



# Gaduwa Cherokee News

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Lindsey Bark/GCN

The Inauguration of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma 2013 Administration, Officers and Tribal Representatives were held Saturday January 5, 2013 in the Herb Rozell Ballroom, Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

## Thirteen councilors sworn to another term

By Marilyn Craig  
Public Relations Coordinator

Despite the fact that the 5th of January 2013, was a cold, cloudy day, the sun was shining down on the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma at the Inauguration and Swearing in ceremony of Chief George Wickliffe,

Assistant Chief Charles Locust and the remaining eleven tribal council members.

UKB tribal member and former Miss Indian Oklahoma Tonya Russell entertained the gathering crowd by playing flute. She was followed by the Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir, who performed "God's Children" and "Sunday School

See Inauguration, Page 6

## Election board certifies Locust assistant chief

By M. Thomas Jordan  
GCN Special Writer

The United Keetoowah Band Election Board overruled a contest to the Dec. 3 run-off election for assistant chief Dec. 17.

On Dec. 7, assistant chief candidate Joe Bunch filed a contest with the election board after unofficial results named incumbent Charles Locust winner with 483 votes to Bunch's 461 votes.

According to the ruling, Bunch alleged True Ballot Election Service incorrectly designated votes for Bunch to Locust. And during a Dec. 15 hearing, Bunch presented testimony and documentation in an effort to prove his allegations.

However, according to the ruling, Bunch testified at the hearing that he conducted his own hand count when he was reviewing the election materials Dec. 13 and came up with the same results that were posted Dec. 3.

See Contest, Page 6



Sammy Still/GCN

In a three-week makeover, Nancy Soap's home took a new exterior look as UKB Housing program remodeled her house with the installation of new windows, roofing, central heat and air.

## Housing department remodels elder's home through rehab program

By Lindsey Bark  
GCN Reporter

Walking through the door, Nancy Soap, Bell Keetoowah elder, sits at her kitchen table nearest the window that contains a small air conditioner unit. She is trying to stay cool in the 105-degree temperature. Her house is dark with smoke-stained walls. Through the windows, there are drafts of air, seen by the sway of her curtains.

A few months later, Soap now enjoys her newly remodeled home, for which she has lived in around 45 years. She has central heat and air, freshly painted walls and new windows, a few of the many repairs done in her home.

"In the last couple of months, before my house was remodeled, I worried that in the next couple of years I would not have a house to keep me warm," said Soap. "Thanks to the Keetoowah tribe services and employees, I have a wonderful home now, I have a new roof, my bathroom is running great and I have beautiful walls to decorate."

See Remodel, Page 6



Courtesy of Robert Whitekiller

Sequoyah High School Lady Indians Softball Assistant Coach Dewayne Hammer, background; Assistant Coach Larry Shade, second from right; and Head Coach Larry Grigg, right; along with the Lady Indians, celebrate their Class 5A Slow Pitch Softball Championship in Oklahoma City.

## The UKB 2012: A year in review

By Marilyn Craig  
Public Relations Coordinator

2012 was a very good year for the traditional Cherokee people – the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

The most important accomplishment came in an eleventh-hour ruling, as the 2.03 acres where the administration offices and the Keetoowah Cherokee casino are located, was placed into trust. The tribe received a land-in-trust declaration by the Department of the Interior on July 30, which was the deadline that had been set as part of an agreement with the UKB and the state of Oklahoma.

Upon hearing the historical news, Chief George Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Charles Locust responded, "This is the greatest news for the United Keetoowah Band since it began its unique

history. Everyone involved in making this happen will go down in history as helping the Forgotten Cherokees to rise above all adversity and to insure they as a people continue to fight and provide services to its members. This is our story and our relationship to the Burning Phoenix, whose name and story are symbols for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Keetoowah Cherokee ancestors foretold of the day when the tribe would prevail. Like the Phoenix rising out of the ashes, the Keetoowah Cherokee today is stronger than ever. And as the UKB moves forward with future endeavors and opportunities, the tribe will remain, one fire, one family, rising together."

There were many other highlights of the year, including a unanimous vote from the council.

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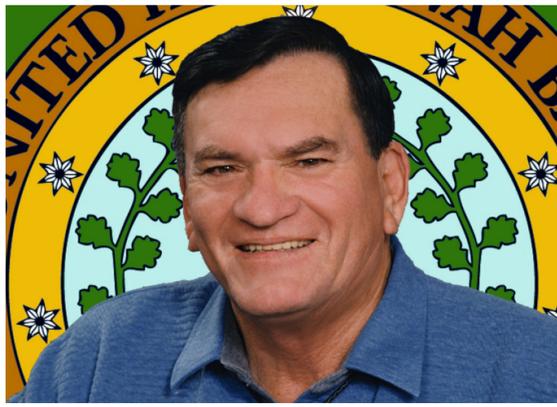
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## Letter to the UKB People

From Chief George Wickliffe



A Letter to the UKB People  
From Chief George Wickliffe

This is second in a four part series on the history of the UKB, compiled at the University of Tulsa College of Law.

UKB Historical Chronology  
(continued from Dec. 2102 issue\_

1937; Memorandum from Director of Lands to Mr. Daiker, Indian Organization: Reads in part "The Act of July 1, 1902 (32Stat. 1., 716), ratified by the Cherokee nation on August 7, 1902, provided for the allotment of lands of the said Nation after a roll of citizenship should have been made by the Dawes Commission. Such a roll was made and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on or before March 4, 1907, and became final as of that date as provided by section 2 of the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. L., 137). Based upon this final roll the lands of the Cherokee nation have been allotted to the Cherokee by blood, the freedmen, intermarried whites and other citizens of the Nation, and all but a small portion of the tribal assets distributed.

Section 63 of the Act of July 1, 1902, supra, provided that the tribal government of the Cherokee should not continue longer than March 4, 1906. This provision of law was repealed by section 28 of the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. L, 137), which provided that the tribal existence and present tribal governments of the several tribes were thereby continued in full force and effect for all purposes authorized by law until other wise provided by law. It was further provided by the said

section that no act, ordinance or resolution, save resolutions of adjournment, of the tribal council or legislature, should be valid until approved by the President. No further provisions of law affecting the tribal existence and the then existing tribal government, under which the freedmen, intermarried whites and other Cherokee citizens had and now have the right to vote, have since been enacted by Congress. The Oklahoma Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49Stat. L., 1967), does not repeal any of the provisions of the Act of April 26, 1906, which authorized the continuation of the Cherokee tribal government.

It is not believed that the Oklahoma Welfare Act may be used as authority to reorganize the existing tribal government of the Cherokee nation. On the contrary, the Act appears to contemplate the creation of a new, separate and distinct organization, to adopt its own constitution and bylaws and to procure a charter of incorporation without regard to the existing government. With respect to the existing tribal government, the freedmen and intermarried whites, as well as other citizens of the Cherokee nation, shown on the final rolls, have a voice in the limited tribal affairs which remain. If it is desired to deny the freedmen and intermarried whites the right to vote on the proposed constitution and bylaws and charter of the new organization to be created under the Oklahoma Welfare Act, it is believed that the powers and jurisdiction of the new organization should be limited to the property and other benefits to be acquired under the Act. Those persons whose names are on the final rolls of the Cherokee nation have certain rights in the remaining assets of the tribe, and if any attempt were made to deny them the right to vote on matters which may affect such rights, it would doubtless give rise to litigation.

\*\*\* With the issue resolved regarding the rights of a band to organize under OIWA, and the issues of the Freedmen and intermarried whites resolved (they would remain under the Cherokee {Dawes Roll} Tribe). The Keetoowah Band could organize as a band of Cherokee Indians of high blood quantum.

1939; At a meeting of the United Keetoowah Band of Indians in Oklahoma, held June 9, a Constitutional Committee was formalized to organize as a band under a provisional constitution adopted.

1940; Aug. 5th; UKB held elections of Chief, Assistant Chief, Secretary, and Treasurer. 1942; A letter from the Keetoowah Band elected officials to the Superintendent Five Civilized Tribes Agency. Asks for recognition under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. Enclosed are the resolution and revised constitution (pursuant to enclosed resolution).

