



Choctaw artists – George Willis and Marcus Amerman

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Cultural gathering in Houston

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CHOCTAW NATION

# BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

March 2014 Issue



## Summer camps applications now available

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Special Projects Department offers a wide variety of camps and events for Choctaw youth. Camps offered during the summer include cultural enrichment, golf, softball, baseball, basketball, football, and stickball.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Cultural Events building located behind the Travel Plaza West in Durant, at any of the Choctaw Nation Community Centers or online at [choctawnation.com](http://choctawnation.com) or [choctawnationculture.com](http://choctawnationculture.com)

New applicants must send copies of their Choctaw membership and CDIB cards. Applications will not be accepted without these documents.

For more information call the Summer Youth Camp Program at 800-522-6170.

## Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball

Upcoming games for the Choctaw Nation Youth Stickball league are:

**March 22** at Wheelock Academy, located between Millerton and Garvin, at 1 p.m.

**April 5** in Broken Bow, beside the McCurtain County Complex, at 11 a.m.

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### The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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<http://www.choctawnation.com/newsroom/biskinik-newspaper-archive/>



# Choctaw Recycling tops 5 million pounds

By ZACH MAXWELL

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation Recycling Centers exceeded their goal of collecting 5 million pounds of recyclable materials this January.

Tracy Horst, Director of Project Management for Choctaw Nation, said the material collected represents a savings equivalent of the energy consumption of 382 homes for a year.

Horst said she appreciates everyone who continues to utilize the Choctaw Nation Recycling Centers as well as the staff members at Durant and Poteau.

"Many thanks go to the cities of Durant and McAlester who bring community and business recycling to us," she said. "We are also grateful to the many businesses in the

Durant and Poteau areas who allow us to pick up their materials for recycling. We'd love to continue to grow and are happy to talk with anyone interested in recycling in their home, business, school or other organization."

Anyone with questions about these recycling programs can call the recycling center in Durant at (580) 920-0488.

A breakdown of the material recycled this past January includes 39 percent cardboard, 34 mixed paper and 27 percent plastics, electronics, tin, aluminum and shredded paper.

"All the recycling center staff and the Going Green Team want to say 'Yakoke!' in a huge way for always recycling all that you can at work and at home," Horst said. A celebration of recycling efforts is being planned for the spring.

## Choctaw Nation awarded Environmental Education Grant

The Environmental Quality Education Committee, working with the State of Oklahoma's Department of Environmental Quality, has awarded Choctaw Nation Recycling with a state-funded Environmental Education Grant. The grant is funded for this state program by funds that are generated by the purchase of Oklahoma Environmental Awareness license plates.

The 1,000-dollar, one-year grant will be used to purchase recycling containers to be placed in schools throughout the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. The "Green Team" hopes to work with at least six school districts to create on-going recycling programs within the schools.

ODEQ will also be partnering with the Choctaw Nation to introduce their "Green Schools" program. The program includes school visits to speak about recycling and recycling contests to help the students see how and what they can do to make a difference. Several schools have expressed interest in the program and any other schools who would like to be considered can contact the Choctaw Nation "Green Team" at 580-920-0488.



Choctaw Nation: ZACH MAXWELL

Assistant Chief Gary Batton swears in the Choctaw Nation Tribal Judges at the Feb. 8 Tribal Council meeting in Tvshka Homma. The judges are, from left, P.L. "Pat" Phelps of Durant, Marion Fry of Talihina and Steven Parker of Tecumseh.

# Tribal judges sworn in at regular February Council session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Feb. 8 at Tvshka Homma. Council members voted on:

- Letter of appointment for Steven Parker as Judge for District Court of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Letter of appointment for Pat

Phelps as Judge for Court of Appeals of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

- Letter of appointment for Marion Fry as Judge for Court of Appeals of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Approve Right of Way with PSO on Choctaw Tribal land in Atoka

• Approve business development proceeding with negotiations to construct an aquaponic system in Atoka County

- Approve applications for: Project Empower; the Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance Program; Project Hokli Nittak; the Environmental Education Model

Grant; and the Community Block Development Grant

- Funds for budget for Promise Zone Initiative.
- The Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers on the capitol grounds in Tvshka Homma.

# Choctaw Nation encourages 'Native Vote'

## Legislative Advocacy Department outreach efforts aim to boost participation

By ZACH MAXWELL

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

More than 1 million eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives were not registered to vote in the 2008 presidential election.

This accounts for more than one-third of native voters, which could have an impact on the political future of all natives.

In an effort to help natives have their voices heard, the Choctaw Nation Legislative Advocacy Department is working on several fronts. Their efforts include a voter registration drive targeting native youth and election information sessions planned for later this year.

"It helps people feel empowered when they go vote," said Sara-Jane Smallwood, public policy and research analyst with the Legislative Advocacy Department. "We never want to tell anyone who to vote for, or how to vote. But we do want to get natives registered. We want informed voters."

Recent examples of the impact of native voters came from Alaska and Montana, where swing votes from zip codes with high native populations helped decide Senate and Congressional races. "These are really clear examples that when natives do turn out to vote, they make a huge differ-

ence," Smallwood said.

The LAD is participating in a program called "Native Vote" through the National Congress of American Indians, aimed at boosting native voter turnout nationwide. (For more information on this, visit [www.nativevote.org](http://www.nativevote.org))

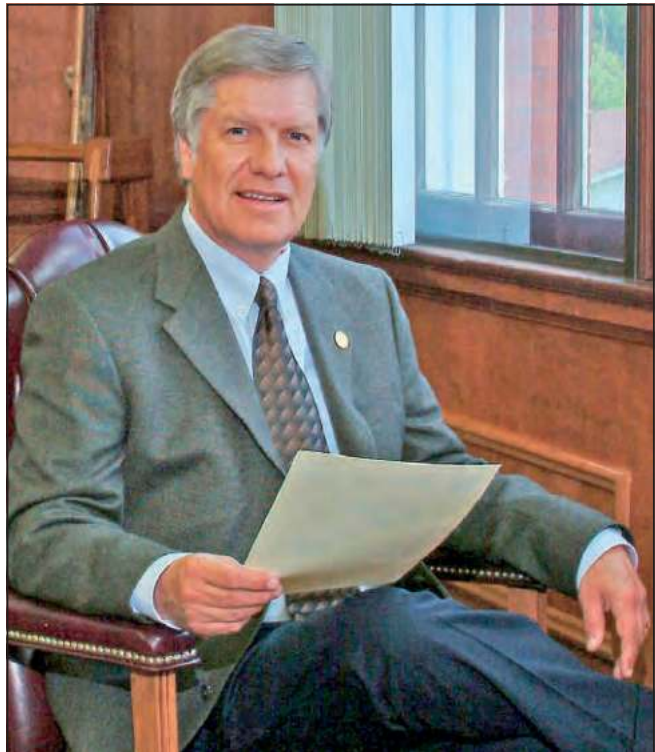
Local events for the LAD include a career development event for high school seniors in Idabel on March 12.

Smallwood said native voters in Oklahoma have an opportunity to vote in at least three elections over the next six months. She said Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton urge participation in tribal, local, state and national elections.

This year, voters will elect Oklahoma's governor, several statewide offices as well as both U.S. senators. The latter two will play a major role in shaping federal Indian policy, while the state-level officers will have an impact on the interaction of Oklahoma government with the Choctaws and other tribes.

For information on voter registration, upcoming elections and deadlines for elections and registration in surrounding states, contact the Legislative Advocacy Department at (800) 522-6170.

# In the steps of our ancestors



*From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The winter months are almost over. Several ice storms made their way through the country this year and as I walked carefully down my drive during the last bout of freezing weather I thought of the steps made by our ancestors on the Trail of Tears. We read of the hardships and the disease, hunger and death along the trail. It is difficult for us to fully comprehend everything they endured. Approximately 15,000 Choctaws began the journey from Mississippi to the new Indian Territory. There were three migrations during the years 1831 to 1833. It is estimated 12,500 survived the removal.

The Choctaw Nation's commemorative Trail of Tears Walk is held annually to honor those who died along the way and the men, women and children who survived to begin a new life.

This year's Trail of Tears Walk on May 17 will begin at the park in Millerton and end at Wheelock Academy. The grass will be green and the small lake behind Pushmataha Hall will reflect the tall trees surrounding the water. It's a peaceful location, and will come alive again that day with hundreds of people exploring the campus.

This beautiful area in McCurtain County was one of the first to be settled by Choctaw people as they entered Indian

Territory. Alfred and Harriet Wright, missionaries who traveled with the Choctaw from Mississippi, built Wheelock Mission School in 1832 to fill a void for many children. The mission ceased being co-ed in the 1840s, becoming the Wheelock Female Seminary. The seminary functioned until the beginning of the Civil War.

Education is, and has always been, a top priority for the Choctaw Nation and by 1842 they had developed a school system. As the system continued to grow, the purpose of Wheelock Seminary was changed to one of housing and serving Choctaw orphans. The Nation assumed control of the school in 1893 until the federal government and other entities took on administration of the school in 1898 and it eventually became open to girls from other Native American tribes. Wheelock Academy closed in 1955 while under the management of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a decision made to integrate Native American students into public schools.

The buildings stand testament to the perseverance of a people who believed in education. LeFlore Hall has been renovated to house a museum and gift shop where photos line the walls and rooms hold the desks, books, and memorabilia of a century ago.

We hope you are able to join us during the Trail of Tears Walk at Wheelock, a time to follow our ancestors' path, a day for fellowship, and an opportunity to learn more about the history of the Choctaw Nation.

## Redefining 'determination'

*From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

The Choctaw Nation has an amazing group of elders who provide positive examples to us all. Carole Ayers is one such Choctaw lady who has redefined "determination."

Last year, Carole traveled with her District 9 group to Spiro and joined the 2013 Trail of Tears Walk at Skullyville Cemetery. At that time in May, 10 months ago, Carole needed a walker to support herself. She used the walker along the roads from the cemetery to the Spiro center, moving slowly, making frequent stops to rest on its seat. She was the last to finish, hours behind everyone else, and she says it will be different this year.

Carole believes determination is key to anything a person wants and she has been participating in the CrossFit strength and conditioning program at the Choctaw Nation Wellness Center in Durant. Getting out of a chair used to take tremendous effort for Carole. She can now bend her knees and stand up without hesitation. She has lost weight, her pain has diminished and she no longer needs a walker. Carole's goal is to finish the Walk this year with everyone else. Her willpower is an inspiration.

Many of the Choctaw Community Centers have routine exercise programs or provide transportation for its senior citizens to nearby wellness centers. A familiar face at the McAlester Community Center is Joanna Hogan. Joanna is 93 years "young" and rides a stationary bike 5 miles as part of her routine. Joanna says her longevity and wellbeing are because of exercising and staying fit.



One gentleman who is primarily confined to a wheelchair shows his strength of mind by standing during a portion of his center's regular exercise classes.

There are also several active walking groups and when the weather isn't nice enough to get outdoors, they do aerobics, chair exercises or use exercise equipment to stay in shape. The walking groups compete with each other several times a year, each team wearing its center's colors and enjoying the competition with their friends.

Many health factors are beyond our control. Yakoke to our elders who take charge of their life and commit to a lifestyle that not only improves their health and happiness, it enlightens everyone around them to the definitions of strength and self-sufficiency.

**Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk is Saturday, May 17. An opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at Millerton's city park and the approximately 3-mile walk will end at the historic Wheelock grounds. Please park at Wheelock where buses will be available to transport participants to Millerton. Drivers will begin taking passengers at 8 a.m. Lunch will be shared with everyone. Wheelock Academy is located at 1377 Wheelock Rd., Garvin, OK.**



### Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt Order Form

2014 T-shirts are blue.  
**Sizes available are:**  
 Children – (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) and (14-16)  
 Adults – Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X, 3X and 4X

Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-shirt – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Cap – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
Name _____			
Address _____			
City/State/Zip _____			
Phone Number _____			
E-Mail _____			

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and 3X sizes.  
 To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:

**Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt  
 P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210**

## Chaplain's Corner

### Protected by the Shepherd

Today we are going to study a very familiar record in the Old Testament.

We are going to study about the shepherd in Psalm 23. We are going to study ways in which a shepherd deals with his sheep. Keep in mind this Shepherd is a type of the great and Good Shepherd – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sheep are considered to be stupid, but the shepherd lovingly cares for them.

He keeps himself between the flock and the wild animal. Jesus loves you and cares for you too.

He cares for His flock and leads them to the "green pastures" (verse 2). So the good Shepherd feeds us. How does he do this for us?

Through His words, the Bible, God's Word is our food.

Ezekiel 3:1-3, 1. "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. 2. So I opened my mouth, and caused me to eat that roll. 3. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness."

1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

As we read the Bible, God speaks to our heart. This then is spiritual food.

When the Lord Jesus arose from the dead,

He freely forgave us. What a price He paid for us!

At evening the shepherd leads his sheep into the fold.

According to the Bible dictionary, as each sheep files in, the shepherd makes sure that none of his sheep are missing.

So it is with us. All of those, and only those, who belong to the Lord Jesus, "will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," (verse 6). None will be missing.

How tenderly the Good Shepherd loves His sheep. The Psalmist explained in verse 4: "I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they (will) comfort me."

With this rod, the shepherd protects his sheep from the wild animals. With his staff he supports and corrects his sheep.

So our Shepherd protects us from Satan and his evil forces. Throughout all of life He supports us and, when we need it, corrects us. The Lord Jesus is our Loving friend and our Good Shepherd.

The shepherd has to defend (keep) his flock from the enemy that can be seen



**REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
 Tribal Chaplain**

(wolves) as well as from the hidden enemy (serpent while grazing.)

Did you ever notice in pictures how the shepherd is in front of his flocks, protecting them with his rod?

John 10:4, "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him for they know his voice."

Throughout our lives there will be sins we recognize, and we must ask our Shepherd to keep us from those sins. But there will be other sins like the hidden serpent which we will not recognize.

If we should willfully stray away from the Lord – not reading His Word or praying or forsaking the assembling of ourselves, or many other ways we should ask Him to draw us back from those things.

Do you see the lamb as in Luke 15 that strayed off into his own way down the hillside?

As a shepherd searching for his sheep until he finds it, so the Lord Jesus will search for His own. Remember, He paid for us with His

blood.

Isaiah 53:6, "All we like the sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isn't it wonderful to know that no matter who we are or where we are or where we live, the Lord Jesus hears us when we pray.

The sheepfold has a door – the shepherd himself. No wonder that the Lord Jesus said in John 10:9, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture."

Because He died on the cross, because He calls, "Come unto me," we know that He has promised to receive us, no matter how sinful we are.

Paul writes in Philippians 2:6-8, "Who, being in the form of God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

When you trust Jesus Christ, who died, was buried and rose again, you will be born again into God's family.

Your sins will be forgiven; you will become a child of God. You can trust Jesus as your Savior today.

Pray for our Nation and for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

# My salt pork challenge

In my 40 years on this earth, I have had the pleasure of discovering salt pork and through trial and error I am now able to prepare it at home for my family without the need to call 911. Preparing salt pork to keep your immediate family happy would satisfy most folks and they would be content preparing it for special occasions, such as a holiday or loved ones birthday, but not for me.



**VONNA SHULTS**  
Guest Columnist

Every so often I would peek over and watch her method of preparing wild eggs. I am positive I bothered her with my multitude of questions; however, Lorene answered each one with the true patience and grace not afforded to most folks.

As the day wore on and evening approached, many church members came by with desserts, side dishes, fry bread, vegetables, and drinks for the annual event. Other members and guests had begun to gather outside the church fellowship hall to visit.

That's when I first noticed the amount of "FBIs" watching my every move in the kitchen. Yes, the "FBI," otherwise known as the "Full Blood Inspector," whom would be inspecting how good or bad I did with the preparation of the salt pork.

I could see them peering through the screen door trying to figure out who I was. They did not know this person Lorene had allowed into her kitchen. I could sense their concerns about my cooking skills without them uttering a word.

I knew then the task was either pass or fail and not only was my reputation on the line, but Lorene's as well.

