. 27, 2016.

Jerry was born on May 1, 1938, in Leflore County to Jefferson and Lillian (Ripley) Thompson.

He is preceded in death by his parents Jefferson and Lillian (Ripley) Thompson; brother Eugene Folson; and sister Janice Thompson.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife Ruth; brothers James Quinn, Dallas Lewis, and Jack Bush.

To read the full obituary please visit Holmescoffeymurray.com.

Kenneth "Ken" LeFlore

Kenneth "Ken" LeFlore, 52, of Sherman, Texas, passed away Oct. 26, 2016.

Ken was born July 17, 1964, in Durant, to Donald Kenneth and Rose (Gibson) LeFlore.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Thompson and Carrie LeFlore; Bill and Lucille Gibson.

Ken is survived by his mother Rose LeFlore; children Apryelle Aguirre and husband Joshua, and Malachi LeFlore; mother of his children Donna LeFlore; sister Melanie LeFlore; brother Jason LeFlore; and his aunts, uncles, numerous cousins, and many friends.

Interment was held at Rosehill Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit holmescoffeymurray.com.

Kenneth Gene Wheeler

Kenneth Gene Wheeler, 72, of Oklahoma City passed away July 17, 2016.

Kenneth was born Nov. 15, 1943, to Clinton Wheeler and Luceil Wheeler.

He is preceded in death by his brother Clinton Lee Wheeler and his parents.

Kenneth is survived by his loving wife Nona Wheeler; two children Tony Wheeler and wife Ann and Cordy Bradford and husband Jason; and two grandchildren Nick Wheeler and Holden Bradford.

To read the full obituary please visit obits.dignitymemorial.com.

Kerry Don Guest

Kerry Don Guest, 42, of Valliant passed away Oct. 29, 2016.

Kerry was born March 23, 1974, in Idabel to Donald Ray Guest and Dorothy Jo (Staggs) Guest.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother M.C. Fagan.

Kerry is survived by his wife "B.J." Guest; sons Dylan Guest and Dawson Guest; daughter Corey Guest; granddaughter Gracelynn Parsons; brothers Eddie Fagan and wife Mary, Sam Guest and wife Cookie, and Tim Guest; sisters Linda Simpson and husband Mark, Karen Beene, Marlene Browning and husband Bobby, Rayanna Beam and husband Roy, and Donna Barnett and husband Mike of Georgia; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins along with a host of other family and friends.

Interment was held at Moran Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit millerandmillerfuneralhome.com.

Larry Ray Landis

Larry Ray Landis, 62, of Quitman, Arkansas, passed away July 4, 2016.

Larry was born Dec. 31, 1953, in Duncan to Lee Landis and Jeanine Scott Landis.

He is preceded in death by his parents Lee and Jeanine Landis and brothers Darrell Landis and Davie Landis.

Larry is survived by his brother Marvin Landis and wife Mary; sisters Carolyn Hall and Ginger Phillips and husband Kurt; nieces and nephews Lee Landis, Gwen Wolfe, Tara Hayden, Tina Kelley, Tony Marek, Darrell Kennemer, Jesse Hall, Jennifer Hall, Taylor Ingle, Nikki Phillips, and Ethan Landis.

Interment was held at Cleburne County Memorial Gardens.

To read the full obituary please visit dwightfamilyfuneral.com.

LeRoy Thomas Downing

LeRoy Thomas Downing, 88, of Durant passed away Oct. 31, 2016.

LeRoy was born Aug. 28, 1928, in Caddo to Janis (Crossett) Downing and Roy T.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife Charollette; and brother Jerry Downing.

LeRoy is survived by his daughters Jillian Downing-Brandt and husband Michael and Gloria Downing-Figg and husband Ronald; granddaughter Nicole Woods and husband Craig; grandsons Christopher Leyendecker and wife Natalie, James Figg and wife Nicole, and David Figg; granddaughter Sage Leyendecker; great-granddaughters Hannah Woods, Savannah Woods, and Patience Leyendecker.

Interment was held at Highland Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit brownsfuneralservice.com.

Lorinda Ellen Durant

Lorinda Ellen Durant, 33, of Boswell passed away Oct. 31, 2016.

Lorinda was born April 15, 1983, in Talihina to Mitchell Ray Durant and Dorothy Belle (Samis) Durant.

She is preceded in death by her father and brother Cory Durant.

