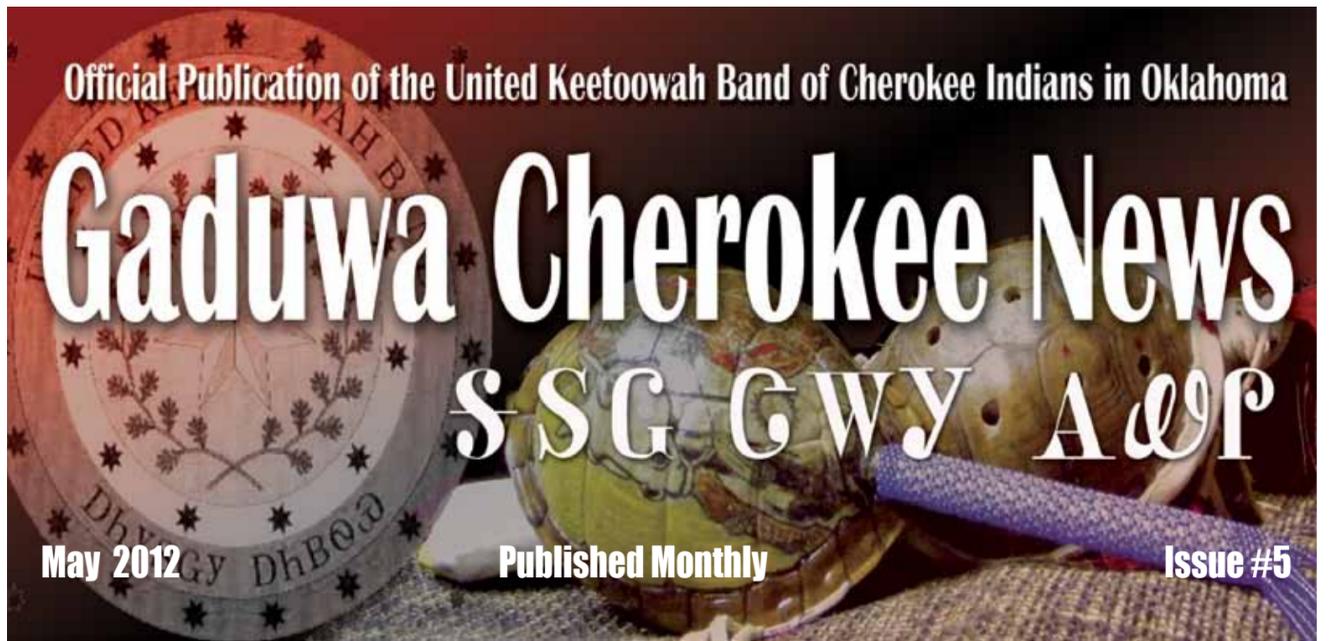


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# Consortium Brings Together Cherokee Tribes

On July 13, 2012 an historic event will take place in Cherokee, North Carolina when the three Cherokee tribal governments meet for the first time for the Tri-Council meeting.

But today the elders and Cherokee speakers met in Tahlequah, Cherokee Capitol of the Western Cherokees on April 2 when the three tribes met to begin the completion of that circle bringing all three tribes together as one, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (UKB), Eastern Band Cherokee Indians (EBCI), and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma (CNO).

The late Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma deputy chief Hasting Shade once said, "Today our circle is broken because our brothers and sisters from the United Keetoowah Band are not with us. I dream of a day when our circle is complete and we stand united."

Eastern Band Cherokee and beloved elder, Myrtle Driver, spoke to the Cherokee Consortium on April 2, saying that she had a dream that one day the three tribes would become as one and that she prayed that she would still be alive to witness the historical event.

Their dreams came true as over 30 Cherokee speakers and writers from the three federally recognized Cherokee tribes gathered on April 2 for a three-day consortium to fellowship and translate words from English to Cherokee.

