



July 2018 Issue

Under Construction



From Concept to
Creation, Roads
Grow with the
Choctaw Nation

Life in the FASTLANE

Choctaw Nation Moves Forward with Road Construction Projects

by APRYL MOCK

The Choctaw Nation and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation are working together to make the roadways surrounding Choctaw property safer.

During their May 12 meeting, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council approved nine bills which will ensure the progress of current roadway projects.

Back in 2016, The Choctaw Nation partnered with state officials to procure

a \$62 million grant for Bryan County from the US Department of Transportation.

The grant was awarded under the Fostering Advancement of Transportation for Long-term Achievement of Nation Efficiencies (FASTLANE) program.

FASTLANE draws from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country.

The grant was added to state funds allotted to

make US 69/75 safer and easier to travel.

The Choctaw Nation and ODOT plan to construct a controlled-access highway.

A controlled access highway is an elevated highway designed for high-speed vehicular traffic, with all traffic flow, both on to and off of the highway regulated.

The project stretches from Chickasaw Road in Calera to the US 70 bypass north of the Choctaw Casino.

The intersection of US Hwy. 69/75 and Choctaw Road will also be improved to better accommodate the high traffic area.

Officials have been concerned with the safety and congestion issues this portion of the highway brings since 2014.

The intersections of US 69/75 are notoriously dangerous. ODOT reported that since 2010, approximately 63 percent of collisions in the area were at intersections of US 69/75.

The primary purpose of this realignment is to provide an alternate route for traffic, improving safety and traffic flow.

The project will eliminate the traffic lights in Calera, install service roads, elevate the highway



by Apryl Mock

In the coming years, residents of Bryan County, Oklahoma will begin to see road construction stretching from Chickasaw Road in Calera to the US 70 bypass, just north of the Choctaw Nation Casino and Resort.

and build controlled access ramps.

Before the grant, construction was expected to begin in 2026, now construction will be starting this year, beginning with the installation of utilities alongside where the future interchange will be.

Safety is the main goal of all involved.

The new Choctaw Nation Headquarters, The Durant Regional Medical Clinic and the Wellness Center are adjacent to the section of US 69/75 proposed for the improvement in the FASTLANE grant application.

Which means, most of the traffic for the Choctaw Nation will be traveling

through the project area, causing high volumes of traffic.

The improvements to US 69/75 will improve access and offer safer mobility to these facilities for visitors and employees of the Choctaw Nation.

This article is the first in a series about road construction.



Photo Provided

Chief Gary Batton (far right) speaks with Congressman Markwayne Mullin (OK-02) (left) and Anthony Echelle (center) from the Oklahoma State Dept. of Transportation about future road construction plans in Bryan County.

Poteau Choctaw Nation Wellness Center Opens Doors to Community



by Brandy Griffin

District 4 Councilperson Delton Cox cuts the ribbon for the Grand Opening of the Poteau Wellness Center May 31. The new facility is located at 102 Kerr Ave. in Poteau, Oklahoma.

The new Choctaw Wellness Center in Poteau is welcoming tribal members. The fitness center covers 13,000 square feet and is filled with top-of-the-line equipment.

"It's an initiative that we started many years ago to promote wellness for our Choctaw people," said Chief Gary Batton.

This wellness center is one of 12 opened by the Nation in the 10½ counties.

The mission of the Choctaw Nation Wellness Center is "To enhance the lives of tribal members and employees by providing opportunities to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles."

The facility contains a designated room for CrossFit, a basketball court, dressing rooms for men and women and separate classrooms for fitness programs.

The Wellness Center also offers a variety of classes and personalized programs for all ages.

The new facility is located at 102 Kerr Ave. in Poteau, Oklahoma.

Information about the Labor Day festival in Tvshka Homma will be available in the August Biskinik.

CELE

Grand Opening Begins New Chapter in Chahta History



Chief Gary Batton

tribal members and community. In this atmosphere, initiative and creativity are moving the Choctaw Nation forward.

The design of the building and the surrounding campus was inspired by the Choctaw people, our culture and the natural elements. It tells the story of the past, present and future through designs, textures and color.

Each floor has a color scheme—earth (green), wind (navy/gray), fire (red), sun (yellow) and water (teal).

The diamond pattern is used throughout, honoring the diamondback rattlesnake, as well as other designs honoring nature.

Vivid photographs and exceptional art by Choctaw artists line the walls. We are privileged to have their work for everyone to enjoy.

The headquarters, including the grounds and restaurant, are for family.

I love to walk the halls and see the conversations between employees, some who have been here for 30-plus years and others who may be just beginning their journey with the Nation.

Visitors are welcome and tribal member services are available on the first two floors, with the most requested services positioned toward the center of the building for easier access.

Contacting us re-

mains the same by calling either (580) 924-8280 or (800) 522-6170. The mailing address also remains the same. Correspondence can be sent to P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK, 74702. Just remember to put attention to the name of the department you are sending mail to.

Words cannot always describe our surroundings. The heart and spirit of the Choctaw Nation is tangible wherever we come together for the good of the Nation, where we care for each other and plan our future.

I hope you can visit the new headquarters at 1802 Chukka Hina in Durant, Oklahoma and experience the faith, family and culture that lives through the people, art and details of our new home.



by Kendra Germany

Employees and tribal members alike enjoy eating lunch on the patio. The patio overlooking the pond is just one of a few eating areas near Roots, the restaurant inside the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Roots is open 7-9 a.m. for breakfast and 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for lunch. Fresh grab and go is available from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Walking into the new Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant makes me reflect and think about the past and the struggles and resilience of our tribal members.

It also makes me think of where the tribe is today and the bright promise of an even better future.

It is a home where the Chahta spirit of faith, family and culture will be lived out daily.

A home where love, grace and prayer can be found day in and day out. And, a home where all of our family of tribal members, employees and community will always be welcome.

The grand opening was held June 26 for the 500,000-sq.-ft. facility. Approximately 1,000 employees are now together in their new home instead of being separately housed in at least 30 different locations.

They have the best in technology and teamwork abounds as they communicate and combine resources to meet the needs of the Choctaw Nation family of

Investing in Choctaw Tribal Members Through Education



Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr.

Education is the key to success and the Choctaw Nation has several accomplishments to celebrate as it endeavors to provide educational opportunities.

Among those, the Higher Education Program (HEP) awarded \$3,303,500 in scholarships for the Spring 2018 semester. The program is available to Choctaw Nation tribal members throughout the country who are actively pursuing a degree from an accredited college or university.

A great example of how HEP has helped make a difference is about a young man from Hugo, Oklahoma – Spencer Cooke. Spencer's family is in the restaurant business, and he always assumed that would be his future. His family encouraged him to attend college, and there he discovered his passion for literature. Once Spencer enrolled at Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU), he maintained a 15-credit-hour schedule every semester while

working over 50 hours a week. He graduated from SOSU this spring and has accepted a funded offer from the University of Wyoming for his Masters in English Literature. He credits his parents for their inspiration, saying the amount of work he put in every week did not compare to the amount of intensive labor that his parents put forth to get him to where he is today.

A new financial literacy program, College Freshman Year Initiative (FYI) at Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC), is the first partnership of its kind between a tribe and a higher education institution.

Statistics show money management is the number one reason students do not stay in school. EOSC has had a 100 percent success rate for students who participated in College FYI to continue their education in the spring.

Eleven of the 17 graduates from the LPN program at Kiamichi Technology Center in Idabel this spring were Choctaw. I enjoy seeing our Choctaw students filling the classrooms.

The Career Development Program provides a path to quality career and technology training opportunities that many people find more fitting to their goals.

It is open to tribal members throughout the United States and currently has 2,739 clients enrolled in approved training programs. More than 8,600 tribal members have completed an approved training program and obtained employment.

The average salary increase for those who complete training can be as much as \$15,000 annually.

In May, Shelby Reynolds earned a Bachelor's Degree in Early Intervention Child Development. Career Development was helpful with Shelby finishing school and now she has a career she loves. Shelby continues to encourage everyone to reach out to the Career Development Program for assistance.

Information on these programs and other educational services can be found on ChoctawNation.com. Yakoke to all the dedicated associates and to the tribal members who strive to succeed. You are truly examples of living out the Chahta Spirit.



by Tracy McKaughan

Chief Gary Batton, far left, and Councilperson District 1 Thomas Williston, far right, were at Kiamichi Technology Center in Idabel to congratulate the graduates of the LPN program. Out of the 17 graduates of the program, 11 were Choctaw Nation tribal members.

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

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

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

BISKINIK

JULY 2018

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sassafras month

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Road construction will become the norm as improvements to US 69/75 begin. The FASTLANE project stretches from Chickasaw Road in Calera to the US 70 bypass between the Choctaw Casino and Durant.

The new Poteau Wellness Center celebrates with a ribboncutting ceremony.

Front Illustration by Apryl Mock

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

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

www.facebook.com/ChoctawNationofOklahoma

www.twitter.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.instagram.com/ChoctawNationOK

www.youtube.com/ChoctawNationOK

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures For the Six Months Ended March 31, 2018			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	151,000,521	583,448,316	734,448,837
Expenditures			
General Government	78,764,892	-	78,764,892
Health	72,929,645	-	72,929,645
Education	14,394,044	-	14,394,044
Human	27,254,531	-	27,254,531
Community	10,641,116	-	10,641,116
Cultural	4,930,124	-	4,930,124
Judiciary	674,787	-	674,787
Internal Service	1,440,333	-	1,440,333
Choctaw Businesses	-	400,546,314	400,546,314
Total Expenditures	211,029,473	400,546,314	611,575,787
Transfers	196,654,275	(196,654,275)	-
Increase in Net Assets	136,625,324	(13,752,273)	122,873,050
Beginning Net Assets	2,298,502,904	882,955,693	3,181,458,598
Ending Net Assets	2,435,128,228	869,203,420	3,304,331,648

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Schedule of Net Assets As of March 31, 2018			
	Tribal Government	Choctaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	1,803,461,160	199,529,490	2,002,990,650
Receivables	376,576,347	35,563,650	412,139,997
Inventory	3,764,800	18,333,634	22,098,434
Prepaid Expenses	6,460,201	8,300,763	14,760,964
Other Assets	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	825,331,262	698,382,989	1,523,714,251
Less Payables	(580,465,541)	(90,907,106)	(671,372,647)
Net Assets	2,435,128,229	869,203,420	3,304,331,649

When Healthcare Falls Short, RAM Picks Patients Back Up

by APRYL MOCK



Top: Hundreds of people filled the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus on June 2 and 3 to receive free medical care.

Bottom: While most patients sought out dental care, vision and general medical services were offered as well.

Some days it feels like there is little we can do to alleviate the suffering of this world. Nevertheless, there are those who give all they can and then give a little more.

On June 2 and 3, hundreds of volunteers, doctors and dentists gave their time and skill to lift up the Durant community, whose poverty rate is a dismal 24.8 percent (the national average is 12.7 percent, according to U.S. census data).

Remote Area Medical volunteers provided a chance for uninsured and underserved patients to receive medical care with no strings attached.

The first patient arrived at 4 a.m., the day before the event started. Before the sun rose on Saturday, hundreds of sick, exhausted Oklahomans were lined up for blocks. Some dozing in lawn chairs, others sprawled on the wet grass.

In all, more than 566 people received dental, vision, gynecological and general medical care, \$297,734 worth of much-needed services. RAM partnered with Southeastern Oklahoma State University, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (PHSCC) and South Baptist Disaster Relief.

Delta Dental, South Baptist Disaster Relief and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were the title sponsors. Other local sponsors include First United, First Bank, Security First National Bank and Banc First.

In addition to providing financial support, there were many Choctaw tribal members volunteering their time.

According to Commander Joyce Oberly of the PHSCC, "The Choctaws are definitely a tribe to imitate. Supporting these events really shows their commitment to health and the health of the surrounding community."

While dental services are typically the most popular choice for such events, 299 patients chose to receive vision services, a close second to the 362 who received dental care.

Vision tests were performed on site. Once the patients had received their prescription and selected their frames, their eyeglasses were fabricated on site in as little as 10 minutes.

According to Robert Lambert, Media Relations Specialist, "It's amazing to see such an immediate impact. You get to see their faces light up when they put on glasses and can actually see for the first time in a decade."

RAM operates more than 60 mobile medical clinics, 90 percent of which serve the U.S., although they frequently assist patients in other countries following natural disasters, including Puerto Rico following Hurricane Irma.

In addition to helping their fellow man, RAM assists man's best friend, providing veterinary care for more than 67,000 pets since 1985.