Lorinda is survived by her companion Ignacio Ramirez; daughter Isabel Durant; mother Dorothy Durant; sister Kimberly Impson and husband Chris; half sister Janice White-Durant; along with many other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at Wade Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit millerandmillerfuneralhome.com.

Merle Dean Shaw

Merle Dean Shaw, 78, of Tecumseh passed away Oct. 30, 2016.

Merle was born Aug. 5, 1938, in Oklahoma City to Marie (Lynch) Shaw and Earnest Dean.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Merle is survived by his wife Melba Jean; son Gregory Dean Shaw; daughters Lisa Renea and husband Don Essary and Sherri Lynn and husband Joseph Bowers; grandchildren Emily Morgan Essary and Andrew Dean Essary; numerous cousins; and many other family and friends.

To read the full obituary please visit Cooperfuneral.com.

Patsy Youree "Gran" Trostle

Patsy Youree "Gran" Trostle, 88, passed from this life Nov. 5, 2016.

She was born Feb. 4, 1928, in Utica to Harry and Myrtle (Beal) Youree.

Patsy is preceded in death by her parents Harry and Myrtle Youree; sisters Juanita Lahann, Myrtle Faye Carr and Lucille Robnett; brother Eugene Youree; son Michael J. Camp; and daughter Susan Gibson.

She is survived by her son Jerry Camp and wife Gloria; sister Dean Sweeney; grandchildren Bryan Camp, Jamie Camp, Scott Parks, Shaun Camp, Melanie McGary, Samantha Camp, and Jeremy Camp.

Interment was held at Highland Cemetery in Durant.

To read the full obituary please visit holmescoffeymurray.com.

Peggy Jewnell (Bray) Ward

Peggy Jewnell Ward, 78, of Panama passed away Oct. 18, 2016.

Peggy was born Aug. 31, 1938, in Broken Bow to Daphner (Anderson) Bray and Jess Bray.

She is preceded in death by her parents; grandsons Jesse Ward and John Ward; brothers Clarence, J.W., and Richard Bray; sisters Mary Lou Clecker and Billie June Rogers.

Peggy is survived by her husband of 59 years Joe Ward; sons Jeff Ward and Terry Ward; daughter Lisa Balcomba; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brother Arnold Bray; other relatives, loved ones, and friends.

Interment will follow in Holly Creek Cemetery in Broken Bow.

To read the full obituary please visit Oknews.com/obituaries.

Steven A. (Army) Stewart

Steven A. (Army) Stewart, 34, of Broken Bow passed away Oct. 28, 2016.

Steven was born Nov. 8, 1982, in Talihina to Steven Stewart Jr. and Gloria Jean (Tushka) Bond.

He is preceded in death by his father Steven Stewart Jr.; grandparents Steven and Eunice Stewart; aunts Sue Tom, Imogene Belvin, and Patricia McDaniel; and his Uncle Ed Stewart.

Steven is survived by his companion LaDonna Simpson; mother Gloria Bond; grandparents Barrentine and Nacey Tushka; sons Stefano Stewart, Armando Stewart, and Brayson Stewart; brothers Vincent Shomo and Darrick Bond; sisters Casey Cooper LanHam and Clarissa Stewart; stepfather Louis Bond; several nieces and nephews; other relatives and many friends; along with a special friend Cody Stabilea.

Interment was held at McGee Cemetery.

To read the full obituary please visit brumleyfuneralhome.com.

Walter A. Lewis

Walter A. Lewis, 73, of Minden, Nevada, passed away Sept. 4, 2015.

Walter was born Aug. 20, 1942, to Vernan Eugene Lewis.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years Susan Lewis; son David Allen Lewis and wife Krystal; daughter Crystal Elizabeth Lewis; granddaughters Bridget, Kayla, and Khloe; son Walter Anderson Lewis; and numerous cousins.

Interment was held at Northern Nevada Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

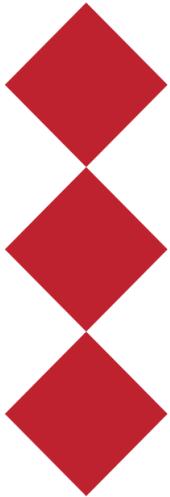
To read the full obituary please visit Nevadaappeal.com.

Obituary Policy

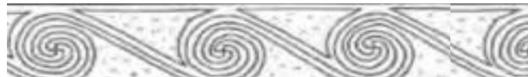
Obituary submissions are for Choctaw tribal members and are free of charge. The Biskinik will only accept obituary notices from funeral homes. Family members/individuals may still submit funeral notices as long as the notice is from the funeral home or printed in their local newspapers through a funeral 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.