1942; Letter to Commissioner of Indian Affairs from A.A. Exendine, Organization Field Agent (Oct. 26) recommends recognition of UKKB as a Recognized Band under the OIWA, and a referendum be authorized by the Sec. of Interior on their proposed Constitution, or, if not, that appropriate legislation be initiated whereby such recognition may be effected. He estimates that the Band represents one-half of the Cherokees of one-half blood or more (3,687 members). Prior to this letter, there were numerous letters back and forth between the field office and the Secretary, the Chief of the Cherokee nation and others, starting that the Keetoowah Band was not a tribe, or that they only represented a part of a tribe. Finally, the field office realized that the Keetoowah did meet the definition of a band in the Oklahoma Act, as indicated by the letter above. Language in that letter was incorporated into the Secretary's letter below.

1945; Testimony of Abe Fortas, Acting Secretary of the Interior, before the House Committee on Indian Affairs (April 25): Recommending passage of H.R. 341, a bill "relating to the status of Keetoowah Indians of the Cherokee nation in Oklahoma, and for other purposes."

"For the reasons hereinafter set forth, I recommend that this measure be enacted. The purpose of the bill is to recognize the Indians who belong to the Keetoowah Society, as a separate

### United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Officers



**George G. Wickliffe**  
Chief  
Office: 918-431-1818  
Cell: 918-207-2991



**Charles Locust**  
Assistant Chief  
Office: 918-431-1818  
Cell: 918-207-9798



**Joyce Hawk**  
Tribal Secretary  
Cell: 918-822-3809



**Ella Mae Cooksey Worley**  
Tribal Treasurer  
Office: 918-453-9162  
Cell: 918-822-3814



**Eddie Sacks**  
Canadian District  
Cell: 918-822-1957



**Cliff Wofford**  
Cooweescoowee Dist.  
Cell: 918-822-1953



**Jerry Hansen**  
Delware District  
Cell: 918-822-3804



**Tom Duncan**  
Flint District  
Cell: 918-507-1314



**William Christie**  
Goingsnake District  
Cell: 918-822-3803



**Peggy Girty**  
Illinois District  
Cell: 918-457-7067



**Charles Smoke**  
Saline District  
Cell: 918-457-7071



**Barry Dotson**  
Sequoyah District  
Cell: 918-207-2990



**Betty Holcomb**  
Tahlequah District  
Cell: 918-822-3805



## Chronology

Continued from page 2

band or organization of Cherokee Indians, so that it may organize under section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act... This section provides that:

Any recognized tribe or band of Indians residing in Oklahoma shall have the right to reorganize for its common welfare and to adopt a constitution and bylaws under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

The word Keetoowah is closely interwoven in the fabric of Cherokee history. It was the name of the principal towns or seats of authority before the removal to Indian Territory. It is also the name applied to one of the two remaining dialects still spoken among the Eastern Ban of Cherokees in North Carolina. It seems to have been the name by which a century ago, the Cherokees spoke of themselves.

The Keetoowah Society formally came into existence in the years immediately preceding the Civil War. The preamble to the society's written constitution contains the statement that 'In April 15, 1858, a small number of leading members of Keetoowahs got together and discussed the affair of the Cherokees, the purpose and objectives for which they had always stood.' This preamble also explains the reason behind the decision to organize the society. A written constitution prepared 'in the dark of the night and in the woods,' was adopted at a 'general convention of the several districts' on April 29, 1859. This constitution provided that 'only full-blood Cherokees, uneducated, and no mixed-blood friends, shall be...members.' They distrusted and feared the growing power of their intermarried, non-Indian citizens and their offspring. Further, 'Anything which may derive from English or white... The Keetoowahs shall not accept or recognize.'

In later years, the Keetoowahs tried to prevent the allotment of the Cherokee tribal lands. At the general election of January 31, 1899, to vote on the Dawes Commission terms, they counseled their followers to abstain from voting, and as a consequence the Dawes Commission was upheld by a comparatively narrow margin. They employed attorneys to prosecute the Eastern Cherokee cases in the proceedings of 1903-1906. When legislation was pending in Congress in 1905 to dissolve the tribal governments of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Keetoowahs applied for and received a charter of incorporation through the United States district court. The intention of this, as in all coursed followed by the Keetoowah group, was that of keeping alive Cherokee institutions and the tribal entity.

In 1937, the Keetoowah Indians requested permission to organize under section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act on the grounds that the society was, in effect, a recognized band of Indians residing in Oklahoma. The Department was compelled to decline this request because it seemed impossible to make a positive finding that the Keetoowah Indians were and are a tribe or band within the meaning of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. It remains true that the group is composed of individuals predominantly Indian who are interested in maintaining their identity, individually and as a group, as Cherokee Indians. The organization has a recorded membership of 3,687 members, which represents nearly one-half of the Cherokees possessing one-half or more degree of Indian blood now residing in the territory known as the Cherokee nation of Oklahoma, which is in the northeastern part of the state. The courts have regularly held that congressional recognition of a group of Indians as a band is conclusive. Legislative recognition of the Keetoowahs as a band would accordingly enable these Indians to secure any benefits, which, under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, are available to other Indian bands or tribes.

H.R. 341 has been introduced, "I understand, in response to a request of the leaders of the Keetoowah Indians. Its text seems to be sufficient to permit these Indians to organize for their common welfare and to adopt a constitution and bylaws. I urge that it be enacted."

1979, April 27; Letter to U.S. Senator Henry Belmon from Chief Ross Swimmer (CNO); Chief

Swimmer acts surprised by the existence of UKB and tries to argue that the Band should not exist, has little support, limited membership compared to CNO, and that they have the same membership. He states that if they have the same (dual) membership, then all funding to go to CNO, because UKB will be served by CNO services, and administration costs will not be duplicated.

May 29; Memorandum to Muskogee Area Director from Acting Deputy Commissioner-DOI. Commissioner states; (in part) "It is true that the United Keetoowah Band is a tribal entity separate from the Cherokee nation. This resulted in 1950 when the band organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. Since that time, the Cherokee nation has adopted a constitution approved by the Commissioner. Accordingly, each tribe has a right to independently deal with this Bureau as well as other agencies the same as any other federally recognized tribe. This was confirmed by including the names of both tribes on the list of tribal entities recognized as having a government -to-government relationship with the United States. That list appeared in the February 6, 1979, issue of the Federal Register. In an effort to avoid the problem of duplicate populations, you should be guided by the following alternatives:

1. Convey funds to one of the tribes only, after your receipt of concurring resolutions from both groups that such tribe will administer the program for both.
2. If both tribes fail to provide you with the concurring resolutions mentioned above, the desired program is to be administered by the Superintendent.
3. When both tribes amend their constitutions to prohibit dual membership, they may then be funded independently.

July 3; Letter to Senator Belmon from Office of Indian Services-DOI, explaining the above action.

July 11; Senator Belmon writes to Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs complaining about the cost of duplicative services if UKB and CNO are both funded to serve the same populations.

Reversal of Policy, probably resulting from pressure from Chief Swimmer and Senator Belmon;

1980; Jan. 16: Memo to Muskogee Area Director from Commissioner of Indian Affairs: Funding policy-"Henceforth, for purposes of grants and contracts for the Cherokees and the Creeks under P.L. 93-638, you are to operate in line with the provisions of this memorandum.

Under those provisions, the Cherokee nation is to be considered the recipient of grants and/or contracts applied for under P.L. 93-638 that will benefit the entire service population of the Cherokee nation which includes the United Keetoowah Band. The same standard is to be used regarding the Creeks. The membership of the three separately organized tribal towns will benefit from grants and/or contracts awarded to the Creek Nation, since the service population of the nation includes the three towns. It shall be clearly set forth in language of each grant and/or contract that members of the United Keetoowah Band, in the case of the Cherokee nation, and members of the three tribal towns, in the case of the Creek Nation, will receive treatment regarding benefits and services equal to all other persons served by such grant or contract. Concurring resolutions from the band and towns are not necessary since the contracts would benefit only the Cherokee and Creek Nations and their populace."

1981; March 23: Memorandum to Commissioner of Indian Affairs from Assistant Solicitor, Tribal government and Alaska, Division of Indian Affairs. Warns that the three tribal towns are organized under IRA and OIWA, and therefore are recognized independent of Creek Nation. Policy to not fund directly should be re-evaluated pursuant to the Acts. No mention of UKB.

1982; Dec. 9: Letter to Chief Ross Swimmer from S. Kenneth Smith, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs. States that, "As you know our position with regard to the latter is that when and if the Keetoowah Band can present the Bureau of Indian Affairs with a bona fide membership list, not overlapping with membership of the Cherokee Tribe, we will consider funding it separately.