Founder of RAM, Stan Brock said, "For more than three decades, RAM has continued to grow into an organization that has treated hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need of healthcare. We will not stop pushing forward."

For more information, to volunteer or donate to RAM visit www.ramusa.org.

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NURSERY NEWS

Matthew Jacob "Jake" Beshear



Matthew Jacob "Jake" Beshear was born Feb. 13, 2018 at 6:35 a.m. in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Jake was welcomed home by his proud parents Breanna Redeagle and Matthew Beshear, and big sister Marley, 8. He is the grandson of Dan and Tina Beshear and Christopher Redeagle.

Jake is Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), Seneca-Cayuga and Quapaw.

Recipe of the Month Pepper Steak



Recipe by Carmen Robertson

Ingredients

- 1 (3 pound) roast
- 1 medium onion
- 2 bell peppers
- 1 cup white rice
- ½ cup wild rice
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- salt and pepper to taste

Preparation

1. Combine the rice in strainer and rinse with warm water until water is clear. Then place in pan with water cook until done.
2. Slice the roast, against the grain, into steaks and then cut into strips.
3. Cut onion and bell peppers into strips.
4. In large pot add oil and beef. Once browned, add onion and bell peppers.
5. Stirring occasionally, add ½ cup of water at a time to cook beef.
6. Place rice on plate and top with pepper steak.

Nutrition Facts:

Servings 6
Serving size 143 grams
(per serving)
Calories 249, Total Fat 7 grams, Trans Fat 2 grams, Cholesterol 37 milligrams, Sodium 46 milligrams, Total Carbohydrates 35 grams, Dietary Fiber 1 gram, Sugars 1 grams, Protein 15 grams, Vitamin A, 2 percent, Vitamin C, 36 percent, Calcium 3 percent and Iron 14 percent.

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

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

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

August 2018

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: August 6 & 17, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m..

BROKEN BOW
Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: August 10 & 16, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: August 9 & 14, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

MCALESTER
Market open weekdays August 1-31, except for:
Closed: August 30 & 31.
Cooking With Carmen: August 3 & 20, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m..

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

Spiro Hoop House Food Demo: Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SPIRIT OF FUN

2018

OUTREACH

at the

beach

SARDIS LAKE, OK

Wednesday | July 11, 2018 | 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Swimming | Free Lunch | Karaoke | Give Aways | T-shirt

Check your local Choctaw Nation Community Center for bus pickup times and to reserve your seat if available. For more information, contact Outreach Services at 1-877-285-6893

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www.ChoctawNation.com

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Brett Byram Makes Waves in the Science Community

by KENDRA GERMANY

It's no secret, there are numerous Choctaw tribal members throughout the nation that are doing great things and changing the world. Brett Byram is one of those shining examples.

The 37-year-old Chicago native is currently an assistant biomedical engineering professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Byram's love for science started with the help from a few special teachers.

"I was always making things. For a long time, I wanted to do aerospace engineering. I made a lot of those little model rockets and I've always liked math and science. All of those things lead to engineering," said Byram. "I had a really good biology teacher in high school. They pointed me more to biological problems, but I still liked math, physics and some of the more quantitative sciences. When I started to try and figure out what I wanted to do, biomedical engineering was a good fit. I started doing medical imaging, because it's very mathematical and has a lot of physics in it but we're still trying to solve medical and biological problems. So, it has continued to be a great way

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to take all of my interests and kind of keep them all connected," explained Byram.

Byram received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt in 2004 and graduated from Duke University with a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering in 2011. During his educational journey, Byram was thankful to receive assistance from the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program.

Byram was an assistant research professor from 2012 until he joined the Vanderbilt engineering faculty in 2013. During his time at Vanderbilt, Byram formed the Biomedical Elasticity and Acoustic Measurement Laboratory. The BEAM Lab is a part of the Vanderbilt Biomedical Engineering Department, the Vanderbilt Institute of Surgery and Engineering, and the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science.

Byram was recently awarded the \$550,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development grant. The five-year grant will help Byram and his team develop life-changing brain-machine interface using an ultrasound helmet and EEG.

"The big challenge when doing anything in the brain with ultrasound is getting good images," stated Byram.

Doctors and scientists have been working on this dilemma for years.

According to Byram, with current methods, ultrasound beams bounce around inside the skull making it nearly impossible to get clear imaging.

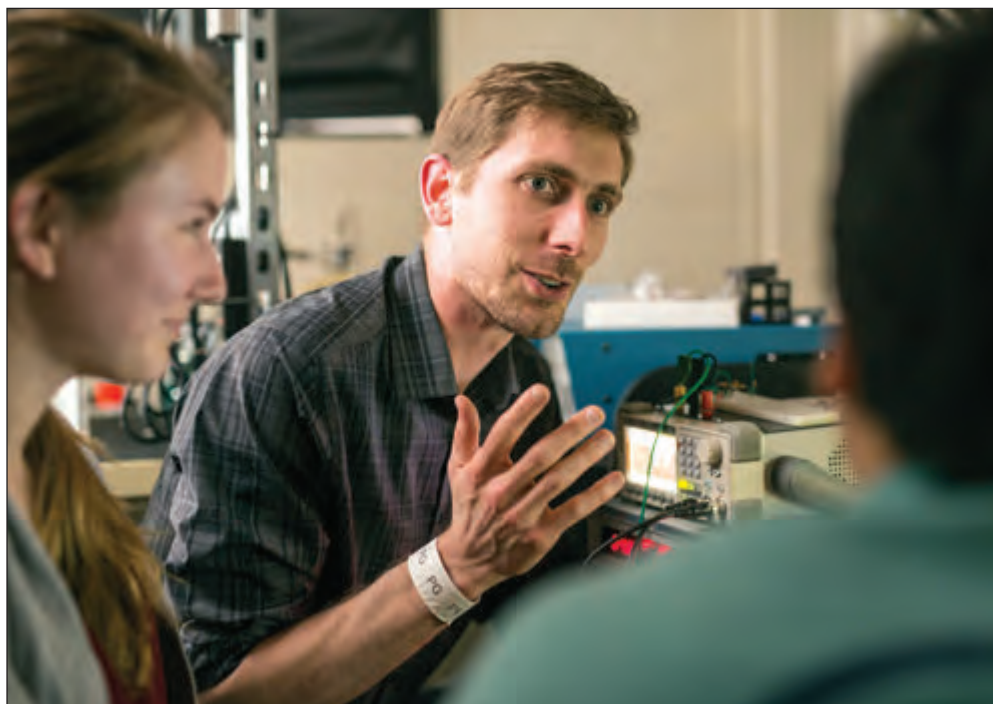


Photo Provided by Daniel Dubois/Vanderbilt University

Tribal member Brett Byram recently received the \$500,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Career Development grant. This grant will allow Byram and his team at Vanderbilt University to develop brain-machine interface technology using a helmet that combines ultrasound and EEG technology. This research could change the way doctors receive brain imaging and possibly help individuals suffering from ALS regain some form of independence.

"We think we have ways to get through the skull a little better and get the signal that's coming back," explained Byram.

Not only could the helmet produce better imaging to save lives, it could also help writers edit papers more thoroughly and students study more efficiently. However, one of the biggest goals is to use this technology to help individuals with ALS regain some form of independence.

The future looks bright for Byram and his team. His research could potentially change the lives of so many.

Visit <https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/bme> for more information on Byram and his research.



Hartung-LaChusa Receives Bachelors from California State University San Marcos

Kelsey Rae Hartung-LaChusa is a recent graduate of California State University, San Marcos. She received a BA in Liberal Studies. While attending CSUSM Kelsey was an avid member of the Cal State San Marcos American Indian Student Alliance. She received a special stole for her service on campus from Dr. Joely Proudfit (the Director of California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center) and Tishmall Turner (Tribal Liaison) at the American Indian Graduate Honoring Ceremony. Kelsey plans to attend a credential program in the fall and aspires to become an elementary school teacher working with Native American children at a tribal school. Teaching has been a dream of Kelsey's, and she looks forward to changing the world one child at a time.



Clay Earns Doctorate from Notre Dame de Namur University

Jennifer C. Clay graduated with her Doctorate of Philosophy in Art Therapy at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California May 5.

She is the daughter of Jesse Jake Clay of Daisy, Oklahoma and Shirley Sharp. Clay wanted to thank the Choctaw Nation and the Choctaw Education Department for scholarship funds that allowed her to realize a lifelong dream. Clay also received the School of Education and Psychology's Outstanding Service to the Department Award in Art Therapy Psychology. Clay plans to teach and continue her research with the Kumeyaay tribes in east San Diego County on cultural resilience.

Leach Graduates from Union University

Jake Walton Leach received his degree in Christian Ministry and Missions with a Minor in Business Management May 19, from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

His next pursuit in education is earning a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Counseling at Denver Seminary in Denver, Colorado.

Leach finished the semester by being on the Dean's List.

Leach is the son of Alisha Leach of Stillwater and Clark Leach of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He has a brother Ben Taylor Leach of Jackson who attends Union University and a sister Sarah Brooks of Moyers, Oklahoma.

Walton is the grandson of Susana and Dave Pate of Durant, Victor and Mary Chavez of Oklahoma City, Cheryl and the late Raymond Adams of Stonewall, Oklahoma, and Kent and Linda Leach of Stonewall.



Dolan Graduates with Juris Doctorate from St. John's Law School

Ryan Dolan recently graduated with his Juris Doctorate from St. John's Law School. Dolan is from Bakersfield, California. He is the son of tribal member Anita Self and grandson of Thomas Self of Hugo, Oklahoma.

While at St. John's, Dolan served as a senior staff member of the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review and a senior staff member on the Moot Court Board.

Dolan has accepted a job as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City and will be sitting for the New York Bar Exam in July.



Howeth has Successful Sophomore Year at Byng

Colton Howeth, son of Maria and Richard Howeth of Ada, had a very successful year as a sophomore at Byng High School. He was voted Sophomore Student of the Month for February 2018, awarded the JOM Sophomore Student of the Year for 2017-2018 school year, and received an award for being in the top 10 percent of his class with a GPA of over 4.0. He is an active member in the Byng High School Pirate Pride Band



Coser Graduates from OSU-Stillwater With Doctorate

Ashleigh Coser graduated from OSU-Stillwater with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Clinical Psychology. She previously received the Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Psychology and the Master of Science Degree in Counseling from Oklahoma State University. Ashleigh is currently completing an internship with the Indian Health Resource Center of Tulsa and will continue post-doctoral training at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

She was an AIPP Program Fellow at OSU, a University of Washington ISMART Fellow, a University of Colorado Center for American Indian



and Alaska Native Health Scholar, an American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship Program participant, and the recipient of an Indian Health Services Graduate Scholarship.

Ashleigh is the daughter of Pete and Jo Anna Coser of Stillwater and the granddaughter of the late Sampson and Josephine Wade of Antlers and the late George and Stella Coser of Okmulgee.

Mayorga Accepted into University of California San Diego

Lynnea Katherine Mayorga will be graduating from Heritage High School June 7. She was accepted into her first choice college, the University of California, San Diego.

Lynnea was awarded an Academic Achievement Award, a Citizenship Award and a Career Academy Recognition Award.

Lynnea aspires to be a Pediatric Neurologist.



EVENTS

Choctaw Nation Community Center Health Fairs

There are no Health Fairs in the month of July. They will resume in Wilburton on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

Indian Falls Creek

Sunday, July 29- Thursday, Aug. 2
Indian Falls Creek is a camp for the entire family. Information for registration, program, and housing can be found at IndianFallsCreek.net, or contact Executive Director Victor Cope at (405) 598-2067 or ndnrev@aol.com.

Tribal Council Holds Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Saturday, June 9, in their chambers at Tvshka Homma.

During the regular session committee reports were presented.

The minutes of the regular session held on Saturday, May 12, were approved.

New business included approval of the following items:

- Dispose surplus capital assets.
- One-time funding grant for the Head Start program.
- Application for the Head Start COLA funds.
- Early Head Start Federal COLA Award FY 2018-19.
- Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant.
- Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Economic Development Feasibility Study Funding, local exchange carrier.
- DOI BIA Economic Development Feasibility Study Funding, wireless spectrum.
- Funding for construction of new district entertainment venue in Idabel, Oklahoma.
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and State of Oklahoma Gaming Compact Non-House-Banked Table Games Supplement.