Panic had set in and I wanted to run out the back door of the kitchen and pretend I was never there in Bennington, but I could not leave my friends and family there to finish the dinner alone. So I stayed to face my critics.

Lorene knew every face that walked into the church and as they came by to say hello, she would take a minute from preparation to introduce me to them. Most people there had known my grandmother, Minerva Fobb. Several of my aunts had also come by that evening for the dinner and they were surprised to see me standing watch over the salt pork.

My level of credibility had grown a little bit, but only a little.

Time for dinner to begin and there was enough food in that kitchen to feed a small army. It never fails to amaze me the amount of hospitality and fellowship that presents itself whenever a group of Chahta come together.

I would challenge anyone to look at a room full of Chahta people and find one person who is not having a good time visiting with friends and family.

The food was placed buffet style and each person was able to make their own plate and many asked who had made the fry bread, beans, desserts and also, the salt pork.

I stood brave and admitted that I had been the one to cook salt pork that afternoon and to please let me know how I fared. I promised not to get my feelings hurt if they told me they didn't like the way I had prepared it for them.

Finally, a man with the kindest face walked up to me, set his arm on my shoulder and said, "You cooked that meat just the way I like it. See you next year."

I asked Lorene if I passed the test and she told me to go look in the bowl that held the finished salt pork. I looked in the bowl and turned back to her and said, "It's empty."

She just smiled and gave me a quick nod and I knew what she meant: I had passed.

I wanted to know where my skills stood against those who have been cooking for the masses for decades. The only way to find out was to cook salt pork at an event where there would be lots of hungry Choctaws willing to eat what I had prepared.

The solution came to me before I finished the thought in my head where I could find willing participants: wild onion dinner.

Wild onion dinners are a staple during the springtime and are a favorite food amongst Choctaws. These tiny onions are picked by hand, individually cleaned and then prepared by sautéing with scrambled eggs. Sounds terrible, right? However, the mere mention of them in the wintertime will elicit "ooohs" and "ahhhs" from any Choctaw within earshot.

Just like salt pork, everyone has a favorite chef that can prepare wild onions better than anyone else. I was not completely convinced anyone would allow me to cook alongside him or her but one Friday afternoon an opportunity presented itself to me.

I had spent most of the day in Broken Bow learning Choctaw dances from a Mississippi group and on my way home I stopped at Sulphur Springs Methodist Church in Bennington to see one of my favorite Choctaw chefs, Lorene Blaine.

It was the night of their annual wild onion dinner and gospel singing. Unfortunately, there were many church members that had attended a funeral many miles away and they were unable to help prepare the dishes until later that day. I offered to help and Lorene allowed me to help her son, Junior, prepare the salt pork.

I felt like a Triple AAA pitcher who had just gotten "the call" for the big league.

I became very nervous and immediately worried about everything that could potentially go wrong. Junior was outside the church and had a large cast iron Dutch oven ready for us to begin our task.

We worked together for several minutes and I had expressed my trepidation of cooking salt pork for so many Choctaws. Junior assured me that everything would be just fine because they were coming for his mom's wild onions in the first place.

Shortly, we brought the Dutch oven into the kitchen of the church, as Junior needed the flame outside to begin frying catfish.

So there I was, elbow to elbow, with one of the most respected Choctaw ladies I have had the pleasure to meet.

Lorene had worked all day preparing batch after batch of wild onions and eggs. Her daughter, Teresa, had been frying potatoes in another room for several hours as well. I continued my careful watch over the salt pork; I refused to let it burn on my watch.

I had become a little bit more comfortable knowing I had my mentor right beside me.

## District 10 youth group registration

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma District 10 is starting a youth group and registration will take place on April 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. If you miss this deadline, please feel free to contact: Marcia Hampton at (580) 889-1955 or Kendra Sparks at (580) 889-4881. See registration form below. The areas that are covered in this youth group are: Pittsburg, Kiowa, Stringtown, Atoka, Lane, Harmony, Tushka, Cancey, Caddo, Coleman, and Wapanucka.

### Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Dist. # 10 Youth Group Registration

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

D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The youth group will meet the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka. We will work on cultural crafts and learn more about our heritage. This will require parent's participation as well as the youth. This group is intended to teach our youth about our past and hopefully to set them on a path for a successful future. We want to ensure that our youth understands what being a Choctaw really means and embodies. The group is open to boys and girls, ages: 8-17 yrs. of age. This is a service provided for our youth and we look forward to working with you.

Parent: As a participation in the Dist. 10 Youth Group and all activities, I understand that the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Councilman Anthony Dillard or any of the staff is not responsible for any personal injury or lost or stolen property and by signing below I am agreeing to such.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: To participate in the Youth Group I agree to be respectful and listen as well as participate in the exercises at the meetings. I agree to not cause harm or damage to another person or the facility.

Child Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.**

## SEEKING PARENTS!

**Choctaw Nation seeking parents who are expecting or recently had a native baby**

Halito! If you are expecting or just had a Native American baby, we need you!

The Choctaw Outreach Services Better Beginnings Department are participating in a study to learn what services best meet the needs of our Native American families with young children.

You only have to do three things to participate and earn \$100 in fuel!

1. Enroll.

**You will receive a \$20 fuel voucher for enrolling.**

2. Complete two short parent surveys when your baby is two months old that asks how your child is doing and what you've learned as a parent.

**You will get \$40 in fuel vouchers!**

3. Complete the final parent surveys

when your baby is twelve months old.

**You will get another \$40 in fuel vouchers!**

Your private information will be confidentially protected at all times. The surveys will only be used to compare the difference in answers between groups of parents who participate in the study versus parents who do different activities.

Volunteers are needed to participate in this study to ensure its success!

If you or someone you know may qualify to participate in the study, please contact the Director, Brandi Smallwood, or the Choctaw Nation Better Beginnings Senior Director, Angela Dancer, at (580) 326-8304 or (877) 285-6893.



**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

Tickets available at the gate:  
\$10 per adult, \$5 per child and Kids under 5 FREE!

**BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

An AVIATION EXTRAVAGANZA featuring:

Celebrate with us as we honor those who have served and are still serving in our military forces.

During the day be amazed by the Aviation Extravaganza featuring helicopters, a variety of airplanes, Commemorative Air Force, powered hang gliders & trikes, skydivers, radio controlled aircraft and more in static displays, demonstrations and flyovers!

**- Choctaw Nation Cultural Events!**

Wander through concessions of delicious foods, vendors, exhibits, displays, arts & crafts, Kids' area, and take your own flight!

**Eat, Drink, Shop, Learn, Experience!**

Visit [www.taketotheskiesairfest.com](http://www.taketotheskiesairfest.com) for more information.

# Reminder

Choctaw Nation Youth Work Program



**Deadline Approaching**

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 01, 2014**

Contact our office at:

**800.522.6170**

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

**Don't forget to like us on Facebook!**

Choctaw Nation Summer Youth Work Program



# Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right

While social, emotional and health factors play a role in the foods people choose to eat, the foods we enjoy are the ones we eat most. That is why, as part of National Nutrition Month 2014®, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics encourages everyone to "Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right."

Each March, the Academy encourages Americans to return to the basics of healthful eating through National Nutrition Month. This year's theme focuses on combining taste and nutrition to create healthy meals that follow the recommendations of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

"When taste is the most influential factor driving what consumers eat, it is important that we find the balance between choosing the foods we like with those that provide the nutrients we need," said registered dietitian nutritionist and Academy President Dr. Glenna McCollum. "This year's 'Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right' theme reinforces that the two choices are not mutually exclusive."

The Academy strives to communicate healthful eating messages that emphasize balancing food and beverages within an individual's energy needs, rather than focusing on any one specific food or meal. To this end, it is the Academy's position that improving overall health requires a lifelong commitment to healthful lifestyle behaviors, emphasizing sustainable and enjoyable eating practices and daily physical activity.

"Enjoying the healthy foods we eat and the physical activities we engage in is key to developing a healthy lifestyle we can maintain for years to come," McCollum said.

"Every March, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics takes time to strengthen its vision of optimizing the nation's health through food and nutrition," McCollum said. "As registered dietitian nutritionists and dietetic technicians, registered, our members have the ability to translate sound science into helpful nutrition information that people can understand and apply to their everyday lives."

Initiated in 1973 as a week-long event, "National Nutrition Week" became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing public interest in nutrition. To commemorate the dedication of registered dietitian nutritionists as the leading

National Nutrition Month® 2014

## Rate Your Plate



Are you 'eating right'? Rate your eating habits with this quick quiz. Answer the questions below and add up your score. [www.eatingright.org](http://www.eatingright.org)

Do you	Most days	Sometimes	Never
Consider nutrition when making food choices?	2	1	0
Avoid skipping meals?	2	1	0
Include 3 or more whole grain foods daily?	2	1	0
Eat at least 2 1/2 cups of veggies daily?	2	1	0
Vary veggies with dark green & orange varieties?	2	1	0
Eat at least 2 cups of fruit daily?	2	1	0
Get 3 cups of low-fat or fat-free milk or yogurt daily?	2	1	0
Choose lean meats and poultry?	2	1	0
Vary protein with more fish, beans and nuts?	2	1	0
Limit saturated fat and trans fat?	2	1	0

Based on Dietary Guidelines 2010: <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2010.asp>

**16 to 20 points:** Healthy eating seems to be your habit already!  
**10 to 15 points:** You're on track. A few easy changes will make your total eating plan healthier.  
**0 to 9 points:** Sometimes you may eat smart. For good health, add more smart choices to your eating plan.

For a personalized eating plan, go to [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov)

advocates for advancing the nutritional status of Americans and people around the world, the second Wednesday of each March is celebrated as "Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day." This year Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day will be celebrated March 12.

As part of this public education campaign, the Academy's National Nutrition Month website includes a variety of helpful tips, games, promotional tools and nutrition education resources, all designed to spread the message of good nutrition based on the "Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right" theme.

### Recipe of the Month

## Oven-Fried Parmesan Chicken

(Recipe from Recipe.com)

#### Ingredients:

- 1/2 c refrigerated or frozen egg product, thawed, or 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 c fat-free milk
- 3/4 c grated Parmesan cheese
- 3/4 c fine dry bread crumbs
- 2 t dried oregano, crushed
- 1 t paprika
- 1/4 t ground black pepper
- 5 lbs meaty chicken pieces, skinned (breast halves, thighs, and drumsticks)
- 1/4 c butter or margarine, melted
- Snipped fresh oregano (optional)

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degree F. Grease two large shallow baking pans; set aside. In a small bowl, combine egg product and milk. In a shallow dish, combine Parmesan cheese, bread crumbs, oregano, paprika, and pepper.
2. Dip chicken pieces into egg product mixture; coat with crumb mixture. Arrange chicken pieces in

prepared baking pans, making sure pieces don't touch. Drizzle chicken pieces with melted butter.

3. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes or until chicken is tender and no longer pink (170 degree F for breasts; 180 degrees degree F for thighs and drumsticks). Do not turn chicken pieces during baking. Immediately transfer chicken to a covered container; serve within 1 hour. (Or cover and chill chicken; transport in an insulated container with ice packs.) If desired, sprinkle with fresh oregano.

Prep Time: 30 mins

#### Nutrition Facts:

Amount per serving: 12 servings  
 cal. (kcal) 198, Fat, total (g) 9, chol. (mg) 79, sat. fat (g) 4, carb. (g) 6, fiber (g) 0, pro. (g) 23, sodium (mg) 363, Starch (g) 0.5, Lean Meat (g) 3

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

## NURSERY NEWS

### Daniel Wear

Daniel Adam Wear was born Jan. 9, 2014, at 12:03 p.m. at Durant Medical Center at Durant. He weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. His parents are Randy Wear Jr. and Evelyn Pineta both from Atoka. Grandparents are Garr and Jeff Loftin and Patty Gutierrez, all from Atoka, Randy Wear Sr. of Ada and Adrian Pineta of Tijuana, Mexico.



### JayD Enick

Antionette "Poobie" Picard and Matthew Enick of Lapwai, Idaho are proud to announce the birth of their son JayD Theodore Enick, who was born on Jan. 27, 2014, at 9:13 p.m. at St. Josephs Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, Idaho. Baby JayD weighed 6 pounds 2.5 ounces and was 19.5 inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Joanne Bohanan of Vancouver, Wash. and Andre Picard, Sr. of Lapwai, Idaho. Paternal grandparents are the late Leila Moore and the late Orrin Allen both of Lapwai, Idaho. Maternal great-grandparents are Newton Bohanan, Sr. and the late Marian Bohanan of Kamiah, Idaho. Little JayD joins his big sisters, Jlee and Tecoa and big brother Trysten.



### Orion McDonald

Orion Leslie McDonald was welcomed into the world on Dec. 29, 2013, at 10:18 p.m. He weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 22 inches long. His proud parents are Shawn and Delia McDonald. Delia's mother, Stephanie John-Schafer is the daughter of the late Stephen Timothy John. Orion is descended from Raymond and Adaline John and his Great uncle is Cephus Coleman John of Killeen, Texas.



### Gavin and Garet Woodworth

Two-year-old Grant Woodworth is proud to announce the birth of his brothers. Gavin Michael and Garet Mason Woodworth were born on Oct. 22, 2013, in Oklahoma City. Gavin weighed 6 pounds and was 18 inches long. Garet weighed 6.5 pounds and was 18.5 inches long. Proud parents are John and Tawnya Woodworth of Yukon. Grandparents are Brent and Donna Woodworth of Minco and Gary and Lesa Shriver of Cashion. Great grandparents include Larry and Carolan Bledsoe of Yukon.



### Dominic Treece

Dominic Ross Treece was born on Dec. 25, 2014, to Chris and Ashley Treece. He was 8 pounds 13 ounces and was 19 inches long.



### Alan Trueblood

Alan Benton Trueblood was born on Dec. 26, 2013. He weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and was 17 inches long. He is the great-grandson of Helen Berniece and (the late) Emerson Willis Sr. of Temple, Texas. He is the grandson of Frank and Marinella Vasquez of Temple, Texas and is the son of Nathan Trueblood and Josie Vasquez of Temple, Texas.



## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

#### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

#### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays April 1-28, except for:  
**April 2:** Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12:30-3 p.m. (market open)  
**April 9:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)  
**Closed:** April 18 and 25 for Tribal holiday and April 29-30 for inventory.

**Cooking with Carmen:** April 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### DURANT

Market open weekdays April 1-28, except for:  
**Closed:** April 18 and 25 for Tribal holiday and April 29-30 for inventory.

**Cooking with Carmen:** April 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### McALESTER

Market open weekdays April 1-28, except for:  
**Closed:** April 18 and 25 for Tribal holiday and April 29-30 for inventory.

**Cooking with Carmen:** April 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### POTEAU

Market open weekdays April 1-28, except for:  
**Closed:** April 18 and 25 for Tribal holiday and April 29-30 for inventory.

**Cooking with Carmen:** April 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Purchasing a New Home

The first step in the home-buying process

is attending a

"Homebuyer Education Class"

PLAN TO ATTEND AT THE LOCATION

NEAREST YOU

**COALGATE COMMUNITY CENTER**

MARCH 27, 2014 4:30 p.m.

**TALIHINA COMMUNITY CENTER**

APRIL 29, 2014 4:30 p.m.

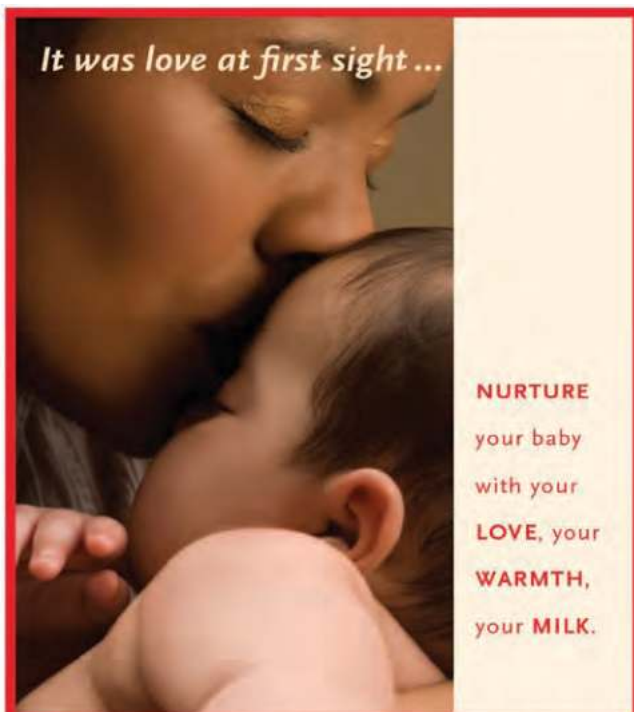
**IDABEL COMMUNITY CENTER**

MAY 15, 2014 4:30 p.m.