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702 or email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com



9



Iti Fabussa

The Gear and Daily Life of the Choctaw Lighthorsemen

The Choctaw Lighthorse was established shortly after the Treaty of Doak's Stand to keep the peace, and uphold laws within the Choctaw Nation.

One of the largest threats to the Choctaw Nation was whiskey or Oka homi (Choctaw for Spicy Water).

Whiskey laws in the Choctaw Nation were strict. If one was caught running whiskey within the Nation, they would be punished by 100 lashes on the

offender's bare back.

These lashes were given by a Lighthorseman who would use a hickory switch no bigger than a half inch in circumference and no longer than 30 inches.

Giving lashings was the most common used method for punishment within the Nation. These lashes would be issued until the subject fainted, or the number of lashes were completed.

However, if the subject fainted during lashing, the Lighthorseman would stop and tell the subject to return at a later date to finish receiving their punishment. These lashings would often take place near the court grounds at the whipping post.

A Lighthorseman of the Nation was the sole judge, jury, and executioner. These men were the ultimate law enforcement authorities of their time.

They were highly respected in the communities and were elected by the community to serve as Lighthorsemen.

The power of being the judge and jury would change with time by the 1850s. There were approximately 18 Lighthorsemen who served the Nation; six for each of the three districts, Apukshunnubbee, Moshulatubbee and Pushmataha.

Though these numbers seem small, the Lighthorsemen also had the power to deputize men to aid them in their duties.

The daily life of the Lighthorsemen was spent in the saddle patrolling the Nation, protecting the citizens, and settling disputes.

A typical patrol on horseback would last for three days, or a week at a time.

Their saddles would be a Hope Style saddle. These saddles were popular during the 1840s to 1880s.

The gear they carried on horseback would likely be a set of saddle bags, feed bag, bed roll, rifle, hand shackles, canteen, picket rope, and lasso.

The saddle bags contained food, pencil, paper, feed for the horse, something to cook with, flint and steel to make a fire with, and tools to take care of their horse's hooves.

The weapons used by the Lighthorsemen would change with the times and were self-supplied.

The first type of rifles and pistols used by the Lighthorsemen were flintlock styles used in the 1820s-1850s. The most commonly used musket would have been a Fowler type. A Fowler was a smooth bore gun often in a 20 gauge. The pistol would have been a single shot Kentucky style pistol often in 45 caliber.

During the 1860s, the Lighthorsemen firearms would change from flintlocks to a percussion style. The rifles would have changed to a percussion mechanism though there were many types of rifle, Kentucky style could have been the most commonly used during this time and the sidearm would have been percussion style revolver.

They also would have possibly carried a muzzling double barrel shotgun, often in 10 gauge.

As times changed, the Lighthorsemen weapons adapted to these changes.

With the invention of metal cartridges during the 1870s, or what we know today as the modern day bullet, came rifles that could hold more than one round and be reloaded much quicker such as the 1873 Winchester.

Sidearms would have been black powder revolvers converted to take the metal cartridges and the 1873 Colt in .45 Long Colt caliber.

The Lighthorsemen would have tried to carry a rifle in the same caliber as their sidearm. Other weapons they would have carried throughout these would have been, belt knife, pocket knife and possibly a tomahawk.

The clothing the Lighthorsemen would have worn would have changed over time just like fashions change today.

During the 1830s-1850s, we currently don't know what kind of clothing would have been worn by the Lighthorsemen.

During the 1870s, the clothing would have been, black or brown slouch hat or flat brim hat for headgear. Shirts would have been a homespun shirt with roll over collar with four buttons near the collar. They would have worn a vest over their shirt. Also depending on the weather, they would have worn a frock coat.

The pants would have been saddle pants in an earthen color. Shoes would have been stove pipe or Mule Ear style boots.

Other clothing would be a gun belt, regular



Provided by Brianna Tell

(above) Nick Wallace and Garrett Mussett are dressed as Choctaw Lighthorsemen from the 1840s. (right and below) A Hope saddle is loaded with gear the same way the Choctaw Lighthorsemen may have geared up before going on patrol. A patrol would last three days to a week.



Provided by Tim Burmaster

belt, tie, and a bandanna.

Currently, there are no records of the Lighthorsemen wearing badges during this time, but they would wear a red ribbon in their hats.