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

The next Tribal Council meeting will be held on Saturday, July 14, at 10 a.m. in Tvshka Homma.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Legal Assistance

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

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

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

July Community Center Schedule	August Community Center Schedule
7-12 Coalgate: 10-1 & 1:30-3	8-9 Wright City: 10-1 & 1:30-3
7-26 Crowder: 10-1 & 1:30-3	8-26 Idabel: 10-1 & 1:30-3
	8-26 Poteau: 10-1 & 1:30-3

Biskinik Announcement Policy

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

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

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

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

Veterans Affairs Presumptive Conditions Event

Tuesday, July 10 from 12-6 p.m.
Choctaw Community Center
3274 Afullota Hina, McAlester, Oklahoma

Tuesday, July 17 from 12-6 p.m.
Donald W. Reynolds Community Center
501 S. Broadway, Poteau, Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation and Veterans Affairs will be hosting a Presumptive Conditions Campaign Event focused on identifying and assisting veterans across Choctaw Nation who may have presumptive disabilities and might be eligible for a VA pension claim. These conditions may qualify for VA compensation payments. In addition, spouses may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) when a veteran dies as a result of these presumptive disabilities. The event is free and lunch will be provided. For more details please see article on Page 6.

For more information contact,

Karen Massey, Medicaid/VA Coordinator, Choctaw Nation Health Care, (918) 567-7000, ext 6462, kmassey@cnhsa.com
Jeremy Taylor, Choctaw Nation Health Care, (918) 567-7000, ext 6498, jntaylor@cnhsa.com
Mary Culley, VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist at (405) 626-3425, Mary.Culley@va.gov

56th Annual Open Air Gospel Singing

Saturday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Rock Creek Church, Honobia, Oklahoma
A concession stand will be available. Please bring lawn chairs.

LETTERS

On behalf of the Goodwater Community in Pushmataha County we want to say thank you to District 7 CHR worker Angela James for all the help and support that you provide for our community and church. Whenever the church and families here are in need of anything you work hard and do all that you can to help make sure that need is fulfilled. We appreciate all that you do for us and we love you. Thank you. May the good Lord bless you.

**Goodwater Community
Fort Towson, Oklahoma**

I wanted to thank you all for the wonderful Wisdom blanket that was sent to my Papa, Quentis Edward Vaile, for his 90th birthday. He is pictured below sitting with his blanket in his favorite chair. He taught us kids to honor and respect the values of the Choctaws.

Angelique Diane (Vaile) Harris



Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association and Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement, and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 ½ county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. Micro-loans are available for emergency home improvements and small businesses. The loans are available up to \$2,500 and are to be repaid within 24 months. To be eligible to apply you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB and reside within the 10 ½ county area of the Choctaw Nation.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at (580) 924-8280 ext. 2161 or toll-free (800) 522-6170.

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

McAlester Community Center
July 13
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

August 2018
Durant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Broken Bow - Monday, Wednesday and Friday Idabel by appointment
Phone: (580) 326-8304; Fax: (580) 326-0115 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

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

A Message from the General Counsel's Office

There have been recent news articles about a judgment against the Choctaw Nation arising out of a bus accident and rumors this has resulted in tribal funds being paid in the lawsuits filed.

In 2013, the Choctaw Nation chartered a bus from Cardinal bus lines to bring patrons from the Dallas/Fort Worth area to the Choctaw Casino and Resort. The bus was involved in a tragic single-vehicle accident causing multiple injuries and deaths.

The bus company and the Choctaw Nation had insurance covering this accident. Initially, the Choctaw Nation's insurance companies tried to avoid paying these claims but later agreed to cover them. There were multiple cases filed in the Texas courts.

The Choctaw Nation requested these cases to be settled by the insurance companies and most of them were. A few of the cases were not settled by the insurance companies which resulted in the trial covered by the news media.

The Choctaw Nation regrets this accident happened. The insurance companies have paid all legal fees and settlements in these cases.

They will be responsible for the remaining claims, judgments, settlements and legal fees. The individuals filing these cases and their lawyers recognized the Choctaw Nation's sovereign immunity and agree any recovery could only be paid from the Choctaw Nation's insurance policies.

They also agreed the Choctaw Nation would not be responsible for payment from tribal funds to resolve these cases.

The leaders of the Choctaw Nation take their responsibility to protect tribal funds and sovereign immunity seriously.

They have done this by making sure the Choctaw Nation has insurance to cover situations like this one and by the inclusion of an endorsement in the insurance policies, which recognizes the Choctaw Nation's sovereign immunity.

Michael Burrage
General Counsel
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Gary Batton
Chief

Jack Austin Jr.
Assistant Chief

The Official
Monthly Publication
of the

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Lisa Reed, Executive Director
Stacy Hutto, Managing Editor
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email: biskinik@ChoctawNation.com

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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

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





Photos Provided

Growing Hope Greenhouse Takes Root in Tvshka Homma

by LAKESHA HAWKINS

The newly constructed greenhouse on the grounds of the Choctaw Nation capitol at Tvshka Homma is home to the Preserving Choctaw Culture by Growing Hope project.

The project is funded by a four year U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Food Promotion grant in which OSU is partnering with the Choctaw Nation to study the cultivation, production, nutritional value and commercialization of traditional crops.

The structure will be used to grow threatened Choctaw heirloom crops in a protected environment with a goal of creating stable seed bases that can be shared with tribal families interested in growing these traditional crops.

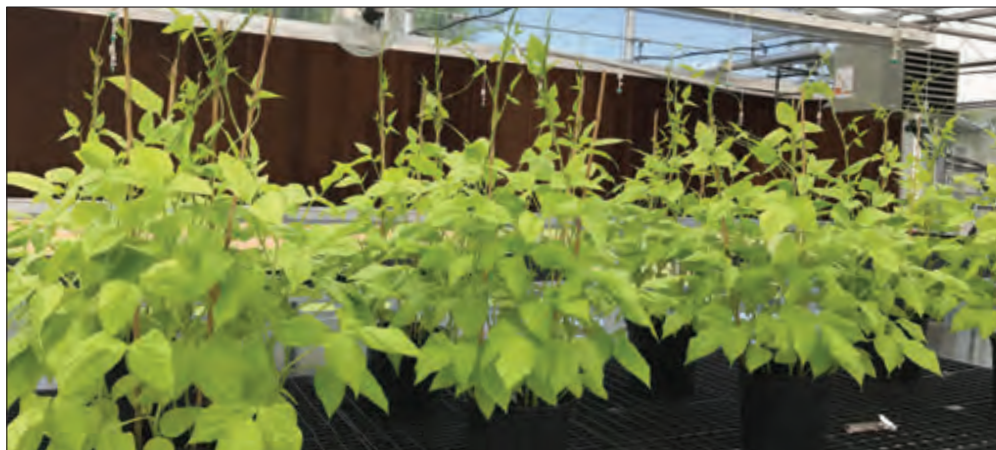
The project is aimed at improving access to healthier fresher food options and increased self-reliance. Education on cultivation through mentoring and training projects will also be available, including Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) certification.

The project will also be linking farmers to the Choctaw grocery store for retail options and promote product development and marketing through the Farmers Market promotion program.

Preserving Choctaw Culture by Growing Hope is established on the ultimate goal of changing a way of life which thus far has led us to disparities in health and economic inequities across our highly distressed and food insecure region.

Additional support of CFP objectives will be realized through improved health, physical activity and food security among our low-income families and communities.

For more information on how you can become involved, contact Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach.



(above) The greenhouse at Tvshka Homma is home to the Preserving Choctaw Culture by Growing Hope project. The greenhouse is being used to grow heirloom Choctaw crops. The goal is to create a stable seed bank so interested tribal members can grow traditional crops to help feed their families a healthier diet. (left) An abundance of Choctaw peas is growing in the greenhouse at Tvshka Homma.

USDA Accepts FSA County Committee Member Nominations

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the USDA will soon begin accepting nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA County Committees throughout Oklahoma.

The nomination period for the 2018 election is June 15–Aug. 1.

Almost anyone participating or associated with agricultural land and who is of legal voting age can be nominated as a candidate.

Tribal members are considered landowners if their tribe has an agricultural interest in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) and they live within the LAA.

All nomination forms must be received in a County FSA Office or postmarked by Aug. 1. Voting takes place between Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

For more information about the election, or to obtain an election map you can contact your local FSA office in Atoka, Holdenville, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau or you can contact the Bryan County FSA office in Durant at (580) 924-4131 ext. 2. The Bryan County FSA office serves as the local FSA contact office for the Choctaw Nation.



Choctaw Nation WIC and Farmers Market Nutrition Programs Open

The Choctaw Nation WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs are currently in full swing.

Seniors interested in the seniors program may request an application from the nearest Choctaw Community Center or call Peggy Carlton, Choctaw Nation Farmers Market Coordinator, at (580) 916-9140 ext. 83812 to request an application be mailed to their home.

When mailing in an application be sure to include a copy of CDIB card, income verification and residency proof. If these required documents are not included with the application, it will be placed on hold until the required documentation is received. A follow-up letter will be sent to explain what was missing.

This is a first-come, first serve program and checks will be available until funding is depleted.

Program Requirements are:

Must reside in the Choctaw Nation 10 1/2 counties service area, proof of address, Native Americans 55 and older, non-Native Americans 60 and older residing in a Native American household, must provide income proof, disabled persons at least 55 or older receiving congregate services living in housing for the elderly.

Eligible participants will be mailed \$50 in checks that can be exchanged with authorized farmers for fresh fruits and vegetables.

WIC participants may visit their nearest Choctaw Nation WIC clinic and inquire about farmers market checks. Participants must be in a current certification and receiving checks from the Choctaw WIC program.

Infants must be at least 4 months old to receive farmers market checks. Each qualifying participant will receive \$30 in checks to be exchanged with authorized farmers in the area for fresh fruits and vegetables.

You do not have to have a WIC appointment to pick up your checks, you may walk in and ask for them. To avoid long waiting times be sure to call first and ask about a convenient time.

Farmers Market participants will also receive a list of farmers in alphabetical order by county. The list has the farmers phone numbers so participants may call and inquire of the location of the farmer that day and what they have available.

You do not have to be a farmers market program participant to purchase from the farmers, the public is encouraged to visit Choctaw Nation's authorized farmers and select from fresh, delicious fruits and vegetables grown in your area.

VA and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Host Presumptive Conditions Event

On July 10 and July 17, Veterans Affairs and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will host a Presumptive Conditions Campaign Event focused on identifying and assisting Veterans across Choctaw Nation and Oklahoma who may have presumptive disabilities and who might be eligible for a VA pension claim.

A presumptive disability is a condition that VA presumes are related to military service, although the condition may first appear after discharge from the military. These conditions may qualify for VA compensation payments.

Throughout 2018, VA is launching a nationwide campaign to roll out veteran disability enrollment claim events collaboratively with 20 tribal communities.

The campaign, titled "Your Service. Our Mission: Bringing Benefits Home" kicked off March 21, in Navajo Nation and tribal communities in 11 states have already confirmed their participation.

VA realizes that reaching these veterans could have a direct, tangible impact on the lives of thousands of previously unreached veterans and their spouses.

This will help VA enhance and improve the experience for all Veterans and their families.

"With the focus on veterans with presumptive disabilities and those who are pension eligible, VA is hopeful we can help Indian Country veterans access the full range of benefits they have courageously earned through their service," said Stephanie Birdwell, VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations Director.

In addition, spouses may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) when a veteran dies as a result of these presumptive disabilities.

During the event, health information and other benefits will be available and provided by both OKC and Muskogee VA Medical Centers, Muskogee Veterans

Benefits Administrations Regional Office, the State Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled Veterans of America, local Vet Centers and Tribal Veteran Service Officers who will be on site to assist with filling out claims paperwork.

Services offered for this two-day event range from the Social Security Disability Determination Office, Veterans Service Officers filling out disability claims and VBA Regional Office staff reviewing claims on the spot with the hope of possibly approving several claims that same day.

Other agencies will be on site to provide program services available for which veterans might be eligible for.

Both medical centers will also be on hand to enroll any veterans who currently are not enrolled in the Veterans Health Care System.

The event is free and lunch will be provided.

For more information contact Mary Culley, VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist at (405) 626-3425, Mary.Culley@va.gov; Ms. Karen Massey, Medicaid/VA Coordinator, Choctaw Nation Health Care, (918) 567-7000, ext 6462, ksmassey@cnhsa.com; and Jeremy Taylor, Choctaw Nation Health Care, (918) 567-7000, ext 6498, jntaylor@cnhsa.com.

