

Making a positive difference in daily lives of citizens

Transportation Services facility dedicated May 23 in Ada

ADA, Okla. – Governor Bill Anoatubby led May 23 ceremonies dedicating the new Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services facility in Ada.

The new facility, Gov. Anoatubby said, would support expansion of vital transportation programs and make a positive impact on the lives of Chickasaws and others in the community.

Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services offers access to affordable transportation. In 2018, it provided more than 43,000 rides. Chickasaws, other Indian citizens and community members utilized the service for travel to medical appointments, job interviews and work sites.

“Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services makes a difference in the day-to-day lives of those we serve, Gov. Anoatubby said.

“The purpose of this new Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services building is really the purpose of all of our work, to



Gov. Bill Anoatubby, center, is joined by Chickasaw Nation elected officials and tribal Transportation Services staff in ribbon cutting ceremonies to open the new Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services facility in Ada, Thursday, May 23.

enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people.”

Transportation Services provides transportation and prescription pickup and delivery to all Indian citizens within the

Chickasaw Nation.

The department’s Road-to-Work program provides a low-cost transportation alternative for commuters and is open to the public.

“While this is a beautiful facility, what is even more important is the work people do from here,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “We are pleased when we are able to have a positive impact on the lives of

Chickasaws and others in the community.”

The 4,869 square-foot facility will house 11 administration staff and offer office space for 30 regional transportation specialists. It features two conference rooms, a dispatch area, a break room and a fitness area.

The new facility also includes a large state-of-the-art commercial wash bay area, to ensure clients can experience a clean, comfortable ride. There is covered parking for the entire base fleet.

Located at 17500 County Road 3570 near the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, the new facility was constructed in partnership with the Federal Highways Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

For more information about Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services, visit Chickasaw.net, or call (580) 310-6453.

Artesian Arts Festival a success; Navajo artist ‘Best of Show’



Gov. Bill Anoatubby, left, presents the Artesian Arts Festival “Best of Show” medal to Jimmie Harrison’s son, Jeremy, during Friday’s artist reception at the Artesian Hotel.



“Giver of Life” by Navajo jeweler Jimmie Harrison, of Albuquerque, N.M., was named Artesian Arts Festival “Best of Show.”



Festival-goers pour onto the Artesian plaza in downtown Sulphur, Okla., May 25 for the sixth annual Artesian Arts Festival.

SULPHUR, Okla. – Thousands of art lovers flocked to downtown Sulphur Saturday, May 25 to experience the sixth annual Artesian Arts Festival.

More than 125 elite artists representing 11 states and 19 tribes took part in the event.

Art on exhibition included photography, textiles and pottery, bead work, sculpture, jewelry, painting and more.

“Best in Show was awarded to distinguished Navajo jeweler Jimmie Harrison, with his work “Giver of Life.”

Mr. Harrison, of Albuquerque, N.M., has participated in the Artesian Arts Festival for four years.

His work was selected by the Artesian Arts Festival’s juried competition.

Throughout the day, tribal

SEE ARTESIAN ARTS FESTIVAL, PAGE 2

Dynamic Women Conference attracts Chickasaw women from across the country

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - Chickasaw women from across the country gathered May 2-3 for the 2019 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Women Conference at WinStar Convention Center in Thackerville.

This year’s conference theme “Conquer Life’s Opportunities,” featured presenters, panel discussions and breakout sessions.

The “Conquer Life’s Opportunities” panel gathered on the second day of the conference. Featured panelists included Heather Ahtone, Steffani Cochran, Rebecca Owens and Chelsey Branham.

Ms. Ahtone is the senior curator at the American Indian Cultural Center Foundation in Oklahoma City. She has worked in the Native arts community since 1993 and has an established career as a curator, arts writer and researcher.

Ms. Cochran, 2011 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year, has a long history of public service to Indian County. She has previously served as vice-chairwoman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. She currently works as general counsel for the Pueblo of Sandia.



Native Praise performed at the Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference, May 2-3 at the WinStar Convention Center in Thackerville, Okla. Native Praise was established in 1999 and has been instrumental in preserving Native American culture. Nineteen tribes are represented within the choir and they sing in the languages of the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw, Muskogee (Creek) and Seminole tribes.

Ms. Owens is a Veterans of Foreign Wars appeals consultant and assists veterans obtain benefits. She is a 30-year U.S. Navy veteran. Ms. Owens worked in various law enforcement positions including patrolman, investigator, marksmanship instructor and leading chief petty officer.

Chickasaw citizen Chelsey Branham is state representative for Oklahoma House District 83. Ms. Branham is a community leader, nonprofit professional and life-

long Oklahoman. She is the first woman and minority to represent her district and strives to create a positive environment and community to help the state of Oklahoma move forward.

Dr. Judy Goforth Parker served as “Conquer Life’s Opportunities” panel moderator. Dr. Parker has served as Chickasaw Nation Health Policy Commissioner since July 2018. Previously, she served as Secretary of the Chickasaw Na-

tion Department of Health and administrator of the Division of Health. Dr. Parker has worked for many years to increase the quality of health care for Native Americans. She has a long history of tribal service that highlights her close relationship with the people of the Chickasaw Nation and all Native Americans.

Questions for the panel varied from dealing with challenges to balancing work life and family.

“If you are going through something difficult, or you are facing challenges, try to connect with your culture,” Ms. Branham said. “Take a piece of what you are missing and help to fill yourself back up.”

The event was led by master of ceremonies and 2014 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year Karen Goodnight.

Mrs. Goodnight is CEO and president of Goodnight and Associates and specializes in executive performance coaching, strategic planning, team development and leadership and organizational development. She is a Chickasaw Nation legislator serving Pontotoc District.

The keynote speech was delivered by 2018 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year, Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Ph.D.

Dr. Cobb-Greetham serves as chair of the Native American Studies Department at the University of Oklahoma. She continues to research, write and curate museum exhibitions in addition to her duties as director of Native American studies at OU.

Dr. Cobb-Greetham’s research examines the state of Oklahoma’s American Indian identity as portrayed in popular culture.

The Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Women of the Year Award was established in 2006 to honor Chickasaw women who have made significant contributions to the Chickasaw Nation.

In conjunction with the conference, artwork showcasing the art of the Chickasaw Woman was exhibited at the convention center.

For more information about the Dynamic Women Conference, visit Chickasaw.net/DynamicWomen or call (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Savannah Burwell, Tribal Communications

Chickasaw citizen Triana Browne earns second runner-up at Miss USA Pageant



Chickasaw citizen and 2019 Miss Oklahoma USA Triana Browne at last month's Miss USA Pageant. Miss Browne selected the bronze evening gown in homage to her Chickasaw ancestors. She was named second runner-up in the pageant and continues to share her message of building cultural understanding. Photo courtesy of Triana Browne.

RENO, Nev. - Chickasaw citizen and 2019 Miss Oklahoma USA Triana Browne was named second

runner-up in the Miss USA Pageant May 2. Named Miss Oklahoma 2017, she continues with her platform of "Bridging the Great Cultural Divide."

"Miss Browne is doing excellent work helping people of diverse cultures better understand one another," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "We commend her for her accomplishments and her commitment to bringing people closer together."

Soon after completing her reign as 2017 Miss Oklahoma, Miss Browne decided to enter the 2019 Miss Oklahoma USA competition, which she won.

In the history of Oklahoma pageants, only two other women in the state has accomplished what Miss Browne did - win both the Miss Oklahoma and Miss Oklahoma USA crowns.

Miss Browne sees the new role as another opportunity to continue her mission of sharing

goodwill and promoting cultural understanding.

Her platform focuses on bridging the culture divide and includes sharing Chickasaw culture and heritage with Oklahoma's youth.

"Once I finished the first year (as Miss Oklahoma), I realized I learned a lot," she said. "The pageant bug bit me and I won. I wanted to do it again."

A former college athlete, Miss Browne traded her track cleats for high-heels and found her purpose as a goodwill ambassador.

"As Miss Oklahoma, I saw how many people I helped and it gave me this realization that maybe my life isn't supposed to be for athletics," she said. "Maybe it's supposed to be travel and speak to people, because everyone faces adversity."

"I wanted to continue to help people, and being Miss Oklahoma USA takes you to a national stage.

It takes you on this national journey where you are going to speak to more people than ever before, and with this platform 'Bridging the Great Cultural Divide,' something I've been passionate about, it's timely," she said in an interview before the Miss USA pageant.

The 68th Annual Miss USA pageant, in Reno, featured 51 contestants from each state and the District of Columbia.

Miss Carolina Chelsie Kryst was crowned the winner and will represent the U.S. in the 2019 Miss Universe pageant.

During the video introductions, Miss Browne described herself as a product of a diverse Nation.

"Chikasha Saya. I am Chickasaw, African-American and Caucasian. I am a representation of our great multicultural Nation, and a descendant of the people of the world."

The top three contestants in the pageant were selected by a

panel of judges following swimsuit, evening gown and interview competition.

Miss Browne's selection of evening wear, a bronze metallic beaded gown, was in homage to her ancestors, pageant commentators said.

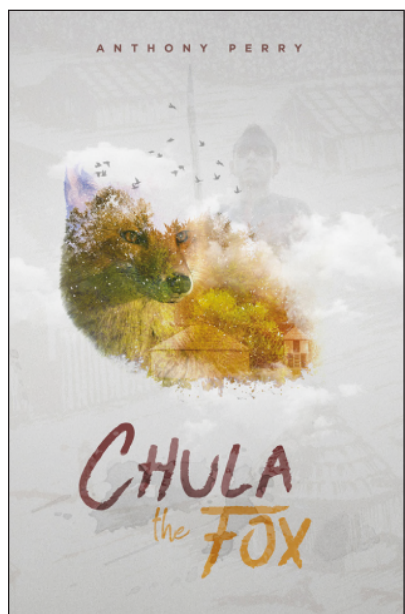
You can follow Miss Browne's journey on facebook.com/MissOklahomaUSA.

About the Miss USA Organization

The Miss Universe Organization empowers women to develop the confidence they need to achieve their personal best. A confident woman has the power to make real change, starting in her local community with the potential to reach a global audience.

Miss Universe and Miss USA was founded in 1952 in Long Beach, Calif.

Chickasaw author's novel 'Chula the Fox' wins top award at book publishers' event



the Chickasaw Press, "Chula the Fox" is steeped in Chickasaw language and culture. It tells a frank story about Chickasaw lives and the challenges Native Americans faced during the early 18th century.

"Chula the Fox" is published by the White Dog Press, a subsidiary of the Chickasaw Press. The first Native American tribal press of its kind, the Chickasaw Press was created to allow the Chickasaw Nation to tell its own history and stories. Chickasaw Press publications enable the Chickasaw Nation to share its rich history and culture with non-Chickasaws, as well as educating Chickasaw citizens.

According to the IBPA, the Benjamin Franklin Award program™ recognizes excellence and innovation in independent publishing. Winners were recognized during the 31st Annual Awards IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award Ceremony in Chicago. A gold winner was selected from each of the 54 categories.

"The mission of the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award program is simple: to recognize excellence

and innovation in independent publishing," IBPA CEO Angela Bole said. "Unlike many other award programs, the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award program demands both editorial and design excellence and entrants are judged independently on both."

The Benjamin Franklin Award selection process is extensive. "Chula the Fox," along with the more than 1,500 submitted titles, was judged by 160 librarians, booksellers and editorial experts. A process requiring seven months to complete, the level of detail required in judging has helped the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award program remain one of



the highest honors for independent publishers.

About the Chickasaw Press

Chickasaw Press is an independent publishing house of the Chickasaw Nation, the first Native American publisher of its kind. The goal of the Chickasaw Press is to preserve, perpetuate and provide an awareness of Chickasaw history and culture, by providing an outlet for Chickasaw authors and scholars. The Chickasaw Press enhances relationships with the greater community and creates an understanding of Chickasaw self-governance and sovereignty. Stories told through the Chickasaw Press adhere to ethical and culturally appropriate research and publication practices.

The addition of White Dog Press as a secondary imprint allows the Chickasaw Press to build upon its vision. The White Dog Press embraces popular genres and creative projects that do not fit under the umbrella of research and scholarship, enabling it to

make additional stories available for the average reader.

White Dog Press affords the Chickasaw Press the opportunity to further share the history, culture, and experiences of the Chickasaw people, as well as other Native American communities, through literary categories such as historical fiction, children's books, young adult literature, how-to books, travel writing, creative or narrative nonfiction, poetry and memoirs.

For more information, visit ChickasawPress.com, or call (580) 436-7282.

ARTESIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dance demonstrations and live music from seven bands entertained the crowds.

Tribal dance troupes included Chickasaw Nation Stomp Dance troupe, Magic Circle Entertainment, Pueblo Enchantment Dancers and Aztec Dancers.

An estimated 11,000 people attended the event, which is hosted by the Chickasaw Nation.

Established in 2014, The Artesian Arts Festival is conducted each Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

For more information, visit Chickasaw.net/artesianfest.

Moccasin making class July 12 and 13 at Sulphur

SULPHUR, Okla. - Moccasin Making with Chickasaw artist Eric Smith is set for 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., July 12 and 13 at the Artesian Gallery & Studios in Sulphur.

This class is offered through Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities.

Mr. Smith, in addition to making moccasins, is also an accomplished bow maker.

Producers of the Academy Award-winning film The Revenant approached Mr. Smith for his expertise. In just three weeks, he and his apprentice had created 35 bows and 300 arrows for the project, set in the wild frontier of the 1820s.

Mr. Smith said he was incredibly pleased by the film's success, and noted that it depicted the Plains Indian culture in a beautiful way.

Enrollment fee for the class of \$100 includes all materials and instruction.

For more information, call (580) 622-8040.

Upcoming Events

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|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Watercolor Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes June 5, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | WinStar Convention Center Thackerville, Okla. (580) 272-2550 | June 27, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Veterans Lodge 8-Ball Tournament July 13, 12:15 p.m. Veterans Lodge Ada, Okla. (580) 272-2550 | Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 |
| Calligraphy for Beginners with Leanne Parker-West June 13, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | June 13, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Book Page Crafts with Leanne Parker-West June 20, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Soapstone Carving with Matthew Girty June 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Acrylic Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes July 17, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Watercolor Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes July 24, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 |
| WIC Farmers' Market Celebration June 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ada Community Center Ada, Okla. (580) 436-7255 | Quillwork with Eric Smith June 14-15, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Chickasaw Language Club Meeting June 20, 6-8 p.m. Tishomingo Community Center Tishomingo, Okla. (580) 272-5592 | Shibori with Patta Butcher July 6, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Quill, Ink and Watercolor with Leanne Parker-West July 17, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Calligraphy for Beginners with Leanne Parker-West July 24, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 |
| ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Education Sessions at Veterans Lodge: Stomp Dance June 14, 1-2 p.m. Veterans Lodge Ada, Okla. (580) 272-2550 | GetFresh! Demonstrations at Veterans Lodge June 21, 1-2 p.m. Veterans Lodge Ada, Okla. (580) 272-2550 | FemSTEM July 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. STEM Academy Ada, Okla. (580) 272-5579 | Quill, Ink and Watercolor with Leanne Parker-West July 18, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Origami with Leanne Parker-West July 26, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 |
| Turtle Run 1 Mile Fun Walk and 5K June 8, 8 a.m. Ardmore Regional Park Ardmore, Okla. (580) 559-0880 | Watercolor Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes June 19, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Acrylic Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes June 26, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Watercolor Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes July 10, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 | Calligraphy for Beginners with Leanne Parker-West July 19, 2-4 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios | Acrylic Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes July 31, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios Sulphur, Okla. (580) 622-8040 |
| Acrylic Workshop with Mary Ruth Barnes June 12, 1-3:30 p.m. ARTesian Gallery & Studios | Veterans Conference June 19, 8 a.m. | Origami with Leanne Parker-West | | | |

The Chickasaw Times is published by the Chickasaw Times, 1500 Hoppe Blvd., Suite 1, Ada, OK 74820, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821 monthly with two special issues published, one in June and one in September. Subscriptions are free.

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.

Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Commitment to core values has served Chickasaws well

Throughout our history, Chickasaw people have been able to adapt successfully to constantly changing situations, in part, because of our belief in certain core values.

Servant leadership is one of those core values. At its essence, true servant leadership rests on a shared vision between the leaders and the people they serve.

Our vision "to be a nation of successful and united people with a strong cultural identity" is one embraced by Chickasaws, because it is based on shared values. As Chickasaws, we have always placed a high value on enhancing the well-being of our family, other Chickasaws and the Chickasaw Nation.

Successful business diversification efforts have long been integral to our success, because federal funding does not adequately meet the needs of our people, and the Chickasaw Nation has no tax base.

Rather than taxes, we rely on the entrepreneurial spirit that is such a strong part of our Chickasaw culture to generate the funds needed to offer opportunities to our fellow Chickasaws.

We operate more than 100 successful businesses in gaming, hospitality, tourism, banking, manufacturing, chocolate and other industries.

Our businesses also have a significant impact on the economy of Oklahoma. That economic impact raises the standard of living across the Chickasaw Nation and helps move us closer to fulfilling our vision.

Our business diversification strategy is producing compelling results. Last year, we experienced record revenues and record profits.

Today, we are positioned to see continued growth of our current businesses as well as further diversification



GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor,
The Chickasaw
Nation

and development of new lines of business.

Our diverse businesses provide direct employment opportunities for the Chickasaw people, as well as many other benefits. Our business ventures grow each year, and through these efforts, we are able to expand and enhance programs and services.

Today, business revenues provide the majority of funding for more than 200 programs and services available to the Chickasaw people. Our vision touches nearly every aspect of life, including education, employment, housing, health care, family and community.

We have long placed a high priority on education. Education is essential to our vision of a nation of successful people. This past year, we provided close to \$20 million in scholarships, grants and other forms of financial support to more than 5,200 Chickasaw students.

Another high priority is health care. Access to health care is vital to the success of our people and the future

of our nation.

Today, our Department of Health operates a state-of-the-art hospital, four clinics, eight pharmacies, a diabetes care center, emergency medical services, four nutrition centers, eight WIC offices and five wellness centers.

This year, the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health had more than 930,000 patient encounters, delivered more than 1,200 babies, filled more than 1.8 million prescriptions, served more than 60,000 meals to children and welcomed more than 177,000 visits at our wellness centers.

We plan to do even more. A new pharmacy is under construction on the Ada South Campus and we are building a new wellness center in Ada.

We also work to provide opportunities for Chickasaws to gather and fellowship to help build on the spirit of unity that is such an important part of Chickasaw culture. We recently opened a new community center as well as a senior center in Oklahoma City. A senior center is also under construction in Achille.

While the senior centers and community centers provide physical locations that help bring Chickasaw people together, it is our shared cultural identity that truly binds us together.

We help keep our culture alive through language, traditions, song and games and through service to our nation.

We are Chickasaw, and we will succeed. Together, we will continue to build on our vision of a nation of successful and united people with a strong cultural identity.

Chickasaw student receives Bloomberg Diversity Program journalism internship



ADDISON KLIEWER

NORMAN, Okla. - Addison Kliever will postpone graduating from the University of Oklahoma this year. It turns out her decision was pretty easy.

Two opportunities have been extended to the Chickasaw communications major that could well pave the way for a journalism career in New York or Wash-

ington, D.C.

Miss Kliever is recipient of a Bloomberg Diversity Program internship. She earned the internship through her journalistic accomplishments at OU, her Chickasaw heritage and her service as president of OU's Native American Journalists Association (NAJA).

She will begin a summer-long paid internship in mid-June working for MSNBC's "The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell" in New York. The internship was earned through the same criteria as Bloomberg but sponsored by NBC News.

"It is so exciting and I am looking forward to both," Miss Kliever said. "I was scheduled to graduate this May but I could not pass up these opportunities."

OU is one of only three universities that will send multiple journalism students to train. The others are the University of California at Berkeley and the Univer-

sity of North Carolina.

Miss Kliever's Bloomberg internship was June 3-7.