These men of the Lighthorse were brave, tough and well respected. The Lighthorse officers are legends in their own time and did a great deal of work to keep our Nation safe.



If you are descended from a Lighthorsemen or know any stories of the Choctaw Lighthorse and want to share, please let us know.

You can reach Nicholas Wallace with the Historic Preservation Department at (800) 522-6170 ext. 4094, nlwallace@ChoctawNation.com; or researchers Francine Lock Bray at (317) 409-6517, flbray@iupui.edu; and Sandra Riley at (903) 941-0765, oklafalaya@aol.com.



Provided by Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum

The pearl handle pistol belonged to Joseph Everidge, who was appointed to the Choctaw Lighthorse in 1872. The pistol is currently at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum in Tvshka Homma.

Chahta Anumpa

Aiikhvna

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Nittak Hullo Chito Nittak: Ittimanumpuli

1. Nittak Hullo Chito Nittak ish aiokpanchi ho?
2. Nittak Hullo Chito Nittak aiyimma nanta ho ish aiokpanchi moma i shahli?
3. Hashi kanvlli nanta ho, hvsh ittibaiimpa chi?
4. Nittak Hullo Chito Nittak ish impat isht ilatabli bicka ho?
5. Chi chukka ya iti ish hilechi ha?
6. Iti mvt alhi cho holba yo?
7. Chishno akosh iti ish shemachi ho?
8. Nittak Hullo Chito Nittak a aittvnaha ish ia chi ho?
9. Vlla chia momah mvt, na halbina nanta ho ish eshi tuk?
10. Oktusha hinla chim ahwa?
11. Himak afammi a, kyta ho na halbina ish habenacha chi?
12. Nittak Hullo Chito Nittak talowa hvsh talowa chi ho?

Christmas: Conversation

Read the following questions about Christmas and practice your Choctaw conversation with another person.

1. Do you enjoy Christmas?
2. What do you enjoy the most about Christmas?
3. What time will you eat together?
4. Do you overeat on Christmas Day?
5. Did you put up a tree at your house?
6. Is that tree real or fake?
7. Are you the one who decorates the tree?
8. Will you go to church at Christmas?
9. What (kind of) gift did you get when you were a child?
10. Do you think it might snow?
11. Who are you going to give presents to this year?
12. Are you going to sing Christmas songs?

www.choctawschool.com

Are you a college student in your Junior or Senior year looking for an internship opportunity?

The Choctaw Nation Internship Program provides opportunities for Choctaw students to gain career fundamentals while earning college credits and getting paid.

2017 program dates are May 29-July 21.

To submit your application, go to Careers.ChoctawNation.com.

For more details, call Brianna Longinotti at (580) 924-8280.

A background check and a drug screening are mandatory prior to the start of the internship.



2017 Annual Choctaw Nation

Livestock Show

Wilburton

(EOSC Campus)

Saturday, Feb. 4 & Sunday, Feb. 5

Swine Show, Heifer Show, Doe Show, Steer Show, Wether Show, Lamb Show

Durant

(Bryan County Fairgrounds)

Saturday, Feb. 4th & Sunday, Feb. 5

Swine Show, Heifer Show, Doe Show, Steer Show, Wether Show, Lamb Show

For information:

www.choctawnation.com

(888)767-2518

Slowikowski Visits Jones Academy

Eddie Slowikowski, the Loyola University five-time All American Track and Cross Country runner and the 1990 U.S.A. International Competition Gold Medal winner, paid a visit to Jones Academy this past fall.

When Slowikowski told the narrative of his life to the student body at Jones Academy, it was a story filled with exuberance and passion.

The former world class runner, who is now a motivational speaker and entrepreneur, addressed the students with high energy and rollicking humor.

Slowikowski's presentation was punctuated with music, props and sound effects. He engaged his young audience as well as the staff in dance and kinetic activities causing the crowd to roar with laughter at times. In his more serious moments, the presenter encouraged the students to believe in themselves, to follow their dreams and not to worry about criticism.

The overarching message Mr. Slowikowski gave to the students was that every individual has value and worth, and that each person has a purpose in life. The students left the event with a greater sense of self-confidence and hope for the future.

Slowikowski capped the afternoon with an animated musical interpretation of the "Revolution of Dance." He performed every period of dance as it evolved from the oldies to disco to the Macarena and, everyone's favorite Michael Jackson's moon walk.

The event was infused with insight, instruction, and inspiration, a balm to young people in troubled times.