Locations of Free VA Event

McAlester
Tuesday, July 10, Noon-6 p.m.
Choctaw Community Center
3274 Afulotta Hina

Poteau
Tuesday, July 17, Noon-6 p.m.
Donald W. Reynolds Community Center
501 S. Broadway

**JOIN US THIS FALL
ENROLL AT JONES ACADEMY**

We are accepting applications for the 2018 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. Tuition, travel, and services are cost-free to families. Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms. Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post-Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

Apply today
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HARTSHORNE, OK 74547

JONES ACADEMY

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Agriculture Outreach

**PASTURE MANAGEMENT
WORKSHOP
JULY 26, 2018**

Stigler Choctaw Community Center

2208 E. Main St.
Stigler, Oklahoma 74462

6 p.m.

Partners include USDA NRCS, Haskell County Conservation District, Choctaw Nation Agriculture Outreach and more.

To RSVP, contact Lisa Grey
(918) 647-6852



Alma Louise Laney is living life to the fullest. The 98-year-old socialite retired four years ago, and has since allowed herself more time to attend luncheons, shopping trips, join friends for visits at the golf club and even go ballroom dancing.

by JUDY ALLEN

Choctaws are a matriarchal society. At 98, Alma Louise Laney certainly shines as the matriarch of her family.

She keeps her new iPhone close, as family and friends call daily to check in.

They want to know how she is doing, as well as seek her advice. And Alma has lots of friends.

Since she retired four years ago, she now has time to go to luncheons, shopping trips, join friends for visits at the golf club and go ballroom dancing more often. Her life is very active, and she enjoys every minute.

She renewed her driver's license the week before her 98th birthday. Friends love to pick her up for church and the various activities, but she enjoys her independence and is perfectly capable of driving herself.

"When I was a little girl, our family didn't have a car so when I was sent to Wheelock (Academy) at the age of nine, my daddy took me from our home in Grant to

Millerton and put me on a bus."

Alma said she began to cry and as the tears rolled down her face, her dad asked her, "Baby, do you want to go home?"

She sobbed and told him no, she didn't want to go home. "So he left me to get on the bus and go to school at Wheelock. I am so glad I said no and went to school. I have wonderful memories of Wheelock and all the friends I had there."

Alma said the girls all had ballet and tapdancing. She feels they had a better education and had more opportunities that the young ladies in public schools.

They also learned Home Economics. They were taught to cook and sew. She won competitions, including a memorable state-wide competition

against girls at Stillwater.

"I was in the newspaper and everything, quite a celebrity!" Laughing, Alma said she had given all that "cooking and sewing" up nowadays!

"I was always proud of my Indian blood. We called our father Papa. His name was Ike Moses and my mother was Lula Belle Hall Moses. There were seven of us children, Ike Newton, Lucille, me, Sally (she died at age seven from malaria) Robert Louis, Stell Thomas, Albert Moses. Those of us who grew up all graduated from Chilocco.

"Papa wanted us to grow up speaking English instead of Choctaw. He thought we would have more advantages speaking English. He made sure we always went to church together. I could hear Papa singing and praying loudly from anywhere in the house—and he prayed and sang in Choctaw, so I couldn't exactly understand what he was saying.

"We had a good family, a fun family. We had a big table,

and we all had to eat together. That was important for my mother and father. Sometimes my family would go to Roebuck Lake and spend the night and fish.

"Our father talked a lot about moving from Mississippi to Oklahoma and how hard it was.

(He came to Indian Territory after the Trail of Tears). He got permission from Mississippi Tribe to come to Indian Territory. He rode on a train. He talked about how he missed his homeland."

"I think the greatest change I ever experienced is when I left Grant, Oklahoma and went to New York City. Living there made a change in me—I became a city girl! There were shows, subways! My office was just across from Central Park at 5 Columbus Circle. People were very different at New York City."

Alma was head of Personnel for a company called Union Circulation Company. After working in New York for a number of years, she moved to Seattle.

She only worked there four years. "That was enough rain for me! In Seattle I would pull the blinds and pretend it was sunny!" said Alma.

She continued to work in the publishing company, moving to California where her mother was living so she could be close to family and where she could be in the sunshine.

She was happy there with her work, traveling often, not retiring until her mid 90's.

"The world is worse now than it used to be, but I see good things everywhere I have been. I always have had good friends. Life is what you make of it. You can make it good!"

"I am very fortunate to be at this stage in my life. If there is a message I could leave to my grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all future generations, it would be to know how much I love them, for them to be good and to always worship God!"

7



Choctaw Nation Bike Team Honors Ancestors with 500-Mile Bike Ride

by KELSEY BROWN

The seventh Annual Trail of Tears Ride concluded Friday, May 25, at the new Choctaw Headquarters in Durant.

Twelve Choctaw cyclists finished a 500-mile bicycle ride which began Saturday, May 19, in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



by Slacy Hutto

The Trail of Tears Bike team ride down Chukka Hina before turning into the new headquarters. Well-wishers lined both sides of the road to welcome the team back. Chief Gary Batton and Teresa Eagle Road led the team in.

The Annual Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Ride is a seven-day ride which follows a route Choctaw ancestors walked 188 years ago.

From Mississippi, cyclists traveled through Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma, making several rest-stops before they finished in Durant.

The journey retraces the steps Choctaw ancestors made during the Trail of Tears.

It is an enduring journey that gives each rider time to reflect and remember their heritage, seeking out Choctaw heritage sites to visit along the way.

Over the past week, Choctaw tribal members have found a way to make the Trail of Tears a time of remembrance and a time to celebrate how far we've come since 1831.

"The purpose is to remember our culture and our history, and to honor those who have got us to where we are today," Chief Gary Batton said.

Chief Batton joined the team at Blue, Oklahoma for the last 12-mile stretch.

The streets were lined with friends and family cheering as the cyclists were escorted to the finish.

"It was a heartwarming feeling to see everyone come out and honor, not me, but the riders and what it represents," said Chief Batton.

Cyclist Teresa Eagle Road has ridden in the event every year starting with the first one.

She noted how great it was to finish at the new headquarters. "I thought, 'wow,' when I saw all the people waiting for us, it was a great welcome," said Eagle Road.



by Kendra Germany

The Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Bike Team ended their 500-mile ride at the new home of the Choctaw Nation on Chukka Hina Road. Chief Gary Batton joined the bike team 12 miles out in Blue, Oklahoma.

33rd Annual Seniors Day Encourages Choctaws to 'Engage at Every Age'



Ellie Breeder, 1, keeps a close watch on mom Trista as she serves free samples to guests of the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority 33rd Annual Seniors Day.

Trista works for Country Girl Jam by Kayterra Farms.



Seniors played several exposition games to encourage more seniors to join their chair volleyball teams.



Carol Espenshade tries on a supportive back brace with help from an Areli employee. Carol celebrated her 75th birthday by coming to engage with fellow seniors at the 33rd annual Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority 33rd Annual Senior Day.



District 9 Councilperson James Dry poses with Most Traditional Regalia Winner Marilyn Mitchell Dill.



The senior Choctaw Fashion Show winners pose for a photo.



District 2 Councilperson Tony Ward poses with the winners of the singing competition.



Left: District 10 Councilperson Anthony Dillard accepts second place in the singing competition on behalf of his seniors.

Right: District 12 Councilperson James Frazier accepts third place in the singing competition on behalf of his seniors.

OBITUARIES

8

Sandra Juanita Brown



Sandra Juanita (Robison) Brown, 73, passed away April 27.

Sandra was born July 25, 1945, to Helen and Raymond Robison in Mena, Arkansas.

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents; and sister Cholla Robison.

Sandra is survived by her husband of 53 years, Gene Brown; sons Jebediah Brown and Brandon Brown and spouse Tara; and grandchildren Gracie and Abigail Brown.

For the full obituary, please visit [Cottage Grove Sentinel](#).

Dolly Mae Batton

Dolly Mae (Clay) Batton, 80, passed away May 16.

Dolly was born Jan. 17, 1938, to Henry and Cillin Clay.

Dolly was preceded in death by her parents; son Joe Batton; brothers Melvin Stephens, Eugene "Blue" Clay and Junior "Tody" Clay; sisters Aline Ward, Ruth Ann Clay and Virginia Smith.

Dolly is survived by her children Gary Batton and spouse Angie, Brenda Wilson and spouse Danny and Fred Batton and spouse Kim; and grandchildren; David, Wes, Andrea, Heidi, Cory and Ashley.

Services were held at McGee Valley Baptist Church in Daisy, Oklahoma with Bill Bray officiating.

Pallbearers were David Clay, Kenneth Clay, Jimmy Smith, Whalen Wilson, Wes Wilson and Cory Batton.

Honorary pallbearers were Timothy Hutson and Joe Castleman.

Dolly was laid to rest at Mountain Home Cemetery in Daisy.

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

Margaret Louise Billy

Margaret Louise Billy, 96, passed away April 30.

Margaret was born May 2, 1921, to Jackson and Clarissa (Caldwell) Wesley in Rufe, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Simon G. Billy; sons Bobby, Gee, Dale, Dillard and Dean Billy; daughter Joann Jacob; sisters Mary Neeley and Josephine Taylor; grandchildren Vickie, Sharon and Allen; and great-granddaughter Jami.

Margaret is survived by daughters Olene Honanie, Doris Winship and spouse Clifford, Mary Johnson, Dorene Cusher, Darlene Billy and Naomi Billy; sons Bert Billy, Doyle Billy and spouse Ruth, Delton Billy and Danny Billy and spouse Donna; brothers Lenis Wesley, Amos Wesley, Willis Wesley and Eugene Wesley; 37 grandchildren; 75 great-grandchildren; 40 great-great-grandchildren; and two great-great-great-grandchildren.

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

Ernest Lee Cole

Ernest Lee Cole, 71, passed away April 15. Ernest was born March 21, 1947, to Irvin and Ida (Jones) Cole in Coal County, Oklahoma.

Ernest was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Sherman and Anthony Cole; sister Donna Mayo; brother-in-law Edward Mayer; nephew Eddie Mayer and great-niece Isabinda Anderson.

He is survived by sisters Lorene Scott, Janice Twist and spouse Kevin, Pat Mayer, Ellen Cole and Regina Anderson; brothers Terry Cole and spouse Pam and Irvin Cole; and children Stephanie, Melanie, Brandon Penny, Anita, Eli, Rymee, Julius, Chloe and Axton.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Chapel](#).



William Wade

William Wade, 76, passed away May 13.

William was born Feb. 13, 1942, to Caroline Wade in Battiest, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his mother; brother Eastman Wade; sister Verda Lou Wade; uncle Carlo Wade; and aunt Esien Wade.

William is survived by brother Melvin Wade; and several other relatives and friends.

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



Ramona "Marlene" Campo

Ramona "Marlene" Campo, 85, passed away May 2.

Marlene was born March 19, 1933, to Mary and William Mills, Sr.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband J.E.

"Mutt" Campo; stepson Benny Campo; brother William Mills, Jr.; and sisters Velma Althoff, Gayla, Rosalie and Scarlet Mills.

Marlene is survived by daughter Karen Raney and spouse Johnny; sons Terry Payne and spouse Lou Ann, Larry Payne and spouse Carol, James Percer and spouse Dawn and Steven Bacon and spouse Karli; stepchildren Larry and Norman Campo and Brenda Barton; grandchildren J. L., Brad, Chad, Ryan, Erica, Heather, Paige, Cassidy and Wiley; great-grandchildren Trey, Jake, Clay, Brasen, Rasee, Collin, Benton, Meadow, Saylor, Brittany, Taylor, Alex, Nate and Corbin; great-great-grandchildren Kambryn, Keaton and Kennedy; and sister Shirley Toombs.

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



Eldene Jim

Eldene Jim, 69, passed away April 25. Eldene was born April 9, 1949, to Emmitt and Susan (Lewis) Jim, in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Eldene was preceded in death by his wife Evangeline Jim; his parents; brothers David, Donald and Culberson Jim; sister Carol Lang; and grandson Titus Jim.

He is survived by children Eldene Jim Jr., Billy Jim, Christopher Davis and spouse Victoria, Beverly Vanriette and spouse Darrell and Jeremy Jim; brothers Lee Jim and spouse Yvonne and Daniel Jim and spouse Geneva; sisters Ann Sleeper, Betty Jim and spouse Jack and Rhonda Jim; grandchildren Jeremy, Zachary, Amaya, Elijah, Shania, Lakota, Darrell, Nakya, McKabe and McKale; and great-grandchild Titus.

For the full obituary, please visit [Brown's Funeral Chapel](#).



John Howard Dillingham

John Howard Dillingham, 87, passed away Jan. 24.