Until that time, members of the Keetoowah Band will be funded and served through the Cherokee Tribe."

1983; Sept. 30: Letter to Senator David Boren from Director, Office of Indian Services. States that UKB has applied for a grant to for updating its membership list. "We indicated that if such funding could be located, perhaps the Keetoowah Band could come up with a list of United Keetoowah members who are clearly not members of the Cherokee nation or who would agree that for purposes of receiving Bureau services they would do so only from the Keetoowah Band, and not from the Cherokee nation. We suggested that the band might then use such a list to support a request for funding under P.L. 93-638 separate from the Cherokee nation, and that we would at that time reconsider our position on contracting--which is that so long as members of the Keetoowah Band are considered members of the Cherokee nation, we will contract only with the Cherokee nation on behalf of all of its members.

1984; Aug. 28: Memorandum to Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs from Director, Office of Indian Services: Requests granting award of \$50,000 to UKB to establish a roll separate from the Cherokee nation. Wants to avoid lengthy litigation and withholding of services.

1991: Open letters from UKB Chief John Ross regarding inappropriate and illegal behaviors of DOI staff in support of Cherokee nation. Calls for grand jury investigation of collusion between Cherokee nation and BIA staff to harass UKB.

May 2; Letter to Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior from Senators David Boren and Don Nichols. Asks that Interior refrain from providing any funds to UKB. "Then we urge the Department of the Interior to refrain from predetermining the Cherokee-Keetoowah dispute by awarding or pursuing any request for provision of federal funds to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians until the courts and/or Congress has had an opportunity to address the situation."

FY 1992 Interior Budget, Amendment 86, disallows funding to UKB for separate services or Federal trust land acquisition. Those services are to come through CNO.

1990-92 study of UKB based Roll indicates one-third of UKB members are not Dawes enrollees or Dawes descendants.

On Oct. 15, 1993, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, Ada Deer, restored the name of the UKB to the list of federally-recognized tribal entities. In July 1998, the BIA undertook providing separate funding to the UKB consistent with the July 1998 determination that P.L. 103-263, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 476(f) and (g), provide the UKB and Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma the same privileges and immunities as other federally-recognized

To be continued in February Gaduwa Cherokee News

## NOTICE

### UKB Tribal Offices to be Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma tribal offices will be closed Monday, January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, January 22 at 8:30 a.m.

### Tribe sends care packages to soldiers

By M. Thomas Jordan  
GCN Special Writer

The United Keetoowah Band sent care packages to three of its soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Rebecca Keys, Lighthouse administrative assistant, collected donations from tribal employees and others during the last week of November and the first week of December at the UKB Civil Defense Building and at the Lost City Community Building.

Keys said the donations totaled almost exactly 100 pounds in four boxes.

The tribe sent the packages loaded with popcorn, cookies, beef jerky, T-shirts, socks, instant coffee and many more items to Docksy Christie, Ellis Jones and Sammy Allen.

# United Keetoowah Band



Thomas Jordan/GCN

The staff of Keetoowah Cherokee Casino, customers and UKB officials celebrated the 26th Anniversary of the casino's operation on Tuesday. L to R front row: William Christie, Goingsnake District Representative; Joyce Hawk, UKB Tribal Secretary; Chief George Wickliffe; Assistant Chief Charles Locust, Flint District Representative Tom Duncan, and Casino General Manager Rodney Fourkiller.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino avoided a last minute shutdown as it received a land-in-trust declaration from the Department of the Interior. The Casino began as a Bingo Hall, one of the first in the state of Oklahoma, later adding Class II electronic games.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Judge J. Dewayne Littlejohn (right) swears in Judge Lynn Burris (left) as the chief justice of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. The ceremony took place at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 20 in the UKB Law and Justice Room.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Cherokee speakers and writers from the three federally recognized Cherokee tribes posed for a group photo during their April 2 Cherokee Consortium. The Cherokee group met to fellowship and translates English words.



Sammy Still/GCN

Youth ages 3 to 5 years scrambled to gather as many Easter eggs as they could find hoping one of the eggs was the Chief's or Assistant Chief's egg.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

The final touches are made by the road crew as they paint lines marking the roadway before the opening of the new road. The final touches are made by the



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Herb Adson, head singer, and singers of the center drum perform the flag song as the UKB Honor Guards present the colors at the Keetoowah Cherokee powwow.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

UKB Chief Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Locust along with tribal council members and administrators broke ground, Friday, August 24, for the new UKB Transit building.

# Year-In-Review 2012



GCN Photo

A majority of voting UKB tribal members voted Chief George Wickliffe into his third term for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Charles Locust defeated Joe Bunch in an Dec. 3 runoff election for his third term as Assistant Chief for the Keetoowah Cherokee tribe.



Sammy Still/GCN

Patty Grant, Eastern Band Cherokee, provides an overview of Journey to Forgiveness and Healing during the daylong event.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Captain Aaron Garrett, Tahlequah Fire Department, instructs Mickey Spears, Lighthorse director, how to use the UKB's fire truck while Brad Hale, Tahlequah Fire Department firefighter, watches.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Nursing students from Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba and other countries share the importance of health care to Kenwood youths.



Sammy Still/GCN

A \$10,000 donation from the United Keetoowah Band was presented to Tahlequah City Mayor Jason Nichols from General Manager of the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Rod Fourkiller to help defray the cost of a traffic signal at the intersection of Southridge Road and Highway 62.



Sammy Still/GCN

United Keetoowah Band of Chief Justice Lynn Burriss gives the oath for Associate Justice to Kimberly Anthony during the February 4 tribal council meeting as Dianne Barker-Harrod, UKB In-House Counsel, and attending tribal members look on.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

The UKB retail center project on Keetoowah Street and Highway 62 bypass in Tahlequah. An extension office of the Keetoowah Drug Treatment Center is one of the planned businesses for the site.



Sammy Still/GCN

Sally Carter, far right, tribal liaison for the Oklahoma State Health Department, personally visited the UKB to congratulate the tribe in receiving the Legacy Grant award. James Locust, Keetoowah Health Services Assistance, speaks with Carter and associates during their visit with the tribe. Seated left to right are, Karen Sherwood, Community Health Programs Coordinator, Cherokee County Health Department; Maria A. Alexander, MHR, MEP Administrative Director, Oklahoma State Department of Health; and Sara (Sally) Carter, MSW LCSW Office of the Tribal Liaison, Oklahoma State Department of Health.

**Inauguration..continued from Page 1**

Song” in the Keetoowah Cherokee language.

Before an audience of several hundred people, Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, Trista Vaughn introduced UKB Gaming Commissioner, Jerry Henson, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. As with all Keetoowah Cherokee events, Henson began with a prayer, speaking in Cherokee, then in English.

Then the Keetoowah Cherokee Veterans honor guard, led by Commander Norman “Hominy” Littledave posted the colors, including the American flag and the UKB flag.

A trio of Cherokee Gospel singers – Rosie Ross, Irene Fixin, and Angela Young performed two songs during the ceremony, “I’m Building a Bridge” and “Guide Me Jehovah.”

Henson said, “Now I’d like to introduce to you the leadership that the Keetoowah Cherokee people have elected to serve as your district representatives for the next two years.” They included: Canadian District Representative Eddie Sacks, Cooweescoowee District Representative Clifford Wofford, Delaware District Representative Jerry Hansen, Flint District Representative Tom Duncan, Goingsnake Representative William Christie, Illinois District Representative Peggy Girty, Saline District Representative Charles Smoke, Sequoyah District Representative Barry Dotson and Tahlequah District Representative Betty Holcomb.

Then he introduced the officers, elected to serve for four years which included Tribal Treasurer Ella Mae Cooksey Worley, Tribal Secretary Joyce Fourkiller-Hawk, Assistant Chief Charles D. Locust, and Chief George G. Wickliffe.

The scheduled guest speaker was Chief

George Tiger of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Due to illness, Chief Tiger was unable to attend. Tribal Attorneys Jim McMillan and Ken Bellmard, along with Former UKB Chief John Hair gave brief remarks.

Bellmard said, “In the past 12 years the Keetoowahs have proven they are a resilient people. 2012 was a big year for the United Keetoowah Band and we hope the progress will continue. We need all Keetoowahs to join together, to put away all the things that have torn us apart for the past two years. The council and their work are the reason for the progress.”