PLEASE CALL HOME FINANCE FOR AN APPOINTMENT

(800) 235-3087 EXTENSION 318

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Babies were born to breastfeed. Give your baby the only thing she needs: your breastmilk and nothing else.

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



## Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN



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

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline  
**1 800 QUIT NOW**  
 Free help 784-8669 OKhelpline.com

# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Grateful for Code Talker Highway

Dear Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Judy Allen, Ruth's niece Beth Lawless, Rep. R.C. Pruett, Brian and Chad from Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Stacey Shepherd, Nuchi Nashoba, Evangeline Wilson and all others who worked tirelessly to make certain the Choctaw Code Talkers Highway came into being, my wife, Ruth Frazier McMillian, had a dream of having this done and it was thanks to all of you. She was able to attend this dedication and smiled throughout. She only lived 30 days after this but this was certainly a highlight of her life. Thank you again to all who helped.

Sincerely,  
Jim McMillian

## Looking for family members

I'm looking for descendants of my family, John E. and Dixon D. Sumpter. Their father and mother were Jacob and Nancy (Gibson) Sumpter. They lived around Foster, Paul's Valley and Palio, Okla. I would appreciate any information. My number is 580-475-6133.

Jean Harper

## Thank you Genealogy Department

Halito! My cousin and I had traveled hundreds of miles with only one afternoon to spend at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant.

We need to thank Vicki Prough and Gwen Takes Horse for all their help and hard work in our effort to discover new information for our Willis Family ancestors. Together those wonderful ladies were able to provide knowledge of how to proceed and a direction to go in.

We are truly grateful for their kindness and patience.

Amber Friedman and Shannon O'Loughlin

## McAlvain Family Reunion

The 55th annual McAlvain Family Reunion will be June 7-8 in Wister at the Activity building on the North side of Lake Wister. The family will meet on Saturday, at 10 a.m.

Lunch will be potluck, the meat portion of the meal will be provided. Each family is encouraged to bring a side dish, drinks and an auction item for both adults and children. On Sunday, June 8, the family will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Kennady-McAlvain Cemetery in Wister, bring lawn chairs.

Please RSVP by May 10 to: Curtis Pugh at 918-649-4064 or email at [curtis@abaptistvoice.com](mailto:curtis@abaptistvoice.com).

For Wister Lake State Park cabins, RV, camping information or directions, call 918-655-7212 or 800-654-8240.

## Seeking family information

I am seeking information about my family on my Choctaw grandmother's side. She was born Ruth Isabel Boatright in Oklahoma (1891 or 1892-1973). Her married name was Atnip, married in 1909 to Ruben Edward Atnip (1890-1978). I would be happy to receive any information that might be available. I can be contacted through email at [ta10lr@hotmail.com](mailto:ta10lr@hotmail.com) or by cell phone at 512-557-4227.

Lloyd Edward Taylor

## Thank you for assistance with heating

My name is Bill Hoover. My wife, Patricia, and I would like to say yakoke to the Choctaw Nation for helping us with our propane bill in January. We normally fill up our tank at the end of October and it lasts until the middle of February or March, but with the winter being so cold this year, we ran out in January. We are on a limited budget but with the Choctaw Nation's assistance we were able to buy more propane. Again, yakoke!

## Grateful for assistance

Thank you for installing a storm shelter for my husband and me. Also, thank you very much for my eyeglasses. Thank you, Choctaw Nation, for caring for the seniors. I am proud to be Choctaw!

Ruby Leighton  
Norman, Okla.

## Appreciative for education assistance

I would like to express my gratitude once again for your on-going financial support through the fall 2014 semester. It is because of your generosity that I am able to focus on my studies and make the best grades. I have never had below a high B in any of my classes so far thanks to your help.

I am a in the Medical Assistant program at the moment. I chose this field because I have always been interested and have already received my HHA, CAN and my PCT with your help. I did obtain employment at Waterman Hospital as a flex HHA. But I was forced to cut back working to return to school this time so I could focus on my studies. Upon graduation, I hope to go on to ITT Tech and receive my BS in Nursing. Additionally, I have received my Phlebotomy certification. On behalf of all the students working to overcome financial difficulties to achieve their dreams, I would like to thank you for all that you have done for myself and others. I also would like to one day return the favor to others with an ongoing scholarship in my family name once I am finished with my schooling. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Delana Boone PCT  
Dancingspirit, Fall 2014

## Upcoming Cultural Gatherings

### March 24 - Lubbock, Texas

6-8 p.m.  
Overton Hotel & Conference Center  
2322 Mac Davis Lane  
Lubbock, Texas 79401

### March 25 - Ardmore, Okla.

6-8 p.m.  
Ardmore Convention Center  
2401 North Rockford Road  
Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401

For more information please call (800) 522-6170, ext. 2747 or 2245.

## Mark your calendars for the 19th Annual OKLA CHAHTA CHOCTAW GATHERING

AT BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.  
MAY 3-4

For more information  
call (661) 393-OKLA  
or email [choctaws@oklachahta.org](mailto:choctaws@oklachahta.org)

## RESEARCH INTERVIEWERS

NORC, a social science research center is seeking reliable, outgoing, persuasive people to conduct in-person interviews within the homes of residents of the Choctaw Nation March-June, 2014.

Must be able to work 20+ flexible hours per week, including late evening and week-end hours. Car, good driving record and telephone is required. \$13.41 per hour plus .56 cents per mile. Interviewers must gain the cooperation of the residents of sampled households and maintain strict confidentiality standards. Census experience a plus.

NORC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer that values and actively seeks diversity in the workforce.

TO APPLY: Visit our website: <http://www.norc.org/Careers/>

Click on Current Opportunities under the heading Job Listings, click on Field Operations and search for Field Interviewer-NAHSG - Choctaw Nation, Durant, OK (or call NORC Field Manager Patricia Maugherman toll free at (800)994-2325.

## Choctaw Nation can aid with loans

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

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

Choctaw Nation Community Center  
1636 S. George Nigh Expy, McAlester  
March 28  
9-11 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.

## EVENTS

### Church to hold monthly gospel singing

A monthly gospel singing will be held at 7 p.m. on April 4 and repeat monthly on the first Friday of each month, at the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church, 316 N. Main, in Caddo. It is free admission and all singers and listeners are welcome. Concessions will be available. For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at 580-760-6127.

### Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

A Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing will be held at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Crowder at 6:30 p.m. on March 28. The center is located at 707 Bond Street. Luther John will serve as the master of ceremony. Concessions will be available and everyone is welcome to attend!

### Gospel singing and wild onion dinner

A gospel singing will be held at William Anderson Church in Hugo on April 12. A wild onion supper will start at 5:30 p.m. with the singing to follow at 7 p.m. The emcees are Bubba Johnson and Ben Alexander. For more information, please contact the Rev. Charles Battiest at 580-326-7716.

### Horn Family Gospel Singing

The Horn Family is hosting its 35th annual gospel singing on March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Chickasaw Community Center Gym (behind the smoke shop) 1203 W. Raybrannon Tishomingo. All singers and listeners welcome. Concession will be available. For more information: 580-760-6127.

### Free will preparation clinic

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS) will be holding a FREE Will Clinic to prepare wills at this Clinic on Friday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 2408 E. Lincoln Road in Idabel.

To register for the clinic call 800-658-1497. Registration is limited so call as soon as possible.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. at 800-658-1497.

## AILYC American Indian Leaders Youth Council of Broken Bow Public Schools

### 18th Annual SPRING POWWOW

April 5, 2014

McCurtain County Sports Complex  
Broken Bow, Okla.

#### Schedule of Events

10 a.m. Youth and Adult Stickball Games  
2 p.m. Gourd Dancng  
5:30 p.m. Choctaw Social Dancing  
6:30 p.m. Grand Entry

#### HEADSTAFF

Master of Ceremonies: JUAQUIN HAMILTON  
Head Man Dancer: JUSTIN YEARBY  
Head Lady Dancer: EVELYN KASWORM  
Head Gourd Dancer: TERRY ASHBY  
Arena Director: THOMAS MUSKRAT  
Host Southern Drum: Reuben Tehauno/POOR BOYS  
Host Northern Drum: Dion Redbird/THUNDERBOY  
Host Color Guard: CHOCTAW NATION COLOR GUARD

AILYC 2013-2014 SR/JR Princesses & Honorary SR/JR Head Man & Head Lady Dancers to be named at Royalty Night on March 7

Special Invitation to all Princesses, Drums and Indian Clubs

#### \$\$\$ CONTESTS \$\$\$

MEN'S: Traditional/Straight & Fancy/Grass \$200, \$100, \$50  
LADIES: Buckskin/Cloth & Fancy/Jingle \$200, \$100, \$50  
TEEN BOYS: Traditional/Straight & Fancy/Grass \$100, \$50, \$25  
TEEN GIRLS: Buckskin/Cloth, sponsored by Nikki Amos \$100, \$50, \$25  
TEEN GIRLS: Fancy/Jingle, sponsored by Calen Brown & Gennavie Tom \$100, \$50, \$25

JUNIOR BOYS: Combined, sponsored by Bryan Smith \$50, \$25, \$10  
JUNIOR GIRLS: Combined, sponsored by A'An Parra \$50, \$25, \$10  
TINY TOTS: Combined, sponsored by Goodland Indian UMC Youth Group  
GOLDEN AGE MEN & LADIES: Men Combined & Ladies Combined, \$125, \$75, \$50, sponsored by Southeast Thunder Stickball Team  
TEEN BOYS MEMORIAL SPECIAL CONTEST Honoring GABRIEL WILSON: \$150, \$100, \$75

Teen Boys Combined, sponsored by the Wilson Family

\*All Dancers must REGISTER & be in GRAND ENTRY to Compete\*  
Head Staff will not compete!

For more information, please contact:

Dennis J. Parra (580) 584-3365, ext. 4069, and e-mail: [dparra@bbisd.org](mailto:dparra@bbisd.org) or Lisa Aaron (580) 314-6070

Arts & Crafts Vendor Information: Wenona Jones 580-306-9625

NO Drugs or Alcohol allowed - No Political Soliciting - No Videotaping  
Security provided

AILYC has exclusive rights for video and photography

## Choctaw Housing Authority Affordable Rental Housing

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

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

## Elder Residential Housing

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

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

All applications may be obtained online at [choctawhousing.com](http://choctawhousing.com) under services, Affordable Rental Housing or by calling Tracy Archey at 580-372-4091

Affordable Housing is housing that is affordable to lower income households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. Tenant rent in the Affordable Housing Program is based on 15% of the gross adjusted income for the household. The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation has 146 affordable rental units located within the Choctaw Nation boundaries.



Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief

Gary Batton  
Assistant Chief

The Official  
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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

Circulation is monthly. Article deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.

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



BISKINIK 2014

# PEOPLE YOU KNOW



## A Salute



Pvt. Jordan N. Hargrow of Richardson, Texas, completed basic training on Nov. 1, 2013, AIT on Dec. 17, 2013, and joined U.S. Army on Aug. 19, 2013. On Jan. 2 he was sent to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, which is his duty station. He is assigned to Old Ironsides 1st Armored Division. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Montague Hargrow. Grandparents are Erma (George) Hargrow and John (Jo) Cothron and Uncle is Adrian (Amanda) Hargrow. We are all so proud of you.

## Roberts is crowned Miss Indian OU

On Feb. 25, in Norman a former Ada High Student and 2012 graduate, was crowned the 2014-2015 Miss Indian OU (University of Oklahoma).

T'ata Roberts, 20, is a member of the Choctaw & Chickasaw Tribes of Oklahoma and Taos Pueblo of New Mexico. She is the daughter of Michael and Rebecca Roberts of Ada and the granddaughter of Wilson and Sharon Roberts of Ada and Vincent and Judith Mondragon of Taos Pueblo, NM. T'ata has two siblings, Paan Pai and Morning Star.

T'ata is a sophomore at OU, studying criminology and Native American studies. She is the recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship, the OU Presidential Leadership Award, the AT&T Native American Scholars Award, Stratford & Eleanor Tolson Scholarship and the McAlester Scottish Rite Scholarship Award and was 2012's OU Featured Future Student upon her arrival to the University of Oklahoma. Most recently, T'ata was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the 2013 Fall Semester.

"Personally, I've tried my best to have a positive outlook on every day life. I carry myself with great pride, knowing my actions represent my families, my tribes and the University of Oklahoma. As MIOU, I will continue to carry myself in a good way and serve others as a respectable role model. I hope to not only be a role model respectfully, but also academically and culturally, in order to prove how diverse and successful Native American Women can be," says Roberts.



## Boswell is a candidate for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

McKenzie Boswell, a graduating senior at Oklahoma School of Science and Math, has been named one of more than 3,000 candidates in the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 3.4 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2014.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

McKenzie is the daughter of Ken and Robin Boswell.



## Bryant named seventh president of Redlands Community College

Jack Bryant, the son of Jack and Romaette Bryant of Allen, Okla., and grandson of original enrollee Mary Elizabeth Cranford, was appointed as the seventh president of Redlands Community College by a unanimous vote of the Redlands Board of Regents during the December board meeting. Bryant has served as acting president of the college since June 27, 2013.

During his tenure as acting president, Bryant has led the college into fiscal accountability by eliminating Redlands outstanding debt by more than 90 percent. Regent Kent Carder said, "Bryant has done a great job of continuing to take care of the debt and other problems as they have come."

Bryant has a diverse career in higher education spanning more than 30 years. The majority of his career has been spent on community college campuses. He's taught in the classroom; worked with special needs students; headed federal programs; and served as senior administration in student services, academic affairs and contract training.

Bryant has worked for Redlands twice. His first term from 1990-94, included time as an instructor, grant writer and program coordinator. Bryant returned to Redlands 2001 as vice president for contracted, continuing and online education. Since that time Bryant has served as the vice president for workforce and economic development.

Bryant's ability to lead and advance change is a staple of his career. Cherry Rain, President of the Faculty Association said, "Faculty are very pleased to be moving forward and President Bryant has done an incredible job the last few months rebuilding a solid, transparent and inclusive college environment."

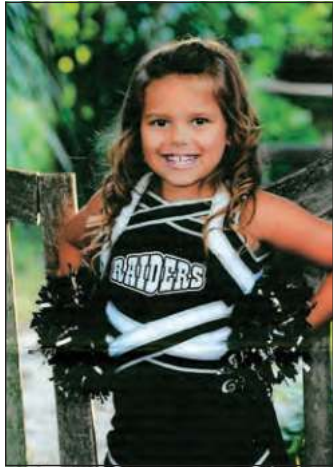
"I have respect for President Bryant and know that he is very passionate and dedicated in the vision of moving Redlands forward" expressed Regent Richard Ruhl.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead this college. I would like to thank the Redlands Regents for naming me president," said Bryant. "Together along with the faculty, staff, students and community, we are building a stronger Redlands Community College."

Bryant's career spans numerous colleges, states and leadership positions, with the majority of them right here in Oklahoma. He has implemented changes in workforce development, distance education and higher education leadership. Throughout his career he has worked to improve educational standards and college access opportunities for all students and serves diligently on community leadership and workforce development committees across the state. Bryant is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and a United States Navy veteran of the Vietnam War.