Bloomberg is recognized as one of the world's leading business journalism outlets. During her five-day stint, Miss Kliever will be immersed in training at the UC Berkeley campus. Bloomberg's best business reporters will give interns the ins and outs of covering business stories and will touch on elements included under that umbrella, such as finance and stocks.

On June 7, Miss Kliever will board a plane and fly cross-country to New York where she will join "The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell" team at 30 Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan. While her specific duties are not clear, she is hoping to dive into political reporting. She began June 7 and will work through Aug. 10.

While in New York, Miss Kliever has applied to reside in dormi-

ties at New York University to help defray housing expenses. Asked if she was excited about working on a national political program, she said she was "pumped."

"I'm not sure what to expect, but I am really excited," she said. "Surprisingly, I really enjoy politics. I know I will be in for new discoveries, hopefully learning about broadcast journalism and developing stories for radio, print, perhaps even podcasts."

At OU, the journalism school is formally titled The Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. To students and faculty, it is simply "Gaylord."

"Lots of people probably don't know Gaylord News is a wire service," the Chickasaw student said. "Much of the content will be coming back to outlets in Oklahoma, like Oklahoma City television channels 9 and 4, and in print editions of The Oklahoman."

Most of Miss Kliever's journal-

ism experience has been online since she entered OU. She is a daily contributor to the website www.hercampus.com/school/oklahoma. A variety of topics from fashion to cooking are featured online.

Taking part in the OU experience almost did not come to fruition for her.

As a member of the 2016 state champion 2A Cordell Blue Devils cross-country track team, Miss Kliever signed a national letter of intent to compete for a college in Kansas before opting to attend OU.

"It's the best decision I could have made," she said, reflecting back. "I love OU. I admire all my professors and so many have assisted me in pursuing opportunities."

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Rosetta Stone Chickasaw offers new level of language training

Chickasaw language software adds 40 lessons, plus photos and audio

A collaboration between the Chickasaw Nation and Rosetta Stone, the world's leading language-learning software company, offers interactive language lessons for speakers of all levels.

The software currently features 80 lessons divided into two levels. Now, Rosetta Stone Chickasaw level 3 will introduce 40 more lessons incorporating video, audio and still images.

The lessons are developed in conjunction with Native Chickasaw speakers. Rosetta Stone Chickasaw users work through lessons at their own pace and learn conversational Chickasaw phrases that can be incorporated into daily life.

Today, there remain fewer than

50 fluent speakers of the Chickasaw language.

"Language and culture are intertwined in a manner that makes revitalizing our language essential to preserving Chickasaw culture and keeping it relevant for generations to come," Governor Bill Anoatubby said. "This collaboration between our fluent speakers and Rosetta Stone is a significant part of our efforts to make the Chickasaw language easily accessible to Chickasaws everywhere."

A cloud-based program, users can access Rosetta Stone Chickasaw through a computer or mobile app for Android/Apple devices. Using available technology, the program helps ensure



the Chickasaw language remains strong into the future and preserves an important part of Chickasaw culture.

"Language preservation is a critical component of perpetuating the Chickasaw Nation's heritage for generations to come, and we are proud to work with them in creating this program," Global President of Rosetta Stone's Enterprise & Education Division Judy Verses said. "The Chickasaw Nation is helping put a spotlight on the importance of educating its people and preserving its heritage. We are excited to collaborate with them on what we see as a mission to reverse the tide of indigenous language extinction."

Rosetta Stone Chickasaw is now available at no cost to Chickasaw citizens and to Chickasaw Nation employees and the general public at an associated cost. For more information, visit Chickasaw.net/RosettaStone.

About the Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program

Traditionally, the Chickasaw people see their language as a gift given to them from Chihooowa or Aba' Binni'li' (God). As such, the Chickasaw people see it as their obligation to care for it, to learn it, speak it and teach it. The Chicka-

saw language revitalization program is designed to help people access this precious gift.

The program began in 2007, with the official Department of Chickasaw Language founded within the Chickasaw Nation in 2009. Rosetta Stone is one of many services designed to offer Chickasaws a variety of opportunities to learn the language.

Chipota Chikashshanompoli (Youth Speaking Chickasaw) language club meets once a month in Ada, Ardmore, Tishomingo and Oklahoma City. Students learn the Chickasaw language through total physical response method activities and songs. Students compete each year at the annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Fair.

Chickasaw community language classes take place each week in Ada, Ardmore, Oklahoma City, Purcell, Sulphur and Tishomingo. East Central University in Ada offers Chickasaw accredited language courses throughout the year.

Other technical advances

The Chickasaw Nation has devoted many resources to both enhance the knowledge of existing speakers and to preserve the language for posterity. With more than 68,000 citizens worldwide, the Chickasaw Nation strives to present the language to all.

"The last Native speakers who learned the language at home were born in the late 1940s," director of the Chickasaw Nation Language Department Joshua Hinson said during a 2014 interview with *the International Business Times*.

"We want to know who we are as a people, but Chickasaws have always been on the cutting edge of technology," Mr. Hinson said. "If I can make a canoe with a stone tool, but suddenly there's an iron axe, then I'll use the axe."

"We want any Chickasaw on the planet to have quality content at their fingertips and to build a population of conversational speakers."

To reach speakers outside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation, the tribe developed programs such as the Chickasaw Basic app and made language lessons available on the tribe's online TV channel, Chickasaw.tv.

The Chickasaw Basic app features hundreds of Chickasaw words along with phrases, songs and videos. Available to download from the desktop app is the Chickasaw Basic App Review and Assessment Workbook, a companion guide featuring language puzzles and quizzes.

Chickasaw Basic is available for desktop and Android devices at Chickasaw.net/anompa. Apple users may download the app at no charge from the iTunes App Store.

With the introduction of Chickasaw.TV, ways to learn the Chickasaw language became easily accessible. Chickasaw.TV has a channel dedicated to learning the Chickasaw language through lessons, the songs, games and stories. Visit the Chikashshanompa' channel on Chickasaw.TV.

NEWS FROM CHICKASAW PRINCESS



2018-19 CHICKASAW PRINCESS MIKAYLA HOOK

For the past seven months of being the 2018 Chickasaw Princess, I have had so many wonderful opportunities. I recently got to travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended Gathering of the Nations. This was my first time to attend and it was heartwarming. To get to experience and fellowship with so many different tribes was such a blessing.

I also had the great honor of being on the Next Generation panel during the 2019 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference. Next on our schedule will be attending the Chickasaw Nation Head Start graduations. It will be fun to see the younger children in their caps and gowns.

Being Chickasaw Princesses keeps us very busy but we are having a blast. I would like to encourage all the young ladies to get their applications turned in by the deadline Friday, Aug. 23 to run for princess. Not only will you have the opportunity to be an ambassador for your tribe but also, you will build friendships and make wonderful memories that will last a lifetime.

God Bless!
Yakoke!
Mikayla Hook
2018
Chickasaw Princess

Coppedge appointed Director of Women's and Surgery Clinics at Chickasaw Nation Department of Health



HALEY COPPEDGE

ADA, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed Haley Coppedge director of women's and surgery clinics within the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health.

"Ms. Coppedge brings a wealth

of knowledge, experience and dedication to this new position," Gov. Anoatubby said. "She has the skills and compassion to serve both as a leader and health care provider. Her appreciation for the vital role health care plays in quality of life will serve her well in this role."

Ms. Coppedge began her career with the Chickasaw Nation at the Ardmore health clinic in 2014. A registered nurse, she was a primary case manager who worked within a team to develop and implement patient care. She also evaluated patients on their initial visits to the clinic.

Ms. Coppedge worked closely with patients and health care providers when referring to other locations, both in the Chickasaw Nation and to outside providers, when necessary.

Promoted to clinic RN nurse manager at the Ardmore fam-

ily practice and pediatric clinic, she was responsible for five RNs, 14 licensed practical nurses and multiple student nurses.

In 2018, Ms. Coppedge became senior manager of primary care for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health. She supervised RN nurse managers in six of the Chickasaw Nation's primary care clinics. These managers, in turn, oversaw more than 100 nurses.

Ms. Coppedge received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2011 from Oklahoma Baptist University. She graduated with honors, magna cum laude. She later earned her Master's of Business Administration in health care from Southern Nazarene University.

"Our health has a large impact on our lives," Ms. Coppedge said. "I became a nurse because the nursing profession affords me the opportunity to serve others in

their journey towards wellness. Nurses are privileged with the opportunity to be a part of our patients' lives in such a critical way, both clinically and emotionally."

Active in her professional community, Ms. Coppedge is a March of Dimes Nurse of the Year committee member. She is the founding member and chair of the Research Committee for Mercy Ardmore Shared Governance. She is the administrative sponsor of the Nursing Shared Governance Evidence Based Practice and Research Council. She is also an Oklahoma Nurses Association member.

She has served on the board of directors for Sara's Project, a victim advocacy group that assists children and adults experiencing crisis from trauma, abuse or loss. She has also served on the board of directors for the United Way of South Central Oklahoma.

Ms. Coppedge was the 2015 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year in Care Management. She was named Outstanding Senior Nursing Student in 2011 by Oklahoma Baptist University. She is in the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, as well as the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business.

As a citizen of the Cherokee Nation she enjoys providing medical care to fellow Native Americans.

"It is an honor to serve my fellow Native Americans in their health journey," Ms. Coppedge said. "I am thankful to do so with the Chickasaw Nation, where we are able to care for the whole person in a culturally significant manner."

Johnston appointed Chickasaw Nation Department of Health Director of Ancillary Services



CMDR. BRIAN JOHNSTON

ADA, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed Cmdr. Brian Johnston Director of Ancillary Services within the Chicka-

saw Nation Department of Health.

"Brian Johnston has a long record of effectively serving Chickasaws and other Native Americans," Gov. Anoatubby said. "His own experience as a patient and a health care provider gives him a unique perspective that motivates his desire to ensure our patients receive the highest quality care."

For 19 years, Cmdr. Johnston has been serving rural southeastern Oklahoma and its Native American communities as a pharmacist, clinic manager and commissioned officer. He sees it as giving back to the community he came from as a Chickasaw born in Tahihina and reared in the Wilburton area.

As Director of Ancillary Services within the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health, Cmdr. Johnston will provide leadership

and direction for three groups - clinical informatics, laboratory and radiology. Laboratory and radiology are pivotal in diagnosing patients at Chickasaw Nation health facilities.

When a provider needs to gather information by running tests or taking medical imagery, the professional staff working with Cmdr. Johnston in radiology and laboratory make it happen. The clinical informatics ensures this information is recorded digitally and made accessible to all health professionals working to assist patients.

Cmdr. Johnston's professional history has prepared him for the responsibilities he has taken on as director.

He has spent most of his professional career with the Choctaw Nation. He opened and operated

area clinics in Stigler, McAlester and Idabel while also serving as a pharmacist. The clinic in Atoka and health care center in Tahihina were his primary locations.

"I've had a professional career that has been fully immersed in tribal health systems," Cmdr. Johnston said. "I learned a lot about what the Choctaws and Chickasaws do to meet the health care needs of their patients. I'm passionate about helping Native Americans."

He now serves other health care providers for the Chickasaw Nation. He and his team meet providers' needs so they can achieve faster, more accurate and more effective diagnoses and therapies.

Cmdr. Johnston's educational background also prepared him for his current duties.

His degrees include an Asso-

ciate of Science (pre-pharmacy) from Eastern Oklahoma State College; a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Science in pharmacy, both from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

He also holds a Master's of Health Administration from Simmons College in Boston.

He and his wife have been married 25 years and have two daughters and one granddaughter. He said they keep him grounded and help him unwind.

"I was born in Indian health. That's where I came from. That's where my siblings were born. That's where we get health care. This position gives me an opportunity to give back," Cmdr. Johnston said.

Lewis appointed Director of Primary Care at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada



BRITTNEA LEWIS

ADA, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed Brittnea

Lewis Director of Primary Care at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada.

"Brittnea Lewis appreciates the vital role of taking a proactive approach to health care," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Her experience, commitment and enthusiasm for serving the Chickasaw people make her well-qualified for this new role."

In her new position, Mrs. Lewis will oversee approximately 100 medical staff personnel who provide medical treatment to patients at the Ada facility.

Mrs. Lewis is a nine-year veteran of nursing at the Chickasaw National Medical Center and former Carl Albert Indian Hospital

where she worked in surgery as a registered nurse.

She completed a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2010 from East Central University.

Mrs. Lewis graduated from Allen High School in 2006. She attended Byng schools for nine years before transferring to Allen. She is the daughter of Tina and Jim Melton and Joe and Sandy Nemecek. She traces her Indian ancestry to her great-great-grandmother Martha Weaver, a full blood Choctaw and original Dawes Commission enrollee.

Mrs. Lewis' experience includes three years in obstetrics labor and delivery and five years in case management in primary

care. She served as clinic manager for six months before assuming her new duties as primary care Ada director.

"I love being a part of the changes that are occurring in health care," Mrs. Lewis said. "I am allowed to help brainstorm all the new possibilities that promote health and wellness for our citizens. Preventive care is a big goal for me."

Mrs. Lewis is a stage four breast cancer survivor and has a deep appreciation for the importance of preventive care.

She is honored to be appointed, she said, and holds deep respect for Gov. Anoatubby.

"It was such an honor to meet

one-on-one with Governor Anoatubby concerning my appointment," Mrs. Lewis said. "He is very family oriented and fully supports the tribe's mission and core values. He is so busy. It was an honor for him to take the time out of his schedule to meet with me. It was a huge blessing and awesome experience."

Mrs. Lewis married her high school sweetheart, Brenton, 11 years ago. The couple has two daughters, seven-year-old Paisley and six-year-old Peyton, more commonly called "PJ," is 6.

Mr. Lewis is employed by the Texas oil and gas firm Stephens and Johnson.

Morgan appointed Director of Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Specialty Services



VICTORIA MORGAN

ADA, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed Victoria Morgan director of Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Specialty Services.

Mrs. Morgan, a Chickasaw citizen, has worked for the Chickasaw Nation for 16 years. In her new role, she will oversee several clinics including diabetes, psy-

chiatry, dermatology, cardiology, rheumatology, hepatitis C and infusion services. Mrs. Morgan will coordinate health care delivery while maintaining quality, accessibility and cost effectiveness for all Native Americans.

"Throughout her career, Victoria Morgan has demonstrated a commitment to the health of those we serve," Gov. Anoatubby said. "She is well prepared for this role, because she has continued to further her education, expand her experience and take on leadership roles with increasing responsibilities."

Mrs. Morgan has always been drawn to the health career field, with an innate sense of helping people. This characteristic has led to a successful career within the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health.

"It fills me with a lot of pride to work in a community where there is an opportunity for Native Americans to take care of other Native Americans," Mrs. Morgan

said.

Mrs. Morgan is a first generation high school and college graduate. She has an extensive educational background. After completing high school, she worked in the Ardmore Health Clinic as a receptionist. She then enrolled at Southern Oklahoma Technology Center in 2003 and became a certified surgical technologist. Once certified, she attended Murray State College and earned an associate degree in general science in May 2009.

Mrs. Morgan then applied for the Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work Program, attended East Central University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing in May 2012, while working as a surgical tech at CNMC. She received a master's degree in nursing administration/management in 2016 from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and is currently working on a master's certificate in health care practice management.

Her education coincided with a rich employment history. She worked as a surgical technologist in the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility; RN primary case manager in internal medicine at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center; Clinical Adjunct Faculty at the East Central University School of Nursing; and manager of nursing education at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center before being appointed to her current position.

As the newly appointed director of Specialty Services she looks forward to providing high quality care to all Native Americans and working with great leaders. She credits her success and determination to Gov. Anoatubby's servant leadership example.

"I could not stop smiling when I was appointed," Mrs. Morgan said. "I look to Governor with pride because he is a legend of proven leadership."

Along with an impressive career, she has several distinctions including serving on a panel dur-

ing the 2018 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference to advocate for her experience as a foster parent.

Outside of work, Mrs. Morgan enjoys spending time with her family, husband Kenny Morgan and children Jason, Josie and Elias Morgan. Attending University of Oklahoma football games is a favorite family pastime.

"I consider myself a passionate OU fan," she said.

Her family has attended every home game as season ticket holders for almost 20 years.

Mrs. Morgan is excited to ensure in her new role that the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center continues delivering exceptional service.

"I love our vision to be the health care provider of choice," she said. "I am most proud of that."

Morris appointed Chickasaw Nation Department of Health Director of Institutional Environmental Health



JEFFERY MORRIS

ADA, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed Jeffery Morris director of Institutional Environmental Health within the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health.

"Years of education and experience have enabled Jeff Morris to develop a clear understanding of how to ensure we provide a safe and healthy environment for patients at all of our facilities," Gov. Anoatubby said. "He has demonstrated a commitment to excellence throughout his career."

Mr. Morris began his career with the Chickasaw Nation in 2010. Working as an Institutional Environmental Health officer at

the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, he developed and managed a comprehensive environmental health program for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health.

Mr. Morris ensures the Department of Health conforms to environmental care and safety standards within the medical industry for Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, health clinics and other facilities.

"I am honored to be a part of an organization committed to excellence and so obviously dedicated to the people it serves," Mr. Morris said. "I am proud to work alongside the Institutional Environmental Health team who are, at every level, some of the finest preventive health professionals I've ever had the privilege to serve with in my career."

Mr. Morris began his career in public health and safety with the Tucson Area Indian Health Service, Sells, Arizona. He has nearly 25 years of experience working with the Indian Health Service in many locations within the U.S. and among various Native American cultures.

Mr. Morris managed the Division of Environmental Health Services for the Sells service unit. In this capacity he met with tribal

officials, the local community health board and health care providers to present and adapt his program's environmental health goals.

He led wide-ranging environmental surveys at numerous public schools, Native American boarding schools, Head Start programs and group homes. He also ensured proper food safety and handling at tribal restaurants and schools.

Mr. Morris did his postgraduate residency at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He developed a program to conduct environmental assessments at all Indian Health Service hospitals and health centers and led seminars for the implementation of the program.

While in the residency program, he completed a surgical and infection control rotation at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. He also completed the Food and Drug Administration's courses in radiation protection and worker protection, among others.

Upon completion of his residency, Mr. Morris became an environmental health officer at the Billings (Montana) Area Indian Health Service. While in Billings, he coordinated a comprehensive

occupational safety and health program, and was the acting safety officer for the area.

He developed and maintained an industrial hygiene program for the protection of staff. The program ensured federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards concerning chemical and biological hazards were followed.

Before beginning his career within the Chickasaw Nation, Mr. Morris spent 13 years in New Mexico where he served as the Commissioned Corps liaison and occupational safety and health officer for the Albuquerque Area Office of the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service. His primary duties included serving as an instructor for all institutional environmental health courses.

Mr. Morris taught sanitation construction and facilities management courses as well. As an occupational safety and health officer, he provided consultative services to Indian Health Service and tribal employees. He was sought as a subject matter expert for construction and general industry safety issues.

Mr. Morris received a Master of Public Health degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda,

Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science from East Central University in Ada. He has many professional licenses and certifications in environmental and safety fields.

Mr. Morris' career accomplishments include being named the 2013 Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Employee of the Year, 2012 Indian Health Service National Occupational Safety and Health Professional of the Year. He also received the United States Public Health Services Outstanding Service Medal.

Mr. Morris has belonged to many professional organizations, including the National Environmental Health Association. He was recognized by the Oklahoma State Department as a registered environmental specialist/sanitarian.

Mr. Morris has been a foster parent for the Oklahoma State Department of Health and Human Services. He was the founder and original disaster response team coordinator of the Seminole Church of Christ.

He is currently the coordinator and chair of the Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Festival softball tournaments.

Laura Neal appointed Director of the Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Health Clinic



LAURA NEAL

ARDMORE, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed Chickasaw citizen Laura Neal Director of the Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Health Clinic.

"Laura Neal fully appreciates the essential role health care plays in our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Her education, experience and commitment have prepared her well to serving the Chickasaw people in this role."