McMillan said, “Nine years ago the Keetoowahs came to our firm to see about getting land in trust. The reason this became possible is that the leaders had outstanding goals. I have had the privilege of working with the chief and assistant chief – one limitation in the fight was that the chief and assistant chief have always insisted that we take the high road.”

Former Chief Hair addressed the audience in the Keetoowah Cherokee language and continued in English saying, “I thank the veterans because their service has made everything possible. I am full of happiness – we have never had officers serve three terms. I am happy. Council, keep up the good work. Wado.”

In his address to the people, Chief George Wickliffe began by speaking in the native tongue and then spoke in English, saying, “It’s been a good first eight years and I am very, very grateful that the people have chosen to continue the progress. We have risen; we have studied. We don’t toy with our language. That is one thing our people will preserve. We have a different way of preserving our language, and it is nothing to play with.

My time goes back to the Kenwood Indian Reservation as a child. The elders talked about the importance of the language. We descended from the Iroquoian people, and our language is derived from theirs. The two tribes derived from them in this part of the country are the Cherokees

and the Seneca Cayuga tribe.”

He said when he was growing up there were many nights the elders would sit together and discuss words. The Keetoowah Cherokee can draw pictures with their words using adjectives to describe things. He gave an example of how the old ones would describe a computer as “the smartest machine we have out there”. He pledged to endeavor to preserve the language and to keep the language like it is. He said all three Cherokee tribes have a commitment to nurture our language.

He stressed the language is not to play with- and that we do not want to lose it. He said he’d like for the Eastern Band, CNO and the UKB to get things right with our language.

Wickliffe continued, “We believe that there is a supreme being. We have always had a relationship with God. God has used lightning and fire throughout the ages—with Moses and the tablets and with the Keetoowahs at Clingman’s Mountain. There is no end to what God can do – the universe is still continuing.”

He talked about God speaking to the Keetoowah as he gave them their name and fire, which became a big part of the Keetoowah religion.

He said, “We are not a fly by night people – we are the original Cherokee people. The Keetoowah have three constitutions: the 1859 constitution, the 1889 revisions, and the 1950 constitution.

We have just finished a national election and there were demonstrations against Wall Street. When the first constitution was written, the Trail of Tears had already happened. In 1859, the Keetoowah Society Constitution was completed.”

The first words on page two said: “Now let us Cherokees study the condition of our government. We are separated into two parts and cannot agree and they have taken lead of us. It is clear to see that the Federal Government has two politi- See Inauguration, Page 7

**Health and Human Services  
Monthly Report  
Nov. 16 to Dec. 15, 2012**

**338 households helped  
at a cost of \$71,072**

**Contest.....continued from Page 1**

During the hearing, Bunch alleged that the Election Board violated Section 304(B) of the election ordinance by issuing ballots to people who did not show proper identification.

But, according to the ruling, Bunch’s witness, UKB Treasurer Ella Mae Worley, testified that she had to present her tribal photographic ID to be issued a ballot.

Bunch, also, alleged that provisional ballots are not defined in the election ordinance and were used inappropriately in the Dec. 3 run-off election.

The confusion stems from having two polling locations in the Goingsnake District, Maryetta and Little Kansas.

According to the ruling, each polling location had a list of eligible voters for Goingsnake District. To keep a voter from potentially voting at both locations, all of the ballots cast at Little Kansas were placed in envelopes. Before they were tabulated by the election board each name was checked against the list from Maryetta to ensure each voter only voted once.

Bunch, also, alleged that there were 31 more ballots than receipts for the Goingsnake District.

According to the ruling, the Election Board found the alleged missing receipts in the second ballot box for the Goingsnake district.

Bunch petitioned the Election Board for a hand recount of the ballots. However, he failed to pay the \$500 fee as required by Section 810(B) of the election ordinance and, therefore, was not granted a recount.

After hearing Bunch’s arguments and the testimony of his witnesses, the Election Board ruled against Bunch and his petition in its entirety.

According to the ruling, the Election Board could not find any argument or error to change the results posted Dec. 3.

The ruling, also, certified that Locust is the validly elected assistant chief of the UKB.



**Housing Authority Photo**

*A before photo of hallway inside of Nancy Soap’s home before UKB Housing came in and remodeled. The walls were painted to look as if they were paneled by Eugene Soap, Nancy’s son.*



**Sammy Still/GCN**

*With a new interior look Nancy Soap express joy and happiness, giving thanks to the UKB Housing program for her remodeled home. “This is my Christmas gift,” said Soap.*

**Remodel.....continued from Page 1**

Soap said most of all, she is grateful for the introduction of the heating and air unit, which she has never had before. She said now she will have a heated and cooled home in all weather. She also has a new roof, lights in all rooms, a handicap accessible bath and toilet, and a new well house cover, which was once wasp-filled.

Eugene Soap, Nancy’s son, said he likes his mother’s new home and she is able to stay warm without the danger of a woodstove, which she was using before.

Soap, like many others, applied through the Keetoowah Housing department to get her home repaired. Because of her eligibility, she was able to get all of the necessary repairs done in a matter of three weeks. But, she first had to wait her turn, as the department had a list of other applicants who had also been waiting their turn.

The housing department is constantly busy working on homes and home replacement, with last year’s home repair/replacement totaling more than 20 homes.

Charles Ketcher, construction manager, said Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds the homes the housing department repairs. Hired contractors first do a walk-through

of a home and make a list of repairs needed. Then, through the recipient’s eligibility and house insurance, they calculate how much can be spent on renovations.

Soap was able to have input on her home repairs and the colors she wanted it painted.

Ketcher said recipients can say what they want, but he will make suggestions when it comes to the roof, windows, electric and plumbing, for safety reasons. He said they do what they can to help conserve energy and help them on their energy bills.

“We check everything,” said Ketcher. “We try to do the best job we can when it comes to fixing up a house. The first time I came over while they were working on it, they weren’t even done yet. She just smiled and said ‘It’s pretty.’ She’s really proud of it and just likes it. It’s a vast improvement from when we first started working on it. She said ‘I got a new house now.’ That was her comment.”

Through all of the waiting and construction, Soap is enjoying her “new” home.

“I can’t give enough thanks to everyone that has made my Christmas wish possible,” said Soap.

**“...I worried that in the next couple of years I would not have a house to keep me warm,” said Soap.**

# Keetoowah Casino spreads joy during Christmas season

By Lindsey Bark  
GCN Reporter

Christmas time is the season for giving. The saying goes “it is the thought that counts.” The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino is one of those entities that thinks about its community and gives back what they have put forth.

Steeley Baptist Church lies within a small community east of Kenwood, filled mostly with elders and a few children. Each year, they put on a Christmas program, telling the story of the Nativity. After the program, the church gives bags of apples, oranges and candy to visitors and attendees, just because.

“It helped us out with the purchase of our program’s Christmas candy and also extra gifts for all ages. It was a great blessing,” said Nick Hair, Steeley member.

In some places, there may be a bit of contention between churches and casinos. However, the Keetoowah Casino’s intention is to give back, because it is a beacon of the tribe. The tribe helps itself so that it can help others.

“I think that every little bit helps no matter where it comes from,” said Sandra Bark, Steeley member. “If it’s given in love, you’re giving a child or elder a gift he or she may not have received anywhere else, even if it is a small gift or candy.”

The casino donated to Steeley Baptist Church this Christmas, as well as many others. They helped to spread a bit of joy and happiness to those who may not have received much for Christmas.

# Tribe sponsors second invitational tournament

By Lindsey Bark  
GCN Reporter

For the second time, the United Keetoowah Band sponsored the Tiger Invitational basketball tournament at Tahlequah High School on Dec. 6 through 8.

The tournament kicked off Thursday Dec. 6 with the Tigers versus the Sapulpa Chieftans and the Lady Tigers against the Sandites of Sand Springs. The boys won their first game with a score of 64-54 and the girls beat Sand Springs 50-23, allowing both Tahlequah teams to advance further into the tournament.

Ending on Saturday, the Lady Tigers manage to make it to the finals with a win over Moore in the semifinals with a score of 55-32. However, the Lady Tigers fell short of the victory against the Muskogee Roughers in the finals with a score of 61-54, taking home the second place hardware.