John was born Aug. 18, 1930, to Murvin Cecil and Mary Eileen (Cobb) Norvell in Purcell, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his adoptive parents John and Margaret Dillingham; brothers James, William, Robert and Cecil Norvell; and daughter Alana Dillingham Shimek.

John is survived by his wife of 71 years, Carole Jeanne Dillingham; son Alan E. Dillingham and spouse Sabine; brother Phillip Norvell; nephew Ronald Norvell; grandchildren Lisa Marak and spouse Randy, Lorry Beck and spouse Saxon, Alan Shane Dillingham and Blythe Dillingham; great-grandchildren Raven Behrens and spouse Dustin, Saxon "Tad" Beck, Jr. and spouse Jesi and Kendall Marak and fiancé Hunter Hengst; and six great-great-grandchildren.

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



Robyn Ann Howard

Robyn Ann (Durant) Howard, 63, passed away April 20.

Robyn was born Oct. 27, 1954, to Columbus Robert and Jessie Lee (Brooks) Durant in Poteau, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Robyn is survived by her daughters Sherry Gardner, Tonda McKee and Precilla Howard; son Corey Turner; grandchildren DeeAnn Howard, Estus Howard, Athena Gibson, Shanta Barnes, Brett Viel, Coriana Howard and Brad Viel; great-grandchildren Aundrea Barnes, Jessie Bagne, Alicia Barnes, Emmett Gibson and Darien Howard; sisters Glenda Morency and Kay Herrington; and brother Bobby Durant.

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



Paul Lawrence Meadows

Paul Lawrence Meadows, 77, passed away Feb. 14, 2017.

Paul was born on Jan. 5, 1940, to Whitfield and Helen (Sexton) Meadows in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Clifford Butler; sister Wanda Meadows; and son-in-law Marcellus Nichols.

Paul is survived by his wife Thelma Louise (Factory) Meadows; sons Jerry Meadows, Gary Meadows and spouse Yuka and Paul Meadows, Jr.; daughters Paula Meadows and Reba Nichols; brothers Wayne Meadows, Samuel Butler, and Larry McAlester and spouse Cynthia; and sisters Lillian Butler and Valerie Butler.

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



Carolyn Sue Olson

Carolyn Sue Olson, 77, passed away April 30. Carolyn was born Oct. 24, 1940, to Elbert Bryan and Juanita Vawter (Florence) in Bethany, Oklahoma.

Carolyn is survived by daughters Kathleen Neary and Regina Strain; sons Dennis Olson and Jeremy Olson; grandchildren, Jade and Tracy Strain; and great-grandchildren, Jayla Garrett, Syerrah Strain and Tyce Strain.

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



Nora Faye Birdshead

Nora Faye Birdshead, 84, passed away April 18.

Nora was born March 6, 1934, to Samuel J. and Bernice (Gillard) Postoak in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Nora is survived by her husband of 63 years, Clifford Birdshead; son Edward J. Birdshead and spouse Penny; daughters Debra Pletcher and Mary Sue Smith and spouse Justin; grandchildren Clint Pletcher, Garrett Pletcher, Chase Pletcher, Whitney Smith, Jonathan Smith, Rick Smith, Tina Davis, Emily Birdshead and Michael Birdshead; great-grandchildren: Aeriana Lizeth, Daxton, Jay and Brody Smith, Keighdy and Addison Firanski, Davie, Cade, Ty and Paxton Davis, and Juliette, Colton and Conner Pletcher; brother Wayne Postoak; sisters Etta Johnson, Barbara Postoak and Lucille Keith; and adopted family member Jack Gomez.

Nora was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Calvin, Jack, John, Edmond, Walter and Keith Postoak; and sisters Martha Watson and Teresa Postoak.

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



Hannah Denise Bolding

Hannah Denise Bolding, 31, passed away May 19.

Hannah was born Dec. 27, 1986, to Louis Lee Bolding and Retha Gail (Stilwell) Bolding in Ada, Oklahoma.

Hannah was preceded in death by her mother; brother Harley Bolding; and sister Hillari Bolding.

She is survived by her father; sons Peyton Keith Calder and William Ethan Eggros; sisters Holly Bolding, Halena Bolding, Bobbie Rose Weeks and spouse Andy, and Cheyenne and Carmen Bolding; brothers Harvey Bolding, Harrell Bolding and spouse Kimberly, Heath Bolding and Harlan Bolding; stepsister Jennifer Reyes; sister-in-law Rebecca Bolding; and best friend Dusty Coats.

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



Michael Ray Mackey

Michael Ray Mackey, 50, passed away April 26.

Michael was born Nov. 16, 1967, to Raymond and Christine (Bonaparte) Mackey.

He was preceded in death by his father; brother Gerald Bonaparte; grandparents Frances and Raymond Mackey, and Valdona and Charles Bonaparte; aunts Erma Hegler, Ruth Carshall and Sue Adams; uncles Arthur Mackey and Talton Mackey.

Michael is survived by his mother; brothers Haskell Bonaparte and spouse Dora and Raymond Mackey III; nieces Kristy, Kelley, Linzie, Erica and Lesley; nephews Stephen and Gerald, Jr.; great-nieces and great-nephews Greyson, Gage, Saber, Titus, Zaylee, Olivia, Raiden, Kenes, Paxton, Jaxon, Cameron, James, Daniel and Marco; aunts Mary Coley, Martha Watson, Laura Mackey and Rotha Adams; uncles Joe Coley, Jearl Watson, Daniel Adams and Harold Hegler; and friend Kathy Shadwick.

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



Betty Jo Stout

Betty Jo Stout, 94, passed away May 1. She was born Sept. 5, 1923, to E. F. and Mary (Jones) Hopkins.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Ray Stout; three brothers and two sisters.

Betty is survived by daughters Mary and spouse John Gilbreath, Rayda and spouse JonPaul Santrach, Marta and spouse Steve Allen and Rhonda and spouse Tim Hibbard; sons Kelly and spouse Tina Stout and Frank and spouse Janice Stout; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Betty was laid to rest at Rosedale Cemetery in McClain County, Oklahoma.

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



James Albert DeBord Jr.

James Albert "Jimmy Jr." DeBord, Jr., 57, passed away April 29.

Jimmy was born June 5, 1960, to James Albert "Jimmy John" DeBord and Dovie Jean (LaFlore) DeBord in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother Billie Gene DeBord.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Dinorah DeBord, stepdaughters Tiffany Ghuloum and Tanrii Martinez; brothers Emmitt W. DeBord, Jerry D. DeBord and Eugene DeBord; sister Coy Sue Fleck; 12 nieces and nephews and two great-great-nieces and nephews.

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



Obituary Policy

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

Send official obituary notices to:

Biskinik
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

or email: biskinik@choctawnation.com

Stigler Community Center Events

Senior Volleyball -
Mondays and Thursdays 10:30 a.m.

Senior Lunch -
Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Sam's Club Visit -
July 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Ag Outreach Visit -
July 26 from 4 - 8 p.m.

**CHOCTAW NATION
CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**

JULY 10, 2018

Talihina Choctaw Community Center

100 Railroad Street
Talihina, OK

SOIL HEALTH & PRESCRIBED BURNING

Registration begins at 5:30 PM

To RSVP, Contact:
Jack Hicks - (580) 924-8280 ext. 6019
Clay Pope - (405) 699-2087
or Carol Crouch - (405) 612-9331

Partners include USDA NRCS, Choctaw Nation, Redlands Community College and the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub.

**Post Purchase
Education Workshop**

How to Love Your Home

July 20th
Atoka

July 26th
Broken Bow

August 7th
Antlers

August 29th
Stigler

Our free course for homeowners provides cost saving and helpful repair information for the sustainment of your greatest investment, your home!

Please contact Neile Vance for more information, or to preregister 580-579-7319 | nvance@choctawhousing.com

2018 Labor Day Softball Tournament

Applications for the **Labor Day Softball Tournament** are due by **August 10**.

Please send applications to Hugo Community Center,

Attn: Larry Wade, 1304 W. Victor, Hugo, OK 74743.

New Labor Day Recycling Prize Reward

Each year the Choctaw Nation Recycling Center offers a prize reward for turning in a sack of recyclables to the recycling booth. This year, instead of t-shirts, the prize

reward will be a Luksi hat made of 100 percent recycled materials.

**2018
LABOR DAY
VOLLEYBALL
TOURNAMENT**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

SIGN UP TODAY!

Get your team registered today.
Registration is on a first-come,
first-serve basis.
Registration is free.

Contact Crystal Thompson,
cdthompson@choctawnation.com

800-522-6170

www.ChoctawNation.com

Choctaw Nation Health Services
PRESENTS
the
BOOM
in the Valley
13th Annual
July 3rd, 2018
Fireworks Entertainment 5k Run
Tvshka Homma, OK
Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds

4-6pm 5K Registration
5:00pm Concessions & Inflatables Open
5:30pm Luks' (Turtle) Races
6:30pm 5k Run Begins
FIREWORKS BEGIN AT DARK

Featuring **MASON JAR REVIVAL**
No personal fireworks of any kind. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the fireworks at dusk. Alcoholic beverages, pets (except service animals), golf carts, ATVs, and/or drones are not permitted. Parking is permitted in designated areas only.

**CHOCTAW NATION
Agriculture Expo**

AUGUST 4 | 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Durant Event Center | 3702 Choctaw Rd Durant, OK 74701

- Fresh Local Produce
- Agricultural Services
- Demonstrations
- Farm & Ranch Equipment Vendors
- Guest Speakers
- Door Prizes
- and so much more!

FREE ADMISSION | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
For more information, contact Macy Vansickle at 580.924.8280 ext. 4276 or mvansickle@choctawnation.com



PRESENTED BY CN AGRICULTURE OUTREACH

2018 LABOR DAY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Registration at 3:00 p.m.
Event begins at 4:00 p.m.

There will be a male and female division.

Prizes awarded for First and Second Places.
Free T-shirts to participants.

Contact Waddel Hearn

800.522.6170 (ext.2524) • whearn@choctawnation.com

**Chahta Anumpa
Aiikhvna**

◆◆◆ Lesson of the Month ◆◆◆

Verb Forms

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

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

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

www.choctawschool.com

2018 LABOR DAY



FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Registration at 5:00 p.m.
Event begins at 6:00 p.m.

This annual event promotes fitness and health in a fun and challenging atmosphere. The challenge will conclude with a tug-o-war contest and each participant will receive a free T-shirt.

Contact Waddel Hearn

800.522.6170 (ext.2524)
whearn@choctawnation.com

Choctaw Nation HSE/GED Classes

Traditional HSE Classes

HSE classes will meet each week for approximately 12 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. You may print an application packet online at www.choctawnation.com (Click the Tribal Services tab, then Postsecondary tab) before the first class or you may enroll the first night of class with the instructor. For further questions, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant Adult Education office at 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. (A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.)

Bryan County, Durant
Beginning date and time
July 10, 2018, Tuesday

Tuesday and Thursday evenings,
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Choctaw Nation New Tribal Complex
1802 Chukka Hina Dr., Durant
(Check in with receptionist at entrance.)

Choctaw County, Hugo
Beginning date and time
July 5, 2018, Thursday

Tuesday and Thursday
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center
408 N. "M" Street, Hugo

Leflore County, Poteau
Beginning date and time
July 2, 2018, Monday

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Carl Albert College, Ollie Bldg.,
Room 1220, Poteau

Pittsburg County, McAlester
Beginning date and time
July 3, 2018, Tuesday

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Eastern Oklahoma State College
McAlester Campus, Clark Bass
Building, McAlester

Distance Learning HSE Classes

Session 1- Starting August 6, 2018

Distance Learning HSE (High School Equivalency), classes are available at the locations below. Distance Learning Technology is implemented in these classes which allows the student and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. Students are able to interact with the instructor as she prepares students for the HSE exam. Classes meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. If you have questions about these classes, please contact Lisa Bebout at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2122. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required. Enrollment for the new classes begins the first day of class and closes to new students on the fourth day of class.

Atoka
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Atoka Vocational Technology Center

Antlers
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm
Old Choctaw Nation Community Center

Coalgate
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Atoka Vocational Technology Center

Bethel/Battiest
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center

Smithville
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center

Talihina
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Old Choctaw Nation Community Center

Wright City
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center

Iti Fabussa

Piece by Piece: Choctaw Women Quilters

Many believe the art of quilting arrived with Colonial women during their immigration to America, but quilting came much later to the United States.

In fact, quilts were not a staple in the American homes until the mid-nineteenth century.

Even then, only 63 percent of households listed them among their household goods (Kiracofe 1993:59).

This increase was due to major developments in efficient transportation.