## Garcia cheers at OU basketball game

Jaeley Garcia, 6, from Moore, was one of the cheerleaders for the ladies basketball game at OU. OU played Iowa State and unfortunately lost, but half time was extra special with 5-and 6-year-olds doing the cheers, Jaeley showed her ability by standing on top of the girls in one cheer. She says she's the future Miss OU cheerleader, Jaeley cheers for the Moore Raiders team, a little league football team in Moore. This is her second year.



Jaeley is the daughter of Jarren Garcia and Danielle Marrs and Shauna and P.J. Pruitt, all of Moore. Her grandparents are Sherri and Jamie Echols of Moore and Joe Garcia and the late Tracey Garcia. Her great-grandparents are Tina and Dick Stubbs of Oklahoma City and Karen and Jimmy McConnell of Blanchard. Keep up the good work Jaeley, we're all proud of you.

## Foster earns bachelors degree

Congratulations to Brandon Michael Foster who has earned his Bachelors of Science with a degree in Construction Science and Management from University of Texas, San Antonio.



## Washington Irving

### Elementary students recycle

Washington Irving Elementary students are shown helping bring up recycling for pick-up. Choctaw recycling comes every week to pick up recycling items at the school. WI students and staff would like to say a big thank you for picking up recycling and helping our environment!



## STAR program achievement

Eagles soar in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma STAR Program! Victory Life Academy celebrates the academic achievement of our Choctaw students! Students receiving the honor of STAR student are Sidney Montgomery, Aaron Wagnitz, Madison Wagnitz, Justus Harris, Britta Montgomery, Elisabeth Presley, Emily Wagnitz and not pictured is Avery Burkhart.



## Valentine's Day Court

Valentines day, King and Queen at Atoka Senior center are Margaret and Nehemiah Gipson.



## Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation April 2014

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

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### FLORENCE SPALDING

Feb. 28 Florence Spalding celebrated her 94th birthday at the Oklahoma Veterans Center at Talihina. She celebrated with four of her five sisters, Isabel Clampet, Lee Foye, Betty Hunkapillar, and Virginia Dodson. As well as fellow veterans.



### MONTAGUE HARGROW

Montague Hargrow, son of Erma (George) Hargrow celebrated his 40th birthday on Feb. 20. Happy Birthday son.



### MICHAEL BROOKS

Michael Lyn Brooks turned 1 year old on Feb. 1. He celebrated his first birthday at his home with his family. He is the son of Lyn Thomas and Janie Brooks of Randlett. He is the maternal grandson of Louis Hutchinson of Iowa Park, Texas and the late Georgia Gallaher of Randlett. His paternal grandparents are Mike & Peggy Brooks of Randlett and Lois and Gary Bartz of Perryton, Texas.



## Cadet Receives national scholarship to pursue military career in mental health



University of Central Oklahoma ROTC cadet, battalion commander and senior nursing student Casey Strong has been named as one of five recipients of the U.S. Army's F. Edward Hebert Health Services Professional Scholarship for students pursuing careers as nurse practitioners.

Strong, originally from Wylie, Texas, will commission as a second lieutenant in May 2014 and immediately afterward enroll in a nurse practitioner program specializing in the mental health field.

The scholarship includes the complete cost of tuition, as well as books, equipment, most fees and a

monthly stipend.

"My dream job is to work at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center with soldiers who are amputees or who are battling PTSD. I would like to specialize in this field as many of my military years have already enabled me to help many of my friends with post-combat issues. This is my calling and I am very excited and humbled at the thought of this opportunity," Strong said.

Strong has a family history of both medicine and military service: her mother is a 1973 alumna of Central's nursing program and her father served in the Army.

In addition to her scholarship,

Strong was named a Distinguished Military Graduate for 2014. The honor is reserved for the top 20 percent of cadets and is based on GPA, community service and leadership in the ROTC.

"Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner is currently one of the hardest and most sought-after job specialties and programs in the U.S. Army as well as the ROTC U.S. Army Cadet Command for nurses. We are very proud of Cadet Strong and the prestigious honors she received. Hundreds vie for this scholarship, and that she won it and earned the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate is a testament to her

hard work and the excellent education she has received at UCO," said retired Army Master Sgt. John Taylor, instructor of military science at Central.

Strong will interview with the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Utah School of Medicine and Western Kentucky University School of Nursing before deciding where she will pursue her degree.

Upon completion of her studies, she will advance to the rank of captain.

For more information about Central's ROTC program, visit [www.busn.uco.edu/armyrotc](http://www.busn.uco.edu/armyrotc)

## Wilson-Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program sparks unique opportunities

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program

Dubai, UAE, and Glasgow, Scotland, are locations seldom associated with the study of veterinary sciences, but are notable life experiences for members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP).

Along with a gathering of many scholarships, a multitude of connections to institutes of higher education and college-prep resources, SAP is the proprietor of the Wilson-Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program. This scholarship, named in memory of the sponsor's parents, has assisted nearly a dozen students each semester since its implementation in the fall semester of 2012.

"The Wilson-Hooper Scholarship has been a great blessing," stated a recurring recipient who recently earned the title, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

During the final clinical year of education, students were required to complete an externship. While others from class were limited, the recipient of the Wilson-Hooper was offered more freedom from financial constraints, resulting in a month of study "in one of the world's most impressive equine hospitals in Dubai," stated the recipient. "For that, I am forever grateful because it was the opportunity of a lifetime and it prepared me to better serve my future patients as a new graduate."

According to the sponsor, the program supports both students working toward a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine as well as those working toward an Associate's Degree in Veterinary Technology.

This designation is a nod to the value the sponsor places on the traditional familiarity Native Americans feel toward animals, noting the namesakes of the program had a great love for animals.

As an illustration to this fact, the aforementioned recipient spoke of riding horses in younger years, stating, "I grew up riding horses, and as a high school student I was intrigued every time the equine veterinarian came out to treat a horse."

The Wilson-Hooper is awarded to several students each semester based on merit and overall passion for the field of



study, with funds matched by SAP. "If money is holding them back, I will give them a leg up. But they have to ride the horse themselves," stated the sponsor.

The funds of the program are delegated among several students rather than a large sum to one recipient so as to encourage education among many, thus maximizing the impact. The monies, ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 when matched by SAP, awarded to the students each semester can relieve enough financial pressure for a student to devote full attention to academia. This can be the deciding factor in completing a degree program, commented the sponsor.

Another recurring recipient, currently in the third year of study at the University of Glasgow [Scotland] Veterinary School stated that with the funds provided by the Wilson-Hooper scholarship, they were able to fund extramural study programs required by the university.

These extramural studies include working in locations such as Malta and Ireland. "These experiences have not only made my education better at applying my knowledge, but also myself," mentioned the recipient as they spoke of how learning foreign cultures and customs has shaped perceptions of education. "I would not be able to do this without funding."

"I have correspondence with [the sponsor] and I keep [them] updated with any places I visit and experience I get while I am out here," stated the recipient. They also went on to inform that the sponsor arranged correspondence with the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in order for the recipient to speak on behalf of the Glasgow Pathology Club.

As mentioned by the recipient, Wilson-Hooper's sponsor is dedicated to not only financial assistance, but to the overall

education of the scholars. The sponsor has provided each DVM student with a copy of Borror's dictionary of Greek and Latin word roots and forms to assist in learning descriptions behind muscles, bones and behavior, as well as species' names. Money and expectations can be barriers, but a little help can go a long way, the sponsor declared.

Wilson-Hooper's sponsor has been actively assisting Choctaws since 2006, as a benefactor to the Jones Academy, a school for Native Americans, located in Hartshorne. Through this connection, the sponsor met CNO Executive Director of Education Joy Culbreath, who introduced the sponsor to SAP in 2011.

Learning of the considerable ways SAP assists Choctaws who desire higher education, Wilson-Hooper's sponsor was determined to make a difference.

"It's always exciting for SAP to have the opportunity to work with a tribal member and create scholarships for other Choctaws. We are extremely grateful for the sponsor of this scholarship and the vision they have in creating a pipeline of Choctaw veterinarians," stated Shauna Williams, donor and scholarship specialist.

"The fact that someone wanted to help students focusing on veterinary medicine was very encouraging; it let me know that my hard work and dedication to veterinary medicine was important and was appreciated," said the recipient who has become a DVM. "If someone from SAP hadn't reached out to me and told me about the scholarship and what I needed to do to apply, I would have never known about it," they continued.

In efforts to project this opportunity into the foreseeable future, the sponsor and Choctaw Nation are working together to create an endowment. This will allow funds to renew over time, enabling continual funding.

If you are Choctaw and would like to know about more scholarships geared toward Native Americans, or would like to know how SAP can assist you toward the goal of higher education, visit [choctawnation-sap.com](http://choctawnation-sap.com) or call 800-522-6170. Becoming a member of SAP is open to all Choctaws and provides numerous resources such as an extensive database of Native American Scholarships.

## Choctaw Nation GED Classes

### McCurtain County

Beginning Date: April 15, 2014  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
1-4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center  
210 Chahta Rd., Broken Bow

### Pittsburg County

Beginning Date: April 15, 2014  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9 a.m.-12 noon

Choctaw Nation Community Center  
1632 S. George Nigh Expwy, McAlester

### Bryan County

Beginning Date: April 15, 2014  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
6-9 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex,  
South Building, downstairs, Durant

### LeFlore County

Beginning Date: April 14, 2014  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
9 a.m.-12 noon

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center  
208 "B" Street, Poteau

The class will meet two days a week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10-per-day transportation stipend is paid to those who attend on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Bench at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

## Are you over 18 years old?

Don't forget to update your tribal membership card!

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



## CHOCTAW NATION HEALTH SERVICES RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Choctaw Nation Health Services is proud to announce that their first Residency program has been a huge success. This opportunity was available through the Teaching Health Center Grant which allows three residents each year to complete a three year residency in Family Medicine. Aspiring residents were interviewed from all over the country and after careful consideration the three candidates that were chosen were Dr. Jane Teng, Dr. Valerie Robinson and Dr. Debra Hefner.

Choctaw Nation Family Medicine Residency provides a three year unopposed residency program in which residents receive one-on-one training from veteran physicians which allows for more direct, personal attention to them during their training. The residents rotate in various specialties during their training, concentrating on primary care such as Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, and General Surgery. The residents also have offsite rotations in Intensive Care, Orthopedics, Neonatology, Pediatric Intensive Care, Gastroenterology, Neurology and various other medical specialties. These offsite rotations are located in Muskogee and Tulsa, OK Hospitals.

Another requirement of their training is to maintain a continuity clinic in which they see their own Family Medicine patients in one of our Choctaw Nation Community Clinics. Under the supervision of a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician, they will see these patients one day each week. The residents participate in weekly lectures about various medical topics prepared by our own medical staff. The residents also participate in ongoing testing that evaluates their strengths and weaknesses. This training serves to assure that each resident obtains both the knowledge and confidence needed to practice on their own.

Having ongoing training for residents in our health system exposes the medical staff to the newest advances in medical literature. The weekly lectures serve to ensure that our own medical staff is exposed to the most recent advances in medical knowledge and research. This challenges not only the residents, but also the veteran staff as well to stay current with the latest advances in medicine.

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY INTERNSHIP

Intern this summer with Choctaw Nation Legislative Advocacy and assist CNO staff with research, event planning and advocating tribal issues, all while acquiring valuable knowledge of the legislative process and getting paid!

\* \$5,000 Scholarship awarded upon completion

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1

Scan the code or visit  
[www.choctawnation-sap.com](http://www.choctawnation-sap.com)  
for application.

- Be a college junior, senior, or graduate student
- Be an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completed application packet

\* Intern must be willing to relocate to Durant for the 9-week period to complete the internship and will be responsible for all living expenses.

email [ssmallwood@choctawnation.com](mailto:ssmallwood@choctawnation.com) with questions



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



# Choctaw Nation Livestock Shows held in Durant and Wilburton

## Durant Livestock Show Results

### Lamb Show Order

- Division 1**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Hackler Brasen, Kiowa  
 2. Dancer Madelynn, Soper  
 3. Courtwright Bradyn, Rattan  
 4. Courtwright Hannah, Rattan  
 5. Gorden Jaylei, Rattan  
 6. Langley Emily, Hugo  
**Class 2**  
 1. House Marie, Kiowa  
 2. Crawford Makayla, Moss  
 3. Whitlow Elizabeth, Ft. Towson  
 4. Roebuck Brooke, Kiowa  
 5. Parsons Jaely, Soper  
 6. Stricklen Kindal, Bennington  
**Class 3**  
 1. Chambers Taylor, Tushka  
 2. Holder Lexi, Ft. Towson  
 3. Bryan Hadley, Mulhall  
 4. Nichols Mason, Achille  
 5. Crawford Kallie, Moss  
 6. Hackler Alex, Kiowa  
 7. Dancer Madelynn, Soper  
 8. Chapman Alyson, Coalgate  
 9. McKee Tyna, Soper  
 Division Champion: Taylor Chambers, Tushka  
 Res. Divison Champion: Marie House, Kiowa  
**Division 2**  
**Class 4**  
 1. Jones Bonnie, Thackerville  
 2. Bryan Hadley, Mulhall  
 3. Mize Colton, Springer  
 4. Feuerhelm Brittney, Atoka  
 5. Robison Jaycee, Moss  
 6. Stricklen Kindal, Bennington  
 7. Nichols Zachary, Achille  
 8. Stafford Canton, Madill  
**Class 5**  
 1. Bennett Emily, Yukon  
 2. Holder Alexis, Ft. Towson  
 3. Chambers Taylor, Tushka  
 4. Tisdell Dayton, Tupelo  
 5. Crawford Kallie, Moss  
 6. Dossey Mckenzie, Haworth  
 7. Carlile Macey, Hugo  
 8. Stafford Canton, Madill  
 9. Stafford Canton, Madill  
**Class 6**  
 1. Chambers Taylor, Tushka  
 2. Roebuck Brooke, Kiowa  
 3. Fowler Shelby, Yukon  
 4. Bryan Hadley, Mulhall  
 5. Mann Hunter, Sulphur  
 6. Mize Colton, Springer  
 7. Copeland Taylor, Antlers  
 8. Matthews Alyssa, Bennington  
 9. Pierce Jared, Durant  
 Division Champion: Taylor Chambers  
 Res. Division Champion: Emily Bennett  
**Division 3**  
**Class 7**  
 1. Bennett Emily, Yukon  
 2. Carter Hannah, Calera  
 3. Jones Bonnie, Thackerville  
 4. Courtwright Cassidy, Rattan  
 5. Courtwright Cassidy, Rattan  
 6. Chapman Alyson, Coalgate  
 7. Labor Regan, Kiowa  
**Class 8**  
 1. Tucker Seth, Lindsay  
 2. House Marie, Kiowa  
 3. Hackler Alex, Kiowa  
 4. Huddleston Hannah, Kiowa  
 5. Scroggins Colton, Soper  
 6. Tisdell Dayton, Tupelo  
 7. Annable Tanner, Kiowa  
 8. Dossey Mckenzie, Haworth  
 9. Roebuck Sam, Soper  
**Class 9**  
 1. Bennett Emily, Yukon  
 2. Courtwright Cassidy, Rattan  
 3. Mann Hunter, Sulphur  
 4. Brown Sydnee, Calera  
 5. Huddleston Hannah, Kiowa  
 6. Long Joshlynn, Haworth  
 7. Ross Karley, Caddo  
 8. Ross Karley, Caddo  
 Division Champion: Emily Bennett, Yukon  
 Reserve Division Champion: Seth Tucker, Lindsay  
 Grand Champion: Emily Bennett, Yukon  
 Res. Grand: Taylor Chambers Tushka  
 Bronze: Seth Tucker Lindsay  
 Jr. Showman: Taylor Chambers, Tushka  
 Sr. Showman: Emily Bennett, Yukon  
**Swine show Order**