The Tigers managed to make it to the semifinals before being beat out of the tournament by SOYLA, who took the win 78-46 for third place.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

For the second year, United Keetoowah Band sponsored the Tiger Invitational Basketball tournament at the Tahlequah High School.

# Inauguration.....continued from Page 6

cal parties, North and South. South are the people who took our lands away from us which lands the Creator had given to us, where our forefathers were raised. Their greed was the worst kind; they had no love and they are still following us to put their feet on us to get the last land we have. It is plain that they have come in on us secretly; different organizations are with them and they have agreed to help one another in everything. They control our political offices because our masses of the people are not organized.”

Lots of things in the 1859 constitution have not been amended. We remember back to the old days, and the people we came from told the truth.

“Everything in our constitution is the truth,” said Wickliffe. “In 1889, we sat down again with the United States, and we said that we would honor the U.S. Constitution and that it was the supreme law of the land. At that time, we formed a government to government relationship with the United States.

It has been called recently as a result of our corporate charter. They have stated that the corporate charter gives us the opportunity to put land in trust. These accomplishments came because we have always sought the guidance of God.”

We support our communities, schools, and churches. Dr. Turner from NSU has brought everyone together. Mayor Nichols helps us to be involved and to have a good relationship with

each other. The West Willis Road project with the county and the city is an example. Helping the community is the kind of people we are. We have sovereignty, but we assimilate.

Delaware District Representative Jerry Hansen spoke briefly before he gave the benediction. He said, “Are you sensitive to the needs of others – friends, co-workers, and neighbors? There is healing in your hands, in our hands. Too often we become focused on our own dreams, goals, efforts and selves, and how we can get our own miracles. You are never more like God than when you’re helping someone who is hurting. Our job is not to judge, it is not to say who deserves something or who is right or who is wrong. Our job is to lift the fallen, restore the broken and help heal the hurting, to help wipe away the tears. You must be willing to be inconvenienced. You must be willing to change places with those that are hurting. Would you want someone to feel for you when your times come around?” said Hansen, as he began the closing prayer.

The tribal council formed a receiving line and greeted tribal members. Attendees were then treated to a reception buffet of sandwiches, fruits, vegetables and desserts.

And then the council got down to business with the first council meeting of 2013. The meeting was held later in the day at the UKB Community Services conference room.



Summer King/UKB Natural Resources

Francine Rozell, Realty Specialist/Court Clerk takes first place for her handmade quilt made from old pieces of fabric in the UKB Natural Resources Christmas gift contest. Donated from the casino, Rozell took home a \$75 prize.

# Employees turn trash into gifts

By M. Thomas Jordan  
GCN Special Writer

The United Keetoowah Band’s Natural Resources office used the decorative spirit of Christmas to heighten awareness about recycling.

Brandi Ross, Natural Resources director, and Summer King, environmental technician, tasked tribal and casino employees with making Christmas gifts from at least 50 percent recycled or re-used items.

“The point of the contest is to get people out of the mindset of throwing things away and buying everything new,” said Ross. “It is important to develop a culture that sends less and less to the landfill. We have become a society that is consumed with packaging, single-use items and excess. We need to get back to our roots and be resourceful.”

Ross and King demonstrated the object of the contest by decorating the Natural Resources’ office Christmas tree with pop tabs on the ribbon, blue jeans as garland, plastic bottles, pinecones, coffee filter snowflakes, toothbrush bracelets as ornaments and shredded paper with a pinecone as the topper.

On Dec. 14, Ross brought in an anonymous, unbiased judge to pick the top three out of the eleven entries.

Employees entered a reed basket, a reed doll, a gift basket—comprised of wild plum jam, wild plum butter and pumpkin bread—a honey suckle basket, a blowgun with darts, a quilt, a can-

dy cane wreath, a bag woven from plant fibers, a river cane flute, a Christmas box with homemade ornaments and a gourd tabletop decoration.

Contestants used recycled items such as scrap fabric, plastic juice bottles, pickle jars, peanut butter jars, coffee cans, repurposed silk flowers, old Christmas cards and reclaimed river cane to create their entries.

Francine Rozell, Realty Specialist/Court clerk, took first place with her quilt made from old pieces of fabric.

Sammy Still, Media Director, took second place with his river cane blowgun and bois d’ arc darts.

Carrie Grayson, Human Services Advocate, took third place with her bag woven out of plant fibers.

The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino donated \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

And to make the contest even more interesting, Ross uploaded a photo of each entry to the Natural Resources/Environmental Facebook page for people to vote in the “People’s Choice Award.”

Ross awarded Rebecca Dreadfulwater, Title VI coordinator, with a Bible scripture framed in granite and adorned with a leaf collage for her 100-percent-recycled Christmas gift box and ornaments receiving the most votes.

Ross said she normally goes to schools or other community venues and demonstrates recycling techniques, but this is a first as a competition.

For more information on recycling, call Ross at 918-453-2823.

# Child development center helps children grow

By M. Thomas Jordan  
GCN Special Writer

The United Keetoowah Band operates a daycare or, more appropriately, a child development center. The difference is resounding. One simply watches children grow. The other helps them grow.

The 15 employees of the Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center, a two-star facility, currently watch over 40 children. They are the first line in educating those children, most of whom spend the majority of their wakeful hours in attendance.

Children begin arriving at 7:30 a.m. when the center opens and the learning begins. Each child is greeted at the front desk, and when they reach their respective classroom, a simple lesson in social courtesy.

At 8:30 a.m., breakfast is served family-style (age allowing). Breakfast is anything from oatmeal, pancakes or sweet rice to eggs, croissants or biscuits and gravy, served with juice and milk. The children sit at a table with their teacher(s), serve themselves and feed themselves (infants are, of course, fed their bottles by staff), a lesson in motor skills and, once again, social courtesies.

After breakfast, most classrooms conduct circle time. The teachers and children discuss the day of the week, month, color of the month, shape of the month, count, sing songs and read books.

Weather permitting, the teachers take the children outside to play on the playground or on walks around the complex, a nice bit of exercise to develop muscles, burn energy and, once again, learn more social courtesies.

During center time, children move to the seven interest areas. These areas comprise a library with books and puppets, an art center with paint crayons, markers, assorted collage materials, paper, etc., a block center with big wood blocks, cars, trucks, people, etc., a dramatic play center with dress-up clothes, dolls, a play stove, refrigerator, table, dishes, utensils, etc., a manipulative center with linking toys, puzzles, LEGOs, nesting toys, etc., a math center with sorting toys and a science/nature area with shells, shovels, play bugs, etc and a sensory table supplied with water, flour, rice, noodles, dirt, etc.

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. Children eat anything from Salisbury steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, hot dogs or chicken fajitas to pizza, chicken pot pie or lasagna.

After lunch, the children take a nap. They do not have to actually sleep, but they do have to rest for at least 30 minutes. If the children stay awake, then they can enjoy a quiet activity respecting those who do sleep.

When nap time ends at 2:30, the children eat a snack of anything from fruit cocktails, granola bars or blueberry muffins to crackers and cheese, Oreo cookies or pudding.

All three meals meet Child and Adult Care Food Program guidelines for a well-balanced meal based on the Food Pyramid. Each meal is served with milk, fruit or juice, bread, vegetables and a meat item for lunch. To avoid choking hazards the staff cuts hard food into 1/4 inch pieces for children 23 months and younger and into 1/2 inch pieces for children 24 months and older. The meals are, also, partially subsidized by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Parents begin picking their children up around 2 p.m., so children, usually, spend the rest of the time in free play, inside or out. Some teachers, also, schedule an afternoon circle time to remind the children of what they learned that day.

Along with circle time, play time, center time and meals, the teachers, also, fit in lessons such as having the children practice walking on their toes, practice pedaling a tricycle, discuss winter activities, show and tell, read stories, etc. And, with a Keetoowah Cherokee speaker present, the children learn the basics of the tribe's native tongue.

In total, the staff spends from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. helping these children fulfill their potential. They log each activity, meal and, when applicable, diaper change to share with the parents.

Most of the staff have completed the 120 hours of formal early childhood education train-



M. Thomas Jordan/GCN

Thirty one children from the Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center rode their trykes, bikes and strollers to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital April 27, 2012.

ing and passed the test to receive their Child Development Associate credential or are in the process of obtaining it. Along with the CDA, each staff member is required to obtain 20 hours of early childhood training a year.