With intricate webs of roads and rail growing across the American landscape, cotton and other trade goods eventually reached even the smallest settlements.

From 1818 to 1830, the United States' demand for cotton grew from 92 million pounds to 300 million pounds (Kiracofe 1993:77). This is when quilting really began to become prevalent in the United States.

According to quilt historian, Roderick Kiracofe (1993:48), quilts from this period in history "are usually those which were made for a specific person or a specific occasion."

This month, the Iti Fabussa will focus on these special occasion quilts, or Friendship/Album quilts, made by our Choctaw community after our arrival to Indian Territory.

Friendship/Album quilts were first created in Pennsylvania, but by 1840 quickly spread throughout the United States.

This particular design made for perfect canvases to commemorate special events within a community. Women often used fabric from deceased family members' clothing, cut from outgrown or worn shirts and dresses, and with a specific purpose in mind.

Margaret Seebold (1993:81) suggests this mix of old and new fabric was to "make you think a little of the person who made it or whose dresses were in there. Maybe you don't think of them any other time except when you see that quilt."

With this, each block square was created with intention, to keep memories alive, and honorably signed by the artist.

Friendship/Album quilts feature repeated similar design blocks over the quilt top with patterned, or a solid color, rectangular bands in between, to frame them. The makers often sign their name either in the corners where blocks meet or on each block. Signatures were either applied with a stamp using a stencil or handwritten in ink directly onto the fabric.

At the Wheelock Academy, female students combined their friendship with their newly learned sewing skills to create such a Friendship/Album quilt shortly after our removal to Indian Territory.

A fine example is currently on display at the Wheelock Museum in Millerton, Oklahoma.

These young women not only intricately embroidered each flower on blocks throughout the Friendship/Album quilt, but also signed each of their squares with their delicately scripted signatures.

This is an exquisitely rare sample from our early Choctaw quilt makers.

One Wheelock Academy student, Odetha Jean Billy, went on to create this beautiful baby blanket with the sewing skills she learned while in residence.

Her Friendship/Album quilt commemorated the birth of her granddaughter, Kathia Jean Baker Spring.

It featured four small elephants within a solid border frame. What is particularly special about this blanket is the care and attention to detail this grandmother had.

She made the ears of the elephants and tails loose, knowing her granddaughter would enjoy the sensory play time on the quilt.

The Friendship/Album quilt is a special gift to commemorate special events in a family or community (births, weddings, retirements, moves, etc.).

Friendship/Album quilts serve as vital keepers of history as well. For instance, the quilt pictured above was passed down to Audrey Jacobs by her grandfather Rev. Simon D. Belvin, a prominent Presbyterian minister, features hand embroidered churches, names of pastors, as well as dates of each church's service.

It serves as an album, or record, of the important service work of the Presbyterian Faith within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma over time.

More recent in history, Choctaw quilt makers used T-shirts to make a variation of a Friendship/Album quilt, affectionately called T-Shirt quilts.

The maker carefully measures out blocks with the T-shirt design, then, pieces them together within a frame. These shirts, once pieced together, serve as an album of memories.

Stickball player Ryan Spring recalled the memories and details of each T-shirt's significance pieced within the Friendship/Album quilt made by his aunt, Lois Faye Spring Ingram, for his wedding.

Choctaw tribal member, Lois Faye and her sister, Margie Spring Williams, were members of the American Hero Quilt Makers.

This group of women met once a week to a few times a month to sew Friendship/Album quilts destined to comfort wounded soldiers on their journeys home from conflict.

The quilts featured jeans donated from the community. Each square was pieced together on the quilt top and allowed to fray on its edges creating a unique border. They were designed to be sturdy to withstand the purification needed in wound centers without sacrificing aesthetic appeal.

Over time, this talented group of women nurtured their skill set by sewing over 100 quilts for wounded soldiers. So much so, that Lois Faye later went on to enter her commemorative Code Talkers Friendship/Album quilt in the Labor Day Quilt Show and won a ribbon. Countless Choctaw women have won similar prizes



Photo Provided

Rev. Simon D. Belvin was the pastor at Good Spring Presbyterian Church USA. The above quilt was made by members of the different congregations as a retirement gift. The quilt blocks are hand embroidered and picture the different churches, names of the pastors and the dates of each church's service. The quilt was passed down to Rev. Belvin's granddaughter, Audrey Jacobs.

throughout our history.

With the advent of the highly prized Singer sewing machine in 1850, more and more women found pleasure in sewing.

It sped sewing time considerably, cutting the time to make a calico dress from 6½ hours to 57 minutes. Unfortunately, sewing machines were not prevalent in Indian Territory, or the State of Oklahoma, for decades to come.

Even then, Choctaw women did not follow this trend; they valued the time spent together. They continued to hold quilting parties (Faiman-Silva 2000:138; Gillespie and Bresenhan 2010:62).

It was during this time that they shared community news and information, learned from one another and fostered relationships.

Choctaw women continue to gather at homes, churches, camp houses, and community centers to piece together quilts today. These quilts are still entered into competitions, auctioned off as fundraisers and given to members of the community.

Over time, these quilts have become examples of the communal spirit it takes to create them. Community is a rich part of Choctaw life today and quilts are a beautiful example of this.

Unfortunately, quite a few quilters note that as they age they have no one from the younger generations to teach the art of piecing blocks to.

Do you know how to sew? Consider volunteering to help assist women create quilts in your area.

If you have stories of quilting or know of other designs and patterns used by our ancestors, please contact us at the Historic Preservation Department: Deanna Byrd (580) 924-8280 ext. 2353 or dbyrd@choctawnation.com.

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

LEAP Program Makes First Group of Tribal Members Homeowners

by CHARLES CLARK

Ten Choctaw families are now on their way to becoming homeowners, some for the first time.

The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation is building new brick homes in southeastern Oklahoma through its new lease-purchase (LEAP) program.

The first of these housing additions was dedicated Friday, June 15 in Hugo.

Chief Gary Batton said, "Each of our 12 districts will be getting 10 homes to start. These were the first to be finished in Hugo. Others are under construction and expected to be completed this year."

It is a real opportunity, said Chief Batton, for families who may be having a hard time, paying high rent, to invest in good homes of their own that they can afford.

Choctaw singers performed two traditional hymns in the Choctaw language to help christen the homes before the new homeowners were recognized and tours conducted.

Choctaw Nation Tribal Council and Choctaw Nation Housing board members were in attendance, as well as Sunview Development Company representative Jason Mauck and LW Development's Lance Windel.

According to the builders, the Hugo addition features one four-bedroom, two-bathroom home and nine three-bed, two-bath homes ranging from 1,422 to 1,553 square feet in size.

All of the new homes have two-car garages and sodded lawns. Located in the 1000 block of East Wilbur, the all-electric residences come equipped with new appliances and central heat-and-air.

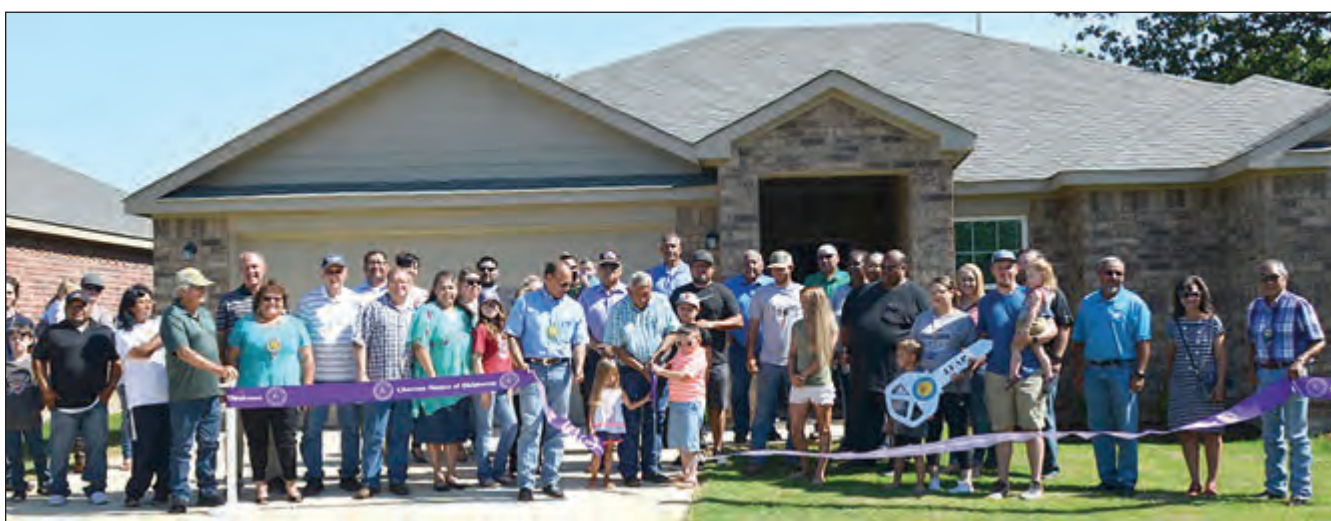
The housing department has been helping Choctaw families since 1965. The stated mission of the new LEAP program is "to build strong families and vibrant neighborhoods through quality affordable housing and strengthened financial stability for those we serve."

Families with credit issues are assisted to become mortgage ready and lender qualified over time by receiving credit counseling services.

Each new LEAP addition is planned for 10 homes with construction lasting about three-to-four months. All total, 120 families will benefit from the LEAP program in 2018.

Towns in Choctaw Nation that will be receiving LEAP homes in 2018 are Hugo, Idabel, Broken Bow, Atoka, Coalgate, Calera, Cameron, Heavener, Stigler, Wilburton, McAlester and Antlers.

There are several different floorplans to choose from and the homes are located inside city limits as a neighborhood. The three, or four bedroom brick homes are inside the 10 ½ counties.



by Charles Clark

Chief Gary Batton and District 8 Councilperson Perry Thompson got an assist in cutting the ribbon for the LEAP homes in Hugo on Friday, June 15. The Hugo neighborhood is the first of many that will be built in the Choctaw Nation to help tribal members make the leap from renters to homeowners. The homes are brick and have several different floor plans to choose from. Each district will be getting 10 homes to start.

For tribal members who are interested in starting the application process for the new homes, contact Donna Courtwright at (580) 326-7521 ext. 6328.

Josh Raper is the Director of the LEAP program and can be reached at jraper@choctawhousing.com. For additional information about LEAP, contact Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation in Hugo, (800) 235-3087 or online www.choctawnation.com/leap-program.

Student School and Activity Fund

Need money to buy school or activity clothing?

- \$100 VISA gift card available nationwide for Choctaw Tribal Members who are attending 3 year old daycare to 12th grade.

- Each student with a tribal membership can receive funding one time per school year.

- Apply online at ssaapplication.choctawnation.com

Applications for 2018-2019 School Year Available July 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019

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

Homebuyers Education

Are you interested in becoming a home owner?

The Choctaw Nation Housing Authority offers FREE workshops for potential and new homeowners. All materials are furnished.

For more information on dates and course locations, or to preregister, contact Neile Vance at 580.579.7319 or nvance@choctawhousing.com

Page to Serve as Member of Oklahoma State Board of Licensure



David Page was appointed to serve as a member of the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

The board is composed of elite individuals in the engineer and land survey field who work with legislatures on regulations in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

David Page is the President of Page Surveying & Associates, a 33-year-old surveying firm that was founded by his father David Page Sr.

David Jr. joined his

father in the family business immediately following his graduation from Oklahoma State University in 1993. He takes pride in upholding the legacy of his father.

Page Surveying specializes in large commercial boundary surveys, extensive topographic surveys for large commercial developments and major high-rise construction projects.

Page shares his passion and love for surveying through mentoring young surveyors.

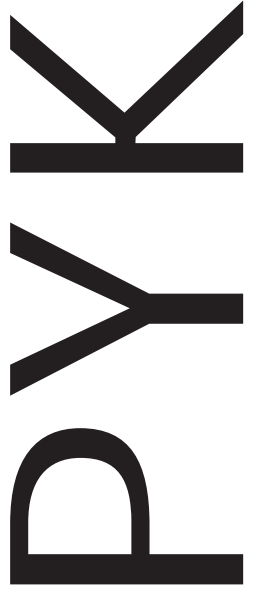
David became a Certified Federal Surveyor in

2016, is a Certified Flood Plain Manager and is a member of the Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors.

In 2004 Page was the recipient of the Society's most prestigious award "The David Page Distinguished Service Award" named in honor of his father.

David and his wife Nicole have been married 20 years and have two daughters, Adrian and Reagan.