## Berkshire Show Order

- Class 1**  
 1. Avants Jayley, Tupelo  
 2. Upchurch CJ, Wapanucka  
 3. Weeden Jeremiah, Coalgate  
 4. Hardy Neiatha, Coalgate  
**Class 2**  
 1. Davidson Hunter, Coalgate  
 2. Underwood Malori, Bennington  
 3. Avants Jaedyn, Tupelo  
 4. Medders Blake, Battiest  
 Breed Champion: Jayley Avants, Tupelo  
 Res. Breed Champion: Huter Davidson, Coalgate  
**Chester Show Order**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Haynes Kayona, Choctaw  
 2. Clardy Alexia, Haworth  
 3. Goodwin Aubree, Rock Creek  
**Class 2**  
 1. Roebuck Brandon, Wapanucka  
 2. Bradley Tad, Caddo  
 3. Anderson Damien, Rock Creek  
 Breed Champion: Brandon Roebuck  
 Res. Breed Champion: Tad Bradley  
**Cross Show Order**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Whitley Baylee, Colbert  
 2. Braudrick Zane, Caddo  
 3. Ake Corby, Tupelo  
 4. Bland Brenton, Dickson  
 5. Stoner Clay, Rock Creek  
 6. Rubio Josh, Bennington  
 7. Robinson Alex, Rock Creek  
 8. Hardy Neiatha, Coalgate  
 9. Goodwin Aubree, Rock Creek  
**Class 2**  
 1. Comer Denton, Durant  
 2. Medders Blake, Battiest  
 3. Davis Ross, Dickson  
 4. Anta Jaylee, Obuch  
 5. Coker Ty, Bennington  
 6. Bailey Kattie, Antlers  
 7. McGahey Holden, Madill  
 8. Rogers Laney, Tish  
 9. Stephens Tannah, Tushka  
**Class 3**  
 1. McKinnon Hunter, Lone Grove  
 2. Avants Jayley, Tupelo  
 3. Davis Ross, Dickson  
 4. Goodwin Aubree, Rock Creek  
 5. Broughton Lindsey, Tushka  
 6. Hembree Holli, Antlers  
 7. Hall Caelan, Tushka  
 8. Broughton Cole, Tushka  
 9. Tonihka Enchil, Battiest  
**Class 4**  
 1. Clardy Alexia, Haworth  
 2. Bell J.B, Madill  
 3. Bell Taylor, Madill  
 4. Wood Rowdy, Coalgate  
 5. Coe Jackie Jo, Caddo  
 6. Crawley Chloe, Kiowa  
 7. Hudson Mackenzie, Ft. Towson  
 8. Hudson Tell, Ft. Towson  
 9. Brown Kaleigh, Battiest  
**Class 5**  
 1. Conner Colt, Tuttle  
 2. King Macy, Wapanucka  
 3. Houser Nathan, Caddo  
 4. Lawless Gracie, Tish  
 5. Bland Clinton, Dickson  
 6. Clardy Alexia, Haworth  
 7. Robinson Dylan, Rock Creek  
 8. Green Trenton, Holdenville  
 9. Brown Kaleigh, Battiest  
**Class 6**  
 1. Conner Colt, Tuttle  
 2. Wood Cooper, Rattan  
 3. Christian Bridgett, Lone Grove  
 4. Wright Laura, Wynnewood  
 5. King Lance, Wapanucka  
 6. Hill Faith, Soper  
 7. Thompson AJ, Hugo  
 8. Hammons Conner, Antlers  
 9. Burton Tyler, Ft. Towson  
 10. Huddleston Hannah, Kiowa  
**Class 7**  
 1. Hembree Holli, Antlers  
 2. Davidson Hayden, Coalgate  
 3. Shaw Reed, Rattan  
 4. Russell Levi, Bennington  
 5. Bradley Hank, Caddo  
 Breed Champion: Colt Conner  
 Res. Breed Champion: Baylee Whitley  
**Duroc Show Order**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Adair Alli Caddo  
 2. Reeves Haylea, Tupelo  
 3. Wood Rowdy, Coalgate  
 4. Ake Blaine, Tupelo  
 5. Rogers Laney, Tish

6. Bland Clinton, Dickson  
 7. Bland Brenton, Dickson  
 8. Jones James, Roff  
 9. Russell Carley, Bennington  
 1.0 Ford Colby, Choctaw  
**Class 2**  
 1. Stoner Clay, Rock Creek  
 2. Davidson Hunter, Coalgate  
 3. Houser Tylar, Caddo  
 4. Green Trenton, Holdenville  
 5. Ross Macey, Caddo  
 6. Hawkins Hunter, Rattan  
**Class 3**  
 1. Emert Devin, Bennington  
 2. Bradley Hank, Caddo  
 3. Mason Keona, Tish  
 Breed Champion: Devin Emert  
 Res. Breed Champion: Clay Stoner  
**Hampshire Show Order**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Whitley Baylee, Colbert  
 2. Bowen Dillon, Silo  
 3. Wood Cooper, Rattan  
 4. Robinson Alexander, Rock Creek  
 5. McGahey Lauren, Madill  
 6. Robison Kaleb, Moss  
 7. Ake Corby, Tupelo  
 8. Collins Jase, Wapanucka  
 9. Dancer Taylor, Bennington  
 10. Gossett Kirsten, Caney  
 11. Luck Riley, Tushka  
**Class 2**  
 1. Whitley Baylee, Colbert  
 2. Ake Blaine, Tupelo  
 3. Lawless Jacob, Tish  
 4. Davis Ross, Dickson  
 5. Birdsong Blake, Tushka  
 6. McGahey Holden, Madill  
 7. King Macy, Wapanucka  
 8. Brown Kaeleigh, Battiest  
 9. Maxwell Macy, Hugo  
 10. Bland Brenton, Dickson  
**Class 3**  
 1. Keeler Brandon, Tushka  
 2. Robinson Dylan, Rock Creek  
 3. Collins Jase, Wapanucka  
 4. Weeden Jeremiah, Coalgate  
 5. Huddleston Hannah, Kiowa  
 6. Behrens Maggie, Caddo  
 7. Hudson Tell, Ft. Towson  
 8. Bonds Trevor, Soper  
 9. Bruesch Arlis, Choctaw  
**Class 4**  
 1. Conner Colt, Tuttle  
 2. McKinnon Hunter, Lone Grove  
 3. Stoner Clay, Rock Creek  
 4. Birdsong Blake, Tushka  
 5. Anderson Kylee, Caddo  
 6. Jones James, Roff  
 7. Coker Ty, Bennington  
 8. Lawless Gracie, Tish  
 9. Maxwell Tyler, Hugo  
**Class 5**  
 1. Davidson Hayden, Coalgate  
 2. Christian Bridgett, Lone Grove  
 3. Bowen Dillon, Silo  
 4. Hall Caelan, Tushka  
 5. Morris Jessaym, Gladewater  
 6. Burton Denise, Ft. Towson  
 7. Davidson Hunter, Coalgate  
 8. Bonds Trevor, Soper  
**Class 6**  
 1. Weger Walker Colbert Hamp  
 2. Underwood Malori Bennington Hamp  
 Breed Champion: Colt Conner  
 Res. Breed Champion: Hunter McKinnon  
**Poland Show Order**  
 1. Ford Colby Choctaw,  
 2. Jones James, Roff  
 3. Mason Keona Tishomingo  
 Breed Champion: Colby Ford  
 Res. Breed Champion: James Jones  
**Spot Show Order**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Braudrick Jayci, Caddo  
 2. Robison Kaleb, Moss  
 3. Robinson Dylan, Rock Creek  
 4. Emert Mason, Bennington  
 5. Mason Keona, Tish  
**Class 2**  
 1. Wood Rowdy, Coalgate  
 2. Nelson Shelby, Choctaw  
 3. Medders Blake, Battiest  
 4. Gossett Kirsten, Caney  
 5. Emert Devin, Bennington  
**Class 3**  
 1. Bradley Bailey Caddo  
 Breed Champion: Rowdy Wood  
 Coalgate  
 Res. Breed Champion: Bailey Bradley Caddo

## Yorkshire Show Order

- Class 1**  
 1. Ake Corby, Tupelo  
 2. Chambers Kelsey, Tushka  
 3. Wright Laura, Wynnewood  
 4. Whitlow Lillabeth, Ft. Towson  
 5. McGahey Lauren, Madill  
 6. Dancer Taylor, Bennington  
 7. Weeden Jeremiah, Coalgate  
 8. Mariel Bailey, Holdenville  
**Class 2**  
 1. McKinnon Hunter, Lone Grove  
 2. Comer Denton, Durant  
 3. Davidson Hunter, Coalgate  
 4. Hammons Christian, Obuch  
 5. Hembree Holli, Antlers  
 6. Robison Kaleb, Moss  
 7. Bailey Kaylea, Antlers  
 8. Ford Colby, Choctaw  
**Class 3**  
 1. Wood Cooper, Rattan  
 2. Boyett Tyler, Rattan  
 3. Leathers Marlie, Rattan  
 4. Emert Mason, Bennington  
 5. Bradley Bailey, Caddo  
 Breed Champion: Hunter McKinnon  
 Res. Breed Champion: Corby Ake  
 Grand Champion: Colt Conner  
 Res. Grand Champion: Colt Conner,  
 Bronze: Baylee Whitley  
 Jr. Showman: Tyler Boyett  
 Sr. Showman: Hunter McKinnon  
**Wether Show Order**  
**Division 1**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Couey Amber, Tupelo  
 2. Nelson Ty, Rattan  
 3. Barker Kason, Boswell  
**Class 2**  
 1. Purkins Aaron, Caddo  
 2. Edwards Natley, Hugo  
 3. Kelso Nick, Caddo  
**Class 3**  
 1. Mobbs Peyton, Tushka  
 2. Kelso Nick, Caddo  
 3. Arpealer Samantha, Antlers  
 4. McClain Beth Ann, Ft. Towson  
 Division 1 Champ: Peyton Mobbs  
 Division 1 Res. Champ: Amber Couey  
**Division 2**  
**Class 4**  
 1. Mobbs Peyton, Tushka  
 2. Moody Lexie, Moss  
 3. Hokett Taylor, Antlers  
 4. Carter Jacob, Moyers  
 5. Arpealer Samantha, Antlers  
**Class 5**  
 1. Mobbs Peyton, Tushka  
 2. Chambers Kelsey, Tushka  
 3. Barber Blaklyn, Silo  
 4. Reed Racee, Wapanuka  
 5. McKay Kelsey, Tupelo  
**Class 6**  
 1. Chambers Kelsey, Tushka  
 2. McKay Alanah, Tupelo  
 Division 2 Champion: Peyton Mobbs  
 Division 2 Res. Champion: Lexi Moody  
 Grand Champion: Peyton Mobbs  
 Res. Grand Champion: Lexi Moody  
 Bronze: Peyton Mobbs  
 Jr. Showman: Blaklyn Barber  
 Sr. Showman: Kelsey Chambers  
**Doe Show Order**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Nichols Mason, Achille  
 2. Hedgecock Tayler, Durant  
 3. Pierce Jared, Durant  
 4. Loman Colton, Hugo  
**Class 2**  
 1. Allen Bailee, Silo  
 2. Reeves Kes, Kingston  
 3. Loving Gloria, Kingston  
 4. Nunn Madyson, Thackerville  
 5. Barrett Kyle, Boswell  
 6. Loman Casey, Hugo  
**Class 3**  
 1. Mann Hunter, Sulphur  
 2. Tucker ShiAnn, Kingston  
 3. McKoy Cutter, Home-school  
 4. King Jaydon, Soper  
 5. McKay Alanah, Tupelo  
 6. Burton Denise, Fort Towson  
 7. Burton Tyler, Ft. Towson  
**Class 4**  
 1. Allen Braden, Silo  
 2. Jones James, Roff  
 3. Price Colton, Caddo  
 4. Russell Stormie, Bennington

5. Russell Carly, Bennington  
**Class 5**  
 1. Mann Hunter, Sulphur  
 2. Purkins Aaron, Caddo  
 3. Purkins Aaron, Caddo  
 4. Jones Johnathan, Roff  
 5. Curtis Kameron, Rock Creek  
 6. Curtis Kameron, Rock Creek  
 Div 1 Champ: Hunter, Mann  
 Div 1 Res Champ: Hunter Mann  
**Class 6**  
 1. Barber Blaklyn, Silo  
 2. Watkins Jaycee, Mt. Vernon  
 3. King Jaydon, Soper  
 4. McKoy Tucker, Homeschool  
 5. Dill Kylie, Boswell  
**Class 7**  
 1. Watkins Jaycee, Mt. Vernon  
 2. Barber Blaklyn, Silo  
 3. Coe Jackie, Caddo  
 4. Jones Jacob, Roff  
 5. McKoy Tucker, Homeschool  
 6. McClain Beth Ann, Ft. Towson  
 7. Phillips Mason, Durant  
**Class 8**  
 1. Long Chesney, Haworth  
 2. Long Chesney, Haworth  
 3. McKoy Chase, Homeschool  
 4. McKoy Chace, Homeschool  
 5. Bacon Bryant, Boswell  
 6. Burton Tyler, Ft. Towson  
**Class 9**  
 1. Mann Hunter, Sulphur  
 2. Jones Jacob, Roff  
 3. Long Chesney, Haworth  
 4. McKoy Cutter, Homeschool  
 5. Burton Denise, Fort Towson  
 6. Cress Blake, Boswell  
 Div. 2 Champ: Hunter Mann  
 Div. 2 Res. Champ: Jaycee Watkins  
 Grand Champion: Hunter Mann  
 Reserve Grand Champion: Hunter Mann  
 Bronze: Jaycee Watkins  
**Wilburton Livestock Show Results**  
**Sheep Show Order**  
**Division 1**  
**Class 1**  
 1. Bailey Medlock, Tupelo  
 2. Nicole Dobbs, LeFlore  
 3. Cheyenne Kinney, LeFlore  
 4. Irish Alex, LeFlore  
 5. Rio Alex, LeFlore  
 6. Darlen Dobbs, LeFlore  
**Class 2**  
 1. Savannah Lantz, Holdenville  
 2. Caden Sumpter, Red Oak  
 3. Juleah Hollingshed, Checotah  
 4. Challis Johnson, Panama  
 5. Baylie Bray, Haworth  
 6. Brandon Hooper, Cameron  
 7. Mikey Mefford, Canadian  
 8. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina  
 9. Lexi L 4ingston, Porum  
 10. Wauker Hollingshed, Checotah  
**Class 3**  
 1. Savannah Lantz, Holdenville  
 2. Emily Shaw, Buffalo Valley  
 3. Gavin Clunn, Hartshorne  
 4. Hannah Maxwell, Talihina  
 5. Riley Sumpter, Red Oak  
 6. Mackenzie Maxwell, Talihina  
 7. Ashlyn Donaho, Wister  
**Class 4**  
 1. Peiper Rogers, Spiro  
 2. Brenna Fry, Buffalo Valley  
 3. Flint Shaw, Buffalo Valley  
 4. Grant Shaw, Buffalo Valley  
 5. Bailey Medlock, Tupelo  
 6. Mackenzie Maxwell, Talihina  
 7. Shane Fry, Buffalo Valley  
 8. Sara Lawson, Canadian



Peyton Mobbs – Grand Champion goat



Emily Bennett – Grand Champion Lamb



Brandon Roebuck – Breed Champion Chester



Rowdy Wood – Breed Champion Spot



Colby Ford – Breed Champ Poland



Hunter Davidson – Champion Berkshire



Devin Emert – Breed Champion Duroc



Colt Conner – Grand Champion Hampshire



Hunter Mann – Grand Champion goat





# OBITUARIES

## Anita Faye Jay

Anita Faye Jay, 82, of Orange passed away Jan. 18, 2014, in her home. She was born in Soper on July 23, 1931. Anita was the daughter of Andrew Jackson McKee and Sarah Beatrice (Butler) McKee. She was a member of the Little Cypress Baptist Church. Anita enjoyed shopping but her all-time favorite activity was spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Pauline Crouch; brother, Thomas McKee; and nephew, Charles Crouch.