They keep up to date on promoting health, safety and nutrition in home environments, supporting children's social and emotional development, positive guidance, helping children resolve peer conflict and injury prevention and child safety, to name a few.

Each employee, also, passes a background check before being hired.

The center is funded through self-gener-

ated revenue—households that have to pay the fees out of pocket—and from Child Care Development funds through the Department of Health and Human Services. The HHS, also, subsidizes enrollment fees for households that meet income guidelines.

In addition to the day-to-day operations, each year the center sponsors a health and safety fair, provides backpacks and school supplies to Keetoowah Cherokee children and sponsors a tryke-a-thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

For more information about the HLDCCD, call 918-431-9998.



## COUNCIL

- George Wickliffe  
Chief
- Charlie Locust  
Assistant Chief
- Joyce Hawk  
Secretary
- Ella Mae Worley  
Treasurer
- Eddie Sacks  
Canadian District
- Cliff Wofford  
Cooweescoowee District
- Jerry Hansen  
Delaware District
- Tom Duncan  
Flint District
- William Christie  
Goingsnake District
- Peggy Girty  
Illinois District
- Charles Smoke  
Saline District
- Barry Dotson  
Sequoyah District
- Betty Holcomb  
Tahlequah District

Keetoowah members,

It has certainly been an exciting time for me since I began my role as Interim Director of Education in October. I have become acquainted with policies, staff, students and community members and so much more. It is evident we are a tribe that is growing and I am proud to be able to help foster the growth.

Our college students have been coming into the office with transcripts and schedules for the fall semester. We have students in undergraduate and graduate programs at Connors, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma University, University of Phoenix, Rogers State University, Haskell Nations, Carl Albert College and Northeastern State University. We also have students in the various Vo-Tech programs who are gaining employment skills in areas such as nursing, medical coding, business administration, etc. Kudos to our students and their progress!

Some projects the education program have been working on are a civics/citizenship program for our college students and we are also in the process of providing access to library books for children in the community satellite offices, starting with the Stilwell, Kansas and Vian offices. We are scheduling visits with high schools so we can contact our students to assess their readiness for post-high school activities. Also, we would like to bring together Keetoowah youth who want to develop their leadership skills. So, if you know someone who has potential leadership abilities, please contact us. Additionally, our Keetoowah language program instructors have been meeting to develop a more comprehensive curriculum.

I personally invite you to support our program's vision of literacy, career readiness and cultural citizenship for all Keetoowahs. When you have a chance to encourage a student who is doing a good job, do so. If you can help a student who is struggling, do so. If you can help a high school student understand the importance of completing high school, do so. If you will read a book to your children or grandchildren, do so. If you have the chance to attend your Council representative meetings, do so. If you speak the Keetoowah language and have a chance to pass this knowledge on to a student, do so. If we all do what we can to help our students, the rewards will be immense. Please join us in our efforts.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have suggestions or need more information. Until next month, wado.

Susan Adair  
Interim Education Director

**Title VI Fire Preceptor Elder Nutrition Center—Native American 55+ (UKB or CDIB Card) Spouses & or Volunteers/Guests: \$3.50**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Menus are subject to change without notice. For more info call: (918) 772-4380 (918) 772-4379 Or (918) 772-4378</p>	<p>Milk, Tea, Coffee &amp; Water Served Daily During Lunch 11:30 - 1:00</p>	<p>1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b> TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED HOLIDAY</p>	<p>2 <b>TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED HOLIDAY</b></p>	<p>3 BBQ Bologna Baked Bean: Corn on Cob Texas Toast Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>4 <b>BRUNCH</b> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	5
6	<p>7 Chicken Fried Steak, Mash. Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Beans, Hot Roll Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>8 Chicken Noodle Soup, Crackers Fried Yellow Squash Broccoli Salad Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>9 White Beans w/ Ham, Hominy Greens: Cornbread Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>10 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Mixed Vegetables Garlic Toast Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>11 <b>11 am - 12:30 pm</b> Sloppy Joes on Bun Potato Chips Broccoli Salad Dessert</p>	12
13	<p>14 Loaded Baked Potato w/fixings Grilled Veggies Breadstick Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>15 Chicken &amp; Dumplings, Yams Green Beans Biscuit Salad &amp; Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>16 Cheeseburgers w/ Fixing on Bun Potato Wedge Pork &amp; Beans Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>17 Catfish w/Tatar Sauce, Black-eyed Peas, Hushpuppies Colelaw Dessert</p>	<p>18 <b>BRUNCH</b> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	19
20	<p>21  Tribal Offices Closed-Holiday</p>	<p>22 Ground Beef Vegetable Stew Hominy, Cheese Stk Biscuit Salad &amp; Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>23 Liver &amp; Onions in Brown Gravy, Whole Potatoes Corn, Hot Roll Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>24 <b>Traditional Meal</b> Brown Beans w/ Ham, Fried Potato's Cornbread, Salad Birthday Cake</p>	<p>25 <b>Kitchen Closed For Cleaning</b></p>	26
27	<p>28 Sauerkraut &amp; Weenies, Black-eyed Peas, Hominy Cornbread Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>29 Goulash Hominy Tomato Zucchini Garlic Toast Salad &amp; Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>30 BBQ Brisket/Bun Mac &amp; Cheese Baked Potato Chips Pork &amp; Beans Salad &amp; Dessert</p>	<p>31 Stuffed Peppers Rice Pilaf Green Beans Biscuit Salad &amp; Dessert</p>		

Nutrition Analysis: Includes 2% Milk, Each Meal Meets 1/3 of The Recommended RDA Requirements

## Review.....continued from Page 1

cil to increase elder assistance checks, and several building projects, with several more set to begin in the coming year.

A re-cap of 2012 follows.

### January

In the first council meeting of the year, the UKB Tribal Council approved Assistant Chief Charles Locust to continue representing the United Keetoowah Band with the National Indian Gaming Association.

The UKB donated funds to renovate the Jay City Park.

Judge Lynn Burris was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

### February

The UKB continued the Cultural Outreach Program with presentations given on cornhusk dolls and basket making at Rocky Ford, Fairfield, Kenwood and Vian.

Associate Justice Kimberly Anthony was sworn in at the February tribal council meeting. Women employed by the tribe participated in National Wear Red Day, to focus attention on women's heart health.

The 2012 Tahlequah Leadership Class visited the United Keetoowah Band. This was the fifth consecutive year the tribe has hosted a Tahlequah leadership class for a half day program. The group of 20 participants had lunch provided by the Title VI Nutrition program, was given a welcome by Assistant Chief Locust, orientation of programs and building projects by Executive Director of Tribal Operations Bryan Shade and had a basket making class presented by Cindy Hair and Choogie Kingfisher.

### March

The UKB tribal council created an Ad Hoc committee to review requests for reinstatement to the UKB tribe.

Once again, the UKB presented a Spring

Break Culture Camp for students kindergarten through ninth grade. There were approximately 100 young people who attended the week-long camp. Participants learned how to make baskets, cornhusk dolls, and had lessons on the Keetoowah Cherokee language. There were demonstrations on marbles, cornstalk shoot, and blowguns. There was also a museum tour, a presentation on the types of uniforms typically worn by the Union and Confederate Soldiers, Indian Olympics and a stomp dance demonstration.

The Annual UKB Easter Egg Hunt drew hundreds of excited youngsters anxious to find candy filled eggs along with the Chief's and Assistant Chief's prize eggs. In addition to egg hunts with prizes for four age groups, there was also a visit by the Easter Bunny and an opportunity for kids to have their photo taken with their furry friend.

The United Keetoowah Band proved once again what a good neighbor it can be, as the City of Tahlequah was given a check in the amount of \$10,000 to go towards expenses to purchase a new traffic light at the intersection of Highway 61 and Southridge. The light was needed due to increased traffic and safety concerns with traffic increasing as a result of opening the new Heritage Elementary School in the Southridge neighborhood.

The UKB Health committee hosted a Diabetes Nutrition Seminar for tribal employees. The steps to combat diabetes are: 1) becoming aware of the problem, 2) becoming aware of food's role in managing diabetes, and 3) offering healthy food choices to help people manage their diabetes.

### April

Cherokee elders and speakers came together for fellowship and to translate words from English to Cherokee at the Cherokee Language Consortium. Cherokee speakers and writers from the UKB, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma fulfilled a dream of many elders as the Cherokee circle became complete and all three tribes came together.