With this position, Mrs. Neal brings the mission of the Chickasaw Nation to the forefront of daily operations. She emphasizes access to safe, quality care and ensures staff has the education

and skills necessary to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people.

"I am honored at the opportunity to serve in this role," Mrs. Neal said. "I have grown up in the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health, and I have seen the great things that have evolved for our citizens under Governor Anoatubby's leadership. It is exciting to be able to give back and be a part of fulfilling the mission."

Mrs. Neal began her career with the Chickasaw Nation in 2009 as a creative food demonstration specialist with Nutrition Services. She educated children on the importance of proper nutrition and exercise.

In 2013, she moved to the Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Health Clinic, beginning work as a registration supervisor. Mrs. Neal selected and trained new personnel, supervised the registration department, led staff meetings and maintained scheduling for multiple groups, among other responsibilities.

For almost a year, Mrs. Neal maintained duties as interim director of the Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Health Clinic as well as clinic manager. She was involved with much of the day-to-day work of the clinic. This is still the case, with Mrs. Neal taking on the full responsibility of director.

"It is a very exciting time for

the Department of Health," she said. "With expansions of services and integrated care, there is great work to be done."

Mrs. Neal earned a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in 2009, studying science and nutrition. She also graduated from the Chickasaw Leadership Academy at the platinum level in 2018. In August, Mrs. Neal will begin pursuing a Master's of Business Administration in Health from Southern Nazarene University.

Mrs. Neal was born and reared in Ravia, Okla. She is married and has three sons, ages 7, 4 and 10 months.

Bobby Saunkeah appointed Director of Research and Public Health



BOBBY SAUNKEAH

years, was appointed Director of Research and Public Health.

"Bobby Saunkeah has a deep appreciation of the role research plays in our efforts to continually improve health care," Gov. Anoatubby said. "He also understands how to implement those research findings in a manner that will help improve the health of our community."

When the Chickasaw Nation initiated the Research and Public Health Department in 2011, Mr. Saunkeah was tapped as manager, before being appointed director in 2019.

Research and Public Health works with academic and research institutions to stay on the cutting edge of medical research.

"We're really trying to grow our own health research infrastructure here at the Chickasaw Nation," Mr. Saunkeah said. "One of our main goals is to ensure that research is done appropriately and is of benefit to the Chickasaw people."

Mr. Saunkeah has served the Chickasaw people for more than two decades in various positions

at the Chickasaw Nation, beginning as a float pool nurse at the outpatient clinic in 1997. Mr. Saunkeah said he'd only previously worked for large health institutions before that and was drawn to helping Native Americans achieve better health.

"I had a lot of college credits already that would apply toward nursing," he said. "At the time, it was a wide open field for men. I knew later on it would afford me a wide range of opportunities, and it has. I've done a lot of things with my Registered Nurse degree."

Mr. Saunkeah has served the Chickasaw people for more than two decades in various positions

at the Chickasaw Nation, beginning as a float pool nurse at the outpatient clinic in 1997. Mr. Saunkeah said he'd only previously worked for large health institutions before that and was drawn to helping Native Americans achieve better health.

"I'd never worked with my own Native people before," he said. "I really wanted to work with Native people in a Native organization."

At the Chickasaw Nation, Mr. Saunkeah has also worked as an outpatient nurse, diabetes educator and diabetes program manager.

He has served on the Chickasaw Nation Institutional Review Board (IRB) for many years and is presently IRB chair, as well as human research subjects protections administrator. He is a tribal representative on the National Indian Health Service IRB, a Certified IRB Professional (CIP) and adjunct faculty for the Department of Health Promotion at the OU

College of Public Health. He was recently appointed to his second term as the Oklahoma Area delegate to the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee for research (NIH TAC).

An Oklahoma City native, Mr. Saunkeah graduated from U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center in 1978 and a Master of Science in Health Care Ethics from Creighton University School of Medicine, Center for Policy and Ethics in 2014.

He has extensive experience in clinical research at the OU Health Sciences Center and Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach, Florida.

He is an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church and a reverend. His wife, Peggy, is an Ada native. They have an 11-year-old daughter, Lili.

"She is the joy of our life," Mr. Saunkeah said.

Department of Health Dental Supervisor strives to reduce patient stress, emphasize good preventive care



DR. JOEL HERSCHLER

to the dentist," Dr. Herschler said. "I work to make it just a little bit better for every patient I see in our office."

"I never introduce myself as a doctor. I won't walk in and tell patients my name is Dr. Herschler, or Dr. Joel."

"My name is Joel and when I use my first name, it usually suspends all forms of judgment in how patients may or may not have practiced proper dental care in the past."

"The main thing for me is being nonjudgmental with patients when they're sitting in my chair. We don't know what kind of life they have and I don't judge them based on their teeth."

Dr. Herschler, who offices at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Clinic in Ardmore, says he prefers edu-

cating over lecturing patients.

"I'll teach them as much as I can about taking care of their smile rather than preach to them," he said. "Elders often return the favor by educating me on what it was like before such quality dental care was available to them by the Chickasaw Nation."

Dr. Herschler's decade-long experience in private practice before joining the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center staff in 2013 makes it easy for him to appreciate the advantages from a medical professional's viewpoint.

"I've explained to other dentists the state-of-the-art equipment we have at the Chickasaw Nation is a bonus because it's not always affordable for a private dental practice," he said.

After graduating from Texas

A&M University, Dr. Herschler graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry (now Texas A&M College of Dentistry).

As a youngster, he dreamed of following in his father's footsteps by becoming an engineer. But upon entering Texas A&M, he discovered his interests lay elsewhere.

"I've always enjoyed being around people, working with my hands and the medical sciences," he said. "I guess a dentist is a mechanical engineer for the mouth," he said with a laugh.

Dr. Herschler and his wife were reared in Bridgeport, Texas, a small community of roughly 6,600 where they still reside. The couple has three children.

"I'm not a drive-thru type dentist," Dr. Herschler said.

He says he learned long ago pursuing money is not an appropriate or satisfying lifetime objective and it doesn't provide inner peace. He is far more fulfilled, he said, spending time with patients to ensure they are getting the quality care they need rather than rushing patients through too quickly.

He said he has great admiration for the Chickasaw citizens' steadfast perspective in maintaining their rich tribal history and heritage.

"I love the fact the Chickasaw people are holding on to their culture, because it gets lost quickly," he said. "Something as valuable as a person's culture and history needs to be held on to for future generations. I have a great appreciation for this."

Chickasaw students fortunate to have access to many scholarship, grant opportunities

Chokma! Greetings from the Tishomingo District! Graduation season just ended for many high school students. This is an exciting time in these young peoples' lives, full of hope, goals and dreams for a bright future.

Fortunately, our Chickasaw students have many opportunities available for education assistance, which makes their future goals more attainable.

A vast array of scholarships and grants are available from the Chickasaw Nation Education Department, as well as the Chickasaw Foundation.

The Foundation offers a wide variety of scholarships to students who excel in academics, community service and a dedication to elevate the quality of life of Native Americans.

The Chickasaw Foundation funds scholarships for academic fields such as business, music, art, engineering, health and law.

Students, regardless of where they live, who are pursuing undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees from an accredited college or university, are eligible to receive

support.

Though support from our tribe in the form of educational scholarships, hundreds of Chickasaw citizens have been able to pursue higher education and training and have gone on to successful careers.

Chickasaws who live across the country represent our tribe in the fields of medicine, law, education, business, the arts and science.

Many of these citizens return to work for our tribe in an effort to contribute to the Chickasaw Nation's success and to enhance the lives of Chickasaw citizens.

Still others give back to the tribe by contributing to the Chickasaw Foundation scholarship fund, so others may have the great opportunities in which they were given.

Through these types of support, Chickasaw citizens are working to fulfill the Chickasaw Nation mission "to enhance the lives of Chickasaw citizens."

Our tribe is very blessed.

Governor Anotubby supports and encourages education opportunity for all, therefore we invest in and support our youth, which will benefit us all in the future and keep our tribe resilient.

For more information education grants and scholarships, including guidelines, available scholarships and application deadlines, contact the Chickasaw Nation Department of Education Services at (580) 421-7711 or the Chickasaw Foundation at 580-421-9030.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Chokma'shki,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
(580) 421-7242

Embroidery with French knots class scheduled for June 22 in Sulphur

SULPHUR, Okla. - Learn embroidery with French knots taught by Julie Marks Blackstone at Mahota Studios, June 22 in Sulphur.

Students will begin with an overview of color/design/composition planning, followed with basic embroidery techniques, emphasizing the use of the French knot with special attention on combining thread colors to create visual color mixing.

Ms. Blackstone is an assistant art professor at Oklahoma Baptist University. Her works have won numerous regional and national awards.

This class is open to the public. Enrollment fee of \$100 includes instruction and all supplies.

Scholarships are available for Chickasaw citizens.

For more information, or to enroll, call the ARTesian Gallery & Studios at (580) 622-8040.

Move Night at the Museums at Fort Washita to feature 'Captain Marvel' on July 13

FORT WASHITA, Okla. - Movie Night at the Museums will feature "Captain Marvel" at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, July 13 at Fort Washita. The movie is sponsored by Chickasaw Nation History & Culture.

Admission is free and guests are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets. Complimentary popcorn and refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact History & Culture at (580) 371-9835.

Youth Speaking Chickasaw Language Club will meet June 20 in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY - Chipota Chikashanompoli Youth Speaking Chickasaw Language Club will meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, June 20 at the Oklahoma City Community Center.

Members will learn the Chickasaw language through songs and activities.

Meals will be available at each meeting.

For more information, contact Clovis Hamilton at (580) 272-5592.

Tribe continues to build upon its success, offers many opportunities for us all

Chokma, chinchokma, Hello, how are you? Summer is here. Camps are in full swing. The Cultural Center is more beautiful than ever before with all the trees and flowers in full bloom. Summer is a perfect time to take advantage of all the wonderful activities going on in the Chickasha Nation. We have so much for which to be thankful as Chickasaws!

Congratulations to all of this year's Hall of Fame Inductees! Each year, I love to hear the stories of those amazing Chickasaws, who have lived outstanding lives in dedication to others. I am so proud of you and the way you represent the Chickasaw Nation!

One of the things that I am most proud of as a Chickasaw citizen is that we take care of our own. We have created over 14,000 jobs in all of our enterprises. We are one of the largest employers in the state of Oklahoma. Our businesses continue to do well and provide enough revenue to fund over 200 programs and services for our people. We have dedicated employees who give 110% every day. Because we are a family, we care about each other, and we acknowledge and thank God for

blessing us as a people. In a world where things seem to get worse, we can be assured that the Chickasaw Nation just keeps getting better!

Summer is a great time to visit the Cultural Center, the Capitol House Museum, the White House, Fort Washita, Boggy Depot, and much more. It's also a great time to take an art class or beading class, learn to stomp dance, or take up stick ball or corn stalk shooting. There's never a dull moment or lack of something to do in the Chickasaw Nation. I hope you have a great summer! Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Chipisala cho anowa, Until I see you again,

Nancy
Pontotoc District Seat 2
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.elliott@Chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Nation Elders Conference set for June 17-18 at WinStar Convention Center

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Elders Conference is scheduled for June 17-18 at the WinStar Convention Center in Thackerville. Each year more than 400 elders attend the two-day event to reconnect with friends, meet new people and learn more about Chickasaw Nation programs and services.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation Elders Conference, call (580) 795-9790 or visit Chickasaw.net/Elders.

Stomp dance scheduled for 11 p.m. July 13 at Kullihoma

KULLIHOMA - A stomp dance is scheduled for 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., Saturday, July 13 at Kullihoma. Chickasaw Nation Cultural Resources will host the event.

The event is open to the public. Food and refreshments will be served.

Kullihoma is located seven miles northeast of Ada on State Highway 1, then three miles east and one mile south.

For more information, call (580) 622-7140.

Chickasaw women throughout the ages have shared a deep love for their tribe

Hello Everyone, I hope your summer is getting off to a great start and you have many fun events planned.

Last month I attended the Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference at the WinStar World Casino. I must tell you it was an amazing time for Chickasaw women to come together and celebrate each other.

When I think back about recorded history of Chickasaw women, I am not surprised how far they have come. Ancestral Chickasaw women were not unlike the modern-day Chickasaw woman. Each provided food and nurturing for their families and share a common goal of protection and loyalty. Through suffering, sorrows and even removal from their homelands, they overcame hardships many of us cannot comprehend. This leads me to say that Chickasaw women are Dynamic Warriors as well.

As I looked across the large event center, I saw a diverse group of Chickasaw women who have one thing in common, the love of their tribe. These women traveled from several different states to be here

to celebrate their heritage, culture, successes and future with each other. Chickasaw women have achieved great positions including military service, being educators, healthcare providers, musicians, artist, politicians, and raising the future citizens of our tribe.

At the conference we celebrated the future of a younger generation of Dynamic Chickasaw Women by giving out scholarships to encourage Native American females to further their education. Several young women from high school and college served as panelist during our general session. At breakout sessions we listened to women who had served in the Navy, recorded family oral histories, art instruction, behavioral health experts, story tellers, and the list goes on.

The butterfly art contest is for Chickasaw females from ages 14-18 and this year's winner was Paige Busick. This contest takes place annually to determine the logo for the next Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference.

If you know of a dynamic Chickasaw woman who is not an employee of the tribe, you can nominate her by going online at Chickasaw.net/Dynamic Woman Award.

I would like to salute all Chickasaw women for their many accomplishments and encourage them to follow their dreams! Thank you for letting me serve you as your Pickens District Legislator.

God bless,
Connie Barker
"Her mouth speaks wisdom, and loving instruction is her tongue."
Proverbs 31:26



TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature



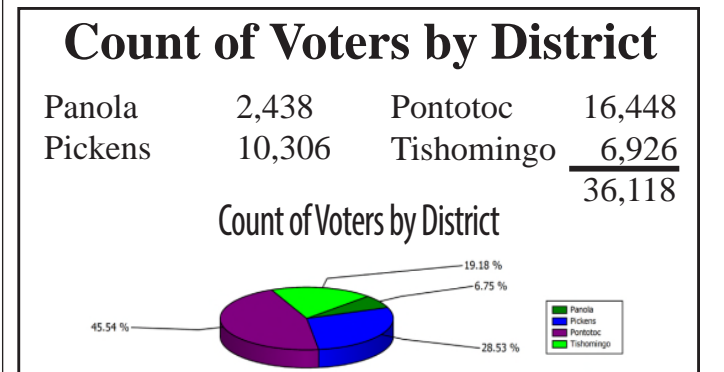
NANCY ELLIOTT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature



CONNIE BARKER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature



2018-2019 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Pontotoc District Seat #</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Toby Perkins 15810 CR 1569 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 399-2606 Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net Nancy Elliott 620 Ann Ada, OK 74820 (580) 399-4374 Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net J. Lisa Impson P.O. Box 2669 Ada, OK 74820 (580) 235-3185 Lisa.impson@chickasaw.net Karen Goodnight P.O. Box 759 Washington, OK 73093 (580) 235-2654 Karen.goodnight@chickasaw.net Lisa J. Billy 19259 150th Street Lindsay, OK 73052 (580)399-7083 LisaJ.Billy@chickasaw.net | <p>Pickens District Seat #</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David Woerz P.O. Box 669 Ardmore, OK 73402 (580) 235-3240 David.Woerz@chickasaw.net Connie Barker 509 SW 7th Ave. Marietta, OK 73448 (580) 272-4175 Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net Linda Briggs P.O. Box 241 Marietta, OK 73448 (580) 272-7268 Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net Shana Tate Hammond 801 North Mississippi Ada, Oklahoma, 74820 (580) 235-1438 Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net | <p>Tishomingo District Seat #</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scott Wood 101 West Main Street Tishomingo, OK 73450 (580) 221-1430 Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net Tim Colbert P.O. Box 773 Sulphur, OK 73086 (580) 421-7242 Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net Steven Woods 5071 Gray's Road Davis, OK 73030 (580) 272-7270 Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net <p>Panola District Seat #</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Beth Alexander Box 246 Achille, OK 74720 (580) 272-7850 beth.alexander@chickasaw.net bethalexander22@hotmail.com |
|--|--|--|

Foray to the Grand Canyon pays special benefit with Hualapai tribe visit

Back in December, I had the chance to visit the Hualapai Tribe (pronounced Wal-lah-pie). "People of the Tall Pines", are a federally recognized tribe with 2,300 members located in northwestern Arizona. Their reservation consists of approximately 1,000,000 acres and is located at the far western end of the Grand Canyon, 5 hours' drive from the South Rim of Grand Canyon National



BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Park. One of their main attractions is the Skywalk at Grand Canyon West. The \$30 Million Bridge was opened in 2007. The 10-foot wide, horseshoe-shaped glass bridge extends 70 feet out over the rim of the Canyon. You can look right down through the glass floor, 4,000 feet to the bottom of the Canyon. Tourists are not allowed to take anything out on to the Skywalk, due to the possibility of losing items to the sacred land below. The Tribe offers photographers on location to capture those special moments. From the bridge you can see the Colorado River. While on location, you can tour an authentic Hualapai village, view spectacular sights, shop for souvenirs and witness tribal ladies traditionally dressed sharing their cultural dances.

Another interesting sight is Guano Point named after the Bat Cave Mine. The cave was discovered in the 1930's and was thought to be rich in guano (bat droppings). A variety of mining methods were attempted in order to remove the highly sought after guano and \$\$ it was worth. One of the last projects was to construct a tram system across the canyon. The cable system stretched from Guano Point to the cave at the north rim. It was an engineering marvel! The guano was removed from the cave and trucked to the Kingman Arizona Airport. The mine closed in 1960. The National Park Service was going to remove the tramway remnants but there was a public protest against demolition of these interesting sites. Today the Hualapai Tribe offers a barbecue meal on location near the old tram system. This is another part to their tribal tourism and business ventures.

Next time you're out that way, make plans to spend some time in Peach Springs, Arizona with the Hualapai Tribe and their tourism attractions!

"The Heavens are Thine, the earth also is Thine; The world and all it contains, Thou hast founded them" Psalm 89:11



Skywalk at Grand Canyon West.



Our Chickasaw students are doing great things along their paths to leadership

It is an exciting time as Chickasaw students are completing their graduation requirements! Everything from headstart, high school to medical school. It is the time for the next step into their destiny and as I recently shared at a commencement ceremony they are on a journey they can win!

I had the opportunity to speak at the OSU medical school American Indian graduation and watch one of our very own Chickasaw students complete her training. Now Victoria Reynolds-Vaughn is preparing for her residency. Her family is very proud of her and so are we at Chickasaw Nation! I could hardly contain my emotions as Governor Anoatubby spoke of this historic occurrence and provided her with her Chickasaw graduation cord. We are beginning to see the fruit of all of the programs and prayers of the Chickasaw Nation.

LISA J. BILLY

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

My family and I also attended the Sulphur High School graduation and watched my nephew Cole Johnson accept his diploma. Like his older brother, Loudon, he will be playing college football. Cole has chosen to play ball at the University of North Texas. Mason Lance and Keegan Johnson, also Chickasaw, graduated as well from Sulphur. We have enjoyed watching these young Chickasaw men participate in competitive sports and we enjoyed watching them take their next steps into winning their journeys.

I spoke at the commencement ceremony at NSU in Tahlequah and celebrated with all of the students in two graduation programs. It is especially rewarding for me to return to the campus as I graduated from NSU years ago. Reconnecting with those who helped me on my journey such as Dr. Susan Frusher, Ken Reavis, Debbie Amlin and remembering the late Jake Chanate was especially rewarding for me. As the music began I remembered my day of wanting to wear my eagle feather on my cap. I still remember as though it were yesterday the woman at registration telling me NO! The feelings rushed back and I remember watching Ginny Wilson sprinting across the football field hoping to catch President Roger Webb. President Webb gave loud instructions for me to wear my eagle feather! I am forever grateful for this opportunity at Northeastern State University. Which leads me to share the story of Tvlli Birdshead.