The Pages enjoy attending their children's school activities and running marathons.



11

Webber Earns Certified Association Executive Designation



The American Society of Association Executives has announced that Kari Ames Webber, Deputy Director of Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians has earned the Certified Association Executive designation.

The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry.

To be designated as a Certified Association Executive, an applicant must have a minimum of three years experience with nonprofit organization management, complete a minimum of 100 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management and pledge to uphold a code of ethics.

To maintain the certification, individuals must undertake ongoing professional development and activities in

association and nonprofit management.

The CAE Program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

Kari Ames Webber, CAE received a B.A. in English from Oklahoma State University in 2007.

Kari is a strong advocate for many causes in Oklahoma, including serving on the board for the Oklahoma Society of Association Executives as the Marketing Chair, being a founding member of the MS Crawfish Boil Oklahoma, founding member of Wine and Howl event benefiting the Oklahoma Humane Society, Former President of Zoo Troop the Young Professionals civic group for the Oklahoma City Zoo, Leadership OKC's Loyal VII Class Member, Arts Council of Oklahoma volunteer and member of OSAE and ASAE.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Camelia (Steelman) Luman of Heavener, Oklahoma celebrated her 95th birthday May 28. She is the daughter of original enrollee Eliza Ann (White) Steelman. Her family says, happy birthday Mom, you look great!



Billie June (Foster) Farrar celebrated her 96th birthday June 9. She is the daughter of enrollee John Wesley Foster and lives in San Diego, California. Her children, grandchildren and nephews wish her a great year!



Kruczek, Postoak Recognized at Oklahoma State University



During the 2018 American Indian Honoring Ceremony at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, two Choctaw Nation Tribal members were recognized for their outstanding performance in the field of Health Sciences.

Dr. Sara Kruczek was recognized as an Outstanding Native American Medical Student and Mr. Brandon Postoak was recognized as an Outstanding Native Graduate Student.

Sara and Brandon are pictured with Brian Hendrix, Deputy Secretary of Native American Affairs.

The Oklahoma State University Center of Health Sciences was founded in 1972 as the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

Angelique Diane (Vaile) Harris will celebrate her 65th birthday July 1. Angelique received an early present on Father's Day while visiting her papa, Quentis Edward Vaile. Happy birthday Angelique!



Alton "Ab" Smith celebrated his 90th birthday March 31. Friends and family were asked to send a birthday card for this milestone birthday of "90 years young." Alton received approximately 100 cards filled with well wishes and lots of love. Happy birthday Ab!



Community Center Weekly Dinners Bring Elders Together

Crowder



Stigler



Community Center Photos By: Darlene Orr, Candace Leach, Arie Young and Mike Wallace.

Smithville



Wilburton





Wright City

Top: Councilperson Jack Austin Sr. and Chief Gary Batton introduce the Wright City veterans to the crowd. Middle: Chief Batton visits with the Wright City veterans as they enjoy their meal. Bottom: The Wright City veterans were honored with a lunch on June 6.

Choctaw Nation Veterans Dinners

Veterans Lunches from remaining Community Centers will be in the August issue.
Photos by Candace Leach, Kendra Germany, Casey Davis, Apryl Mock, Krislan Turner, Stacy Hutto, Tracy McKaughan, Darlene Orr, Anita Bentley and Charles Clark.



Antlers

Top: Veterans in attendance of the 2018 Antlers Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo. Bottom Left: Wrightsman Thomas blesses the meal before the Antlers Veterans Dinner May 30. Bottom Right: Councilperson Jack Austin Sr. and John Hooser smile for the camera. Hooser, 93, was the eldest veteran in attendance of the dinner.



Smithville

Top: The Smithville veterans were honored during the Veterans Lunch on Thursday, June 14. Bottom Left: The ladies in the kitchen worked hard to dish up the delicious lunch. Bottom Right: Ed Bohanan, Chief Gary Batton, Jency Bohanan and Sierrre Baker visit during the Smithville Veterans Dinner.



Wilburton

Top Left: Tribal Chaplain Olin Williams blesses the meal before the Wilburton Veterans Dinner June 13. Top Right: Vietnam veteran Pete Swafford points to his photo on the wall of honor at the Wilburton Veterans Dinner. Bottom Right: Chief Gary Batton and District 6 Council Person Jennifer Woods pose for a photo with the Choctaw veterans.



Durant

Top: Veterans in attendance of the 2018 Durant Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo. Bottom Left: Roland Wade presents veteran and District 9 seniors chaplain Glenn Estes with an eagle feather. Bottom Right: Arvel Joe Shults, 85, was the eldest veteran in attendance at the Durant Veterans Dinner on June 13.



Talihina

Top Left: Councilperson Bryant jokes around with some veterans. Top Right: Councilperson Kenny Bryant thanks Honor Guard member Harlan Wright. Bottom: Talihina Veterans Dinner pose for a group photo.



Crowder

Top Left: A few veterans share a moment of camaraderie. Top Right: Reanna Allen performs the National Anthem in Choctaw. Bottom: Councilperson Fraizer poses with veterans while holding the framed poem that was presented to each of the veterans present.



Spiro

Top: Veterans from all branches of the military were honored during the Veterans Lunch on Wednesday, June 13 in Spiro. Bottom Left: People were entertained by Choctaw hymns during lunch. Bottom Right: Brayle Welker enjoys dessert while her great-grandmother visits during the Spiro Veterans Lunch.

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. Throws the First Pitch at Texas Rangers Game

Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. took the mound at Globe Life Park in Arlington, Texas May 27. Austin threw out the first pitch before the Texas Rangers took on the Kansas City Royals.

Austin threw a strike across the plate to former third-baseman and current first base coach Steve Buechele, as the mascot Rangers Captain officiated.

Austin had a large cheering section for the event. The Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach group, volunteers and Choctaw Nation employees were in attendance.



Above: Pictured is the ball Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. sailed across home plate during the first pitch of the Texas Rangers game on May 27. The ball is signed by Rangers first base coach Steve Buechele.

Below: A large group from Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach attend the game to cheer on Assistant Chief and have fun at Globe Life Park.

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Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. throws the first pitch before the Texas Ranger game on May 27. The Texas Rangers Mascot, Rangers Captain and everyone in the audience agree that Austin's pitch was definitely a strike.



Lujano Signs with Carl Albert State College Cross-Country Team

by DAVID SANCHEZ

In the early spring, Carl Albert State College president Jay Falkner had been ruminating about how to build on the school's inaugural cross-country season.

He was at an eatery with his son across from Poteau High School when a man Falkner had known from years past walked into the restaurant. The acquaintance was a coach who commented he had been at a track meet across the road. This was providence.

Falkner expressed the school's aspirations for a competitive cross-country team and wondered if the coach knew of any good athletes.

The coach asked Falkner if he had ever heard of a young man named Andres Lujano, a student athlete who lived at Jones Academy. He could be the kind of runner that Mr. Falkner was seeking. This piqued the president's interest.

Andres Lujano had been a student at Jones Academy since the third grade and had recently graduated from Hartshorne High School in May. He had been an excellent student-athlete competing in football, basketball and track.

In basketball, he made the Black Diamond All-Conference team and played in all-star games at Eastern Oklahoma State College and East Central University.

In track and field, Andres was a finalist as a miler in state competition and was on Hartshorne High School's four-man relay team that qualified for state.

As Andres succeeded in athletics, he also flourished in the classroom and in his personal integrity. He consistently made the honor roll and was in National Honor Society. He was awarded the Jimmy Baker Scholarship from Jones Academy, which is worth \$2000 a year. He tutored and mentored at the elementary school and was seen a role model on campus.

Andres had been running for Jones Academy since the seventh grade. He eagerly participated in the P.A.C.E. running program, which was sponsored by the Choctaw Nation to promote healthy lifestyles.

For years, he ran 5K's, 10K's and even 15K's on weekends come rain, shine or cold. Inclement weather only seemed to feed his passion.

He ran in events called the Big Foot, the Green Frog Puddle Jump, the Turkey Trot, Brave the Mud and the Runestone. For years, CNO had paid for all his entry fees and he feasted on the awards and medals.

He was the young man Carl Albert State College was looking for and providence was going to deliver him.

When CASC cross-country coach Aaron Emberton interviewed Andres for a possible spot on the school's squad, he asked the student about his plans for the future and what he wanted to do with his life. Andres paused and after some reflection he addressed the question.

He said, "My mother was in the ninth grade when I was born. I have six brothers and sisters and I am the oldest."

With that answer, Andres spoke about the weight of his life and his motivation to succeed. He would be the first in his family to graduate and the standard that his siblings would follow. Andres understood his responsibility to his family as the forerunner for his brothers and sisters.

Emberton was pleased with Andres' answer. The coach wanted to know what was in the young man's heart, what would drive Andres when hardship would test his discipline and his character.

Andres was raised in north Tulsa's tough inner city but shunned the lawlessness that infested its neighborhoods.



Andres Lujano recently signed with Carl Albert State College. The cross-country star had a successful running career at Jones Academy and is planning on continuing that success in his collegiate endeavors.

Sports was an outlet and a refuge for him. In the summers, Andres roofed houses with his uncles as a way to earn money and help his mother with the expenses of raising a family.

For all his medals and triumphs in track and field, Andres is not driven by individual success, but by his strong will to improve the lot of his family.

Please do not misunderstand this: he HATES to lose. A friend once described Andres as "a fierce competitor and an even better person with a million dollar smile."

That smile was evident when Andres signed to run cross-country for Carl Albert May 24, 2018. Just like at the restaurant when President Falkner was supping on his meal, providence has walked into Andres' life.

It is Andres' golden opportunity to make Carl Albert State College stand out in cross-country and to set an example for his siblings.



Valliant Lady Dawgs Take Home the Class 4A Slowpitch District Championship Trophy

The Valliant Lady Dawgs fought hard this season. The Lady Dawgs took on some tough teams during the district tournament. They went on to take on Latta in a 6-12 loss in the first round of regionals and were narrowly beat out of the tournament by Haskell in a 10-11 loss. The ladies worked hard during the 2018 season and look forward to playing even harder next year.

Front row: Brauna Young, Alex Jordan and Makaylan Foshee.

Middle Row: Alayna Fielder, Katie Daves, Madison Pratt, Andy Strawn, Western Mussett, Jordyn Hardin, Dami Smith and Windi McDaniel.

Back Row: Jeremy Smith, Sydnee Browning, Brooklyn Coffey, Krystin Cunningham, Aryza Impson, Shyann Young, Isa Barbu, Rhianna Houser, Coach Mussett, Summer Wise, Destinee Browning and Coach Howard.

Martin Russell Signs with Southwestern College in Kansas

Martin Russell recently signed his scholarship offer to play basketball at Southwestern College in Kansas.

He is the first athlete from Ysleta High School in El Paso, Texas to sign to a college in nine years.

Russell was a 2-5A All-District selection for the past two years and played in the El Paso BSN Sports Senior All-Star Game.

He is the son of Karlin and Armida Russell of El Paso, Texas. Martin is the grandson of Joe and Joy Russell of Norman, Oklahoma.



District 6 July Events

- Volleyball practice every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Senior Citizens Lunch every Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
- WIC every Thursday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- July 3**
 - Home Buyers Education Class
 - Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- July 4**
 - Tribal Holiday - Center Closed
- July 6**
 - Community Prayer Meeting
 - Indian Taco/Bake Sale & Indoor Garage Sale 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 - Senior Committee Meeting at 1:45 p.m.
- July 7**
 - Senior Shopping Day
- July 10**
 - Home Buyers Education Class
 - Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- July 11**
 - CHR Outreach at the Beach - Sardis Lake - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Bus provided-first come first serve for bus capacity.)
- July 12**
 - Home Buyers Education Class
- July 14-21**
 - Senior Citizens Trip
- July 17**
 - Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- July 24**
 - Senior Shopping Day
 - Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- July 26**
 - Senior Trip- Grant Casino (Bus leaves at 8:30 p.m.)
 - CHR - Community Outreach 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Senior Fundraiser during Outreach)
- **July 27** - Senior Trip - Jones Academy Tour (tentative)
- **July 31** - Senior Bingo/ Movie Night 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Halito! Chahta Anumpa KIL Ikhvna! Let's Learn the Choctaw Language!

Registration is Now Open!

June 1 through August 9 for the
Chahta Anumpa Internet Classes

www.choctawschool.com

Need more information? Please call (800) 522-6170

JT - 5163 or Junior - 4021 or Lillie - 2101

YAKOKE!