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Chief Wickliffe addressed the consortium Monday morning informing that the Cherokee language was still abundant throughout the Cherokee communities. "You can hear the Cherokee language spoken in rural communities from the young to the old," said Chief Wickliffe.

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Chief Bill John Baker also addressed the consortium later in



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. Photo by Thomas Jordan

the morning by expressing his pleasure by seeing all three tribes coming together for a common goal. He told the group of how the late Hastings Shade commented on the absence of the UKB and that one day the horseshoe will be completed by a circle of unity.

Each tribe was provided an opportunity to address the consortium detailing the many ways their tribe educates their members in the Cherokee language. Providing services for their tribal members through translations during hospital visits or applying for services to education instructional classes in their communities, all three tribes main goal was to help educate their tribal members by teaching them the Cherokee language. With vari-

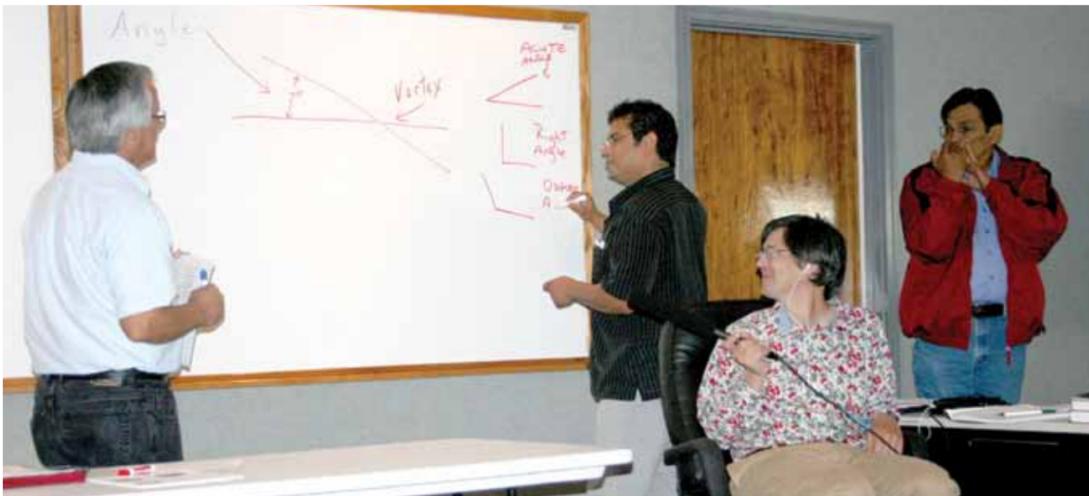
ous teaching aids either by text books, compact disks, or voice modulators, the goal was the same, to keep the Cherokee language alive.

During the translation session of the consortium many variations of translations could be heard as each individual gave their interpretation of an English word. As with all Native American tribes Cherokee people are family oriented and humorous individuals as laughter could be heard and camaraderie shared as the group worked together sharing their thoughts of what each word reminded them.

After each day-long training and activities the consortium group was treated to an evening of potluck dinner and storytelling as each Cherokee member renewed old friendships. The consortium was deemed a success as the participants departed wishing each other a safe passage back home and enthusiastically anticipating their next meeting at the old home in Cherokee, North Carolina.

The April consortium was hosted by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. The next language consortium is tentatively scheduled for July 2012 and is hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokees in collaboration with the Tri-Council meeting between the three federally recognized Cherokee governments.

by Sammy Still  
GCN Editor



Bo Lossiah, center, curriculum specialist, Kituwah Academy, Eastern Band; explains the word "angle" to help understand how to translate the word into the Cherokee language to Dennis Sixkiller, left, Cherokee translator specialist, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma ; Bo Lossiah, Hartwell Frances, seated, Western Carolina University; and Tom Belt, right, Cherokee language coordinator, Western Carolina University. Photo by Sammy Still

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## UKB Hosts Legislative Focus

On April 5, the United Keetoowah Band hosted the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Focus Series. The event was held in the Jim Proctor Elder Community Center on the grounds of the UKB tribal complex just south of Tahlequah.