Eddie Slowikowski (above) speaks to students at Jones Academy. He encouraged students to believe in themselves, to follow their dreams and not to worry about criticism. (below) Students take a group picture with Slowikowski after the presentation.



Grantham Named High School Coach of the Year

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) announced over the summer its state-by-state winners of the third annual High School Coach of the Year Award for track & field.

One boys coach and one girls coach from each state and the District of Columbia is selected, except in the case of Girls Coach of the Year in Georgia, where there were co-Coaches of the Year.

Edmond Memorial boys coach Chris Lowrey and Lady Bulldog Head Coach Tim Grantham were the coaches honored for Oklahoma.

The Lady Bulldogs have won the 6A State Championship fame four out of the last five years.

Grantham is the son of the late Dovie Adams Grantham, grandson of Muriel Adams and the great-grandson of Ophelia Adams.



Spiceland Ends Soccer Season with State Championship

Tru Spiceland, 11, a sixth grade student at Mill Creek Elementary School in Madison, Ala., completed her 13th season of AYSO soccer this season with a huge win at the Alabama State Tournament. Spiceland's team won the State Championship with a score of 5-1. She is the daughter of Michael and Catherine Pinder Spiceland and great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Fritz Sittel, Jr.



Sells and Thrall Teammates Go to State



Amber Sells, No. 3, is a member of the 2AA Thrall High School varsity volleyball team. The Thrall, Texas varsity team went all the way to the State Playoffs this year and were a State finalist. This was the first time the Thrall girls varsity team played in the State Playoffs.

Wallace to Play Golf for OU

Lane Wallace signed a National Letter of Intent to play golf at the University of Oklahoma on Friday, Nov. 11, 2016. Wallace, who has a handicap of +4.2, joins the OU team after an impressive junior golf career. The two-time U.S.

Junior Amateur qualifier (2015, 2016) and 2016 Junior PGA Championship qualifier has recorded four top-10 finishes in American Junior Golf Association competitions. On the Oklahoma Junior Golf Tour, Wallace earned 18 top-five finishes in his career and posted a 68.8 stroke average in 2016.

In high school competition, Wallace is on track to letter all four years. Through his junior year, he has won 12 high school tournaments, and he finished in the top five at the 2016 6A Oklahoma State Championship. He is the son of Greg and Donna Wallace of Yukon, Okla. His grandparents are Raymond and Wanda Falls of Soper, Okla.



2016 Futures of Baseball Showcase a Success



The 2016 Futures of Baseball Showcase was held in October at Durant High School. A total of 55 players participated. The player who traveled the longest distance to participate was from Choctaw, Miss.

On Oct. 23, 2016, the Youth Events and Special Projects Department presented the 2016 Futures of Baseball Showcase at the Durant High School.

The showcase had representatives from 11 colleges. Players who attended the showcase received instruction and an evaluation of their skills from regional college coaches.

The players in attendance were high school players, from grades ninth through 12th, who had a Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership.

A total of 55 players attended the baseball showcase, with a player from Choctaw, Miss. traveling the farthest to attend.

The Youth Events and Special Projects Department will begin the new year by hosting another showcase.

The 2017 Futures of Softball Showcase will take place on Jan. 15, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Durant High School Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Facility.

The softball showcase is for competitive high school softball players from graded 9-12 with a Choctaw Tribal Membership card. The deadline to apply is Jan. 10. For questions, please contact Javen Henson at (800) 522-6170, ext.2739.

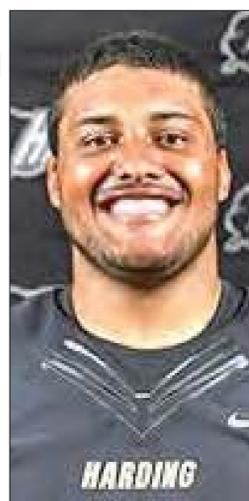
Players will work on 60 yard times, live on field hitting, bullpens, and have time on the field to work on defensive skills.

Coaches from Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA and JUCO schools are expected to be at the showcase.

The coaches will evaluate the players, as well as give them instruction on how to improve their skills.

Cordell Zalenski Named Academic All-American

Cordell Zalenski of Durant, a senior defensive end, was one of two Harding Bisons to receive Academic All-American honors. It was the first time Harding had two football teammates earn the honor at the same time. Zalenski has started all 14 games and had 35 tackles, including 6 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks.






Diabetes Prevention Class

A Diabetes Prevention Program will held at the Health Department in Hugo.