It puzzles me that a public high school in Oklahoma would at first deny Tvlli Birdshead the opportunity to wear his eagle feather and tribal regalia during such a milestone accomplishment. I have known Tvlli for many years and consider his family as my own. I have watched Tvlli grow into a fine young man who is very proud to be Chickasaw. He is a humble leader with big dreams! And, although he seems quiet he did not give up his fight to wear his eagle feather or Chickasaw graduation cord at his high school ceremony. In fact, I would say the leadership characteristics that God has designed inside of Tvlli made their way to the surface during these past two months. It is often hard times that can prepare us for our destiny. I am grateful to Governor Bill Anoatubby for his servant leadership and I am grateful to Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter for providing clarification and education to our public schools. Congratulations to Tvlli and his family. You won for all of us!

Congratulations to all of the graduates and families who supported them. May the Lord continue to be honored in all that we say and do.

Please contact me anytime I can be a servant at lisaj.billy@chickasaw.net (580) 436-1460, PO BX 1412, Purcell, Oklahoma 73080

Chickasaw White House will host a Fourth of July Celebration, June 29

EMET, Okla. - The Chickasaw White House will host a Fourth of July celebration Saturday, June 29. Food and games will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and a movie on the lawn begins at 8:30 p.m.

There will be a variety of games and food. Enjoy an evening of free fun with the family!

The Chickasaw White House is located at 6379 E. Mansion Dr., Milburn, Oklahoma.

For more information, call (580) 235-7343.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Chickasaw Nation Legislative Finance Committee will hold a public hearing regarding the Consolidated Tribal Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 on Monday, June 17, 2019, at the Legislative Building, 801 North Mississippi Ave., Ada, Oklahoma, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Copies of the proposed budget are available for review at the Legislative Office in Ada.

Any Chickasaw citizen may address the Finance Committee at the hearings; provided, the citizen has notified Committee Chair Nancy Elliott in writing of his desire to speak and provides an agenda. A citizen may speak for up to 10 minutes. Chickasaw citizens may also present written comments, recommendations, information or questions at those meetings, provided, those written comments are presented to Committee Chair Nancy Elliott prior to the hearing's commencement.

The meetings shall be held in accordance with Title 10, Section 10-201.6 and following of the Chickasaw Nation Code. The Chickasaw Nation Code can be located at www.Chickasaw.net.

Keeping your tribal connection strong is key to living a great life - anywhere!

Wherever we live in this world today, we can each be very proud we are Chickasaw people!

It is always gratifying to me to hear from my fellow Chickasaws all across this great country. Chickasaw people have, over the generations, often chosen to move to different parts of the country for jobs, family, retirement or some other reason. We are now more "spread out" than ever, but our strong Chickasaw heritage always remains the tie that binds!



LINDA BRIGGS

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

It was over 180 years ago that our ancestors were removed from our homeland in what is now the Southeastern U.S. Chickasaws were removed to their "new lands" in the Southern Plains. They started new lives, established new communities and once again went about the business of striving to be their very best and taking care of each other.

Over the years, as our country grew, Chickasaws were pulled to other parts of the country. Some went to California during the Great Depression and WWII years. Others went south to Texas for opportunity, and still others fanned out across the country for many reasons.

As time has gone by, Chickasaw families have put down roots in every state in the Union. That seems hard to imagine, but it is true! With the great advances in transportation, technology and information flow, Chickasaws are now prospering in locales our ancestors never would have imagined.

Chickasaws today are doing great things wherever they call home, and this is a testament to our adaptability, our resourcefulness and our insistence on success. Those are good things!

It has been written "home is where the heart is," and no truer words could be spoken. Regardless of where we live today, we are Chickasaw and we are all tied together with a common history of courage and survival.

Your Chickasaw Nation today is a place you can always call home! Our tribe offers so many programs today to improve your quality of life. Please take advantage and become closer to your tribe. I encourage you to keep your tribal connections strong. We are here for each other. That will never change!

Linda

Voter registration for the 2019

Chickasaw Nation election closes July 9

Voter registration for the 2019 Chickasaw Nation election closes July 9. Registering to vote in the elections is a simple process. Chickasaw citizens 18 years of age or older may apply to become a voter. Registration can be initiated online at Chickasaw.net/Vote, by email, letter or calling the election office.

Tribal election ballots will be mailed to voters July 11. Once ballots are received in the mail, please fill out properly then return in the postage-paid envelope.

When registering to vote, Chickasaw citizens living inside the Chickasaw Nation tribal boundaries must register within the district in which they reside. Chickasaw citizens living outside of the Chickasaw Nation tribal boundaries may choose the district of their choice on the voter registration form.

Notifying the election commission of change of address on the proper form is necessary to ensure ballots reach the proper address. Updating your address can be completed online at Chickasaw.net/AddressChange or call (888) 661-0137.

Completed ballots must be returned by mail or fax to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission no later than 10:30 a.m., July 30. No hand delivered ballots will be accepted. The election commission shall conduct and supervise ballot counting beginning 11 a.m., July 30. For more information, contact Rita Loder at (580) 310-6475 or email Rita.Loder@Chickasaw.net.

Applications may be returned by mail or fax to:
Chickasaw Nation Election Commission
P.O. Box 695
Ada, OK 74821-0695
Phone: (580) 310-6411
Fax: (580) 310-6474

2019 Dynamic Woman of the Year Award now accepting nominations

The Chickasaw Nation is now accepting nominations for 2019 Dynamic Woman of the Year Award. All nominations and supporting documentation must be turned in to Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities by June 30.

As leaders in education, health care, arts, cultural advocacy, legal professions, social services and community development, Chickasaw women have dared to forge new roads that continue to serve as a force of empowerment for girls, women and men of all ages.

Chickasaw women chosen for this honor have inspired, given hope and opened new possibilities and opportunities for others.

These women serve as role models to other Chickasaw women, make a difference in the lives of Chickasaws and other citizens and enrich their communities and society at large.

Chickasaw women ages 35 and up with Chickasaw citizenship are eligible.

The Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year Award was established in October 2006 to honor Chickasaw women who have made significant contributions to the Chickasaw Nation and its citizens.

For a nomination form or more information, contact Nicole Willis at Nicole.Willis@Chickasaw.net or (580) 272-5520.

Outstanding Achievement Award recipients

Collins Bennett-Munns

Collins Bennett-Munns is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for academics.

Collins is in the second grade at Chapman Hill Elementary in Salem, Oregon. She was nominated by her teacher, Shannie Rediger.

Ms. Rediger describes Collins as caring and well-rounded. Collins is at the top of her class in all subject areas and stands out in reading, math and science.

Collins' hobbies include basketball, art, running, swimming and playing with her friends. Her future plans are to become a mom and teacher.

Augustus Beach

Augustus Beach is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for academics.

Augustus is a junior at Rouse High School in Leander, Texas. He was nominated by his school counselor, Lee Crochet.

Mr. Crochet describes Augustus as highly intelligent and dedicated to maintaining excellence. Augustus challenges himself by taking high level courses and is currently ranked in the top 50 of more than 390 students.

Augustus' hobbies include reading, entomology, prospecting, fishing and he is an avid aquarist. His future plans include attend-



Collins Bennett-Munns



Augustus Beach

ing college to study microbiology and receive a doctorate. He hopes to use his education to pursue work in the field.

Piper Bynum

Piper Bynum is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Piper is a third grader at Rolling Hills Elementary in Amarillo, Texas, and was nominated by her teacher, Alicia Wortham.

Ms. Wortham describes Piper as positive and inspiring. She states that Piper gives one hundred ten percent on all academic tasks and projects.

Piper's hobbies are writing and drawing. She enjoys being in nature and helping others. Her future plans are to become a dentist.

Avery Rose

Avery Rose is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for academics.

Avery is a freshman at Westmore High School in Moore, Okla., and was nominated by her teacher Gloria Anderson.

Ms. Anderson describes Avery as an extremely conscientious student. Avery is prompt with completing assignments and turns in top level work.

Avery's hobbies include golf,

and was the Indian Education Student of the Year in 2013-14 and 2016-17. Kenley's hobbies include soccer, reading and arts and crafts. Her future plans are to play soccer for Ada High School and attend college.

Kinley Gean

Kinley Gean is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for athletics.

Kinley is a second grader at Catalayah Elementary School in Claremore, Okla., and was nominated by her physical education teacher, Jeanie Seidel.

Ms. Seidel describes Kinley as dedicated stating she set a goal to run a cumulative 50 miles in the school running club and has since surpassed that achievement. Kinley received a medal for reaching the goal and plans to run a 5K race soon.

Kinley's hobbies include running, gymnastics, roller skating, artwork and outdoor activities. Her future plans include meeting more of her academic and fitness goals and becoming an ophthalmologist.

Kenley Harden

Kenley Harden is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for academics.

Kenley is a fourth grader at Washington Elementary School in Ada, Okla. She was nominated by her reading teacher, Katy Miller.

Ms. Miller describes Kenley as a model student who is respectful and bright. Kenley as maintained all A's through her school career



Kenley Harden



Kinley Gean



Jonathon Kirk

Jonathon Kirk

Jonathon Kirk is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for art.

Jonathon is a seventh grader at Sulphur Public School in Sulphur, Okla. He was nominated by his school secretary, J.J. Tucker.

Jonathon is described as creative with love for artwork, specifically drawing. Jonathon has won awards for his art at the Murray County Free Fair, school competitions, Sulphur Gifted and Talented program and the Chickasaw Nation Te Ata Fisher Employee Art Show in the Teen Engagement category.

Jonathon's hobbies include 4-H, livestock showing, track, football, listening to music and drawing. His future plans include attending college to study art.

Madeline Milks

Madeline Milks is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for FFA and academics.

Madeline is a junior at Silo High School in Durant, Okla., and was nominated by her superinten-

dent, Kate McDonald.

Ms. McDonald describes Madeline as a leader in everything she does. She is hard working and a pleasure to be around. Her attention to grades and extracurricular activities is outstanding. Madeline has earned a 4.0 GPA and scored a 27 on her ACT exam.

Madeline's hobbies include public speaking, volunteering, reading and baking. Her future plans are to continue her education and become a therapist.

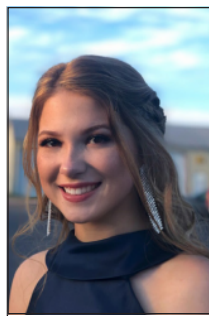
Colton Milks

Colton Milks is the recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement for academics.

Colton is a junior at Silo High School in Durant, Okla. He was nominated by his superintendent, Kate McDonald.

Ms. McDonald describes Colton as an attentive student who is an integral part of the state academic team. With Colton's participation the team achieved many contest and tournament wins. Colton has earned an impressive score of 27 on the ACT exam and an SAT score of 1180.

Colton's hobbies include reading, drawing, volunteering and watching documentaries. His future plans are to attend college and pursue a career in nursing.



Madeline Milks



Colton Milks

Chickasaw student named Cache FFA president



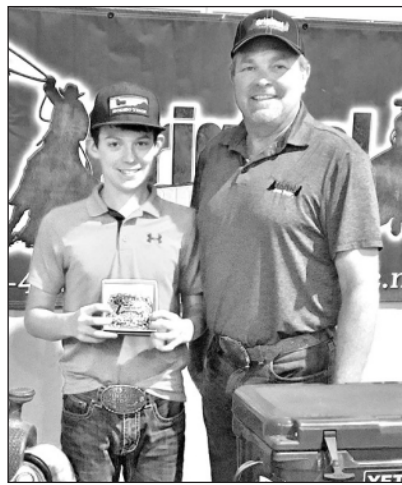
KINSEY LEE BLACK

Kinsey Lee Black was recently announced the 2019-2020 Future Farmers of America President for her chapter. She is a junior at Cache High School, Cache, Okla.

She plays fast pitch softball, basketball and slow pitch softball. She is active in her school, community and church. She does all this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

She is the daughter of Brandy Myers-Juarez and Luis Juarez.

Kyler Beshirs wins team roping award



Kyler Beshirs pictured with Tim McCright, producer of Original Team Roping Association.

Kyler Beshirs recently won the district finals high point for the Original Team Roping Association at Clovis, N.M.

He is the son of Mickey and Kassi Beshirs, of Spur, Texas. He is the grandson of Brenda and Phillip Estep and Clabourne Beshirs and Judy Kelso, of Ralls, Texas. He is also the great-grandson of Lucille Beshirs and the late OC Beshirs, of Achille, Okla.



EMMA GRACELYN BUSEY

Chickasaw celebrates birthday and preschool graduation

Emma Gracelyn Busey recently celebrated her fifth birthday May 3, 2019, and her preschool graduation May 17, 2019. She is the daughter of Blake and Jennifer Busey, of Sahuarita, Ariz.

She is the granddaughter of Phyllis and Tom Quirk, Jr., Nancy and Mike Rawlings and Pam and John Busey. She is the great-granddaughter of Betty and the late Larry Shelman, Pat and the late Jerrell Busey and Sandy and Tom Quirk, Sr.

Emma is Chickasaw and Choctaw. Her Chickasaw heritage traces back to original enrollee Ed Tyson, her paternal great-great-great-grandfather, of Maxwell. Her Choctaw heritage is from her paternal great-great-grandmother, Ollie Belle Austin King.

Emma is a bright little girl and a beautiful little spirit, who delights her family and friends every day. She is proud and eager to be on her way to Kindergarten.

Our love and congratulations to you, Emma, as you begin your educational journey.

**EMERSON
FAMILY REUNION**

Sunday, June 16, 2019

Mill Creek School Cafeteria
Lunch served at 12:30 pm
Bring your favorite dish.

Anyone with questions may contact Teresa Bolin at (580) 504-6844 or Deb Hook at (580) 618-1073.

Chickasaw student wins national championship



LUKE CHEATWOOD

Luke Cheatwood, 18, a 2019 graduate of Stillwater (OK) High School and Stillwater Meridian Technology, was recently awarded the prestigious Business Professionals of America Individual National Championship for his film "Dream Bigger."

In May, he traveled to Anaheim, Calif., where he presented his award winning film telling the story of his childhood dream of being a Hollywood feature film

director along with his experience as the director's assistant on the set of the feature film "Unplanned." The film was shot in March-April 2018 at Stillwater.

The national contest was made up of a highly competitive field. After placing in the top 10 against other secondary students and post graduates throughout the United States. He went on to BPA's 53rd Annual National Leadership Conference to capture the individual virtual multimedia & promotion national championship.

While in Anaheim, he was given a tour of Warner Brothers Studios, met with working Hollywood actors, directors and producers, walked the illustrious Hollywood Walk of Fame, visited Disneyland along with a host of other famous Hollywood sites. The celebrated awards show was live-streamed across the world.

He is the son of Mark and Jennifer Cheatwood, of Stillwater, Okla. He is the grandson of Don and Grace Goldsby, of Goldsby, Okla., and Harry and Sharon Cheatwood, of Stillwater.

Chickasaw softball player and team win regionals



Raley Long and her grandparents, Ron and Sandra Elmore, after Cameron University won regionals.

Raley Long and the Cameron University Aggies softball team, of Lawton, Okla., won their softball regionals making them the 2019 NCAA DII South Central Regional 2 Champions. The team will compete at the Super Regionals to determine whether they will move on to the Division II Softball College World Series.

Ms. Long plays left field for the Aggies and will be a senior at Cameron University.

During her junior year at Lone Grove High School, she broke a record for RBIs.

Ms. Long plays left field for the Aggies and will be a senior at Cameron University.

During her junior year at Lone Grove High School, she broke a record for RBIs.

She is the daughter of Donnie and Kaye Long. She is the granddaughter of Ron and Sandra Elmore.



ENOCH PORTER

Chickasaw teen makes presentation at TEDxYouth event

Chickasaw citizen and Ada (OK) High School student, Enoch Porter, 16, recently participated in the first annual TEDxYouth@OKC event to come to Oklahoma.

The TEDxYouth team is comprised of student volunteers who are working to spread important ideas and conversations by providing a platform to fellow high school students in Oklahoma that pushes them to live their best lives.

The event's theme was how to "Live Your Best Life," with Enoch's talk being live to relax. His talk was focused on stress management and achieving a stress-free life.

Traditional pottery class scheduled in Ada July 8 through Sept. 4

ADA, Okla. - A Traditional Pottery Class is set for July 8 through Sept. 4 at the Arts & Humanities building in downtown Ada.

Classes will be offered every Monday and Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

Participants will be introduced to the traditional ways of making pottery. This event is open to the public.

An enrollment fee of \$25 includes materials. Chickasaw citizens are free.

For more information, or to enroll, call (580) 272-5520.

BIRTHS



HARTLEIGH GRACE TARTSAH

Hartleigh Grace Tartsah was born April 2, 2019 at Integris Baptist Hospital, Oklahoma City. She weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and measured 21 inches at birth.

She is the daughter of Billie McDaniel and Marcus Tartsah. She has two older brothers, Jackson McDaniel and Maddox Tartsah.

Paternal grandparents are Vicky and Bill Gold and Buddy Tartsah. Maternal grandparents are Kelly and Deborah Sheets and Steven and Arlenen Curtess.



KAYSON DEX MCNEILL

Kayson Dex McNeill was born April 13, 2019 at Gallup, N.M. He weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz. and measured 21.5 inches long.

He is the son of Aaron and Crystal McNeill and little brother to Keilan McNeill, of Gallup. He is the grandson of Dexter and Valerie Underwood, of Mill Creek, Okla., and grandson of the late Debra and Don McNeill, of Ada, Okla.



HATALHPOSHIK BURRIS CHEW

Hatalhposhik Burris Chew was welcomed by her parents Kari and Schuyler Chew, April 4, 2019, at Ada, Okla. Her maternal grandmother is Susan (Burris) Lewis. Her paternal grandparents are Susan Capton and Edward Chew. She is loved by many aunts, uncles and cousins. Hatalhposhik is Chickasaw and descends from the Mohawk Wolf clan of Six Nations.



JOEL MARVEL CARTER

Proud parents Justin and Carmen Carter are happy to announce the birth of their first son, Joel Marvel Carter. He was born Feb. 14, 2019, at 9:08 p.m. at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. He weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz. and measured 21 inches.

He is the first grandson of Fernando and Deanna Mondejar, of Ada, Okla. He is the third grandson of Johnny and Vicki Carter, of Ada. He is the nephew of Mercy and Scott Sellers and Alysia Carter, of Ada.

He is the great-grandson of Kenneth and Vivian McWhorter, of Ada, and has a great-grandmother, Mercedes Lambert (Mondejar), of Bacolod City, Philippines.

Pine needle basket class June 29 at Ft. Washita

FORT WASHITA, Okla. - A pine needle basket class is set for 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 29 at Fort Washita.

The class is sponsored by Chickasaw Nation History & Cul-



Alexandrea Arnold, center, receives President's Award.

Arnold receives president's award for leadership

Chickasaw citizen Alexandrea Arnold received the 2019 president's award for outstanding student leadership from Janet Napolitano, President of University of California and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Chancellor Gene Black.

The award honors Alexandrea for her leadership in establishing Environmental Justice and First Nations, a recruitment and retention program at UCLA for indigenous students that emphasizes mentorship in STEM and partners with Navajo Technical University.

Kade Smith qualifies to compete at College National Finals Rodeo



Kade Smith, left, and Weatherford College Rodeo coach Johnny Emmons. Photo by Weatherford College.

Kade Smith, of the Weatherford College Rodeo Team, Weatherford, Texas, will compete at the College National Finals Rodeo at Casper, Wyo., in June.

He and his team roping partner, Blake Bentley, won first April 28 at the Tarleton State University Rodeo at Stephenville, Texas. The duo finished the season as the Southwestern Region NIRA's Reserve Team Roping Champions.

He is the son of Weldon and Misty Smith, of Post, Texas. He is the grandson of Brenda and Phillip Estep and Clabourne Beshirs and Judy Kelso, all of Ralls, Texas. He is the great-grandson of the late OC Beshirs and Lucille Beshirs, of Achille, Okla.