Dignitaries from the city of Tahlequah, UKB Administrators, Officers and Directors, enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by UKB Title VI staff.

The Legislative Focus has become an annual tradition and an opportunity for Chamber members to meet with area elected officials.

Stanley Young, Vice President of Community Development for the Chamber, chairs this event. Beth Harrington serves as the moderator for the event.

"We welcome all members to meet with our elected officials and are proud to present this monthly opportunity to ask questions of our local

leaders. I encourage all members to attend and to take an active role in the legislative issues that affect us and the community that we live in," said Young.

The Legislative Focus series started in 1991 at the suggestion of then State Senator Herb Rozell. 2012 marks the 22nd year for the series. UKB has hosted the event the last three years.

Chief George Wickliffe welcomed the crowd of approximately 70 people.

"We are proud to host the Legislative Focus for the third year in a row. We are interested in the communities and in the city of Tahlequah. We are currently participating in the Willis Road Project, which will not only benefit our employees and tribal members, but also parents with children who will be attending the new Heritage Elementary School, and all people who live in this part of the county," said Wickliffe.

Members of the local legislative delega-

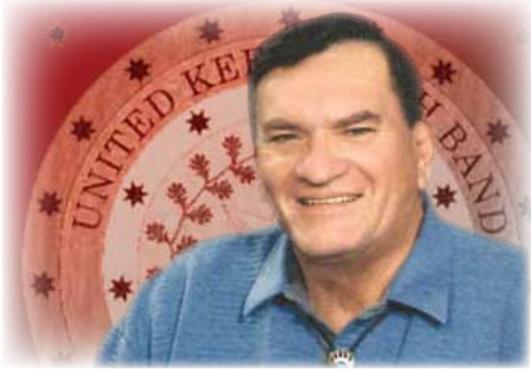


Beth Harrington, moderator for the Legislative Focus, introduced guests and dignitaries during the Legislative Focus Breakfast hosted by the United Keetoowah Band. Photo by Thomas Jordan

tion normally attend, including State Senators Earl Garrison and Jim Wilson and State Repre-

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## A Letter to the UKB People From Chief George Wickliffe



Dear Tribal Members,

This is a preview of the upcoming book on the Keetoowah Cherokee history. This chapter is predicated on points that are made in previous chapters, which are not printed here. The book is currently being prepped for publication at the University of New Mexico Press. The first half of this chapter was printed in last month's Gaduwa Cherokee News. This is the second half of the chapter.

*George Wickliffe*

### The Keetoowah Cherokee in Arkansas Part II

Also setting a pattern that has continued to the present day, the Council of the Eastern Cherokee followed up their refusal to share annuity payments with the Westerners by informing the Federal government through Agent Meigs that they did not recognize a split in the tribe. In other words, the Eastern mixed-bloods now controlled what was evolving rapidly into a national tribal government. They were glad to have as many of the full-bloods gone as were already in Arkansas and had no intention of sharing current and future tribal assets with them, but they wanted to keep them included for overall "counting purposes."

The western migration had taken the largest traditional component out of the Chickamauga towns and from the new "Lower Towns." Whereas during the time of Tsiyu Gansini or Dragging Canoe, the Lower Towns of northern Georgia and

Alabama were primarily traditional communities, the departure of more than 2,500 from those regions left the mixed blood remainder in dominant numbers. The Upper Towns that was formerly more "progressive" or "civilized" lost much of their mixed blood population to the lower hill country that favored the newly developed plantation style agriculture becoming popular with the more capitalist mixed bloods. [Thurman Wilkins, Cherokee Tragedy: The story of the Ridge Family and the Decimation of a People].

Ultimately, this new division of the Upper and Lower Towns meant that the forebears of the present Eastern Cherokee Band of Cherokees are descendants of the realigned traditional Upper Towns. In many ways, this realignment is quite appropriate because remnants of the new traditional Upper Towns preserved the land on which the original traditional town, Kituwah, was situated as well as the adjacent area which in the 21st century is part of the Eastern Band reservation in western North Carolina.