Classes start January 18. Class is 1 hour a week for 16 weeks, then once a month for 6 months.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Have had Gestational Diabetes
- Are Pre-diabetic
- Or, at risk for diabetes

If interested contact:
 Cayla Mitchell, RN.....(580) 326-9703 ext. 35003
 Annette Choate, RN, CDE (580) 286-2600 ext. 41072

Choctaw Nation Forestry Fire Program Pack Test

People at least 18 years old in good physical condition who are interested in becoming a Wildland Firefighter are welcome to take the Pack Test given by the Choctaw Nation Forestry Fire Program. A physical must be taken before the Pack Test. Physical Form can be picked up at the Forestry Office, faxed or mailed.

January 10 at 9:30n a.m.
 Talihina High School Track
 Talihina, Oklahoma

Contact Raymond Ludlow at (918) 567-2321
 Forestry Office located at 302 Church St. in Talihina (located in old BIA Building)



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As One Signs Up, Another Retires

Conard Holland

Jimmy Short

Conard Holland was inducted into the Oklahoma Army National Guard on Sept. 14, 2016, in Oklahoma City at the Federal building.

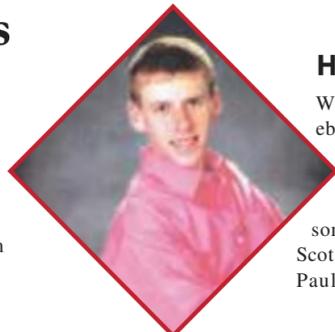
Conard is a senior at Atoka High School. He will go to basic training next summer in Georgia, then he will start his IT training. Conard plans on attending Southeastern Oklahoma University and majoring in computer graphic design when he is finished with his training. He is the son of Clint and Lucinda Holland, the grandson of Paul and Linda Kisinger and Sonja and the late Graham Holland, all of Atoka.



Lieutenant Commander Jimmy D. Short retired from the Navy Region Northwest Aug. 12, 2016. His retirement ceremony was held at the Jackson Park Chapel in Bremerton, Washington. He served in the Navy for 27 years moving up from a Law enforcement Specialist to a Lieutenant Commander. He was named USS SACRAMENTO Senior Sailor of the Year as well as the Pacific Northwest Senior Sailor of the Year for 2000. Lieutenant Commander Short served in several deployments and dedicated his life to protecting the United States.

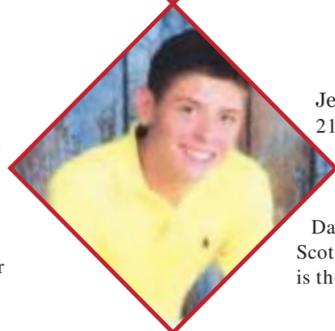
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wyatt Lane Williams celebrated his 21st birthday Sept. 9, 2016. He is the son of Barry and Linda Williams and the grandson of Donald and Bobbie Scott, and the late Arvel and Pauline Williams.



TO YOU

Jeffrey Keith Davis turned 21 on Sept. 14, 2016. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis. His grandparents are Earl Davis, Donald and Bobbie Scott. His great-grandmother is the late Evelyn Mills.



AND YOU

Nesha was blessed on her 21st birthday Dec. 1, 2016. Her mother said, "With laughter and joy, mixed with a few tears to cry this fact you must know, You'll always be my source of pride, no matter where you go," and wishes her a heartfelt happy birthday.



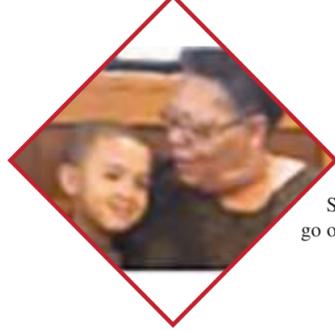
AND YOU

Robert "Bobby" Edward McKay celebrated his 13th birthday on Oct. 26, 2016. His aunt Jinjer and cousin Bonny would like to send him birthday blessings.



AND YOU

Payton Walls is sent a "Happy Birthday" from his Auntie Debra Davis. She said, "Birthday wishes go out to My 'Legend.'"



Little Miss Choctaw Donates Toys to Kids

A third-grader brought smiles to the children and nurses at the Norman Regional HealthPlex hospital in Norman.

Isabella Muncy, an 8-year-old from Red Oak, and Little Miss Choctaw Nation, donated baskets full of toys to children who are in the hospital.