Anita is survived by her husband of 66 years, Clois Jay; sons, Greg Jay, Donnie Jay with wife Pat, Joey Jay with wife Nikki; daughter, Gayla Roberts; brother, Stanley McKee; grandchildren, Jill Jay, Jennifer Chitty, Cory Jay, Sam Dougharty, Amanda Jay, Christen Trahan, Justin Dougharty, Shai Greer, Chelsea Greer, Jessica Jay, Josie Jay; great-grandchildren, Skyler Scott, Slayde Jay, Allie Jay, Laikyn Trahan, Hannah Chitty, Baylee Jay, Mason Jay, Cameron Dougharty, Zane Trahan, Cayse Dougharty, Makayla Dougharty, Brenton Trahan, Weston Dougharty; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## Anthony Wayne Willis

Anthony Wayne Willis, 58, passed away on Jan. 13, 2014. He was born in Talihina on Nov. 18, 1955.

At 18 he joined the Army and was stationed in Germany and received an honorable discharge. The majority of his career was as a dialysis technician. For the past 10 years, Tony focused on various volunteer work within his community. In 2007, he married Terilyn, who shared his life's passion for helping others. Another passion of Tony's was finding homes for dogs he had come across throughout the years.

Tony is survived by his wife, Terilyn; mother, Lillie; aunt, Ann; niece, Megan; two sisters; brother; and many friends.



## Bryan Derek Beall

Bryan Derek Beall, 38, passed away on Jan. 10, 2014, in Hugo.

Bryan Derek Beall was born Feb. 17, 1975, at Lakenheath Air Force Base, England. He had lived most of his life in Hugo, graduating from Hugo High School in 1993. He attended SOSU after high school and has worked at the Choctaw Casino in Grant for the past seven years, currently as a Slot Shift Manager.



Bryan married Amanda Farnsworth on Oct. 17, 2009, in Hugo. He loved his family and friends, playing with his kids and watching football as he was an avid OU fan.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Stephen Beall Jr.; grandparents, Gene and Gladys Prater, David and Pauline Beall and Robert Farnsworth; uncles, Don Prater, and Michael Beall.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Amanda Beall of the home; his children, Brandon Lee Beall and Tayla Marie Beall of the home; mother, Marti Beall of Hugo; father, Stephen Beall with wife Melody of Bonham, Texas; in-laws, Ricky and Nita Farnsworth of Soper; grandmother-in-law, Lavonn Farnsworth of Hugo; great-aunt, Martha Moody of Lewisville, Texas; stepsisters, Melissa Harper of Hugo, and Cheryl Cooper of Bonham, Texas; brother-in-law, Kevin Farnsworth of Hugo; numerous cousins, other relatives, and a host of friends and co-workers.

## Deborah 'Debby' Lynn Young

Deborah "Debby" Lynn Young, 50, was born on Feb. 2, 1963, in Rockland, Maine to Loren Arthur and Julia Merlene (Redden) Young and passed from this life on Dec. 23, 2013, in Durant.



Debby moved to Bryan County in 1985. She then moved to Boone, NC in 2000 to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren and she returned to Durant in Nov. 2013. She worked in retail as a cashier and was of the Church of Christ Faith. She enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, playing Scrabble and cards and watching comedies, romantic movies, going to the beach and collecting lighthouses and coins and listening to rock music. Her favorite group was Pink Floyd, but above all she dearly cherished her children and grandchildren and family.

Debby was preceded in death by her father, Loren Arthur Young Sr.; brothers, Clyde and Loren Young Jr.; stepfather, Eddie Hider; and grandparents, Clyde and Ilene Young and Jess and Pearl Redden.

Debby is survived by her children, David Capri with wife Sarah of St. Louis, Mo. and Amy Freeman with husband Ray of Boone, NC; mother, Julia Hider of Caddo; sisters, Loretta Payton with husband William of Balsam Grove and Susan Lawson of Durant; brother, Robert Young of Mead; grandchildren, Dyllan Walls, Jonas Austin, Zachariah Capri, Lela Capri and Cheyenne Capri; half-sister, Marjorie Smith; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and friends.

## Jerry David

Jerry David, 59, passed away on Dec. 25, 2013 in Sawyer.

Jerry was born on Nov. 27, 1954, in Odessa, Texas to Wyndle and Nadean David. In 1973, Jerry graduated from Fort Towson High School. He was a member of the Fort Towson State Champion basketball team and the MVP of the Tournament of Champions. After graduation, he attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



Jerry was trained as an EMT and worked at David's Health Center. He enjoyed to visit with his family and friends. Although Jerry faced many challenges in his life, his faith and his commitment to family remained strong.

He was preceded in death by his grandson, Michael Coker. Jerry is survived by his children, April Beene of Sawyer, Nancy and Carlos Castillo of Sawyer; parents, Wyndle and Nadean David of Sawyer; siblings, Doug David of Idabel and Cathey and Larry Hooker of Clayton; and numerous other family and friends.

## Lena Baker

Lena Baker, 90, of Battiest passed away Jan. 14, 2014, in De Queen, Ark. She was born on Dec. 31, 1923 in Battiest, the daughter of Calvin Carney and Leason Watson Carney. She was a member of the Battiest Baptist Church in Battiest. She enjoyed attending Choctaw singings, sewing, yard sales and spending time with her grandkids and great-grandkids.



Lena was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Tommy Baker; a son, Elwood Baker; three daughters, Phyllis, Leila and Leona Baker; and a brother, Wallace Carney.

Lena leaves to cherish her memory, daughters, Lula Sanders with husband Bob of Broken Bow, Wanda Bohannon with husband Doug of Battiest and Cynthia Ford with husband Mike of McAlester; sister, Annie Noah of Battiest; five grandsons, Brian Sanders with wife Denise of Broken Bow, Michael and Brandon Bohannon of Battiest, David and Michael Williamson of McAlester; two granddaughters, Vickie Sanders Rhine with husband Steve of Broken Bow and Juanita Williamson of McAlester; 16 great-grandkids; one great-great grandson; and a host of friends.

## Donald Eugene Horton

Donald Eugene Horton, 77, of Bokoshe passed away Jan. 11, 2014, in his home following a lengthy illness.

Donald was born Aug. 19, 1936, in Milton, to Guy Quincy and Montie Olean (LeFlore) Horton. Donald devoted his life to his wife and family. He worked for many years in a fertilizer plant and later years in the oil field, pumping gas wells. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golfing when younger. As age came along most of his life was devoted to clearing the farm land where he lived and working with the cattle. He was baptized into Christ at the Bokoshe Church of Christ.



Donald was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jerry Horton; sister, Lena Ann Walker.

Donald is survived by his wife of 55 years, Melba of the home; two sons, Donald Jr. with wife Susan of Muldrow, Randy Horton of Bokoshe; three grandsons, Jason, Jonathan and Jacob Horton; two granddaughters, Stephanie Ortiz and Julie Anderson; two step grandchildren, Makayla & T.W.; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Loren Horton of Bokoshe, Joe Horton with wife Sharon of Rogers, Ark.; sisters-in-law, Joy Arter with husband Phillip of Bokoshe, Billye Vincent of Bokoshe and Delcina Saling with husband Tracy of Bokoshe; brother-in-law, Tim Tanksley with wife Sharon of Bokoshe; nieces, nephews, and many friends.

## Ruth Ann 'Moie' Coleman

Ruth Ann "Moie" Coleman, 83, of Fort Smith, Ark. passed away Aug. 31, 2013.

She was born on July 29, 1930 in Spiro, to Willis and Lula Mae (Evans) Broom. She was a retired surgical nurse from Sparks Regional Medical Center and formerly active in the Choctaw Senior Citizens Center in Spiro and was of the Catholic faith.



She is survived by her husband Billy Gene Coleman of Fort Smith, Ark.; two sons, Billy D. Coleman with wife Ruth of Fort Smith, Ark. and Bobby G. Coleman with wife Martha of Fort Smith, Ark.; two sisters, Madge Carter of Spiro and Shirley Koci of Topeka, Kan.; four grandchildren, Christi Mathews, Carrie Hill and Alex Coleman all of Fort Smith, Ark. and Nicholas Coleman of Dallas, Texas; and four great-grandchildren, Noah and Jeremiah Mathews and Coleman and Chloe Hill.

## Richard Douglas Swaim

Richard Douglas Swaim, 59, passed away Dec. 24, 2013 after a two year battle with cancer.

Richard was born in Phoenix to Daniel G. Swaim and Patricia Swaim. Richard was raised in the Valley and graduated from Bourgade High School. Richard was a printer all of his adult life. Richard loved to fish and camp out in the mountains, especially with his son, Daniel. Richard was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Richard was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Swaim; and grandparents, B.J. and Murler Black of Prescott.

Survived by mother, Patricia Semlich with stepfather Charles Semlich of Chino Valley, Ariz.; brother, William Swaim with wife Edwina of Phoenix; sister, Sharon Ledbetter with husband Jim of Phoenix; four children, Amber Olmstead with husband Larry of Woodstock, Ill., Eva Paiva with husband Matt of Florida and Lilly Swaim and Daniel Swaim in Glendale, Ariz.; three grandchildren, Caleb, Aidan and Leah of Woodstock, Ill.; several aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins especially cousin, Philip Swaim and nephew Jason Lugo of Phoenix; he also had many friends; Kevin and Theresa who took care of Richard in their home, also Jackie.

## Rhonda Glover Easley

Rhonda Glover Easley, 48, of Canadian went to be with the Lord on Feb. 21, 2014, in Atlanta, Texas.

Rhonda was born Dec. 5, 1965, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, Ark. She was employed with Choctaw Defense and attended Lakewood Christian Church in McAlester.



She is survived by her husband, Bob Henry of Canadian; her parents, Sue Parlier with husband Ron of Atlanta, Texas, Charles Glover with wife Linda of Florida; one son, Tyrel Robison of Hartshorne; three daughters, Alisha Mouser with husband Curtis of Queen City, Texas, Rachel Landrum with husband Brandon of Redwater, Texas and Brittany Easley of Van, Texas; two brothers, Dale Glover of Bossier City, La. and James Glover of Three Rivers, Texas; three grandchildren, Riley Payne, Dean Landrum and Avery Landrum; and a number of other relatives.

## Elmer 'Dutch' Crews

Elmer "Dutch" Crews, 98, was born Oct. 26, 1915, in Hugo to Joseph Alfred and Leta (Thorpe) Crews. He passed from this life Jan. 23, 2014, in Hugo.



Dutch was born and raised in Hugo and attended Goodland School. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II in France then settled down in southern California. He married Barbara Jean Thomas in Inglewood, Calif. Dutch has lived in this area for the past 15 years and was proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was a member of the Elks Lodge and the VFW and a member of the First Baptist Church of Hugo. Dutch loved bowling, going camping and in his earlier years he enjoyed Indian dancing at various pow wows and played parts in movies.

Dutch was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Jean (Thomas) Crews in 2001; sister, Aileen (Crews) McKenzie; brothers, Cecil Thompson, Arlie "AV" Vernon and Oliver "Bub" Crews.

He is survived by sons, Edward with wife Rose Anne (Stevens) Crews of Medford, Ore. and Gary with wife Kim (Walker) Crews of Crescent City, Calif.; daughter, Barbara Jean (Crews) Plotner with husband Rick of Hugo; brother, Oliver Joseph Crews of Dallas; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; as well as other relatives and friends.

## Leona Ruth Wilson

Leona Ruth Wilson was born in Antlers on Sept. 28, 1935, the daughter of Dickey John and Myrtle Bohanon Impson. She died on Dec. 2, 2013, in Oklahoma City.



Leona grew up in Antlers where she attended Goodland Academy and later graduated from Antlers High School.

In 1955, she married Randall Wilson in Antlers. They were married for 50 years until his death in 2005.

After their marriage they moved to Chickasha, where she worked as an inspector at Maremont which later became Gabriel. She retired from Gabriel after many years of service. Leona was a member of St. York Baptist Church in Marlow.

Leona was a cancer survivor for over 10 years. She enjoyed reading her Bible, and making and buying jewelry. She deeply loved and enjoyed all of her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both parents, Dickey John Impson and Myrtle Bohanon Impson; her husband, Randall Wilson; one sister, Mildred Daisy Walker; four brothers, Dickey John Impson Jr., Finis Ewing Impson, David Warren Impson and Preston Wayne Impson; as well as two infant siblings.

She is survived by four daughters, Margaret McWilliams with husband Larry, Tracy Wilson and Sandy Wilson all of Oklahoma City and Donna Tawkoity of San Antonio; one son, Michael Wilson with wife Nancy of Waukesha, Wis.; ten grandchildren, Caleb, Zachary, and Kendall McWilliams, James Johnson, Jared Wilson, Phillip Tawkoity, Benjamin, Sarah, Abigail and Katherine Wilson; and five sisters, Claudine Wheeler, Sophia Linda Impson, Emma Lee Nelson, Elizabeth Ann Impson and Marchelene Davis.

## Lavada (Crutchfield) Parker

Lavada (Crutchfield) Parker, 84, of Bokoshe was born Dec. 20, 1929, in Bokoshe to Edward and Velma (Pulliam) Crutchfield and passed away Jan. 7, 2014, in Claremore.



Lavada retired from McDonalds after 30 years. She was a very friendly person who met no strangers. She was a giving person and loved to go to Choctaw Pow-Wow's in Oklahoma. She enjoyed camping and fishing.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two nephews, Kenen Crutchfield and Ronnie W. Cloud; and one brother-in-law, Paul Dill.

She is survived by one daughter, Ronette Parker of Tulsa; one son, James P. Parker with wife Shirley of Broken Arrow; five sisters, Wanda Riley with husband Austin of Panama, Shelba McConnell of Brea, Calif., Barbara Fowler of Lake Forest, Calif., Beverly Carey with husband Ralph of New River, Ariz. and Karla Dill of Owasso; three brothers, Oneal Crutchfield of Downey, Calif., J.E. Crutchfield with wife Mary of Tulsa and W.T. Crutchfield with wife Glenda of McCurtain; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; numerous of nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones.

## Joe 'J.E.' Crutchfield

Joe "J.E." Crutchfield of Catoosa, son of the late Edward and Velma (Pulliam) Crutchfield, died on Jan. 17, 2014, in Catoosa.



Born and raised in Bokoshe with eight siblings, J.E. was an avid St. Louis Cardinals and OU fan. He coached pee wee baseball and loved to go catfishing with friends and family. J.E. was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church. He served in the Navy from 1952-56 and was a Korean War veteran. After the war, he married Mary Restine and moved to California before returning to Oklahoma. J.E. worked as a machinist until retirement at age 65.

He was preceded in death by his son, Kevin Crutchfield; sister Lavada (Crutchfield) Parker, Virginia (Smith) Crutchfield, Paul Dill and Ronnie W. Cloud.

He is survived by his wife Mary Crutchfield of the home; daughter, Theresa Martin with husband Doyle of Locust Grove; son, Steve with wife Kathryn of Wagoner; brothers, Oneal Crutchfield of Bokoshe and W.T. Crutchfield with wife Glenda of McCurtain; five sisters, Wanda Riley with husband Austin of Panama, Shelba McConnell of Brea, Calif., Barbara Fowler of Lake Forest, Calif., Beverly Carey with husband Ralph of New River, Ariz. and Karla Dill of Owasso; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

# Choctaw Means Business

## Choctaw Business Development Center uniquely positioned to spark job creation for Southeast Oklahoma

As local, state and national government agencies examine ways to create jobs and turn around the struggling economy, business incubation programs are featuring prominently in the debate – as well they should. Entities like the Choctaw Business Development Center (CBDC) help entrepreneurs turn their ideas into viable businesses, promote innovation and job creation by providing emerging companies with business support services and resources tailored to young firms to increase their chances of success.

As any entrepreneur can attest, starting a new business isn't an easy task.

Most business owners know every detail of their product or service, but many lack all of the skills they need to turn their ideas into successful companies. Business incubation programs are uniquely positioned to help entrepreneurs access resources through the incubator, business community, local colleges and universities, and other business assistance programs to help them develop the skills they need to grow successful companies.

Around the world, entrepreneurs are playing an increasingly important role in transforming economies. Rather than relying

solely on efforts to attract existing businesses from other locations, many organizations like the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma are recognizing the need to help local residents build new businesses from the ground up through business incubators.