Actually, Kituwah was always considered to be a "Middle Town" in the original alignment of Lower, Middle and Overhill towns, but its location in the high hills leading into the sacred Great Smoky Mountains left it and adjacent towns as "Upper" in the 19th century realignment to traditional Upper Towns and "civilized" [or more like white] Lower towns.

Thus, by the War of 1812 there really was a three-way split among the Cherokees – the Western Keetoowah Cherokees in Arkansas, the traditional or Keetoowah Upper Towns and the "civilized" or "progressive" Lower Towns. Whites and mixed bloods were already finding it beneficial to refer to the mixed blood Lower Towns as "progressive" because they were more readily adopting white farming, government, language and education practices.

It is quite likely that the Western Keetoowah Cherokees and the Eastern Keetoowah Upper Town Cherokees exceeded the Lower Town mixed bloods in actual numbers, but the two Keetoowah groups were separated by hundreds of miles and not working to support each other. This left the mixed blood minority within the tribe as a whole to operate as a functional majority among the Eastern Cherokees as a whole. Again, this was a pattern that perpetuated itself from that time to the present.

This pattern of ignoring the traditional Keetoowah Cherokee among them and operating as though only the mixed blood agenda mattered first surfaced as the split in interests between the Upper and Lower Towns. It continued to be the pattern after the removal of the mixed bloods [and a small but significant full blood contingent] during the Trail of Tears, only in that case, the former Eastern leaders chose to operate in the West as though there was no existing government in that place and as though the interests of the full bloods were of no importance.

Also, it is important to realize that during this period at the start of the 19th century, the more assimilated mixed blood Lower Towns found it in their interest to band together to function more as a tribal government rather than keep the individual town governments that had predominated from hundreds of years past. The mixed bloods came to believe in having a single chief just as the United States had always wanted them to have. They began to form a strong central government that exercised wide control over tribal members and purported to represent them – traditional and "progressive" alike – to various government representatives and the surrounding white population.

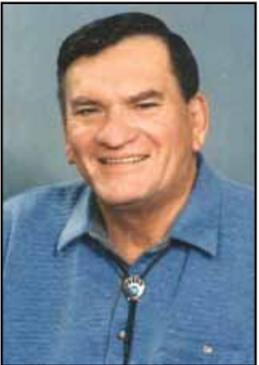
The model of a strong, centralized mixed blood government persisted in various locations throughout the 19th century and has resurfaced with a vengeance in the late 20th and early 21st centuries to form what one knowledgeable anthropologist calls "The Cherokee Empire" now known as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. [Wahrhaftig, private communication, 2007].

Thus, the separation of Eastern and Western Cherokees and the further separation among Eastern Cherokees into traditional full blood and "progressive" mixed blood camps dates from the first decade of the 19th century with far ranging implications for Cherokee relations ever since.

To return to the Western Cherokees in Arkansas in the War of 1812 era, this largely full blood and overwhelmingly traditional Keetoowah group of Cherokee towns sought to reconstruct their former way of life in a new western setting. It is believed that several of the towns brought their fire with them to Arkansas. This was necessary for the traditional religion of the stomp dance to revive. Stomp grounds continue to operate in northeastern Oklahoma in the 21st century with significant membership at four locations.

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## UKB Council



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**George G. Wickliffe**  
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Cell: 918-207-2991



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



**Delaware Dist. Rep.**  
Jerry Hansen  
Cell: 918-822-3804



**Saline Dist. Rep.**  
Charles Smoke  
Cell: 918-457-7071



### DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:



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



**Canadian Dist. Rep.**  
Eddie Sacks  
Cell: 918-822-1957



**Flint Dist. Rep.**  
Tom Duncan  
Cell: 918-507-1314



**Sequoyah Dist. Rep.**  
Barry Dotson  
Home: 918-775-2746  
Cell: 918-207-2990



**Goingsnake Dist. Rep.**  
William Christie  
Cell: 918-822-3803



**Tahlequah Dist. Rep.**  
Betty Holcomb  
Cell: 918-822-3805



**Tribal Secretary**  
Joyce Hawk  
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**Cooweescoowee Dist. Rep.**  
Cliff Wofford  
Cell: 918-822-1953