Muncy said she wanted to donate toys after seeing both her younger sister and a friend have to spend time in the hospital. Her aunt is an emergency room nurse at the HealthPlex and helped arrange the donation. The nurses on the Women's and Children's unit gratefully accepted the donation from Isabella (left) and her sisters, Lillyanne (middle) and Abigail (right), on Nov. 21.

"This time of year, no one wants to be in the hospital," said Caitlin Janes, registered nurse in Women's and Children's. "These toys will boost our patient's moods immediately. There will be lots of big smiles!"

The Norman Regional HealthPlex is a 152-bed hospital located in Norman. It offers cardiology, emergency, orthopedics and women's and children's services.

Information courtesy of Norman Regional Health System.



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<p>Susan Shelton 580-372-3738 sshelton@choctawhousing.com Bethel 1/13/2017</p>	<p>Beckie Johnson 580-372-4154 bjohnson@choctawhousing.com Pocola 1/7/2017 Stigler 2/16/2017</p>

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From left to right Chad Ensey, Brian Reddick, Matthew Quarles, and Head Auto Mechanic Jeremy Allen

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Safer America Helps to Protect Choctaw Classrooms

By KENDRA GERMANY

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma held an “active shooter” drill on Dec. 5, at the Choctaw Nation Child Development Center in Durant.

This drill was held to test the newly installed bullet-proof door shields, bullet resistant windows, and security locks.

Choctaw tribal member Sage Dyer and her company Safer America created this three-part security system. Safer America is a part of the Choctaw Nation Preferred Supplier Program.

The instant remote security lock system locks each door with a single push of a button.

The second part of the system is the universal bulletproof door shield, which protects the door from being shot down, kicked in, or shattered. This technology was invented and designed by Sage at her home.

“I designed a universal door shield to protect the classroom from entry and to stop bullets,” said Dyer. “The reason for doing it was there was an influx of school shootings happening. We live in California and there was just an influx happening, and nobody was addressing how to actually stop a shooter from entering.”

One day, the school Dyer’s nephew attended went into lockdown due to an intruder. According to Dyer, that’s when she went into action.



By Choctaw Nation Video Production

Sage Dyer, a Choctaw tribal member, invented a universal bulletproof door shield to better protect classrooms. Dyer is the founder and CEO of Safer America. Based out of California, Safer America and its three part security system protect students all across the nation. Now students at the Choctaw Nation Child Development Center in Durant are protected by the Safer America System as well.

“I started thinking about it. I started talking to law enforcement. I talked to global threat specialists. I talked to legislators and congressmen and found out that they were doing research, but nothing was stopping it right now,” said Dyer. “I just went into action. I created the door shield in my garage with my sons. We perfected it over time and had it tested. It stops bullets.”

Dyer soon after founded the Safer America program.

“We put together the entire program because it’s not just the door. It’s the glass that they can shoot through, as they did in Sandy Hook. He just shot out the glass and went through,” said Dyer. “It’s the locks. A lot of people, God bless them, have tried to come up with ways to lock the door efficiently, but it hadn’t reached an efficient level yet.”

Safer America teamed up with Threat Assessment Specialist Warren Pulley, who previously served in the military and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Pulley conducted the “active shooter” drill, in which the system was proven successful.

The installation of the Safer America system will better protect students and employees of the Child Development Center.

The installation and demonstration were both arranged by Boyd Miller, Preferred Supplier Commodity Manager with the Choctaw Nation Procurement Department, along with Choctaw Nation Facilities Management Director Nick Cody and Assistant Director Ken Blaylock.

“Back in May of 2015, we met with Sage who is a Choctaw member. She had developed, invented and patented this bulletproof shield,” said Miller. “We found and assessed that we needed this type of product for our facilities.”

According to Miller these products and drills are important for the safety of our children.

“We are protecting our facility and our Choctaw members, which is a reflection on our leadership. That they have the foresight and that we are moving forward and being proactive. To say that we are immune to this type of situation is the ostrich in the sand because at some point there’s going to be a situation and we can be prepared for that,” said Miller.

Miller noted the importance of having a Choctaw member’s products being used for this project.

“In regards to the vendor, it’s just short of awesome that it was a Choctaw member that invented this particular product, and is now being used nationwide in different facilities,” said Miller.

According to Stacy Shepherd, Executive Director of Member Services, the safety of the children is a top priority of the Choctaw Nation.

“I think it’s important because I think as Choctaws we place such a high emphasis on family and our children, the safety of our children,” said Shepherd.