Photo Provided

Wallace Kitchel of the Choctaw Nation Forestry Department was on a two week fire assignment in Abilene, Texas. The wildland firefighters that make up the Choctaw Nation are a tightknit crew of eight people. In addition to serving in the 10 ½ counties of Choctaw Nation, the crew also responds to wildland fire emergencies across the United States.

Choctaw Nation Forestry Dept. Responds to Fires Across U.S.

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Forestry Services Department is a forestry wildland fire-fighting unit within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Located in Talihiina, the department serves all 10 ½ counties within the Nation including McCurtain, LeFlore, Haskell, Latimer, Pushmataha, Choctaw, Bryan, Atoka, Pittsburg, Coal and the southern half of Hughes county.

The forestry team has eight crew members who are on-call 24 hours a day and are always ready to respond to emergency situations across the United States.

These employees are nationally trained to manage wildland fires and other natural disasters.

Their training ranges from a basic entry level firefighter to advanced incident management supervisory positions.

They spend countless hours obtaining training and the necessary experience to be able to manage these complex incidents.

The team not only protects Choctaw land, but is called out nationwide for large wildfires and natural disasters.

So far in 2018, the forestry team has assisted in 16 wildfires consisting of 10,586 acres within Choctaw Nation and 38,500 acres in western Oklahoma and Florida.

With the summer months getting hotter and Fourth of July approaching, the risk of wildfires increases.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks caused an estimated 15,600 reported fires in the United States, including 1,400 structure fires, 200 vehicle fires, and 14,000 outside and other fires in 2013.

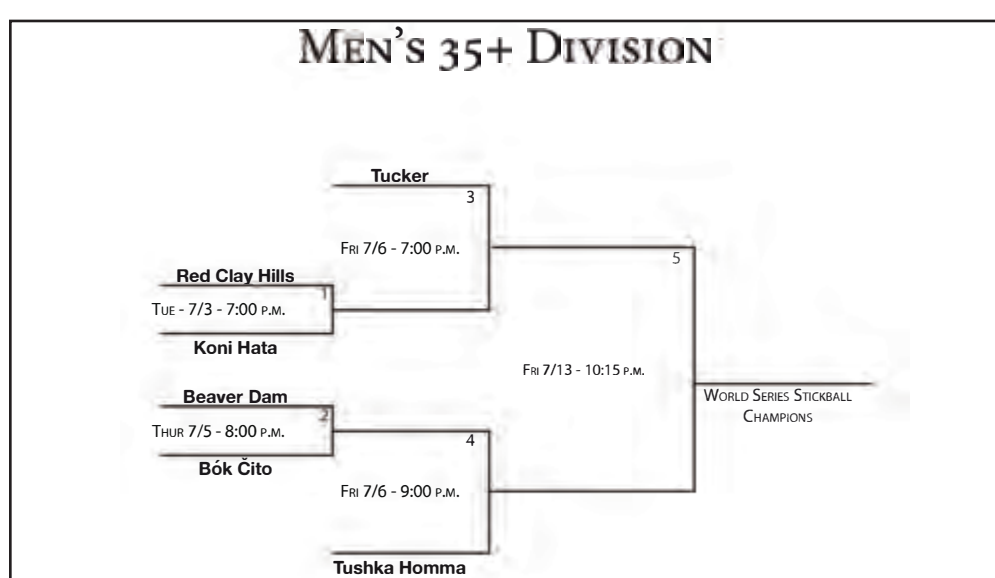
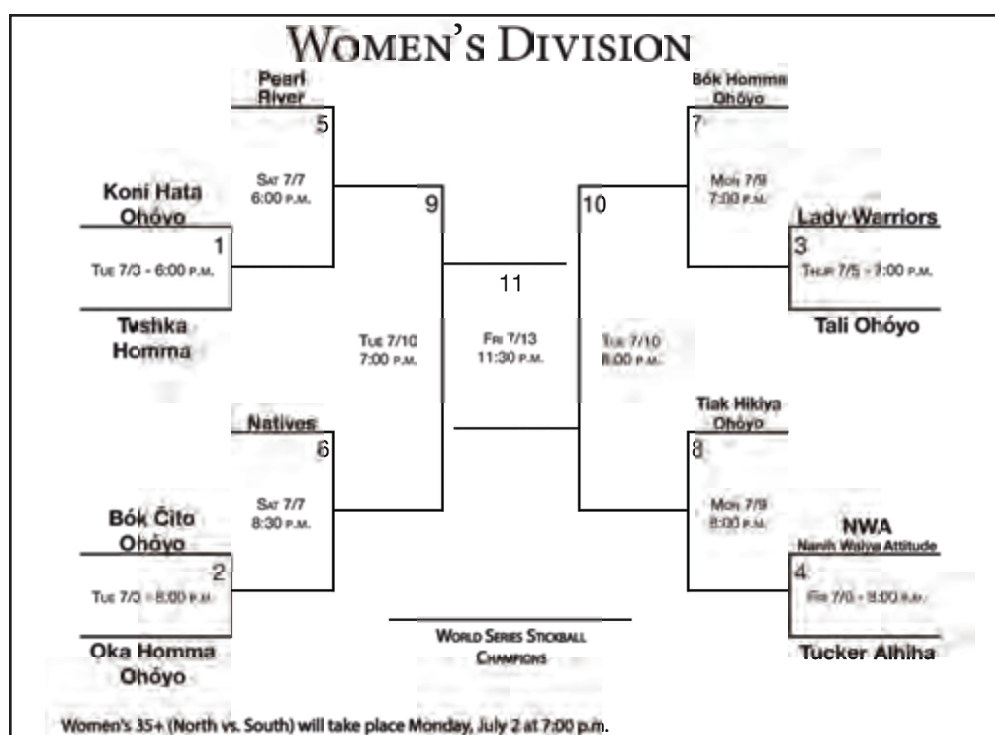
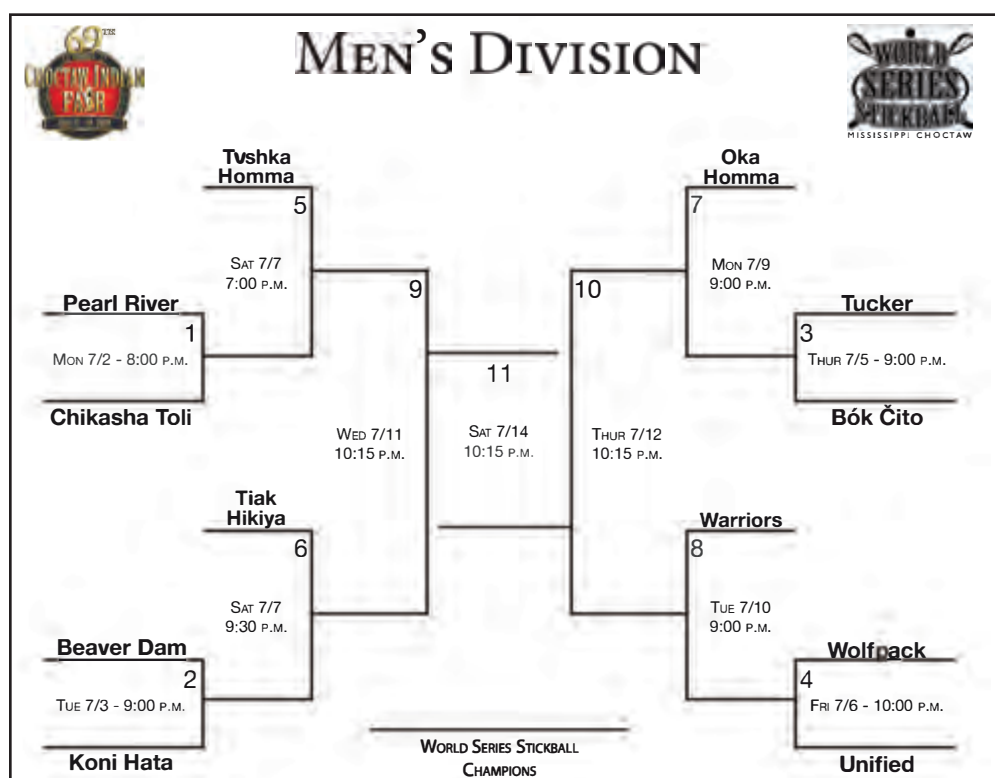
Choctaw Nation Fire Prevention Technician Joshua Bates recommends using safety precautions at all times.

Use fireworks only under adult supervision. Fireworks can cause serious injuries and burns if not used properly, as well as start a fire.

Be sure to have water, a shovel and sand available to put out fireworks or small grass fires.

Parking lots, plowed fields and open areas with shortly mowed grass are generally safe areas to use fireworks. Never use fireworks over tall grass or weeds.

World Series of Stickball Brackets Released for 2018 Tournaments



Bullying Can Have Lasting Effects on Mental Health

by LANELL WARREN

Bullying can occur across the lifespan of a person. Any person regardless of age or gender has the potential to be bullied. However certain populations are more susceptible such as children or adults with disabilities, physical appearance, and/or other factors including race, gender, income and religion.

What is Bullying? Bullying involves unwanted aggressive behaviors toward one person where the victim is hurt with teasing, name calling, mockery, threats, harassment, taunting, social exclusion or rumors.

Is the victim the only one harmed by Bullying? NO! The victim, the bully and the bystander are all at an increased risk for depression, anxiety, alcohol & drug abuse, self-injury, poor school performance and suicidal behaviors.

How can WE help? We can help by spending more time with each other, being active and present at school events, after school activities and in the home, honoring others that are placed in our lives. We can be an example of how to be friendly to others despite our differences. We can become active

listeners, develop a caring heart and place value in others. God gave us the ability to communicate. Our words are sound waves that continue to resonate what we speak. We have seen the results of the negatives being spoken or shown to others with the mass school shootings and the word "has been bullied" spoken as a cause. What if we spoke with kindness? What if we started showing respect to others we meet? What do your words & actions resonate in your world?

Mental wellbeing is an essential part of who we are as a person. If you find that you are struggling with issues please contact Choctaw Nation Behavioral Health at (918) 567-3065, or text "hello" to 741-741. Counseling services are offered throughout the 10 ½ counties of Choctaw Nation in our outlying clinics. Our caring staff of professionals will assist in with providing you with the most effective treatment and/or resources to help with your situation.

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2018 LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 3 ◆ TVSHIKA HOMMA, OK

◆ FEATURED ENTERTAINERS ◆

Free Admission to all concerts.

Friday:
Trace Adkins-9:00 p.m.
Neal McCoy-7:00 p.m.
Jerry Tims-6:00 p.m.

All concerts in Amphitheater.

Saturday:
Kip Moore-9:00 p.m.
Dan + Shay-7:00 p.m.
Kylie Morgan-6:00 p.m.

Sunday:
Chris Tomlin-9:00 p.m.
Jason Crabb-7:30 p.m.
The Kingsman Quartet-6:30 p.m.
The Williamsons-5:30 p.m.

WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM

Program agenda, dates and times subject to change.

Pastor Olin Williams

Love in Motion

Jonathan Edwards, a theologian from the eighteenth century America, in reflecting on the interior life of the triune God, concluded that God is an infinite love in motion.

The doctrine of the Trinity is that God is one being who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Trinity means that God is relational. John 1:18 describes the Son as being in the "bosom of the Father." This is an ancient metaphor for love and intimacy.

John 16:14 describes the Spirit as to "glorify", the Son. In John 17:4, the Son glorifies the Father and in John 17:5, Father glorifies the Son. This has been going on for eternity.

John 17:5b states, to glorify something or someone is to praise, and delight in them. To glorify someone is also to serve.

The inner life of the Trinity is not about self-centeredness, but by mutually self-giving love.

Each person of the Trinity loves, delights, defers to and rejoices in the others. The early leaders of the Greek Church had a word for this. It is the word "perichoresis."

Our word "choreography" comes from this word. It means to "dance or flow around."

By nature, we are self-centered. We demand others to orbit around us. We will do things and give love and affection to others as long as it helps us meet our personal goals and fulfill us.

This type of love is stationary and static. When we serve someone else and delight in them, we enter into dynamic orbit around that other person and serve their desires and interests.

Because we are born with sinful nature, we can only love on a conditional basis.

The unconditional love can only come from God. This is the agape love. We can only receive this agape love from God by accepting salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 8:35 records Jesus saying, "Whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

Love of money, power, and accomplishment will become stationary, but the agape love in human relationships will reflect the love in motion in the character of the Trinity.



Pastor Olin Williams
Employee Chaplain

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Choctaw Nation Career Development

2018 Career EXPO

(866)933-2260 www.choctawcareers.com

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