**Illinois Dist. Rep.**  
Peggy Girty  
Cell: 918-457-7067



## Notice of Office Closings

### Tribal Offices Closed May 14

The date for UKB Employee Appreciation Day has changed from the date listed in the April issue of the Gaduwa Cherokee News. United Keetoowah Band Tribal Offices will be closed on Monday, May 14 for Employee Appreciation Day. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, May 15.

### Tribal Offices Closed for Memorial Day

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma tribal offices will be closed Friday, May 25 and Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. Offices will re-open on Tuesday, May 29. We wish everyone and their families a safe holiday.

**George G. Wickliffe** Chief  
**Charles D. Locust** Assistant Chief

**Joyce Hawk** Secretary



**Ella Mae Worley** Treasurer

### District Representatives

Peggy Girty Jerry Hansen Betty Holcomb  
Barry Dotson Tom Duncan Charles Smoke  
William Christie Eddie Sacks Cliff Wofford

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**Sammy Still, Editor**  
**Public Information Officer**

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the *Gaduwa Cherokee News*. Editorials must be signed and include address and telephone number. Send all inquires to: *Gaduwa Cherokee News*, P.O. Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 74465.

## John Hair Museum Closed June 4-7

The UKB John Hair Museum and Cultural Center will be closed on Monday June 4 through Thursday, June 7 to allow the Interim Director and staff to attend the 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums. The museum will re-open on Friday, June 8.



### United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Elder Assistance Program Spring 2012 May 7– June 15, 2012

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians is pleased to announce the Elder Assistance Program. Applications may be picked up at any tribal or satellite office or your Dist Rep. Beginning on May 7, 2012. Completed applications are to be turned in by fax, mail, or direct delivery to the Tribal Enrollment Office located at 18263 W. Keetoowah Circle in Tahlequah, Ok. Fax (918) – 453 – 9345

#### Eligibility Requirements

**Must be an exclusive member of the United Keetoowah Band between the ages of 55-64 and been a member for 1 year.**

**You must have an updated enrollment form and a completed Elderly Assistance Program form on file with the Enrollment Office.**

**Exclusive members 65 and older immediately qualify for the assistance after Council approval of new enrollees.**

**All eligible members in a household will receive the Elderly Assistance.**

#### Additional information

**Applications for May 2012 will be accepted from May 7<sup>th</sup> until NOON on May 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Applications for June 2012 will be accepted until NOON on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The last day for accepting applications is NOON on June 15<sup>th</sup>. (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

**No applications will be accepted on the weekend or when Tribal offices are closed.**

**Help filling out the application will be provided, when requested.**

#### Procedure for applications and check disbursement

- Assistance checks for May applicants will be mailed on May 29<sup>th</sup>. (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Assistance checks for June applicants will be mailed on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- June 19, 2012 will be the last day for Spring 2012 check disbursement. (NO EXCEPTIONS)

**If you have any questions about receiving your check, call:  
Tribal Accounting Department  
918-453-9162**

## The Keetoowah Cherokee in AR *continued from page 2*

An additional change began to make itself felt among the Western Keetoowah Cherokee during the second decade of the 19th century. Some towns had been exposed to various Christian denominational preachers such as the Moravians, even before the migration. When Tolontuskee proposed that a Presbyterian mission be established among his people living along Illinois Bayou in the central Arkansas country, Dwight Mission was established in 1820 as a school and religious organization. Gradually, over the decades since, Christian denominations came to surpass the traditional religion in attracting followers.