Olivia Davis brings home tumbling state title



OLIVIA DAVIS

Chickasaw citizen Olivia Davis, six-years-old, recently competed at the Oklahoma AAU Trampoline and Tumbling state competition May 11 and came home with a state title. She placed first in double mini, second in tumbling, second in single mini and eighth in trampoline.

She trains at Zero Gravity at Seminole, Okla. and is currently in the first grade at Hayes Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

This event is free and open to the public. Supplies will be provided. Class size is limited.

For more information, call (580) 924-6502.

Chickasaw high schooler accepts internship with Shell Global



CORTNEY BRONSTAD

Cortney Bronstad, Chickasaw citizen and junior at Taylor High School, Katy, Texas, will work an internship with Shell Global Inc. at Houston, Texas beginning this summer. Her internship will run through summer 2020. This opportunity comes from a long standing partnership between Katy ISD and Shell Global Inc.

Cortney's first summer job was through the Chickasaw Nation's Toksali Smart Program where she was placed with the Bate's Abstract Company at Sulphur, Okla. Cortney is very grateful for the opportunities the Chickasaw Nation has provided throughout her young life. She has been to many of the Chickasaw Nation summer camps and enjoyed all of them.

Upon high school graduation Cortney plans to attend Oklahoma City University's (OCU) Meinders School of Business.

Cortney is the great-granddaughter of Chickasaw Oscar K. Lowrance. Her grandparents Glenda and David Supernaw live at Sulphur.



MATTHEW MCANGUS

Chickasaw student receives scholarship

Matthew McAngus, a junior at Pauls Valley (OK) High School, was presented a cash scholarship April 17 for \$1,000 to any college or university in the state of Oklahoma. The award was given for the highest test score in the state at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame (OHF) Scholarship competition and is sponsored by the OHF Teen Board.

The awards were presented at an assembly at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum at Oklahoma City. Students from all 77 Oklahoma counties may register for the test. There were 348 registered students this year. The test is open to freshmen through senior students and assesses knowledge of Oklahoma history.

Matthew is the son of Bill and Reinee McAngus. He is the grandson of Calvin Harris and great-grandson of Florence Carhee Harris.

Fry bread cooking class June 27 at Kullihoma

KULLIHOMA - A fry bread cooking class is set for 6 p.m., Thursday, June 27 at Kullihoma. Chickasaw Nation History & Culture is offering the class.

Fry bread is a delicious flour-based side dish. Dough is rolled into balls, flattened to about the size of an open hand and dropped into hot oil.

Fry bread is crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. It is used as the base of the very popular Indian Taco.

This event is free and open to the public. To reach Kullihoma, take State Highway 1 east from Ada. Travel to the Kullihoma sign seven miles east. Turn right and travel three miles east and one-mile south.

For more information, call (580) 622-7140.



From left Chickasaw Youth Club members Zakery Kirk, Gavin Chaves, Jonas Wade, Jaisen Wade and Blakeleigh Yochum.

Chickasaw youth compete and medal in run

Chickasaw youth recently participated and medaled May 3 at the 8th Annual Firefly 5K & Fun Run.

The youth have been participating in the youth club's health

and fitness Hoomalili "Y'all Run" program for the past several weeks. The run is hosted to raise awareness of childhood obesity in Johnston County.

Mitchell Cope receives award for math skills



MITCHELL ALEXANDER COPE

Mitchell Alexander Cope, 9, son of Josh and Natalie (Moore) Cope, received the top third grade math student award at Bishop Elementary School in Lawton, Okla.

Mitchell, along with several classmates, recently took a field trip to the Oklahoma City Zoo in recognition of being the top 10 achievers of the accelerated reading program. He rode the charter bus for being in the top five of each grade level for most words read.

He was also awarded with a field trip to watch the Dodgers play baseball at the Chickasaw

Nation Ballpark in Bricktown. This trip was for the students recognized for the accelerated math program.

This summer, Mitchell will be attending two STEM related courses. He will be attending S.T.E.M. CAMP at Bishop Public School, Lawton, May 13-June 6, and a STEM class at the University of Texas campus at Dallas, Texas, July 21-26.

He was recommended for the STEM class by his prior teachers and school administrators at Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, S.C.

His father, Sergeant First Class Joshua Cope, is again stationed at Fort Sill in Lawton. His mother, Natalie (Moore) Cope, is Office Manager at the Lawton Chamber of Commerce. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Molly Pitcher Award for her service as a Family Readiness Group leader while their family was stationed at Fort Sill.

Mitchell's great-great-grandfather was Thomas Nowell Moore, listed on the Dawes Rolls.

He is a seventh great-grandson of James Logan Colbert.

Sanchez recognized for outstanding CASA work



CINDI SANCHEZ

Cindi Sanchez, of Edmond, Okla., recently received the Rena Ellis Lifetime Achievement Award as an Oklahoma County CASA volunteer.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers advocate for abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system. Qualifications for receiving the award include being a volunteer for less than seven years and working with children for at least 15 years.

Ms. Sanchez has been a CASA volunteer since 2011 and throughout her time as a CASA volunteer has served 35 children on 10 cases. She has dedicated her life to serving children as an educator and now as a CASA advocate. She pours her heart and soul into every case and child she works with and goes out of her way to help families by checking in with them regularly, locating resources and driving long distances to see her CASA children.

She always provides crucial information to the court and always stands by what she believes is "best interest for the children," even if she's standing alone. She has been teaching physical education for 24 years and is currently teaching at Messiah Lutheran School in Oklahoma City.

She is the daughter of Chickasaw Hall of Fame member Edgar Allen Asbury and the great-great-granddaughter of Jesse Chisholm.

Newcastle pitcher Crossley leads Racers to third place finish in Class 4A Oklahoma state baseball



KALE CROSSLEY

Kale Crossley, a junior at Newcastle High School, Newcastle, Okla., recently helped lead the Newcastle Racers Baseball Team to a third place finish at the Class 4A State Baseball Championships. Kale ended the year at 5-1, with an earned run average under 3 and batted 300.

In regionals the Racers beat Plainview 4-0 in the semifinals and finished the game pitching. He drove in a run by hitting a double and he also scored to contribute to the runs the team needed to win.

In the final game of the year, Kale pitched in the semifinals of the state tournament in the third inning. With no outs, down 3-1 and two runners aboard, Kale managed to get out of the inning without allowing a single run. When Newcastle come to bat, Kale come up to bat and drove in a run to make it 3-2. He pitched until the seventh inning with two outs. The game went extra innings and Newcastle eventually lost to Harrah 6-5 and ended the season with 33-4 record.

Kale has pitched some big innings this year and has contributed at the plate.



Katie Ackerman and husband, Jacob, with children Brodie and Abigail.

Chickasaw Foundation Employee Charitable contributor Katie Akerman serves community multiple ways

Katie Akerman has been employed with the Chickasaw Nation since 2008. She is a descendant of original enrollee Ida (Mosley) Milligan.

Mrs. Akerman graduated from East Central University in 2011 with a master's degree in education. She and her husband Jacob have two children, Abigail and Brodie.

Mrs. Akerman has been an active member of the Konawa Board of Education for five years and a committee member for the

Cody Johnson "Five80" Memorial Scholarship, in honor of her late brother, through the East Central University Foundation since 2012.

"I contribute to the Chickasaw Foundation's Employee Charitable Contribution Plan because I believe education is the most powerful resource someone can have," Mrs. Akerman said. "I am humbled to have been a past recipient of a Chickasaw Foundation General Purpose Education Scholarship, and I know my contribution is a way to pay it forward."

Son continues legacy of The Chickasaw Foundation Donald D. Gunning Memorial Scholarship

Retired physician and author Robin R. Gunning is the proud son of the late Donald D. and James (J.) Wenonah Gunning. Dr. Gunning lives in Lone Tree, Colo., with his wife, Sarah. He is a 1967 graduate of the University of Oklahoma, and a 1973 graduate of Baylor College of Medicine. He practiced medicine until retirement in 2006, when he took up writing.

Dr. Gunning composed the biography of his late mother *Wenonah's Story, A Memoir of a Chickasaw Family*. The volume offers the inspiring and compelling story of her historical family from her

firsthand account. Some of the most important figures in history during the early 20th century of the Chickasaw Nation and Pauls Valley, Okla., were Dr. Gunning's ancestors.

The *Donald D. Gunning Memorial Scholarship* was originated by his mother in 2000, in memory of his late father. Since his mother's death in 2010, Dr. Gunning has contributed to that scholarship fund for outstanding Chickasaw college students, which is now named in honor of his parents, the *Donald D. and J. Wenonah Gunning Memorial Scholarship*.

Chickasaw Foundation's 15th Annual Scholarship Reception

The Chickasaw Foundation will host its 15th annual scholarship reception July 22. The reception will take place at 3 p.m. at the McSwain Theatre in Ada, Okla. The

event, open to the public, will honor this year's scholarship recipients and donors. Please RSVP by calling the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030.

Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief Program helps citizens

Chickasaw citizen Heather Pennza is grateful for the Chickasaw Foundation and the Disaster Relief Program.

In 2013, her family was deeply affected by a tornado that devastated the Little Axe, Okla., community causing major destruction. While her family was very fortunate its home was still standing, the structure had sustained significant damage.

"The windows on the west side of the house were all blown out, the fence line was pulled up, the storage shed was demolished and the roof was pulled down to the decking," Ms. Pennza said. "If you walked into the add-on room on the west side of the house, it looked like it was raining indoors and it continued to rain for three more days."

Her family, like many others, lost food, clothing, appliances and furniture from the tornado

and subsequent water damage. Unable to afford homeowners insurance, the only short-term relief they got from the rain was covering the roof with a tarp donated by a local church.

Ms. Pennza stopped by a resource fair set up by the Chickasaw Nation at the Riverwind Hotel, where she was employed at the time. The Chickasaw Nation's Disaster Relief Program, which is administered by the Chickasaw Foundation, provides direct assistance to replace items lost or damaged in the storm. With additional help through other Chickasaw Nation programs, her family's home was completely restored with the addition of a brand-new storm shelter.

She had donated to the Chickasaw Foundation previously, but increased the amount after seeing the assistance they provide to citizens.

"I hope anyone considering whether or not to give will have the chance to see my story and know that their donation will be used to powerfully impact people in our community in their most difficult times," Ms. Pennza said.

You can help those affected by natural disasters and other crises by making a donation to the Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund.

Donations to the fund can be made online at ChickasawFoundation.org/DisasterRelief or via mail to the Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund, Chickasaw Foundation, P.O. Box 1726, Ada, OK 74821-1726. For more information, call (580) 421-9030.

Chickasaw citizens who are in need of relief assistance can contact the Chickasaw Nation Disaster Relief and Recovery team at (855) 389-1740.

Storm Shelter Program open to Chickasaw citizens across the country

The Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter Program provides shelters for privately-owned homes of Chickasaw citizens. This service is available both inside and outside the Chickasaw Nation boundaries.

For citizens At-Large, grants of up to \$2,500 will be provided for installation of storm shelters.

Applicants must provide:

- CDIB/Citizenship card
 - Social Security cards of all household members
 - Income verification of all household members
 - Copy of warranty deed
- To Qualify:**
- Must be Chickasaw citizen
 - No outstanding debt owed to the Housing Division or the Chickasaw Nation
 - Home must be the appli-

cant's primary residence

- Storm shelters are awarded one time only to each family in order to meet the needs of all Chickasaws

For more information, or an application, contact the Chickasaw Nation Storm Shelter Program at (580) 421-8800 or visit www.Chickasaw.net/StormShelter.

2019 Anoli' Creative Writing contest announces winners

Winners of the 2019 Anoli' Creative Writing Contest have been announced by Chickasaw Arts & Humanities. Participants competed in three age divisions: grades six through nine, grades 10 through 12, post-high school age 18 and over.

2019 Anoli Creative Writing Contest Winners

- Division 1 (6th-9th grade)
 - Short Story
 - First place - Rhyind Straub, Friends and Bears Don't Mix
 - Second place - Adler Straub, The Middle Brother
 - Poetry
 - First place - Salea Rutledge, Music
- Division 3 (Post-High-

- School-18+)
 - Poetry
 - First place - Christine Heimbigner, Carry on Chickasaw
 - Second place - Ibe Liebenberg, One of the Reasons I Shall Burn
 - Second place - Aricles James, Exhibition
 - Second place - David Holcomb, When Wisdom Arrives
 - Second place - Zeb Hawkins, Gold and Galaxy
 - Second place - Ethan Cox, Grandchildren of the Creator
 - Third place - Holly Kubiak, Dandelion
 - Short Story
 - First place - Holly Kubiak, The Scent of Vanilla
 - First place - Adara Finnerty,

- Valley Forge Journey
 - First place - Ethan Cox, Issi
 - Second place - Zeb Hawkins, Coffee
 - Third place - Daniel Worcester, Wandering Leaves
 - Essay
 - First place - Joe Thomas, Transporting from the Past
 - Second place - Ethan Cox, Leadership: Native Women
 - Third place - Caroline Keel, Moments That Shape Us
 - Third place - Zeb Hawkins, All the Ambition in Blinding
- For more information about the Anoli Creative Writing Contest, visit Chickasaw.net/AnoliContest.

Abigail Egge-Ogas honored with ARTsmart New Mexico Books and Materials scholarship



WATER COLOR PAINTING BY ABIGAIL EGGE-OGAS

Abigail Egge-Ogas was recently honored with the 2019 ARTsmart New Mexico Books and Materials scholarship for her outstanding artwork and personal life accom-

plishments. Abigail is graduating with a 4.0 GPA from her Christian home-school at Hanover, N.M. She also has a 4.0 GPA from Western New Mexico University (WNMU) where she has taken three semesters of concurrent (dual enrollment) art classes. Abigail won first place with her painting "In the shadow of His wings" in the watercolor painting category at the 2019 WNMU Juried Student Art Exhibit and the Lucia Wilcox Memorial Student Award from the New Mexico Watercolor Society, in which she was also awarded a free membership. She has participated in the Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Butterfly Art Contest. She is an apprentice with Mimbres Region Art Council restoring various murals at Grant

County and working with a team to create new clay and paint murals.

This will be her second summer as a team leader with the Youth Conservation Corps restoring historic Fort Bayard, New Mexico and Santa Clara (Central), N.M. She volunteered at the 2018 Samaritan's Purse Post Hurricane Rebuild Project at Rockport, Texas, over Thanksgiving break with her family. She has been in the praise and worship team with her family at Crosspoint Church, Silver City, N.M., for seven years, playing keyboards and vocals. She humbly gives God glory for everything he has done for her and continues to do.

She will attend WNMU to attain a bachelor's degree in art.

Sticks for the honored game of STICKBALL are made from hickory, pecan or ash wood and woven with deerkin.

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Clay Banks



Clay Banks is a 2019 graduate of Gunter High School, Gunter Texas. He is the son of Jeff and Regina Jack Banks. He is the grandson of Bruce A. and Barbara Jack. He is the great-grandson of Thomas (Tom) Jack. He is the great-great-grandson of Walter Thomas Jack and the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Mary Sugar (Shug) Johnson Jack.

He has been active in FFA (Future Farmers of America) for six years.

Clay plans to attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and pursue a degree in construction engineering.

Kailey Sammie-Nora Caldwell



Kailey Sammie-Nora Caldwell is a 2019 graduate of Castro Valley High School, Castro Valley, Calif. She is the daughter of Ireno II and Julie Caldwell and Deana Caldwell. She is the granddaughter of Ireno I (Chickasaw) and Janet Caldwell, Ollie and Bertha Persechino and Marty and Cheryl Marvar. She is the sister of Kannen Caldwell, Alyssa Viernes and Michaela Ramirez. She is the direct descendent of William M. Cravatt Sr., who walked the trail of tears.

As a girl scout, Kailey won the 2008 "most cookies sold award" and was fourth grade president. She is a high-level skier during the winter and enjoys skiing the slopes at Squaw Valley and Sugar Bowl. She loves hiking the trails of Yosemite Valley, water skiing with her friends during the summer and enjoys riding her horse. She still has hopes of someday marrying Justin Bieber while sitting on a horse next to a waterfall. Most importantly, she is grounded in faith and an inspiration for those around her.

Kailey was accepted to Oklahoma University, but has decided to attend Diablo Valley College (DVC) and University of Southern California's (USC) School of Architecture. She also plans to intern at WRNS Architecture in San Francisco over the summer of 2019. WRNS is the #1 ranked architecture firm in the nation and Kailey is the first high school graduating senior the firm has hired.

We are all very proud of Kailey, she is smart, remarkable and beautiful. We love her very much.

Kassidy Kaitlyne Curtis

Kassidy Kaitlyne Curtis is a 2019 graduate of Denison High School, Denison, Texas. She is the daughter of Tresa Curtis and the late Philip Townsend (chosen father). She is the sister of Tristian Townsend. She is the granddaughter of Mr. Reginald Curtis and LaQuita Chapman Curtis of Denison. She is the second great-granddaughter of original enrollee Beni Nuton Landers.

Her activities include sports, including track, cross country and head football manager. She dedicated much of her time supporting and encouraging special needs students all while keeping a full time job.

She is a very independent and strong willed young woman with a huge heart.

After graduation she will attend college for studies to pursue her passion in working with mental illness and brain injuries.

Kassidy, we are so very proud of the young woman you have become. As we know without a doubt your dad is smiling down from Heaven. Shoot for the stars and you will go far. We love you enough.



Chance Lane Bohannon

Chance Lane Bohannon, Chickasaw, is a 2019 graduate of Earlsboro High School, Earlsboro, Okla. He is the son of John and Sandi Bohannon. He is the grandson of Terri Johnson-Denton, Charlotte and the late Billy Pickens Jr., Chickasaw, and the late Don and LaGlenda Bohannon. He is the great-grandson of the late Opal Wilson Pickens and Billy Pickens Sr., both Chickasaw.

He attended Earlsboro Schools for 14 years. He was an active member in student council. He was a four year letterman in basketball and a one year letterman in baseball. He received the Shawnee News Star Athlete Difference Maker Award and Scholarship.

He plans to use his diesel mechanic certificate from Gordon Cooper Technology Center and work as a diesel mechanic like his dad.



Lucky Zane Bohannon



Lucky Zane Bohannon, Chickasaw, is a 2019 graduate of Earlsboro High School, Earlsboro, Okla. He is the son of John and Sandi Bohannon. He is the grandson of Terri Johnson-Denton, Charlotte and the late Billy Pickens Jr., Chickasaw, and the late Don and LaGlenda Bohannon. He is the great-grandson of the late Opal Wilson Pickens and Billy Pickens Sr., both Chickasaw.

He attended Earlsboro Schools for 14 years. He was an active member in student council. He was a three year letterman in basketball and a three year letterman in baseball. He left sports to become a volunteer firefighter for the Earlsboro Fire Department.

He plans to continue pursuing his aviation certificate at Gordon Cooper Technology Center then attend Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology at Tulsa to obtain his bachelor's degree.

Grace Elisabeth Brown

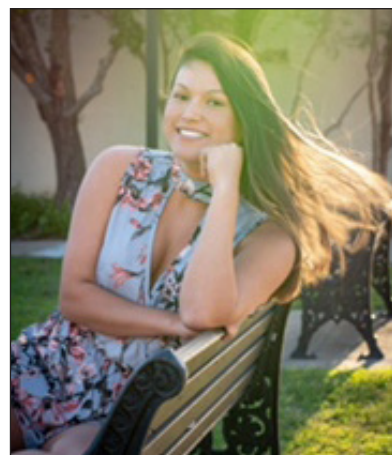


Grace Elisabeth Brown is a 2019 graduate of Deer Creek High School, Edmond, Okla. She is the daughter of Travis and Amber Brown. She is the granddaughter of Larry and Janice Garrett of Newcastle, Okla., and Jan Conway of Edmond, Okla. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Alice Mae Phillips formerly of Ada, Okla.

She is graduating cum laude and has been a member of the National Honor Society throughout her high school career.

Grace has been attending the University of Central Oklahoma concurrently and will be attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall.