By focusing on developing a new generation of entrepreneurs – most of whom have ties to the 10.5-county tribal area – communities are helping to build companies that will create jobs and spark economic growth in the region for years to come. And because these programs provide targeted business assistance to young firms at their earliest stages of development – when they're most vulnerable – business incubators help support new ventures that have a greater-than-average chance of success.

For the Choctaw Nation, encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship is critical to creating sustainable opportunity for its members. The goal of the CBDC is to contribute to a self-perpetuating economic "engine" for the Choctaw Nation by promoting and creating economic development, sustainability and prosperity among small business entrepreneurs and owners.

The CBDC offers one-on-one mentoring, coaching and special-

ized entrepreneurial workshops and training for business owners through its facility in Durant and through partners and community centers throughout the 10.5-county tribal area. The facility will also offer affordable office space and working areas for members.

A 2008 study conducted by consulting firm Grand Thornton for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration found that business incubators produce new jobs at a low cost to the government. The report, Construction Grants Program Impact Assessment Report, found that for every \$10,000 in Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds invested in business incubation programs, an estimated 47 to 69 local jobs are generated. As a result, business incubators create jobs at far less cost than do other EDA investments, such as roads and bridges, industrial parks, commercial buildings, and sewer and water projects. In fact, the study found that incubators provide up to 20 times more jobs than community infrastructure projects at a federal cost per job of between \$126 and \$144, compared with between \$744 and \$6,972 for other infrastructure projects.

Although business incubation is


still a relatively new industry, programs around the world have racked up impressive results that demonstrate the important role incubators play in stimulating economic growth and creating jobs. For example, the National Business Incubation Association estimates that in 2005 alone, North American incubators assisted more than 27,000 start-up companies that provided full-time employment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenue of more than \$17 billion.

According to Assistant Chief Gary Batton, "Like many others, I have faith in the ability of entrepreneurs to jump-start our economy by generating revenue and creating new jobs. But many times, they need a guiding hand to help them turn their ideas into viable businesses. The CBDC is one of the important initiatives we are undertaking to create real and sustainable opportunity for the Choctaw Nation."

As government agencies at all levels continue to debate how to revive the economy, it's important that incubators – a critical component of the entrepreneurial support infrastructure that have proven themselves to be significant generators of new jobs – be at the forefront of these discussions.

Learn more about the CBDC at [www.ChoctawMeansBusiness.com](http://www.ChoctawMeansBusiness.com).

**INCUBATOR STATS**



**FOR EVERY \$10K INVESTED 47-69 LOCAL JOBS CREATED**

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

INCUBATORS

INFRASTRUCTURE

**\$126.00 PER JOB**

**\$744.00 PER JOB**


**INCUBATORS VS INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING**

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

**27,000 STARTUPS**

**GENERATED \$17 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE**

National Business Incubation Association



**CHOCTAW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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

## Winds of Change 2014 Career Expo



Winds of Change Career Expo was a success with 2100 attendees that meet with 140 training facilities and employers at the McAlester Expo Center.



Choctaw Nation Going Green booth.



Keynote speaker, Brian Aspell raps to the audience.



Chase Thompson, a Leflore High School student, uses a welder stimulator at the career expo.



Chief Pyle welcomes attendees to the expo.



Southeastern Oklahoma State University recruiters Hope Zachary, Jennifer Kemp and Emily Patterson talk with attendees.

Photos by DEIDRE ELROD | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Students learn about the botball robotics.



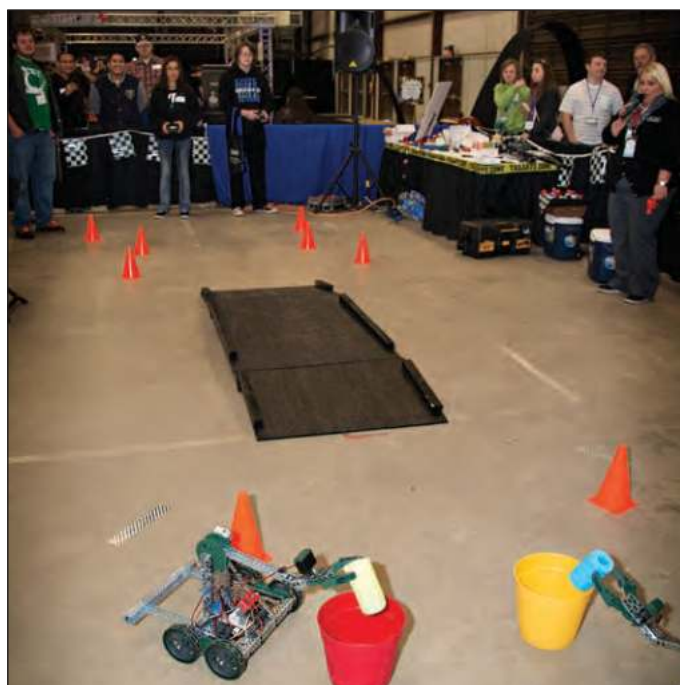
Cheyhoma Dugger, Olivia Johnson and Ashlee Sartin from Haileyville High School stop by the Choctaw Nation Going Green booth.



Students try to solve the puzzles at the Native American Business Resource Center booth.



Students join in as keynote speaker Brian Aspell raps to the audience.



Kiamichi Technology Center Pre-Engineering program allows students to enter into robotic races.



Students sign the buffalo to commit to exploring career options.

# Through a New Lens

## Choctaw Jewelry maker, George Willis

*George Willis heads to Choctaw days in Summer*

By DEIDRE ELROD

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Jewelry maker George Willis is one the Choctaw artists who will feature his work at Choctaw Days "Through a New Lens" on June 27-28 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Willis was born in Guanha, Texas, and graduated high school from Abernathy, Texas. He attended the University of Texas on an athletic scholarship and majored in Art. "My last semester, I took a jewelry class, the only A+ I made in college," he says, laughing, "I sort of found my niche there."

After college Willis spent several years in the Marine Corps and was later discharged with a service-connected disability.

He then went to a trade school to learn jewelry making as a trade. He said, "the university was very strong on design and very weak on mechanics and the trade school was just the opposite."

In 1966, he opened up his own shop where he worked with other jewelry stores repairing jewelry. Later, he had the opportunity to take over a retail jewelry business so he moved to Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. He eventually relocated his company to Carlsbad, Calif., where he currently resides.

In the late 1970s, through the Rehabilitation Act Willis received work through the Veterans Affairs teaching, disabled veterans the jewelry trade. He said, "It was sort of my opportunity to put water back in the well."

Willis said his most challenging student was a triple amputee, blind in one eye and deaf in one ear. After working with him for a while, the student was able to set a stone, smaller than a pencil eraser, with his other

hand.

Willis closed his retail store in 1990 and started traveling and doing Indian art shows. The first competition that he entered was Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial in 1990 where he won three awards. "The prize money wasn't that great but the ribbons were pretty," he said.

Throughout the years, he has traveled and showed his work in 19 states and won awards in nine of them, though not all were competitions.

At Red Earth, he won first place in the 1990s and then a couple of years later he won best of division. In 2000, he was Indian Artist of the Year at the Indian Arts and Crafts Association. And in 2010 he won two awards through the VA where he won first place in jewelry and carving for the visual and performing arts occupation.

Some of his work has been on display at the Renwick Gallery at Washington, D.C. The Renwick Gallery is an extension of the Smithsonian American Art Museum for contemporary American artists.

"Within the Choctaw tribe, since we didn't make



George Willis sets up his booth at the San Diego community meeting.



Breast Plate made by George Willis, showcased at the San Diego community meeting.

jewelry I didn't have any conditions to follow or restrict me," said Willis.

In his designs, he uses the diamond pattern that is used on traditional Choctaw clothing and stickball themes. He also incorporates horses, birds, buffalos and other animal designs in his jewelry. Willis has also used buffalo horns to carve into pendants, earrings and bracelets.

Willis is looking forward to the experience at Choctaw Days this summer.

"It's one thing to be recognized by these various places I've been around the country," he says. "It's even bigger to be recognized by my tribe."

## Multi-media artist, Marcus Amerman

*Choctaw Artist, Marcus Amerman returns to Choctaw Days*

By ZACH MAXWELL

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Multi-media artist Marcus Amerman will be returning to Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian this June, together with his brother Roger Amerman.

Amerman, born in Phoenix and currently living in Idaho, is looking forward to the cultural experience in Washington, D.C.

While he describes his recent time as a "sabbatical," he is collaborating with other well-known native artists such as glassblower Preston Singletary and Chickasaw artist Dustin Mater.

"I work in a lot of mediums so I've always got a few things going," Amerman says.

One of those "things" falls into his theory that "art is war." A series of 30 occupational helmets with various animal antlers attached for an upcoming performance.

"Almost anything is material for inspiration," he says. "When I first moved to Idaho, I saw this guy selling all these deer horns."

The imagery inspired Amerman's latest project as a response to humanity's "herd mentality" in restless, freedom-starved locations like the Ukraine and Venezuela. The accompanying shields are made from the hubcaps of classic cars ("sort of an Indian Mad Max," Amerman describes, borrowing from the iconic Mel Gibson character).

Together, the helmets and shields create "little totems of power," Amerman says. He often "feeds on the world" for artistic inspiration, but often with homage to the timeless legacy of pre-contact native expression.

In his work with Singletary, he is drawing on the artistry of mound-building cultures – the Mississippian precedes-



Amerman shows his photo-realistic portrait renderings in beadwork.

sors of his own Choctaw people.

"I'm fond of the Smithsonian for recognizing the relevance of my tribe and its contributions," he said. "It's fun to be there, to visit with all the Choctaws and participate in the (social) dances."

Amerman received his B.A. in fine arts from Whitman College. His most renowned work is in photo-realistic portrait renderings in beadwork. While best known for this

beadwork, his fashion has appeared in ELLE magazine, a shirt collection at the American Museum of Natural History and a runway show in South Africa.

As a performance artist and creator of "Buffalo Man," Amerman has performed on the stages of the Santa Fe Opera and the National Museum of the American Indian. He was also featured on the cover of "Indian Country," a photography book.



Pottery done by Amerman.

## Jones Academy receives memorial quilt

Jones Academy recently received a Lakota Star Quilt in honor of Alan R. Lovesee, a former member of the Jones Academy Foundation Board of Directors. The quilt was initially given to Lovesee in 1986 by Dr. Lionel Bordeaux, president of Sinte Glaska University, as a gift for Mr. Lovesee's many years of service in government and policy-making for Native Americans. Sinte Glaska University was one of the first tribally-controlled colleges in the United States. In his lifetime, Lovesee served as Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor. He was a champion for Native Americans' interests in education. He also authored and advocated legislative initiatives for the Choctaw Nation.

The Owinja, which means quilt in the Lakota dialect, is an expression of respect and recognition. The figure of the morning star is an important symbol in Sioux ceremonies, feasts and memorials. It represents the direction from which spirits travel to earth and is a link between the living and the dead (in



Photo Provided

extension.) thus symbolizing immortality.\* Lovesee was honored to show the quilt to elementary schools in Maryland and to teach them about Native American culture. He passed away on Sept. 1, 2012.

Lovesee had wanted the honorary gift to be given to Jones Academy so that all children there might enjoy its beauty and reverent meaning. The school was grateful to receive this gift from Lovesee's widow, Rose Ann Lovesee. It hangs prominently at the entrance of the Inez Sitter Elementary Library and Media Center. It is a reminder of the sacrifice and service that the Lovesees have rendered to Native Americans across the United States including the Choctaw Nation. The gift also speaks of Alan and Rose Ann Lovesee's devotion to children and education.

## Jones Academy students receive technology gift

When Hartshorne High School U. S. History teacher Tony Skinner assigns his 11th grade class the obligatory 15-page term paper, the task usually engages Jones Academy students, tutors, dorm and administrative staff. If there are 20 Jones Academy students in that class (like this year), that means students and staff must plan for 20 term papers. The students are assigned different subjects, each topic with a minimum of 15 resources to be used. This requires hours of research and various types of materials and equipment to process the assignment. The key is having the tools and the technology to accomplish the task.

Now, thanks to a contribution from the U.S. Corp of Engineers and the Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR Program, Jones Academy students will have the resources on campus to complete their research projects. The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) recently donated 13 laptops and 23 computers (each including desktop, monitor, mouse and keyboard) to the school. According to the website, EPSCoR's central goal is to increase the state's research competitiveness through strategic

support of research instruments and facilities, research collaborations, and integrated education and research programs.

At this time, the equipment is servicing approximately 120 Jones Academy junior high and high school students and 55 elementary students in grades 1-6. The gift is an invaluable resource in assisting the students to develop their learning and academic skills. Recently, the Choctaw Nation IT Department installed some of the computers at the elementary school and uploaded the desktops with age-appropriate software to reinforce classroom instruction the students were receiving.

Superintendent of Jones Academy Brad Spears expressed his appreciation to Gina Miller, the Outreach Coordinator for Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR Program in a letter. "As an administrator, I am always pressed to find ways to improve our efforts and provide our students with the resources they need in this fast-paced and ever-changing world of technology." Spears went on to thank Ms. Miller, NSF EPSCoR, and the U.S. Corp of Engineers for their generosity and immense help in assisting Jones Academy students.

# Fort McCulloch

## A mostly forgotten Choctaw historical site

Fort McCulloch was built shortly after the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern (as it was known by the Confederates or Pea Ridge as the Union called it) in the Spring of 1862. For a time, the post was the largest and most fortified Confederate position in Indian Territory, and yet so little was written about it that a traveler in 1870 wrote in the diary of his trip down the Texas/Butterfield Road, "Today we passed an earthen fort with rifle pits. Whose it was and for what we did not learn." The earthen fort Joseph Edmonds spoke of was undoubtedly one of two gun positions guarding the west side of the crossing of Blue River on his trip down the old road. The two gun positions were a small part of a military post that covered over two square miles and housed (for a time) over 3000 troops of Choctaw, Chickasaw, Arkansas and Texas military units.

The fort was built by General Albert Pike, who became the ranking Confederate officer in Indian Territory after the death of General Benjamin McCulloch at the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern. Pike's orders were to defend Indian Territory and he personally did not believe that there were sufficient forces or supplies to defend the entire Indian Territory. His basic strategy was to defend the territory south of the Arkansas River, leaving a smaller force north of the river for tactical raiding and general harassment of Union forces and supply lines by General Stand Watie's Cherokee mounted regiment and William Quantrill's guerillas.

Pike arrived in the vicinity of Nails Crossing on the Blue River in late March, 1862, with about half of the combined Indian and Texas forces in the territory. The remainder of the troops, under Gen. Douglas Cooper's command, were left on the Arkansas River. Pike had chosen this location as the most defensible and important crossroads in the Indian Territory. The bulk of both his troops and those of Cooper were Choctaw and Chickasaw, and the placement of the new post was also (more than likely) intended as a gesture to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations that they were not being abandoned.

Work began on the construction of a series of earthworks, strategically placed to protect the troops and control traffic on the various roadways across the area. The first earthworks were fortified berms and ditches as detailed by the Confederate Corps of Engineers. It is presumed that the drawing made by the Corps of Engineers was the 'plan' for the defenses rather than what Pike actually had constructed. The 'plan' shows four open sided earthworks on the high terrace west of Nails Crossing, but only the northwest feature matches where earthworks were actually found.

The basic design for the post was a series of defensive points that generally supported the surrounding defensive points and included a series of raised platform star forts and entrenchments, and possibly make-shift breastworks. The defensive locations encircled (for the most part) the occupied portion of the post, consisting of the Quartermaster's compound, unit-sized bivouacs, mechanics shops and the headquarters area. Work details spent the day excavating and building the defensive points. This work was difficult in the shallow rocky soil and half of the force was continually on sick call. Pike commented on the absentee list and ended up furloughing a percentage of his force, to go home and help with the planting and harvest chores.