The UKB Veterans Honor Guard and Miss

Keetoowah Cherokee Kristy Feather Daugherty and Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Rachel Hays participated in the 40th Annual Symposium on the American Indian Powwow Grand Entry, held in Tahlequah at Northeastern State University.

The UKB was once again the host of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Focus Series. The breakfast meeting was hosted at the Jim Proctor Elder Center and breakfast was prepared by the UKB Title VI Nutrition staff.

In true Keetoowah Cherokee fashion, UKB toddlers rode their tricycles and bicycles for charity in an event at the Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center on April 27. Thirty one students participated and this year the "Tykes on Trykes" took in \$702.66 to donate to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

### May

Chief Wickliffe was inducted into the Sequoyah School's Hall of Fame at the Annual Sequoyah Alumni Reunion. His certificate states, "Mr. George Wickliffe, Chief of the Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, is an alumnus of Sequoyah High School and Northeastern State University. Mr. George Wickliffe experienced an extremely, highly successful career with the Oklahoma public school system, serving as an education instructor, high school principal, high school coach, public school superintendent and Cherokee language instructor. Mr. George Wickliffe began his highly successful career with the Oklahoma public school system in 1967 and retired thirty two years later in 1999. Mr. Wickliffe's public school career brought specific recognition and many awards and provided Mr. Wickliffe with the opportunity to serve and meet the education needs of many Indian youth and to serve and promote the advancement of Indian communities. Mr. George Wickliffe experienced a long career and advanced the lives and well being of many Indian people. Mr. George Wickliffe

See Review, Page 10

## Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

### What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

**The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.**

### Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
  - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
  - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government's records as of September 30, 2009.

### Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

### How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

**For a claim form or to update your contact information:**

**Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: [www.IndianTrust.com](http://www.IndianTrust.com)**

**Review.....continued from Page 9**

is recognized and honored for his exceptional career, personal accomplishments, and is honorably inducted into the Sequoyah Alumni Association Hall of Fame.”

Tribal administrators honored all UKB employees with the annual employee appreciation day. There were outdoor competitions such as basketball, horseshoes and Tug of War, a motivational speaker, and the day ended with bingo and some great prizes. Casino Employee of the Year was Jacqueline Proctor and Sandra Whitecrow was named Tribal Employee of the Year. The Manager of the Year at the casino was Alice Reese and for the tribe, Francine Rozell took the honor.

**June**

Forty two nursing students came to the UKB and conducted a health fair and culture exchange. Students learned about factors affecting health, including diet and nutrition, the importance of exercise, the dangers of smoking, managing diabetes, and the importance of good dental hygiene. Nursing students from Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, and other countries shared some of their culture and learned about Keetoowah Cherokee Culture. The students led workshops in three Keetoowah Cherokee communities – Kenwood, Stilwell and Tahlequah.

**July**

On July 13, 2012, history was made in Cherokee, N.C. when the three Cherokee tribal Governments met for the first time for the Cherokee Tri-Council Meeting.

The UKB School Clothing Voucher program kicked off for exclusive UKB students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Students grades K-8 received vouchers for \$75 and the older students, grades 9-12 received \$100 vouchers. Along with the vouchers, the Child Care Development Fund distributed backpacks with school supplies for children four to twelve years of age.

The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino celebrated its 26th Anniversary. With humble beginnings as a bingo hall, the casino now has more than 500 electronic games to choose from, and also features a smoke-free section, a grill with one of the best burgers in town made fresh while you wait or their legendary Keetoowah Taco served every Tuesday.

Dr. Gosnell gave a presentation on Breast Cancer Awareness at the employee health fair.

The UKB finally received the ruling it had been waiting on declaring the 2.03 acres of land where the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino was put in trust by the Department of the Interior. The DOI's 10-page document recognized that the casino property is in fact located within the former Cherokee reservation that is also the former reservation of the United Keetoowah Band of Chero-

kee Indians in Oklahoma giving the tribe the right and the ability to have land in trust and operate its casino.

**August**

The 2.03 acres where the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino is located was placed on the Federal Registry August 7.

The tribe broke ground for the new UKB Transit Building. The building was built from an Indian Community Development Block Grant. This facility will house the dispatcher and staff for Keetoowah Cherokee Transit and its two buses and will also include pumps for compressed natural gas, which will be utilized in two new vans the tribe plans to purchase.

The Gaduwa Cherokee News staff won six awards from the Native American Journalists Association for their 2011 stories and photos. The awards were presented to Thomas Jordan and Sammy Still at the Unity Conference held August 1-4 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Thirty candidates filed to run in the November UKB tribal election. District Representatives Eddie Sacks, Canadian District; Jerry Hansen, Delaware District Representative; William Christie, Goingsnake District Representative and Peggy Girty, Illinois District Representative drew no opponents. For Cooweescoowee District, incumbent Clifford Wofford faced Josiah Thorne. For Flint District, incumbent Tom Duncan, Beverly Leach, Arthur Ross, Wiki "Joe" Squirrel and Frankie Still ran against each other. For Saline District, incumbent Charles Smoke faced Adalene Smith. For Sequoyah District, incumbent Barry Dotson faced Junior Levi Catron. For Tahlequah District, incumbent Betty Holcomb, Jerry Henson, Perry Proctor and James Reese ran against each other. For treasurer, incumbent Ella Mae Worley faced Vanessa Hansen. For secretary, incumbent Joyce Hawk, Carl Hornet and Kristene Scrapper ran against each other. For assistant chief, incumbent Assistant Chief Charles Locust, Joe Bunch and Woodrow Proctor ran against each other. For chief, incumbent Chief George Wickliffe, Dallas Proctor and Donna McIntosh Shockley ran against each other.

**September**

On September 7, the ribbon was cut on the West Willis Road project, a joint effort of the United Keetoowah Band, the City of Tahlequah, funded mostly by the BIA's Indian Reservation Roads Program. U.S. Congressman Dan Boren helped secure the funding for the project. The eighteen month project included widening the road, putting in new drainage ditches and adding a sidewalk for pedestrians, including school children walking to the brand new Heritage elementary school in the Southridge Housing addition.

The UKB Elder Council attended the 19th

Biennial National Indian Council on Aging Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attending were UKB elder council members Robert Whitekiler, Dora Grayson, Nellie Hunt, Calvin McCoy, George McCoy and Melvin McCoy.

In a unanimous decision on September 17, the UKB tribal council voted to increase the elder assistance amount to \$300 per elder twice per year. The elder assistance checks are given to UKB-exclusive elders in June and December annually.

Trista Vaughn was crowned Miss Keetoowah Cherokee and Elaine Hays won the Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee title at the UKB's goodwill ambassador pageant on September 13.

**October**

The theme of the 62nd Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration was "One Fire, One Family, Rising Together."

The 62nd Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration was attended by many despite the freezing rain and sleet that participants, making up 51 entries, and spectators of the Celebration parade were met with earlier in the day. Sporting competitions included horseshoes, volleyball, and the 5K run and 2K fun run and back by popular demand, a men's fast pitch softball tournament and a 5-5 coed softball tournament.

There were many children's events including the always-popular turtle races, inflatables, face painting, kid's fishing derby, cultural demonstrations and make-and-take crafts as well as youth divisions in the run, the blowgun competition, the cornstalk shoot and bingo. Cultural games included stickball, blowgun, marbles and cornstalk shoot. Following the State of the Nation Address by Chief Wickliffe and a performance by the Keetoowah Cherokee Children's choir, the free traditional meal drew thousands of people to feast upon hog fry, beans, potatoes, and fry bread. There were approximately fifty arts, crafts and food vendors set up to sell their wares, and bingo attracted many tribal members, including both elders and youth. Due to the cold, damp weather, the powwow on Saturday was moved indoors to Sequoyah High School, at "The Place Where They Play."

UKB tribal members Jim Buckhorn and Joan Foreman were honored as the 2012 Keetoowah Cherokee Tradition Keepers. The Tradition Keepers award is designed to honor Keetoowah Cherokee craftspeople, artisans and elders who are committed to education and cultural preservation. Buckhorn was given the award for his bow making and Foreman was named tradition keeper for her beadwork.

**November**

Approximately 200 veterans and guests were honored at the annual UKB Veterans Luncheon, held at the Tahlequah Armory and Municipal Center. Norman "Hominy" Littledave, the Commander of the Keetoowah Cherokee Honor Guard, was recognized for the formation and coordination of the all-veteran honor guard.