Clio Ikhana Heath



Clio Ikhana Heath is a 2019 graduate of Stonewall High School, Stonewall, Okla. She is the daughter of Nicole Heath-Romero and Scott Heath. She is the granddaughter of Ronnie Eual Romero and the great-granddaughter of the late Hattie Mae Harjo.

She played softball all four years of high school. She made OK All-State in fast pitch softball and OK Native All State in fast pitch softball. She made eight state appearance in fast pitch, slow pitch and basketball.

She will continue her education at Seminole State College and will also continue with her softball career at Seminole.

Ryan Russell

Ryan Russell is a 2019 graduate of Centennial High School, Burseson, Texas. He is the son of Randy and Amy Russell. He is the grandson of Jerry and Sharon Russell and Roney and Dot Hazlewood.

Ryan graduated summa cum laude. He was on the swim team for two years and qualified for regionals in the 500 meter. He was involved in the audio visual class at Centennial High School, as one of the news anchors for the Spartan Spotlight. He works at Chick-fil-A as an assistant manager.

He plans to attend Tarrant County College in the fall.

We are very proud of Ryan and his accomplishments. We love you! Dad, Mom, Raley, Reed, Papaw, Nana, Papa and Mimi.



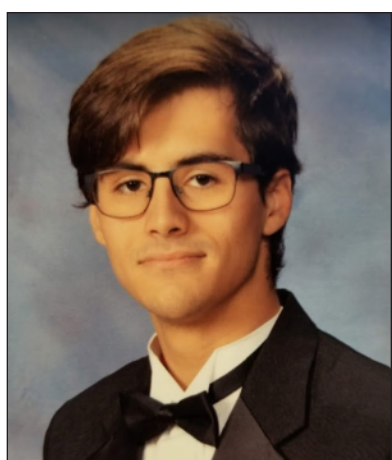
Gabrielle Leath Moore

Gabrielle Leath Moore is a 2019 graduate of New Diana High School, Diana, Texas. She is the daughter of Chickasaw Elise Webb-Moore and Clint Moore. She is the granddaughter of Chickasaw William Ivy Webb and the late Karen Anne Webb. She is the great-granddaughter of Chickasaw Ms. George Lee Webb.

She will attend Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, Okla., in the fall. There, she will play volleyball and work towards a degree in elementary education.



Christian William Rodriguez



Christian William Rodriguez is a 2019 graduate of New Diana High School, Diana, Texas. He is the son of Chickasaw Maranda Webb and John Rodriguez. He is the grandson of Chickasaw William Ivy Webb and the late Karen Anne Webb. He is the great-grandson of Chickasaw George Lee Webb.

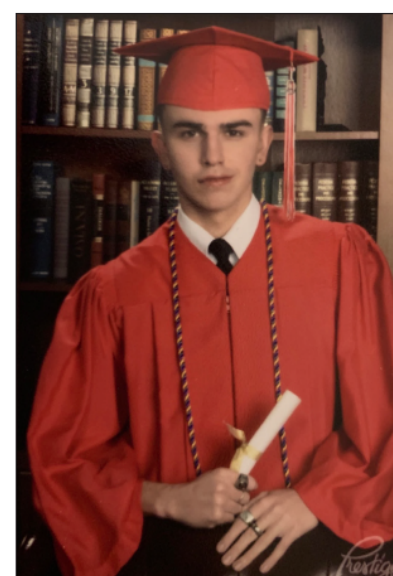
He plans to attend Texas State Technical College, Marshall, Texas and work toward a degree in welding.

Dante Antonio Montague

Dante Antonio Montague is a 2019 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Dallas, Texas. He is a Chickasaw citizen, descended from Chickasaw Dawes roll ancestors, Elizabeth Strickland Benton (daughter of Chickasaw Nation Sheriff Charles Strickland) and Verna Benton. He is the son of Wendell Seemann Montague II and step-mother, Ramona Laird Montague and Caryn Cioffi Montague. He is the grandson of Wendell Seemann Montague and the late Chickasaw citizen Judith Cherub Bryant Montague and Kathy Meyer and the late Anthony Dante Cioffi. He is the brother of Wendell David and Nathan Craig.

Dante was on the Woodrow Wilson swim team, where he medaled at the district meet in the 100 IM relay doing the breast stroke. He was also on the track team and a member of the fencing club, where he won the Junior (U19) Men's foil at the Texas High School Fencing Tournament. He also qualified for the national fencing tournament, at Columbus, Ohio this summer.

A lifeguard and swim instructor at the YMCA, Dante is taking a post-graduation trip in August to Italy, and then starting an acting track theatre program at the KD Conservatory in Dallas.



Catherine McCraw



Catherine (Catie) McCraw will be attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater this fall where she has been selected for the President's Leadership Council. While attending Durant High School she has been elected to Student Council for four years and as Executive Vice President. She has been active with the Oklahoma Association of Student Councils at the state level and as the District 4 secretary. She has facilitated workshops at the state OASC meeting and served as the conference chair for the District 4 Spring Workshop. Catie is a 4-year Varsity member of the Cross Country and Track Teams. She has qualified for the Oklahoma State Cross Country Championship four times. She was selected to attend Youth Leadership Oklahoma XVIII and Oklahoma Girls State. She has been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes where she was

named 2019 SE Oklahoma FCA All Star and to the Oklahoma FCA All State. Catie is a member of the National Honor Society, the Academic Team and received the American Citizenship Award. She has also been named a Youth Board Member of Imagine Durant. Her service to the community includes working with the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival Children's Theater and working to support local projects through time and fundraising for projects including Give a Kid A Christmas, the Boys and Girls Club, J-127 Ministries, and Hurricane Relief.

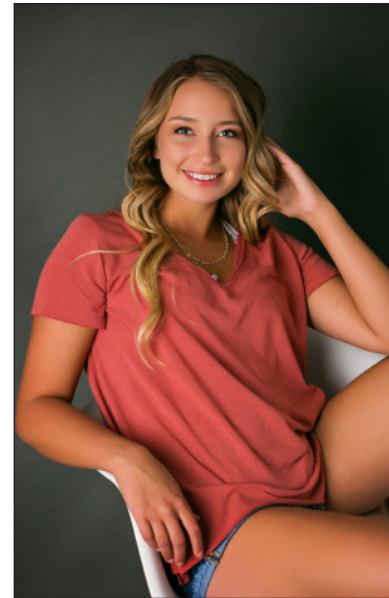
Kai Ashton Watkins

Kai Ashton Watkins is a 2019 graduate of Stonewall High School, Stonewall, Okla. She is the daughter of Chris and Mendy Watkins. She is the granddaughter of Doyle and Marilyn Morgan and Eddie and Shirley Watkins.

She was a member of the varsity basketball team, slow-pitch softball team and fast-pitch softball team for four years. She was a member of the National Honor Society and FCA. She received the 2017-2018 Kenneth Murphy award for outstanding female athlete of the year at Stonewall and was selected to the 2018 Oklahoma Fast-Pitch Coaches Association All-State Small East softball team.

She was a concurrent student at East Central University (ECU). She earned 14 hours of college credit at ECU her senior year and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

She plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU) at Durant in the fall. She received the Governor Emeritus Overton James scholarship and an Academic Merit scholarship at SEOSU.



Kyla Davidson



Kyla Davidson is a 2019 graduate of Davis High School, Davis, Okla. She is the daughter of Pete and Kiamichi Graves, of Davis, and Ronnie and April Davidson, of Oklahoma City.

She has attended Davis Public Schools since third grade. She is a participant of the Chickasaw Toksali SMART, vocal and Project Give programs. She received the Diploma of Distinction.

After graduation, she plans to attend Murray State College as an english major.

Mirren Scoular

Mirren Scoular is a 2019 graduate of Cypress Ranch High School, Cypress, Texas. She is the daughter of Holly and George Scoular. She is the granddaughter of Linda Rowland, Larry Eitelman and JoAnn Roxbury.

She has been an active member of clubs in the community and school. She became a member of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto County in fall of 2006 and has continued participating in this organization through her school career. She has volunteered extensively with them and earned her bronze award and silver award. She is an active member of her church, Foundry United Methodist Church, Cypress, since joining in 2008. She is an active member and leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and involved in church led Bible studies. She volunteered with the preschool Sunday mornings throughout high school and is also a member of Young Life Cypress Chapter.

She has been an active member of the summer league swim team, Bridgeland Barracudas, where she competes and helps teach the youngest members. She has become a certified swim instructor in the community, teaching critical lifesaving skills to hundreds of children in the community. Her love of children made her the neighborhood favorite for babysitting and she considers these families her own extended family.

Her academic life is rigorous. She maintained principal's honor roll throughout high school and is graduating Summa Cum Laude ranking 70th in her class of over 1000 graduates. She is an active member of Key Club, National Honor Society, Mu AlphaTheta/Math National Honor Society, Cypress Ranch Marching Band and a member of the Pony-Up Club whose members mentor incoming high school freshman.

She received scholarships offered throughout the community and plans on continuing her education at the Honors College at University of North Texas (UNT) while studying mechanical and energy engineering. She will continue to play her flute at college and enjoy the excellent music program UNT offers.

She is looking forward to her new adventure at UNT and becoming an active member in her new community at Denton, Texas.



Ethan Lee Eck



Ethan Lee Eck is a 2019 graduate of Arrow Christian Academy/Homeschool, Ada, Okla. He is the son of John and Melissa Eck, of Latta, Okla.

He is an excellent young man and proud of his Chickasaw heritage. He enjoys teaching bible study to others, hunting, fishing, air soft wars and collecting knives. He has actively participated in the Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program where he attained a green/black stripe belt and many trophies and medals from his competitions.

He is an active member of the Southwest Church of Christ at Ada and has attended future preacher training camp for the past five years.

He plans to enter the Adventures in Missions (AIM) program at the Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, Texas, and then complete his degree in biblical studies with an emphasis in deaf ministry where he will further apply his five years of ASL studies.

Meredith Johnston

Meredith Johnston graduated from Columbia University, New York, with a degree in environmental biology. She is the daughter of Bradley and Kari Johnston, of Arlington, Texas.

While attending Columbia, she was a Kluge scholar, a Doris Duke Conservation Scholar and served on the board of the Native American Council.

She has accepted a position with U.S. Geological Survey and will be living in Honolulu. She credits her Chickasaw heritage for teaching her the importance of conserving and protecting our environment and natural resources.



Elliott Carter Thompson

Elliott Carter Thompson is a 2019 graduate of University of Redlands, Redlands Calif. He is the son of Ron Thompson of Oakland, Calif., and Carol Thompson of Pinole, Calif. He is the great grandson of original enrollee Lillie Mae Perry and the great-great-grandson of Tandy Walker. He is proud of his Chickasaw heritage.

Elliott earned a bachelor of arts degree in public policy. He was active in mock trial and served as team captain. He was also an active participant in Chi Delta Chi fraternity and coordinated over 400 hours of community service projects. He was co-director of "Big Buddies", a mentorship program that matched college students with underprivileged youth, a heart-warming experience for all.

Elliott is pursuing a career in law and will be attending University of California - Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco in the fall.

He is forever grateful to the Chickasaw Nation for its support of his higher education and to the Gates Millennium Scholarship for his undergraduate education.



Alyssa Carter



Alyssa Carter is a 2019 graduate of Regis University, Denver, Colo.

Alyssa earned a bachelor degree in health and exercise science.

Issac O'Dell

Issac O'Dell is a 2019 graduate of the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.

Issac earned a master's of business administration.

This dream only became a reality because of the scholarship I received from the Chickasaw Nation. On behalf of all the scholarship students, thank you!



Stacey Souther



Stacey Souther graduated Magna Cum Laude from West Texas A&M University, May 11, 2019. She is the great-granddaughter of original Dawes enrollee Mattie Hardwich and great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Homahota (Mehotah) Love.

Stacey earned a bachelor of general studies degree with a focus on business and management and is a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies.

As single mother of twin daughters, she dedicated her time and energy on raising and supporting her children. Once her children graduated high school and left for college, she returned her focus on completing her degree. She has been employed with Baylor Scott & White Health in Dallas, Texas, for 15 years and is excited to put her degree to use in her career.

She is thankful for her friends and family, as well as the Chickasaw Nation for helping her achieve her dream.

Tammie JoAnn Reynolds



Tammie JoAnn Reynolds graduated May 10 from the University of Oklahoma with her doctorate degree in education leadership and policy studies. She is the daughter of Tommy and Marilyn Williams. She is the granddaughter of Clay and Sadie Williams, both deceased. She is married to Randall Reynolds and they have three children and a daughter-in-law: Erin, Clayton, Jonathan and Katie Reynolds.

I am grateful to the Chickasaw Nation and my family for their support to achieve this goal. I have accepted a position as the assistant superintendent of Cache Public Schools next year, and I am excited about what the future holds.

Dylan Thomas Pich

Dylan Thomas Pich of Union, MO., is a 2019 graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, MO. Dylan is the great-great-grandson of original Chickasaw enrollee Florence Brown.

He graduated magna cum laude and with the honor society medal.

He plans to attend Missouri State University to pursue his master's degree in music education.

He is thankful to the Chickasaw Nation for all their support in his educational endeavors.

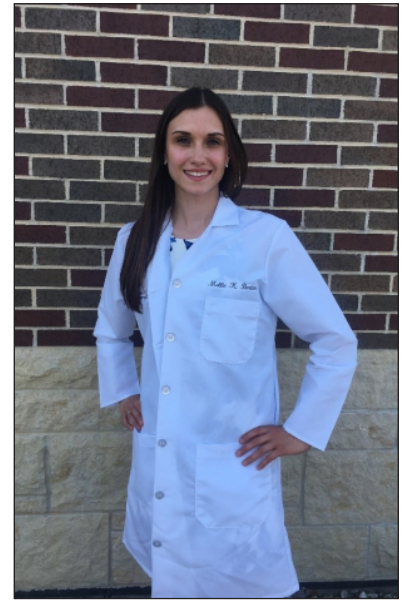


Mollie K. Burton

Doctor Mollie K. Burton, M.S., DVM, is a 2019 graduate of Kansas State University (KSU), Manhattan, Kan. She is the daughter of John and Vicki Burton, of Olathe, Kan. She is the granddaughter of Sonny and Norma Elam, formerly of Brookville, Kan. and John C. (Jack) and Ruth Burton, formerly of Syracuse, Kan.

Dr. Burton graduated from Olathe North High School, Olathe, Kan. in 2009. She then attended (KSU) earning her undergraduate degree from the school of agriculture in animal science, a master's of science in veterinary biomedical science with an emphasis in pathobiology and doctorate of veterinary medicine from the school of veterinary medicine (KSU).

She will be furthering her education at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins starting July 2019. She will be doing a residency in laboratory animal medicine.



Cody and Reily Warren



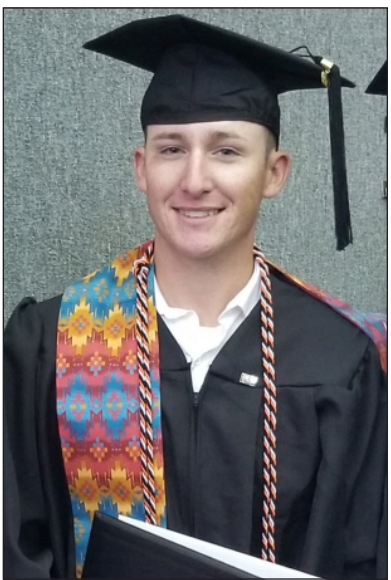
Siblings Reily Warren and Cody Warren both recently graduated from the University of Oregon (UO).

Reily earned a bachelor of arts in product design.

Cody earned a bachelor of science in journalism.

They are the 17th and 18th family members to graduate from UO since 1993.

Preston Converse



Preston Converse is a 2019 graduate of East Central University (ECU), Ada, Okla. He is the son of Bret and Kalynn Converse, of Tishomingo, Okla., and Melissa and Curtis Hutto, of Duncan, Okla. He has three brothers, Cooper, Creed and Cager Converse and one sister, Anna Hutto.

He graduated with a degree in kinesiology. He was a member of the ECU baseball team and was also a two year member of the Murray State Aggie baseball team and played one year at Bacone College.

During his playing career, he was a member of the Murray State teams that captured a regional championship and made the 2017 NJCAA Division II World Series.

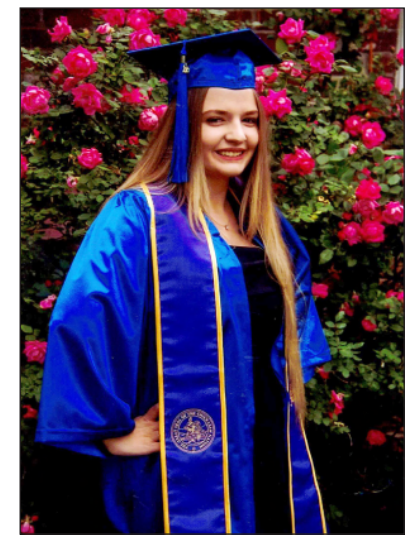
He plans to enter into the field of education and will pursue a teaching career where he hopes to become a high school baseball coach.

Faith Nicole Melton

Faith Nicole Melton is a 2019 graduate of Tulsa Community College, Tulsa, Okla. She is the daughter of Dana and Frank Melton. She is the great-granddaughter of Louise and Warren Fillmore. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Ella and Marcum Fillmore.

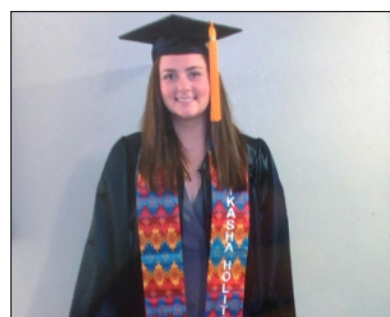
Faith earned an associate's degree in pre-professional health sciences and is graduating with highest honors. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in cell and molecular biology, with an emphasis in pre-medicine. Her goal is to become and surgeon and work with Doctors Without Borders to help underprivileged children.



Dillon Yost

Dillon Yost is a 2019 graduate of Ohio University with her bachelor of science in nursing. She is the daughter of Doug and Yalonda Yost, of Virginia Beach, Va. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Donna Jones, of Ardmore, Okla.



Maxwell Parker Sanders



Maxwell Parker Sanders is a 2019 graduate of University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). He is the son of Jeff and Samantha Little Sanders. He is the brother of William and sister-in-law, Maria. He is the grandson of DeAnna Little and Eveonne Sanders.

He graduated with a bachelor of science in computer science. He graduated Magna Cum Laude as well as a member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society.

He has accepted a position as a software developer. He plans to continue at UTA to pursue a master's degree while working full time.

He was able to graduate debt-free thanks to the Chickasaw Nation Higher Education and UTA grants/scholarships received.

Shellie Lane

Shellie Lane recently graduated from Oklahoma State University's Center for Health Sciences, earning a master's degree in healthcare administration.

She is a first generation college student. Ms. Lane is pictured with her daughters, Jolie and Audrey.



Former classmates reunite for graduation



Sara Jones, Jeremy Shipp and Ethan Cox graduated Dec. 15 from Southeastern Oklahoma University.

Sara Jones, Jeremy Shipp and Ethan Cox graduated Dec. 15, 2018 with their master's degrees from Southeastern Oklahoma University.

They are former Kingston (OK) High School graduates. Sara graduated in 2004, Jeremy in 2001 and Ethan in 2007.

Sara graduated with a master's of sci-

ence in business administration/management with an emphasis in Native American studies. She is the Chickasaw Nation Southern Region Emergency Manager. She is the daughter of Tommy and Pam Jones. She is the granddaughter of the late Sterling and Madeline Johnson.

Jeremy graduated with a master's of science in Native American leadership. He is the senior project manager for the Division of Commerce at the Choctaw Nation. Jeremy is the son of Darren and Janine Shipp. He is married to Shyanne Shipp and they have two boys, Clayton and Lawson.

Ethan graduated with a master's of science in Native American leadership. He is the youth leadership manager for the Chikasha Pehlichik Iki youth leadership program for the Chickasaw Nation. He is the son of Johnny and Karyn Cox.