Supplies and arms (much of which Pike paid for with his own money) were diverted to other locations, and pay for the troops was virtually nonexistent. For the most part, Choctaw and Chickasaw troopers supplied their own horses and carried bows and arrows into battle. Hunting parties, traveling onto the prairies to the west, supplied much of the food for the post. The troops from Arkansas and Texas were clothed with issue uniforms while most of the Native American troops had jackets and caps (usually) over traditional clothing from home.

The post was initially garrisoned with elements of the Choctaw and Chickasaw brigades, two Arkansas batteries and infantry units, and Texas cavalry. The Creek and Seminole light cavalry were ordered to patrol the Santa Fe Road and on raiding parties along the Kansas border. Smaller units were sent to garrison posts at Armstrong Academy, Boggy Depot, Camp McIntosh and elsewhere. He had eighteen field cannons (including twelve parrot rifles) and a roster of about 1500 on the daily active duty roster at any one time.

Anecdotes about the post are rare. The best source of information comes from W.E. Woodruff, who published a memoir in 1903 (<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009535740>), of his reminiscences of his Civil War years with the Eleventh Arkansas Battery. Woodruff speaks briefly of how disagreeable the trench digging was (and the nature of the food). He also mentions that the site of Fort McCulloch was the location of a fight between the Frontier Rangers and Comanches in 1828 or 1829, an as yet

**Editor's Note:** This month's I'ti Fabvssa is part one in a three-part series by James Briscoe on Fort McCulloch.



### I'ti Fabvssa



The earthen fort Edmonds found on the Texas/Butterfield Road.

unsubstantiated fact. Supplies were scarce at Fort McCulloch and the quartermaster, as Woodruff recalls, came into the possession of a quantity of marble wall paper. The wall paper was cut into pieces and printed up as military script, redeemable in \$5 lots.

About two weeks after the arrival of the Eleventh Arkansas Battery, the commander of the battery decided that the guns needed to be fired. The unannounced firing caused pandemonium among the troops. The only other time that cannons were fired at the post occurred after the Plains Indians to the west heard of the earlier event. Since Pike was eager to make friends with the Comanche, Kiowa, Plains Apache, Caddo, Delaware and other groups living in the western part of the Indian Territory, a visit was arranged for them at the fort. Pike had the battery take a section of cannon to the edge of the post and fire live rounds for their benefit.

One of the more stoic leaders commented that the gun 'shoot twice' (as an exploding shell hit and exploded half a mile away). Men with the battery were surprised to find that the gentleman spoke English. Trade between the soldiers and the Plains Indians was brisk, particularly in handkerchiefs. A short time later, General Thomas Hindman, in command of the Trans-Mississippi Department, ordered the guns to Arkansas.

The hey-day of Fort McCulloch lasted less than eight months. In August, 1862, Hindman ordered Pike to bring his troops to the defense of Fort Smith. Pike, who had originally secured the treaties with the Tribes of Indian Territory, found himself in conflict with the terms of those treaties. The Indian brigades were raised for self defense and were not to be taken out of Indian Territory, according to treaty terms. The troops had been taken out of Indian Territory for the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern in March and were unfairly criticized for 'savage' behavior by Confederate officers. In lieu of disobeying a direct order or further breaking treaty stipulations, Pike tendered his resignation from the army.

Hindman withheld the letter from his superiors, most likely in hopes of embarrassing Pike. Hindman didn't have to wait long before Pike (thinking he was officially resigned) penned a tirade against the entirety of the Confederate officer corps, specifically those in command of the Trans-Mississippi Department. Gen. Cooper, with Hindman's blessings, sent an armed detail to Fort McCulloch and had Pike arrested for treason. The troops at Fort McCulloch were sent elsewhere and the post was only sporadically occupied through the remainder of the Civil War.

The location was occupied by Union forces under Col. William Phillips for a brief period in February 1864 during a thrust aimed at

attacking across the Red River. By the end of 1863, a stalemate had been reached with Union forces in control of Indian Territory north of the Arkansas River, and Confederate forces south of the river. Fort Smith had fallen and General Blunt moved his headquarters there, leaving Phillips in command of the Indian Regiment at Fort Gibson (being rechristened as Fort Blunt). Confederate setbacks in much of the Trans-Mississippi Department (including Indian Territory) provided an opportunity to take Indian Territory out of the war and strike a real blow at Texas. The Phillips Expedition, as it has become known, called for a main strike force moving through Indian Territory and meeting up with fresh supplies and fresh cavalry at Boggy Depot. From Boggy Depot, there were a number of roads leading: south into Texas; east to Armstrong Academy (being used as the temporary Council House of the Choctaw), Fort Towson, southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana; west towards Fort Washita, Fort Arbuckle and the Great Plains; and southerly to Bonham, Sherman, Dennison and elsewhere in Texas.

Phillips left Fort Blunt (Gibson) on Jan. 29, 1864, with a force of between 1500 and 2000 men. The Second Indian Brigade, under Major Moses Wright was sent east to Rhea's Mill to acquire grain and provisions for the expedition. Wright was to then march down the old Texas Road and meet up with Phillips at Boggy depot. Phillips's plan also called for reinforcement by Col. Thomas Moonlight and the Fourteenth Kansas Cavalry at Boggy Depot, marching southwest from their camp at Skullytown. Wright's brigade would be needed to resupply the expedition and Moonlight's Regiment would be needed as fresh troops for a push into northern Texas.

The main historical opinion, at this point, is that Phillips started out from Fort Blunt heading due west and then turned south and headed for North Fork Town on the Texas Road. After hearing no word from Wright or Moonlight, Phillips marched south on the Texas Road to its junction with the old Butterfield Road, southeast to Boggy Depot, and then south to Nails Crossing on the Blue River. Phillip's route began with moving west (away from the Texas Road) into Creek country as far as Hillabee and then south to North Fork Town and then down the Texas Road. A reconnaissance in force was sent farther west to Edwards (a trading post community near old Camp Holmes) and then down the old Dragoon trail from Camp Holmes to Boggy Depot.

Southward from Hillabee to the Canadian River, Phillips began experiencing skirmishes with small groups in ever increasing frequency. After Crossing the Canadian River, south of North Fork Town, his route was down the Texas Road. Phillip's main concern was having heard no word from Moonlight's force, upon which Phillips' strategy depended. Phillips was unaware of Confederate moves being made on Fort Smith and the redeployment of Moonlight's cavalry to Shullyville to counter it. Phillips left a store of corn for Moonlight at North Fork Town and then headed southerly towards Perryville. From Perryville, Phillips followed the old Texas Road south towards the Red River. Phillips surmised (correctly) that Gen. D. H. Cooper was assembling a large force at Fort Washita to block his intentions on the Red River. Phillips also knew that most of Cooper's forces were dispersed throughout the region and that a blow to Fort Washita would be a major blow to the Confederate hold on Indian Territory.

One small rag-tag group (around 150 men) under Cpt. Adam Nail was encamped at the point where the old Butterfield and Texas Roads meet (near present-day Atoka) on the Middle (now Muddy) Boggy River. On Feb. 13, Phillips' vanguard skirmishers under Cpt. Charles Willets found Nail's encampment and launched a surprise attack. Forty seven Confederates were killed in the brief melee but the rest were able to retreat after a brief defense. Hoping to catch the Confederate

supplies and force at Boggy Depot, some 10 miles away, Phillips pushed his force down the old Butterfield Road (AKA Boggy Depot Road) to Boggy Depot. The two to three hour delay at Muddy Boggy was sufficient time for the remaining supplies to be removed from Boggy Depot and the Confederate force to make a hasty retreat towards Fort Washita. Unlike the majority of places along his route, Phillips spared the houses and property at Boggy Depot, in pursuit of the Confederate force ahead of him.

Phillips continued on to Nail's Crossing, a stage station on the old Butterfield Road and went into encampment. Phillips dubbed his encampment Camp Kagi. In a dispatch to Fort Gibson, Phillips described his position as "...safely encamped behind Pike's ditches...", undoubtedly in reference to the then unoccupied Fort McCulloch. On the 14th of February, Phillips sent out letters to the various tribes offering amnesty if they renounced ties to the Confederacy.

It was clear by this point that Moonlight's force was not coming. A larger concern was the absence of Major Wright and his supplies (not to mention the 500 men with him). In his report of February 14, Phillips reported having a force of 1500 men and 4 field guns. With no hope of achieving the original goals, Phillips decided to make a stab at Fort Washita, only 10 miles to the west. Phillips hand-picked the best riders/fighters, best horses, best weapons from the force, along with one field gun, for the planned attack. The remainder of the force was sent back to Fort Blunt. On the morning of Feb. 17, Phillips led his force of 450 out towards Fort Washita.

The road between Blue River and Fort Washita runs along a low-broad uplands prairie flanked by numerous wooded gullies and ravines and was still visible on aerial photographs from the 1940s. The route was excellent for travel but was also vulnerable to ambush, as Phillips would have been well aware.

Cooper was well aware of Phillips plans and had sent word for Col. W.P. Adair to bring his regiment of Cherokee Mounted Rifles down the Texas Road. Cooper was going to slip his troops past the Federal column, join forces with Adair and force Phillips south towards the Red River. As Phillips was approaching Fort Washita, Cooper was trying to slip past him. Cooper's troops were under strict orders not to engage the Federals, but sniped and skirmished with them anyway. Some of the Texas troops initiated attacks on the Federal column and it didn't take long for Phillips to suspect a trap was being set. Phillips wheeled his force and retreated north along the old Dragoon Road to avoid whatever force may be coming to meet him on the Texas Road. Phillips arrived back at Fort Blunt on the 29th of February.

In the end, Union and Confederate commanders dismissed Phillips' 'invasion' as a minor and inconsequential raid. Feb. 29, 1864, was also the start of a major council with General Samuel B. Maxey, now in command of the Department of Arkansas (and Texas and Indian Territory). The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations renewed their support of the Confederacy and the Plains Indians in the western part of the territory also pledged loyalty to the cause.

Fort McCulloch, by the end of the Civil War, was mostly forgotten and has never been adequately researched by historians or archeologists. The impact this place had on the Choctaw and Chickasaw peoples, however, is immense because of its place in the history of both Nations, and in Oklahoma History in general. By the same token, the place is associated with a host of people important in Oklahoma History. On the National Historical stage, Fort McCulloch was one of the last encampments of Stand Watie, the last Confederate general officer to surrender, ending the Civil War. Albert Pike would go on to found the Masonic Grand Lodge of the Scottish Rite in Washington D.C. and author of many important works and translations of Sanskrit texts. William Phillips would go on to become a U.S. Congressman from Kansas.

Article continues in April's BISKINIK.

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# Choctaw gathering in Houston



Jewelry maker Gale Self of Terrell explains some of his pieces to JoAnna O'Neill of Cypus, center, and mother and daughter Janna and Savannah Johnson of Tomball.

Photos by LARISSA COPELAND | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



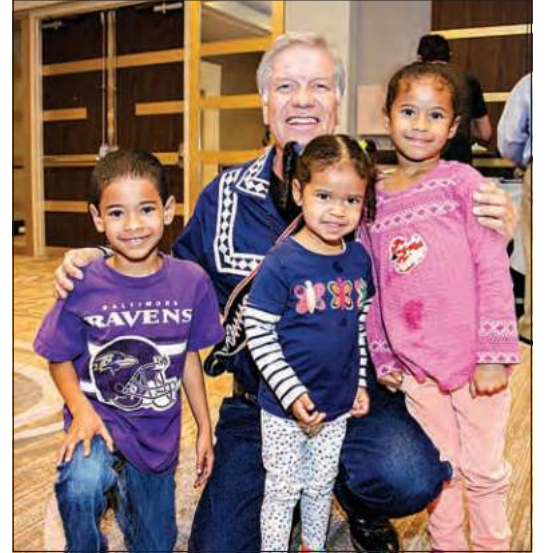
Chief Pyle congratulates Beverly Brown of Friendswood for winning an iPad. Beverly was entered into the drawing simply by pre-registering for the meeting online at choctawnation.com!



Assistant Chief Batton visits with Choctaw potter Carolyn Young of Weatherford.



Kenneth and Brittany Hayes bring their daughter, Avry, to her first Choctaw gathering.



Chief Pyle gets a cheery hello from Griffin, 7, Zora, 3, and Glenna, 5.



Billy Eagle Road and Mandy Lawson grab a young guest from the crowd for the stealing partners dance.



Submitted photo  
Brooke Fendley, Chief Pyle, Aleta Fendley Gee, Bob Gee, Morris Fendley and Assistant Chief Batton pose for a photo after the meeting.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Judy Allen perform Choctaw dances at the gathering.



At left, Chief Pyle welcomes Michael Brewer and wife Jun Yang of Sugar Land.



The snake dance!



Kashton Young, 2, and his mother, Elizabeth Tobias are all smiles.

## Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

### Lesson of the Month

#### A Traditional Choctaw Story

##### Little Ants Help Turtle

One day Turtle came by Mary's house. Mary was in the front yard playing with a stick. She threw the stick into the air. It came down and hit Mary on the head.

Mary began to cry. Turtle laughed at Mary and said, "Ha, ha, Mary is a cry-baby." Mary told Turtle to quit laughing at her, but Turtle kept saying, "Ha, ha, Mary is a crybaby."

Then Mary got mad. She picked up the stick and chased Turtle. Turtle could not run fast. Mary caught Turtle and hit him hard with the stick. The stick cracked turtle's shell into little pieces and he began to cry. Mary got scared and ran home. Turtle was all alone.

Some little red ants were walking nearby and heard Turtle crying. "Can we help you, Turtle?" they asked. Turtle said, "Little ants can't help a big turtle with a cracked shell." The ants said, "Yes, we can help you." Then all the ants climbed onto Turtle's shell and sewed it together. Turtle said, "Oh, thank you, little ants."

When you look at a turtle, you can see where Mary cracked his shell and where the ants sewed it together.

The 'v' represents the Choctaw short vowel 'a' which makes the 'uh' sound. The Choctaw alphabet does not have the 'r' sound, so the name 'Mary' becomes "Meli".

##### Shokvni Iskitini yvt Luksi Apela

Nittak achvffah ma, Luksi yvt Meli i chukka ant ia tok. Meli yvt wanuta tikba ma iti tvpa isht washoha hosh anta tok. Iti tvpa ya vba pit pila tok. Akka mintit Meli nushkobo isso tok.

Meli yvt yaiyvt isht ia tok. Luksi yvt Meli i yukpah mvt, "Heh, heh, Meli yvt yaiya," achi tok. Luksi yvt i yukpvt issa chi ka Meli yvt im anoli tok, kia Luksi yvt, "Heh, heh, Meli yvt yaiya," ahanchi tok.

Yohmi ma, Meli yvt nukowa tok. Iti tvpa ma eshi cha Luksi hlioli tok. Luksi yvt pvlhkit balila he keyu tok. Meli yvt Luksi hokli cha chitolli hosh iti tvpa ma isht isso tok. Iti tvpa yvt Luksi i hakshup kolit bosullichi na yaiyvt isht ia tok. Meli yvt nukshopa cha i chukka pit balili tok. Luksi yvt ilap bano tok.

Shokvni homma iskitini kanohmi hosh bilika ittano howa cha Luksi yvt yaiya ka hvklo tok. "E chi apela hinla ho, Luksi?" okla i ponaklo tok. Luksi ash osh, "Sho kvni iskitini yvt luksi chito i hakshup kowa apela he keyu," achi tok. Shokvni yvt, "A, e chi apela hinla," achi tok. Yohmi ma, shokvni vhleha yvt Luksi i hakshup aboyya cha ittachunli tok. Luksi yvt, "Shokvni iskitini, chi yakoke li." achi tok.

Luksi ish pisa hokmvt kanimma ho Meli yvt i hakshup koli tok micha kanimma ho Shokvni yvt ittachunli tok a ish pisa hinla.



At left, Judy Hopkins teach Bob Loman and Ruth Hauer to bead Choctaw earrings.



Stephanie John-Schafer of The Woodlands attends to her grandson, 8-week-old Orion McDonald.



Brenda Spence of Houston tries her hand at beading.



Sisters Carolyn Lockwood, Judy Jones, Joyce Barrett and Betty Henry are happy to get together at the cultural gathering.