Chief George Wickliffe was elected to serve a third term as chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Other winners in the election included Joyce Fourkiller Hawk, Tribal Secretary, Ella Mae Worley, Tribal Treasurer, Cliff Wofford, Cooweescoowee District, Charles Smoke, Saline District, and Betty Holcomb, Tahlequah District. A run-off election was set for December 3 for the assistant chief's race with incumbent Charles Locust facing Joe Bunch and Flint District incumbent Tom Duncan facing Frankie Still.

**December**

Assistant Chief Locust was re-elected to his position, and Tom Duncan was elected to continue his position as Flint District Representative. All Keetoowah children, from birth to 18 years old, received a Walmart Christmas gift card for \$40 distributed by district representatives in the spirit of the season.

Keetoowah Cherokee Casino employees and UKB tribal employees were treated to a BBQ dinner with all the trimmings and door prize give-aways for the annual employee Christmas Party. The employees were also given \$10 for free play at the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino, which was only open to employees later that evening.

**El Reno Indians win their first Super Bowl**

*By Sammy Still  
GCN Editor*

Jacob Pollock and Elijah Tallbear, members of the El Reno Indians 10-year-old age group won their first Super Bowl game held November 10, 2012 in Yukon, Oklahoma.

Pollock and Tallbear are tribal members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho, but also ¼ Keetoowah Cherokee. Their parents are Georgia Black and Basil

Pollock, Black is a full-blood Keetoowah Cherokee.

The El Reno Indians were 12-2 this season only losing to one team twice. These players have been playing as a team for 4 years working hard all season giving it their best on the field. The team received third place last year in their district.

The young players were rewarded by receiving championship rings for defeating their opponent in the Super Bowl. "We are so very proud of them," said Georgia Black.



**Special Photo**

*The El Reno Indians were 12-2 this season topping off a victory in their first Super Bowl game in Yukon, OK.*

# UKB Regular November Council Meeting Minutes

UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting at the UKB Community Services Building Nov. 17, 2012  
10:03 a.m. – 12:12 p.m.

I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe

II. Invocation: Tom Duncan

III. Roll Call: 8 + Chief answered Roll Call; Hansen, Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at roll call

-Hawk: stated Wofford called and has been ill the past few days and may or may not be in attendance.

-Chief Wickliffe stated now we will ask for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss business and it will be an issue of the casino.

-Dotson: requested the Executive Session be moved to the end of the agenda for the postponed convenience of the citizens sitting here. "Thank you very much," Dotson said.

-Chief Wickliffe: stated he didn't think we could do that. It's very serious what we need to do and if it hadn't been for Washington moving we would have already lost millions of dollars at the casino.

-Dotson: I asked a simple question Chief, that's all.

-Chief Wickliffe: I am opposed, it is important that we do the people's business

-DISCUSSION: between Chief Wickliffe, Dotson and Worley (Treasurer) on the movement of Executive Session to the end of the agenda comes to a disagreement and discussion becomes inaudible as all three individuals spoke at once.

-Chief Wickliffe: I entertain a motion to enter into Executive session.

-Holcomb: What is the reason we are having to go into Executive Session?

-Chief Wickliffe: Because we need to get our business done.

-Worley: All we are asking is not to do away with the item, just move it to the end.

-Christie: Let's just go by the agenda and stop the arguing and senseless comments.

-Girty: Is there a time we can set the agenda and I understand with the elections going on, but the people come and if at a later time to have the item at the end so the people don't have to come in and out. Not now but later.

-Chief Wickliffe: I am in charge to approve the agenda, so if it is going to take all this discussion to enter into Executive Session, then let's just motion to adjourn. I set the agenda it is important we take care of business.

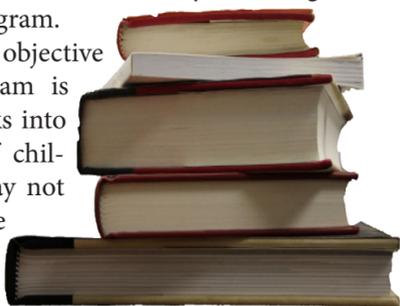
-Dotson: I have been approached by members of having to wait hours at a time. It would be just as easy to put the item at the end and if they don't want to stay then they may go on home or about

## UKB library starts book exchange

The UKB library is announcing the start of a new program that is being offered to tribal members and any other interested parties.

In an effort to promote literacy among tribal members, the UKB library is starting a book exchange program.

The objective of the program is to place books into the hands of children who may not otherwise have convenient access to a library.



The UKB library is sending children's books to the sub-offices located in Little Kansas, Stilwell and Vian.

To participate, stop by one of the UKB sub-offices listed and pick up a few books. When finished with the books, return the books and exchange for different ones. It's that simple.

New books are rotated in and out each month. The program's tentative start date is Jan. 15, 2013.

their own business.

-Chief Wickliffe: They will have to wait. It is important to get the business of the tribe discussed and voted on by the Council.

-Hawk: We have a motion on the floor to enter into Executive Session with legal representation.

MOTION: by Willie Christie to enter into Executive Session with legal present; TIME – 10:12 AM; SECONDED: by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 No (Dotson, Worley, Holcomb), 0 Abstentions (Hansen, Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

IV. Executive Session

-Hansen arrived

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to exit from Executive Session and return to regular session; TIME – 12:12 PM; SECONDED by Ella Mae Worley; VOTE: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

-No item for vote to be presented as the Council exits item IV on the agenda; therefore, continue regular scheduled meeting.

V. Approval of the minutes for the month of October 2012

-MOTION by Jerry Hansen to approve the minutes for the month of October 2012; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

VI. Reports to Council

1. Enrollment/Ad-Hoc Report: Joyce Hawk

-Hawk: As you will notice the Ad-Hoc report is the names on the Enrollment of new members pending include the names of the members who were granted to rejoin with an asterisk by their name, only 1 was denied among that group and by Ad-Hoc recommendation they have opportunity to come before Council to appeal and ask the Council for acceptance. At this time I do not see the gentleman in the room. Also as of October 31, 2012 was the day for courtesy to re-join the tribe as a member. The members of new membership are retroactive due to the meeting being held later in the month than usual.

MOTION by Jerry Hansen to accept and approve 9 new applicants for UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Willie Christie; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

MOTION by Jerry Hansen to acknowledge and honor 20 membership relinquishments from UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Willie Christie; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Lo-

cust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

VII. Unfinished Business - NONE

VIII. New Business

1. MOTION by Ella Mae Worley to approve and authorize the participation in the Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

2. Council to receive an appropriate report on the legal status of the 2.03 gaming parcel. No vote required as this item was discussed in Executive Session. This item was to be placed under item IV on the agenda in Executive Session.

X. Announcements –

-Holcomb: I would like to pass out a document on complaints of the voting.

-Chief Wickliffe: Those will need to be addressed to the Election Board.

-Hawk: I have a December Calendar which I passed around for each District Representative and it is marked with closing of the tribal offices for run-off election December 3rd and the Christmas/New Year holiday, December 24 – January 2. I need each District Representative to pick their date, location and time for Christmas Gift Card distribution for their children in their district. When I have all dates, this information will be forwarded to Media for publication in the newspaper. The Tahlequah Christmas Parade is December 1, 2012 at 6:00 PM if any Council wish to ride on the float please contact Victoria Proctor. She is working for the Special Projects department. The Winter Elder Assistance Program began November 6, 2012 and will continue until December 14, 2012 at NOON. At this time 838 elders have applied. This also has the increase to \$300.00.

-Worley: Secretary in the future may I be informed of the activities or any information?

-Hawk: Yes I will send in email or as a packet. I would like to ask Council if the December meeting can be moved from December 1st to December 8th due to December 3rd office closings for the election run-off and December 1st being the Christmas Parade.

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve to move the December Regular Council meeting from December 1, 2012 to December 8, 2012; SECONDED by Tom Duncan; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Locust, Smoke and Wofford absent at call).

XII. Benediction: Tom Duncan

XIII. Adjourn:

MOTION by Eddie Sacks; SECONDED by Willie Christie; Approve by affirmation: 12:47 PM



Eleven-year-old Jacob Christie shot an 11 point buck in the youth rifle hunt Oct. 19 in the evening by Illinois River. Courtesy Photo