Graduating together wasn't planned but it made it even more special.

Chickasaw cousins graduate; earn gifted and talented certificate



From left, Ralee Collins, Garrett Morgan, Rylan Collins and Redek Collins.

Chickasaw cousins Christopher Garrett Morgan, Rylan Kay Collins and Ralee Elissa Collins graduated May 16.

Redek Lee Collins completed the second grade at Latta Elementary School.

Garrett graduated as one of the valedictorian of his eighth grade class, earning all As, from Roff Middle School, Roff, Oklahoma.

Garrett is the son of Scott and Melissa Morgan. He is the grandson of Vicky and Billy Gold, Shelby and Gayle Morgan and Buddy Tartsah.

Twins, Rylan and Ralee graduated kindergarten at Latta Elementary School, Ada, Okla.

Redek scored as well as or better than 98 out of 100 students in a normed sampling of the same age to be counted on Latta's Intellectually Gifted Count for the school year; and received a certificate for all As.

They are the children of Derek and Rachael Collins. The grandchildren of Vicky and Billy Gold, Eddie and Tammy Collins and Buddy Tartsah.

APRIL 2019 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
April 18, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Toby Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins

Members absent: Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms

Guests present: Dana Lance, Michael L. Wingo

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mrs. Alexander.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - March 15, 2019

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Briggs to approve the March 15, 2019 minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins
9 yes votes

Members abstaining: Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond

2 abstentions

The motion to approve the minutes of March 15, 2019 carried.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(A) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Nancy Elliott

General Resolution Number 36-025 Approval of Development Budget Amendment Tishomingo Capitol Campus Improvements

This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for the Tishomingo Capitol Campus Improvements, Project Number HDQ-19017-TIS-HQ in the amount of \$3,812,864.00.

The annual meeting is held in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. Chickasaw citizens gather in their historic capitol city to share their culture and reaffirm their sovereignty through active involvement in self-governance. The Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival continues to attract more citizens from around the world to Tishomingo each fall, and their interest in sharing a gathering space continues to increase. In addition to participating in the Annual Meeting, the Chickasaw people like to fellowship, enjoy a meal, and share their culture. To date, these events have taken place in temporary structures across Tishomingo and recently on the grounds surrounding the Chickasaw Capitol Building.

Permanent pavilions for the traditional meal, cultural demonstrations, and the Southeastern Art Show and Market would provide improved safety and accessibility for citizens and artists. Since the pavilions could be used for citizen events throughout the year, the pavilions would be multi-use instead of the single-purpose, rented tents; thus, saving tribal resources in the long run.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Elliott to approve GR36-025.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins
11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR36-025 carried unanimously.
Ms. Elliott concluded her report.

(B) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Linda Briggs General Resolution Number 36-022 Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County

This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation expansion of the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus properties, 301 North Mickle Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR36-022.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins
11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR36-022 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 36-023 Approving an Oil and Gas Lease on a Severed Fee Mineral Interest in Love County in Favor of R.D. Williams & Co.

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's execution of an Oil and Gas lease in favor of R.D. Williams & Co., in Love County, Oklahoma, containing 0.7438 acres, more or less. This Oil and Gas Lease is made in lieu of a pooling election under Oklahoma Corporation Commission Order No. 691714 in Cause CD No. 201810462. The leased property is part of a 1280 acre, multi-section unit containing Sections 17 and 20 in Township 7 South, Range 2 East.

A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Hammond to approve GR36-023.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins
11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR36-023 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 36-024 Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County

This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation expansion of the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus properties, 506 West 7th Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Briggs to approve GR36-024.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins
11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR36-024 carried unanimously.
Ms. Briggs concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #7 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

There was no new business to discuss or comments from citizens.

AGENDA ITEM #8 ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Scott Wood, Secretary Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Prepared by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Pinch pots class offered June 29 at Chickasaw Council House Museum

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - The Chickasaw Council House Museum will host a pinch pots class from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 29 at 209 N. Fisher in Tishomingo.

This event is free and open to the public. Supplies will be provided. Class size is limited.

For more information, call (580) 371-3351.

American Celebration at Fort Washita, June 22

FORT WASHITA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation History & Culture will host the 2019 American Celebration at Fort Washita from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 22.

This event is free and open to the public. Enjoy activities for all ages including buggy rides, sewing demonstrations, live music and food.

Children's activities include games, corn husk doll make-and-takes and face painting. For more information, call Regina Berna at (580) 924-6502.

MAY 2019 RESOLUTIONS

Permanent Resolution Number 36-004**Amendments to Title 5 of the Chickasaw Nation Code****(Code Section References)**

Explanation: This resolution approves and adopts corrections to referenced Code sections in Title 5 of the Chickasaw Nation Code.

Presented By: Legislative Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins

Permanent Resolution Number 36-005**Amendments to Title 6 of the Chickasaw Nation Code****(Code Section References)**

Explanation: This resolution approves and adopts corrections to referenced Code sections in Title 6 of the Chickasaw Nation Code.

Presented By: Legislative Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Toby Perkins

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

May 13, 2019

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Committee of the Whole Meeting

May 13, 2019

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa Billy, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Dr. Karen Goodnight, Shana Hammond, Lisa Impson, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

GetFresh! demonstrations offered to Chickasaw veterans

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw veterans are invited to a series of GetFresh! demonstrations from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, June 21 at the Chickasaw Nation veterans lodge in Ada.

Veterans can learn to cook and enjoy new and healthy recipes with live demonstrations from a skilled nutritionist.

GetFresh! promotes healthy eating habits and versatile cooking techniques through recipe demonstrations, nutrition education and wellness tips.

Classes are free to participants and open to all Chickasaw veterans and active duty service members.

For more information, call (580) 272-2550.

Chickasaw student finds home in architectural engineering program at OU



The Shahbandeh family at Jonathan's graduation. Front row from left, Jonathan's mother, Michele, Jonathan, and Jonathan's father, Norik. Back row from left, Jonathan's brother and sister, Caleb and Lila.

NORMAN, Okla. - Jonathan Shahbandeh, a Chickasaw citizen from Broken Arrow, Okla., always knew he would attend the University of Oklahoma. He was just not sure what to study.

"My freshman year I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do," Mr. Shahbandeh said. "I changed majors, tried different classes and still never really knew what I wanted. Now I realize it was because I had to grow as a person before deciding what

my future would be."

After a few semesters of trials, the Chickasaw student found a home in the architectural engineering program. He set his sights on becoming an HVAC design engineer. Last month, he became a graduate of the architectural engineering program.

While in school, Mr. Shahbandeh joined the Chickasaw Nation Recruitment and Retention Program. The program supports the Chickasaw Nation mission to enhance the overall quality of life of Chickasaw people by preparing, supporting and empowering Chickasaw students for success.

Through participation in social, cultural and campus events, academic support and career development, retention rates increase for Chickasaw students. The program is currently offered at the University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma City Community College.

This resource helped Mr. Shahbandeh feel secure and gain confidence at a large university.

He was able to engage in the program for guidance, both academically and culturally.

During his junior year of college, he was hired into the School-to-Work program. He continued to pursue his higher education goals while receiving on-the-job training and gaining valuable work experience in the engineering field.

Mr. Shahbandeh trained with Allen Consulting Inc., in Norman. The company produces HVAC and plumbing solutions for clients in the Norman area. He credits Allen engineers for sharpening his skills and challenging him with new and unique projects.

"The best part about working at my training site was our close-knit team working together toward a common goal," Mr. Shahbandeh said. "If I had a question or problem I was not familiar with, I knew that one of the engineers would help me by telling me what to do and why to do it that way."

He also credited his success to the School-to-Work program. He was encouraged, he said, by knowing someone was there to help and support him whenever he needed it.

"The program helped show me that graduating with an engineering degree was possible and with the support I had, I could do anything," Mr. Shahbandeh said.

Helping people is important to Mr. Shahbandeh. Working as an employee of the Chickasaw Nation through School-to-Work furthered his drive to serve.

"Our mission is to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people and I feel that by working at Allen Consulting Inc., and learning new things at work and on campus, I am working my way toward our mission with every decision I make," he said.

He was inspired, he said, by his siblings, Caleb and Lila.

"My brother and sister are my best friends," he said. "My brother has helped me throughout my undergraduate career."

"He gave me advice when I needed it and he knows me more than any other person. He is one of the many foundations of my life and I could not ask for a better brother."

"My sister has helped me throughout my undergraduate career, as well, by making me

laugh and showing me life is not as stressful as I sometimes make it out to be.

"She told me I am in charge of my own decisions and I am able to do anything I want to. Because of my older siblings, I am the person I am today."

Mr. Shahbandeh continues to work to make an impact on his fellow classmates and Chickasaw citizens.

"I am thankful for my family and the Chickasaw Nation for supporting me and making my career goal a reality," he said. "I hope I am an example for others who are interested in obtaining a degree in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is hard work, but it is possible."

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation Recruitment and Retention Program, call (405) 767-8943 or visit Chickasaw.net/CK.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation School-to-Work Program, call (580) 559-0815 or visit Chickasaw.net/SchoolTo-Work.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kortney Samis, Tribal Communications

Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio represented at Encore Dance Competition

MIDWEST CITY, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio's competition team took top honors during the Encore Dance Competition hosted by Rose State College April 12-13 in Midwest City. Studios from across the region performed more than 900 dance routines during the three-day competition. Chickasaw Studio students walked away with 17 awards.



Ashlyn Rolen and Emery Rutherford, both 14, represent the Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio during the Encore Dance Competition at Rose State College, Midwest City. Together they took First Overall and High Point Score Award in the Teen/Contemporary/Duo category.



Ada resident Travis Stanberry is proud of his daughters' performances during the Encore Dance Competition at Rose State College, Midwest City. The family spends hours each week participating in multiple classes offered within the Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio in preparation for competitions.

Team members Emery Rutherford and Ashlyn Rolen took First Overall and High Point Score Award in the Teen/Contemporary/Duo category.

Members of the Chickasaw Studio competitive dance group - Ashlynn Rolen, Madison Hoover, Teron Casey and Emery Rutherford - swept the Teen/Contemporary/Small Group category by placing First Overall in the Teen Division, among other awards.

Performing to "Mambo Number 5," the 11 members of the Chickasaw Studio also took the High Score Award and First Overall in the Petite/Jazz/Large Group categories.

The Chickasaw Studio has more than 200 dance students. Responding to continued success

and growth in the community, the performing arts group continues to add additional classes. Nearly 40 classes, from contemporary hip-hop to classical ballet, are offered each week.

The Encore Dance Competition is one of three contests Chickasaw Studio dancers attend throughout the year.

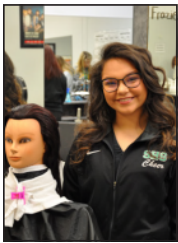
About the Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio

Chickasaw Nation dance class-

es are open to the public. Participants dance for enjoyment, exercise and to learn new skills. All ages and experience levels have a class. Class divisions include pre-dance, ages 0-3 and 4-5. Dance instruction divisions are ages 5-8, 9-12, 13-18, and 19 and up.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Performing Arts Department at (580) 272-5520.

Seven Chickasaw students recognized by National Technical Honor Society



MARKITA MCCARTY



BRANDON JOHN



JEREMIAH FRAZIER



NAKITA PARNACHER



BRITTANY HOOD



JARED MANNING



JORDAN MELVILLE

ADA, Okla. - Seven Chickasaw students attending Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada have been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society

Markita McCarty, of Stonewall, Okla., was recognized for her achievements in cosmetology. Brandon John, of Ada, was recognized for his achievements in heavy equipment operation. Jeremiah Frazier and Nakita Parnacher, both of Ada, and Brittany Hood, of Konawa, Okla., were recognized for their achievements in practical nursing.

Jared Manning, of Ada, was recognized for his achievements in combination welding and Jordan Melville, of Santa Clarita, Calif., was recognized for his completion of the automotive mechanics certification program.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required to be nominated for membership into the honor society. The program also weighs student attendance, completion of credit hours, instructor recommendation, and more to select its honor

students.

Pontotoc Technology Center offers a wide variety of career and technical programs including automotive, health sciences, fire training, information technology, paramedic training, welding and environmental biotechnology. The Center also offers short-term courses for those interested in learning a new skill or who need a refresher course.

The Chickasaw Nation provides financial assistance to Chickasaw citizens pursuing professional certifications and licensing through grant opportunities with the career technology program. These grants include assistance for tuition, exams, textbooks and supplies and certification completion incentives.

For more information about the career technology program, call (580) 421-7711, visit www.Chickasaw.net/CareerTech or email CareerTechnology@Chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kortney Samis, Tribal Communications

Chickasaw Nation hosts CHR rodeo April 29 in Ada



Area CHRs gathered in Ada April 29 for a CHR rodeo. Carol Hunter from the Purcell Area Office, left, took first place. Brittany Price from the Pauls Valley Area Office, center, took second place, and Sandra Rice from the Ada Area Office received third place.

ADA, Okla. - The inaugural Community Health Representative (CHR) rodeo took place April 29 in Ada. CHR staff gathered to enjoy a fun-filled event testing their driving skills.

Nineteen Chickasaw Nation CHR employees and leadership watched the light-hearted competition organized by area office staff and transportation services.

Rodeo participants maneuvered vehicles through several traffic

cone obstacles, which represented daily driving encounters when on the road assisting community members. Obstacles ranged from lane changes, maneuvering around objects and making sudden and unexpected stops.

Trophies were awarded to the first, second and third place winners. Carol Hunter from the Purcell Area Office won first place. Brittany Price from the Pauls Valley Area Office won second, and

Sandra Rice from the Ada Area Office won third.

The CHR program promotes health and wellness among Indian people by providing patient advocacy, being a liaison between clients and tribal and community resources, educating patients, and promoting health and disease prevention.

Eligibility requirements to receive CHR services include tribal citizenship. Participants must be homebound or disabled and reside within the Chickasaw Nation.

For more information about the CHR program and other area office services, contact your local area office.

Ada area office: (580) 436-7256
Ardmore area office: (580) 226-4821
Duncan area office: (580) 470-2131
Pauls Valley area office: (405) 207-9883
Purcell area office: (405) 527-4973
Sulphur area office: (580) 622-2888
Tishomingo area office: (580) 371-9512

White goods collection through July 31 at the ReUse Center in Ada

ADA, Okla. - There is a great way to dispose of your old major appliances.

Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services will host a white goods collection April 22 through July 31. The collection ensures proper disposal of used appliances and promotes a cleaner community.

Services will be offered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center, 2205 N. Broadway, Ada.

The following appliances will

- be accepted:
- Refrigerators and freezers
 - Air conditioning units
 - Stoves and ranges
 - Washing machines and dryers
 - Hot water heaters
- The event is free and open to the community. All items will be recycled, and Freon™ will be disposed of properly.
- For more information, contact Environmental Services at (580) 272-5412.

Get Fresh! Program launches new website

The Chickasaw Nation's Get Fresh! program recently launched an all-new website featuring delicious recipes matched with beautiful food photography.

Users can search for the perfect recipe by ingredient, keyword or category. Recipe categories include breads, breakfast foods,

entrées, desserts and more. There are even kids' recipes such as grilled cheese rollups and young chef nachos. New recipes are added often, so bookmark the site on your computer or smartphone for easy reference.

The Get Fresh! program also teaches healthy meal preparation

with entertaining shows consisting of live, interactive cooking demonstrations led by specialists who sprinkle in bits of nutrition knowledge. The shows are free, fun and open to the public. For cooking show dates and locations, visit GetFreshCooking.com.

Chickasaw Nation Head Start students graduate across south-central Oklahoma

Prekindergarten students graduated from Chickasaw Nation Early Childhood and Head Start programs in Ada, Ardmore, Sulphur and Tishomingo this May.

Governor Bill Anoatubby presented each student with a diploma during ceremonies, which were hosted across south-central Oklahoma.

Chickasaw Princess Mikayla Hook, Chickasaw Junior Princess LaKala Orphan and Little Miss Chickasaw Jadyce Burns offered the invocation at the events.

Chickasaw Nation Head Start Director Robert Pickens addressed each gathering and spoke

of the role education plays in children's lives.

"Education is the key that opens many opportunities and prospects in life," Mr. Pickens said. "Our commitment is to enhance our nation's children and families through education, to support and assist each child so they can develop to their maximum potential."

"Our children are the future leaders of tomorrow. We are proud of the positive impact the program has on the Chickasaw Nation."

The early childhood program, along with three Head Start cen-

ters, provides school readiness instruction and parent support to children ages 3 through 5.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start program is in now in its 40th year of operation. In 1978, the program began serving the Chickasaw Nation, graduating its first 33 students. Now open in four locations, Chickasaw Nation Head Start and Early Childhood programs serve more than 260 families.

The program is a comprehensive, family-focused resource, with developmental appropriate preparation for educational success. Students have access to

individualized education plans, health and wellness screenings, nutrition services and family engagement. Cultural instruction rounds out the knowledge base that children receive. Upon graduation, they are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

The Ada Chickasaw Nation Early Childhood Program reached a milestone in 2018, achieving international accreditation through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

The early childhood program is tribally funded and serves Chickasaw citizens. The Head Start cen-

ters are both federally and tribally funded, and serve students from any federally-recognized Native American tribe.

The Sulphur and Tishomingo Head Start facilities have recently been renovated, making room for more students.

The early childhood and Head Start programs accept applications throughout the year. Preference is given to Chickasaw, Native American and low income families, and children with disabilities. For more information or to obtain an application, visit Chickasaw.net/EarlyChildhood.

Ada Early Childhood Center (Head Start)



Dignitaries from left – Governor Bill Anoatubby, Education executive officer Danny Wells, Early Childhood/Head Start director Robert Pickens, Secretary of Community Services Wayne Scribner, Little Miss Chickasaw Jadyce Burns, Chickasaw Princess Mikayla Hook, Undersecretary of Community Services Tom John and Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel.

Top row - Jaden Fox, Beleah Petsemoe, Karter Johnson, Kinsley Wood, Michael Wasson, Kinslea Smith, Maddox Hazlitt, John Ellis, Blayz Chapman, Korbin Johnson, Taylee Roberts, Adelyn Salazar, Elias Hood, Adrian Buckaloo, Aamina Logan and Barrick Scribner.

Second row - Paisley Catron, Marlee Palmer, Alice Anne Matheron, Jaylee Tidmore, Chandler Schultz-Walls, Micco Nucosee, Noah Honeycutt, Billie Lorthridge, Xoie Jones, Hunter Valdez, Kayden Bond, Abigail Jack, Lexie Jones, Lilli Nolin, Acelin Culberson and Aaina Henderson.

Third row - Darvin Gilliam, Jakobe Johnson, Thomas Blair, Braxton Buck, Liam Francis, Darius Gaines, Presley Rodriguez, Enoch Worcester, Rayne Brown, Mason, Rhevick Bensen, Soul Highfield, Catherine Coffell, Madelyn Ulrich, Bentley McWethy and Zane Delozier.

Front row - Elizabeth Stewart, Claire Baber, Gage Sherwood, Emerson McKerley, Aidan Cole, Spencer Trevino, Zayla, Samuel Warlick, Samara Warlick, Zoi Tomlin, Caius Youngwolfe, Paxton Lofton, Brayden England, Serenity Wisdom, Gaybriella Worcester and Miranda Palmer.

Ardmore Head Start



Dignitaries from left – Governor Bill Anoatubby, Chickasaw legislator Connie Barker, Secretary of Community Services Wayne Scribner, Chickasaw legislator Linda Briggs, Undersecretary of Community Services Tom John, Chickasaw Princess Mikayla Hook, Chickasaw legislator David Woerz, Chickasaw Junior Princess LaKala Orphan, Education executive officer Danny Wells, Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel and Early Childhood/Head Start director Robert Pickens.

Top row – Averi Whitaker, Mollie Vernoy, Lincoln Argo, Takoda Caudle, Xylas Lovell, Lyndale Holybee, Anthony Gaines, Aaron Onco, Karsyn Douglas, Pippa Hudson, Braylee Lewis, Kamdon Barrett, Maize O'Dell, Cruz Mendez and Dani Dorsey.