According to Shepherd, many communities often think back on what they could have done differently after a tragedy like a school shooting has occurred.

“We want to be proactive. We want to be ahead of the game. We hope that nothing like this ever happens in one of our facilities,” said Shepherd. “But, if it does we can say to our tribal members, the parents, the families, and the community that we took all of the precautions ahead of time to protect our most precious commodity, our children.”

The Child Development Center is the first Choctaw Nation facility to receive the Safer America security installation.

According to Miller, there are three more facilities will eventually receive the Safer America system.

For more information about Sage Dyer and Safer America, visit www.SaferAmerica.net.



By Kendra Germany

Threat Assessment Specialist Warren Pulley explains how the Safer America universal door shield prevents bullets from entering classrooms.



The Small Business Forgivable Loan Program evaluates the needs of qualified Choctaw tribal entrepreneurs and provides the capital necessary to successfully begin or grow their small business. Tribal members locating their small business within the Choctaw Nation boundaries (the 10 ½ counties) are eligible to receive a forgivable loan of up to \$5,000. The original loan amount may be forgiven on the one year anniversary date of the origination if all requirements outlined in the loan program are met.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

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choctawdevelopmentfund@choctawnation.com

HOT JOBS

Get **HIRED!** January 2017

Every month the Biskinik will spotlight open job positions in the Choctaw Nation. For job objectives, primary tasks, as well as required education, skills and experience, visit www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com.

Position

• Executive Director of Legal

Location

• Durant

To apply for these positions or see other job postings in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, visit www.Careers.ChoctawNation.com

SUMMER WORK PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The WIOA department will be visiting schools throughout Oklahoma to help students sign up for the summer work program.

1/5/17	LEFLORE	8:45	1/19/17	CALERA	11:00
1/5/17	WHITESBORO	10:00	1/19/17	COLBERT	9:30
1/5/17	WISTER	12:00	1/20/17	TUPELO	12:30
1/5/17	McALESTER	9:30	1/23/17	BROKEN BOW	9:00
1/6/17	CAMERON	11:00	1/24/17	BENNINGTON	12:00
1/6/17	POCOLA	12:30	1/24/17	FORT TOWSON	10:10
1/6/17	SPIRO	9:00	1/24/17	CROWDER	12:45
1/10/17	BOSWELL	10:00	1/24/17	CANNADIAN	1:40
1/10/17	HOWE	10:00	1/24/17	HAWORTH	8:00
1/10/17	POTEAU	12:30	1/24/17	IDABEL	11:30
1/10/17	RATTAN	1:00	1/24/17	INDIANOLA	10:30
1/10/17	SILO	11:55	1/25/17	ATOKA	12:55
1/11/17	CANEY	1:00	1/25/17	BATTIEST	1:00
1/11/17	CLAYTON	10:05	1/25/17	SMITHVILLE	9:00
1/11/17	COALGATE	9:30	1/25/17	TUSHKA	11:15
1/11/17	HEAVENER	9:00	1/26/17	CADDO	10:00
1/11/17	PANAMA	9:15	1/30/17	EAGLETOWN	10:00
1/11/17	STRINGTOWN	11:30	1/31/17	CALVIN	12:30
1/12/17	ARKOMA	9:00	1/31/17	VALLIANT	1:00
1/12/17	BOKOSHE	1:00	1/31/17	WRIGHT CITY	8:30
1/12/17	COLEMAN	10:00	1/31/17	PITTSBURG	9:30
1/12/17	HUGO	11:10	2/1/17	HAILLEYVILLE	8:00
1/12/17	KIOWA	11:00	2/1/17	HARTSHORNE	10:00
1/12/17	WAPANUCKA	12:15	2/1/17	McCURTIAN	10:40
1/12/17	SAVANNA	9:00	2/1/17	QUINTON	2:00
1/17/17	ROCK CREEK	1:00	2/1/17	STEWART	12:30
1/18/17	ANTLERS	10:00	2/2/17	KINTA	1:00
1/18/17	DURANT	9:51	2/8/17	KEOTA	11:00
1/18/17	MOYERS	1:15	2/8/17	STIGLER	8:30
1/18/17	SOPER	1:00	TBA	JONES ACADEMY	TBA

Bring a copy of CDIB/Membership Card, Social Security Card, Drivers License, Physical Address verification, Selective Service (if male and over 18). Also, bring a voided check or letter from the student’s bank if direct deposit of money is wanted.