Second row – Alexia Riveria, Athena Hill, Carsen Willis, Alison Silva, Sim Lonewolf, Tranaya Sampson, Markis Dove, Kendrick Hollar, Zalyne Payne, A'myra McGee, Arabella Bruce, Amiyah Allen, Rider Blankenship and Milliona Swain.

Third row – Chantal Hernandez, Dagger Lakey, Kellan Hollar, Taliyah Hernandez, Luciano Martinez, Zavian Love, Sophia Roberts, Arena Jackson, Redik Johnston, Kaleb Bob, Brayden Ibarra, Keaton Freeman, Hananiah Lopez and Sarah Goodson.

Front row – Braydon Kirby, Kayn Funk, Payzee Lambeth, Jhett Shebester, Daxton Andrews, Makyah Blagg, Camrynn Cohee, Da'Veon Moore, Mason Blackwood-Rossi, Dillon Rushing, Jedediah Sands, Tytan Spencer-Lewis, Chenze Huang, Haidynn Bowden and Lezlie Soto.

Sulphur Head Start



Top row from left – Governor Bill Anoatubby, Secretary of Community Services Wayne Scribner, Undersecretary of Community Services Tom John, Education executive officer Danny Wells, Early Childhood/Head Start director Robert Pickens and Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel.

Second row - DaeShawan Willis and Cha'ish Stevens.

Third row - Tempest Burton, Dayana Reyes, Silas Alphin, Mya Jones and Ryland Johnson.

Fourth row - Tucker Allen and Brantley Foust.

Front row - Chickasaw Princess Mikayla Hook, Aeson Clary, Lillian Beesley, Chevy Nichols, Keldon Stephens, Tania Gonzalez, Sydney McKim, Isaac Mendoza and Chickasaw Junior Princess LaKala Orphan.

Tishomingo Head Start



Top row from left – Holly West, Governor Bill Anoatubby, Secretary of Community Services Wayne Scribner, Undersecretary of Community Services Tom John, Early Childhood/Head Start director Robert Pickens, Education executive officer Danny Wells and Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel.

Middle row - Brody Ramer, Kimber Box, Blaze Hesbrook, Jagger Morgan, Reese Stewart, Piper Worcester, Baylin Wood, Cadence Householder, Camden Starn, Cooper Callen, Emma Smith, Wyatt Vann and Kenley Cass.

Front row - Meya McClendon, Peyton Mulder, Emma Woodrum, Shelby Shipman, Marc James, Dax Akins, Jaizlyn Taylor, Camden Elkins, Kross Parish, Deacon Alexander, Preslee Utley, Charley Pitts and Waylon Tyson.

Boggy Depot to host Family Fun Day, June 15

Family Fun Day at Boggy Depot is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 15. The event is sponsored by Chickasaw Nation Culture & Humanities.

Activities include cornhole, archery tag, stickball shootout, cake walk and more. All ages are welcome to attend.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Lindsey Yochum at (580) 371-9835.

Betty Jo Crabtree



Betty Jo Crabtree, of Pauls Valley, Okla., was born May 16, 1930, to Claud and Eliza (McGill) Somers. She passed from this life April 7, 2019, at Oklahoma City, Okla., at the age of 88.

Mrs. Crabtree grew up and attended school in Pauls Valley. She married John Melvin Crabtree Jan. 23, 1947. She regularly attended and volunteered at the Chickasaw Senior Center in Pauls Valley.

She was the granddaughter of original enrollee Henry McGill.

She is survived by her husband, John Melvin of the home; son, Roger Crabtree and wife, Patsy, of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; daughter Linda Barton and husband, Richard, of Plano, Texas; two brothers, Roy Somers, of Lindsay Okla., and Donnel Somers, of Wynnewood, Okla.; three sisters, Audrey Herell and husband, Don, of Ardmore, Okla., Lou Carlton of Wynnewood and Barbara Johnson and husband, David of Wynnewood; two grandchildren, Robbie Crabtree and wife, Michelle of Kennesaw, Ga., and Tiffany Carpenter and husband, Grady, of Ft. Walton Beach; and four great-grandchildren, Maure Lynn and Cameron Crabtree and Mackenzie and Savannah Carpenter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claud and Eliza Somers; sister, Louise Botkin; and two brothers, Frank Somers and Claudie Ray Somers.

Three days after passed away, her husband, John Melvin, joined her in Heaven after 72 years of marriage.

A double funeral service was April 11, 2019, at Wooster Funeral Home Chapel at Pauls Valley with Rev. Tim Duncan officiating.

Ruth Carlene (Cohee) Ruffins



Ruth Carlene (Cohee) Ruffins, 79, of Lewisville, Texas, passed away May 4, 2019. Her mortal remains were laid to rest at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery at St. Louis, Mo., until the great day of the resurrection of all flesh.

Mrs. Ruffins was born March 18, 1940, at Springer, Okla., to the late Royce Cohee and Laura McGee of the Chickasaw Nation. She was called into the family of God early in life when she was baptized at Jehovah Baptist Church. She was later confirmed at St. Matthews Lutheran Church (LC-MS) at St. Louis, where she married the late James Ruffins and raised three sons, John Eric, Cliff Anthony and Richard Elliott.

She made her home at St. Louis for more than 46 years. She retired from a successful administrative leadership career with Christian Northeast Hospital. She served her church and community devotedly. She later returned to Ardmore, Okla., and became a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Her faith was nurtured and strengthened through faith-

ful worship and service to others.

Left to cherish her memory and the blessing that she was to them are her sons, John (Wanda), Cliff (Juanita) and Richard (Amirah); grandchildren, Jonathan, Brooke, Richard Jr, Jamie, Samantha, Janae; and great grandchildren, Eric James and Elishah Javon. Ruth was also loved by three brothers, Carson, Edward and Travis; two sisters, Artha Mae and Verlene; as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and closest of friends.

Jerry Newton Underwood



Jerry Newton Underwood, 83, passed away May 18, 2019 at Blue River Nursing Home at Tishomingo, Okla. Funeral Services to honor and celebrate the life of Jerry were Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at DeArman-Clark Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at Troy Cemetery.

Mr. Underwood was born March 16, 1936, at Reagan, Okla., to Isaac and Carrie (Tuley) Underwood. He married the love of his life, Eileen Hruska, January 28, 1974, at Nebraska. They have been inseparable for 45 years.

He attended Murray State College, where he earned his associates degree. He then attended Southeastern State University, at Durant, Okla., and obtained a degree in Indian history and art. He was very passionate about his Indian Heritage and was presented the highest honor given by the Chickasaw's which was the Silver Feather in 2009. He was also passionate when it came to working with children and spent 25 years working with the Boy Scouts. He was a very accomplished beaded and would teach classes at the senior citizens buildings. He most recently was a naturalist for the Chickasaw Nation Recreation Area at Sulphur, Okla., for eight years. Eileen would describe Jerry as being a very romantic, giving and loving person. He was always bringing her little gifts that he would find, such as stones and wildflowers, which he loved.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Isaac and Carrie Underwood; five brothers, Cecil Underwood, David Underwood, Freddy Underwood, Benny Underwood and John Ralph; three sisters, Pauline Green, Janice Fairchild and Loretta Hamilton.

Those he leaves to cherish his memories are his wife, Eileen Underwood; brother, Charles Underwood and wife, Oneita; sister-in-law, Judy Underwood; Oklahoma adopted family, Danny, Weston and Wyllene Holland; and a host of many nieces, nephews and friends who will deeply miss him.

Judy Faye Morrell



Judy Faye Morrell, 64, passed away Feb. 17, 2019 at her residence. Services for the longtime resident of Lone Grove, Okla., were Feb. 22 at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church at Lone

Grove. Reverend David Gardner officiated.

Mrs. Morrell was born Aug. 30, 1954, at Ardmore, Okla., to the late Don Bailey, Sr., and Thelma Pittman Bailey.

On April 2, 1970, at Gainesville, Texas, she married the love of her life, Coy Lynn Morrell. They had two children, Laura and Cody. Employed by Michelin North America in the finishing department, she retired after 34 years with the company.

Everyone who knew her knew that taking care of her family was the most important thing in her life. She loved spending time with her children and grandsons and always made sure they didn't leave her house until they were well fed and had something to take home with them. In her leisure, she enjoyed gardening and crafts. She was proud of her Chickasaw heritage.

Survivors include her husband of 48 years, Coy Morrell, of the home; her daughter, Laura Stradley, of Lone Grove, and her son, Cody Morrell, of Lone Grove; her two grandsons, Michael and Brandon Stradley, of Lone Grove; her sisters, Ann Behrens and husband, Cotton Dorer, of Mannsville, Okla., Donna Kay Garner and husband, Jimmy, of Lone Grove, Freda Skaggs and husband, Randy, of Lone Grove, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Donald Bailey, Jr.

Clarissia Henryetta Wheatley



Clarissia Henryetta Wheatley, 93, passed away April 2, 2019, at Surprise, Ariz.

She was born Feb. 3, 1926 at Okmulgee, Okla., to the late Albert Perry Wheatley and Clarissia Henryetta Altstatt-Wheatley. Her name was changed when she was a child to Polly Lou Shockley.

She married Dominic DiVito Jan. 20, 1945, at Okmulgee. Her beloved husband of 66 years preceded her in death.

She is survived by her children, Franklin DiVito (Dixie), Robert DiVito (Cathey) and Margaret DiVito-McGuire (Mike). She also leaves to cherish her memory, many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Polly, always a faithful friend, will be missed by all who knew her.

She was extremely proud of her Chickasaw heritage. Her Father, Albert was ½ enrolled Chickasaw, and his Mother Louisa Holder was full-blood enrolled Chickasaw citizen.

Per her wishes, Polly will be buried beside her mother at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

Annie Lee (Kemp) Jessup

Annie Lee (Kemp) Jessup passed away Good Friday, April 19, 2019 at the Waterford at Bridle Brook in Mahomet, Ill., after a lifetime of service to her family and friends. A Celebration of Life service was May 4 at the St. Joseph United Methodist Church, St. Joseph, Ill., with the Reverend Gene Turner officiating. Burial was at Patterson Cemetery, St. Joseph.

She was born Sept. 22, 1925, at Ada, Okla., to Joel Leamon Kemp and Annie Laurie (Aldrich) Kemp. Her parents were Native American, including the blood of both the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian tribes, members of the Five Civilized Tribes. She was a direct descendant of ancestors who made the historic Trail of Tears across the southern United States in the mid-19th century.

She spent her formative years in Texas and Oklahoma. She married Bobby Gene (Robert G.) Jessup Jan. 1, 1946, at Harris County, Texas. Mr. Jessup brought his bride back to his home in central Illinois after completing his service in the United States Air Force. She spent most of those years living in St. Joseph.

She was a crafter, crocheting many gifts, sewing quilts for her family, dabbling in folk art painting and x-stitching her way through life. She shared her talents with the St. Joseph United Methodist Women for their annual bazaar for many years, as well

as made gifts for her "girls" at the State Universities Retirement System. She was a fantastic cook and her family has tried to duplicate her smothered steak recipe for eons. The joy of cooking one of her favorite dishes was that she was happy to share the recipes and always wanted people to succeed at taking over as the cook.

She retired from the State Universities Retirement System and also served as the St. Joseph Village Clerk. She was a member of the Chickasaw Nation and the St. Joseph United Methodist Church.

She is best described as the salt of the earth and loved her family beyond measure. She would say, "bless your heart" and truly mean it.

She is survived by her grandchildren: Jeremy (Nichole) Jessup and Joshua Jessup, both of Mahomet, Ill., Joel (Katie) Jessup of Seymour, and Annie (Tyler) Anglin of San Diego, Calif. She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, Erin, Ainsley, Jack, Addie, Liam, Jameson and Emmalyn.

She survived the losses of her husband, Robert G. Jessup, Feb. 14, 1975, as well as their two sons: Robert G. Jessup II (d: Nov. 19, 1968) and Leamon Kemp Jessup (d: Aug. 20, 2017). She was also preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Sue Fathree, George Kemp and Harry Kemp.

Memorial gifts may be made to the St. Joseph United Methodist Church.

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Following ratification of new constitution, Chickasaw Nation faced upheaval of US Civil War

Although federal law and the removal treaties rendered the Chickasaw Nation a district within the Choctaw Nation government in 1837, the Chickasaw people were intent on re-energizing a national government.

After almost two decades of consistent effort, the Chickasaw people persevered in their efforts to establish a Constitutional Government in 1856.

Only five years later, that new government would face a strong test with the beginning of the U. S. Civil War. Cyrus Harris, who was elected the first Governor of the Chickasaw Nation in 1856, and reelected in 1860 was Governor when the war began. Winchester Colbert was elected Governor in 1862 and served through the remainder of the conflict.

Often called the "war between the states," the terrible conflict was devastating to Indian Territory. Every normal aspect of Chickasaw life was disrupted by the war.

Geography, history and personal relationships combined to leave Chickasaws in a position which would result in negative consequences regardless of which side they chose to support.

With the Union state of Kansas to the north and the Confederate states of Arkansas and Texas to the east and south respectively, Indian Territory was in a strategic location. Both sides saw it as a potential source of food and other supplies needed by troops in the region.

Texas seceded from the Union February 1, 1861. Less than three months later, federal forts in the area had fallen to Confederate attacks, helping Confederate forces gain effective control of much of Indian Territory.

For these reasons and others, neutrality was not a realistic option for the Chickasaw Nation.

Protecting the assets of the Chickasaw Nation was an important factor in deciding which side to support. This created its own dilemma because the Union and the Confederacy each had some control over those assets.

The Union government held certificates of deposit for almost the entire national treasury of the Chickasaw Nation. However, the gold backing those certificates was in southern banks, where it had been deposited by federal officials long before the war.

While the Chickasaw people

and their leaders deliberated over many aspects of the decision, many historians place a great deal of weight on the previous history between the Chickasaw Nation and the federal government.

The Chickasaw had a long and close relationships with the United States, that began with the Treaty of Hopewell in 1786. That relationship between the two nations included close relationships between leaders at the highest level of each government.

Federal officials often breached those treaty agreements, but the relationship between the Chickasaw Nation and the United States went far deeper than those treaties.

That relationship began with Piominko, who was a friend and ally of George Washington, and extended to Chickasaws such as Tishomingo and Levi Colbert, who had fought alongside Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812.

Winchester Colbert, who was elected Chickasaw Nation Governor in 1862, may well have felt betrayed that the U.S. President who fought alongside his father in war also forced his people from their homeland.

As author James R. Atkinson points out in *Splendid Land Splendid People*, the Chickasaws suffered the "debilitating effects of being unwanted by a people to whom it had been loyal since the Revolutionary War."

On May 25, 1861, the Chickasaw Nation Legislature issued a proclamation declaring independence from the United States.

That proclamation specifically listed the total disregard of treaty obligations by the United States as a factor in their decision. It also listed geographic location, feelings and sympathies as reasons to stand by their southern friends. It went on to describe the war as one of "subjugation or extermination, of conquest and confiscation."

What has been described as a "guerilla-style war" waged in the western frontier disrupted lives and displaced thousands of Creeks, Cherokees, Seminoles and others living in Indian Territory.

Confederate refugee depots in the Chickasaw Nation offered beef, soap and flour rations to thousands of refugees fleeing Union-held portions of Indian

Territory.

Once war began, Chickasaw Nation Governor Winchester Colbert did not reconvene the tribal legislature until the summer of 1865. Governor Colbert became a refugee of sorts as he moved to Texas to avoid assassination by Union troops.

Chickasaws were engaged in the conflict primarily in defense of their new homeland.

Nevertheless, the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations paid a large price for their actions in the 1866 Treaty with the United States. Following the war, the two nations were forced to give up all lands west of the 98th meridian, which includes land in what is now Oklahoma stretching into the Texas panhandle.

Cyrus Harris, who was re-elected Governor in 1866, led the Chickasaw Nation to face the challenges of reconstruction after the devastation of war.

In little more than two decades, the Chickasaw Nation would face another significant challenge as they witnessed the beginnings of the allotment policy in 1887.

Kids reel 'em in during 21st Annual Chickasaw Reunion Fishing Derby

KULLIHOMA, Okla. - A large catfish hooked by 11-year-old Chickasaw Jaida Beal didn't give up without a fight.

One second Jaida's bobber was floating lazily on water rippled by a mild Southwesterly breeze. In the next second, it disappeared, prompting the water to swirl and splash. The catfish thrashed violently after being caught, instinctively attempting to dive for deeper water.

Jaida was shocked. Her mom,

Kelly Carter, yelled out, "Reel it in!" Perhaps Jaida knew there wasn't time for that. The catfish devoured the bait hook, line and sinker mere feet from shore. Jaida sprang to her feet and began stepping backward from the water's edge.

Soon, the catch was dragged onto the rain-soaked, slippery bank. But a problem emerged. Chickasaw Nation rangers needed to measure the fish for the 21st Annual Chickasaw Reunion Fish-

ing Derby.

Jaida wasn't touching it.

Chickasaw Nation Ranger Gary Carter tiptoed down the slippery slope and grasped the fish, his eyes making contact with his colleague Carlin Thompson. "That's a nice one for sure," Mr. Thompson remarked to Mr. Carter, who immediately suggested to Jaida after catching such a large fish, it should be kissed for continued good luck.

Jaida wasn't kissing it, either.

As Mr. Carter and Regional Ranger Manager Rick Carson laid the fish on a measuring board, it was the best catch of the day - 20 inches long and weighing an estimated 3.5 pounds.

And even though she didn't kiss the fish, Jaida's good luck continued. She hooked several additional ones. Many were close to 20 inches, but all fell just short.

It looked as if Jaida was going to breeze to an easy victory at catching the biggest fish - that is until Oka Culberson emerged from a distant, secluded end of the pond with a stringer of fish so impressive several participants suggested a fish fry for lunch.

As Mr. Carson was handed each fish from Oka's stringer, it was clear the boy was going to win the "most fish caught during the derby" accolade.

The question on everyone's mind was if the largest fish on

the stringer would measure more than 20 inches.

"Hand me the largest fish you have," Mr. Carson finally told Oka after a few on the stringer measured short. Oka unwound the lengthy stringer cord, freed the largest catfish and presented it to Mr. Carson.

It was placed on the measuring board. Mr. Carter stroked its tail fin to straighten it while Mr. Carson pinned it flat for accuracy. From stem to stern, the two rangers evaluated its size before declaring it to be ... 20 inches.

Jaida and Oka tied. Chickasaw angler Soul Highfield landed the most fish in the girls' category. All were awarded prizes for their efforts.

Despite a week of severe weather, rain and cool temperatures, 44 contestants fished in the derby, Mr. Thompson said.

Chickasaw ECU honor students graduated in special ceremony May 11



Chickasaw honors students at East Central University in Ada, Okla., graduated in a special ceremony May 11 at the Ataloa Theatre on the East Central campus. The students were part of the Chickasaw Honors Program, Chikasha Holitoplchi. From left, Mark Poe, Harlee Griffis, Cameron Webb, Kelsey Williams, Patrick Cravatt, Brooke Schumacher, Taloa Underwood and Melissa Ellis.

Chickasaw students honored at the University of Oklahoma May 10



Chickasaw students graduating from the University of Oklahoma were honored May 10 at the American Indian Academic Achievement celebration at the Jim Thorpe Multicultural Center in Norman, Okla. From left, Jon Shahbandeh, Nathan Cook, Kaila Cramer and Taylor Lawrence.



Jaida Beal, left, with Chickasaw Nation Ranger Gary Carter who holds an impressive catfish Jaida caught during the 21st Annual Chickasaw Reunion Fishing Derby. Jaida tied with Oka Culberson in landing the largest fish. Both fish measured 20 inches.



Oka Culberson, right, hands Chickasaw Nation Regional Ranger Manager Rick Carson a catfish to be measured during action at the 21st Annual Chickasaw Reunion festivities. Oka tied with Jaida Beal in the largest fish category but finished in first place for catching the most fish during the derby.