While Baptists and Methodists have almost entirely replaced Presbyterians as the dominant groups among the traditional Cherokees, the existence of numerous small, community-centered Cherokee Baptist and Cherokee Methodist churches in Keetoowah Cherokee areas of northeastern Oklahoma speak to the growth and resilience of this additional religious influence among traditional Keetoowah Cherokees dating from the early years near the Arkansas River in that territory.

The Western or Arkansas Keetoowah Cherokees have received relatively little attention from historians covering their sojourn in that region. Partly this is because so much attention has been lavished on the mixed blood-dominated Eastern Cherokee government. But, even the small group of traditional Cherokees who maintained as much control of their ancestral homeland in far western North Carolina received attention in numerous studies as well as having been featured in one entire volume devoted to their particular situation. [John R. Finger, *The Eastern Band of Cherokees, 1819-1900*, passim].

The only book-length study of the Arkansas or Western Cherokees is an unpublished and difficult-to-obtain 1972 doctoral dissertation at the University of Oklahoma. [Robert Paul Markman, "The Arkansas Cherokees: 1817-1828"].

Thus, while Cherokee history has been much studied in published works [cite various book

length approaches]; it is almost entirely about the assimilations, mixed-blood government dominated by John Ross from the 1820s to the 1860s. The ancestors of the Eastern Band of Cherokees usually appear in these books as "the ones who stayed behind" usually with the statement or implication that the North Carolina Cherokees were really too backward and too remote to make the trip.

In the foremost volume devoted entirely to their early history, the North Carolina group is cited as being "significantly behind their kinsmen in material possessions and white skills." As proof of this statement the author, writing in 1984, offers only the statistic from the 1835 census of the Cherokees that out of the 3,644 North Carolina Cherokees owned only 37 slaves. No other evidence is given, so one has to conclude that slave owning made the rest of the Cherokees more "civilized" and left the poor North Carolina group lost in the traditional past. [John R. Finger, *The Eastern Band of Cherokees, 1819 – 1900*, p. 16]

As for the Western Cherokee at this time, they, too, were counted in 1835, but those figures don't even appear in the Finger volume. It is as though they are simply too unimportant to consider although their numbers were twice those of the North Carolina group and amounted to one-fourth of the total number of Cherokees [approximately 25,000] prior to the forced march of the Trail of Tears. Of course, as we shall see below, the Western Cherokees had their own forced migration after the 1828 treaty required them to leave Arkansas Territory and move to the lands about to be claimed in 1838-39 by the arriving Eastern Cherokees over the Trail of Tears.

The history of the Arkansas or Western Cherokee has its own heroes and villains, but mostly it is centered on the experience of a largely traditional people who transplanted their way of life from the homelands in the East to areas far west toward the place of the dead in Cherokee beliefs. In spite of what had to be foreboding and concern, these migrant who had sought to withdraw from the influence of both whites and mixed bloods re-established towns, ceremonial fires, clans and a sense of stability.

## Letter from the Tribal Secretary

Hello,  
Great news, Elders of the United Keetoowah Band!

It is time for the 2012 Summer Elder Assistance program to kick off. I would like to take this opportunity to give a thank you to all elders for your wisdom, vision, strength, inspiration, and prayers for our tribe. You have provided guidance for us to move our tribe forward with the virtues you have instilled in us.

We are blessed today, to be able to continue to show our appreciation to you. One way is with the Elder Assistance program, which I am happy to say begins in May and will run through mid-June.

I hope each of you has the opportunity to apply for the \$200 that the tribe provides for elders this summer.

Also, at this time, along with applying with the assistance, your name will be entered in a drawing for two gift baskets after the deadline has passed. Each elder will be given an opportunity to win.

Respectfully,

Joyce Hawk  
UKB Tribal Secretary

### UKB May 2012 Calendar of Council, District and Special Meetings

**May 5 UKB Regular Council Meeting,  
10 a.m., UKB Community Services Building**

**May 10 Illinois District Meeting,  
6 p.m., Vian Satellite Office**

**May 10 Sequoyah District Meeting,  
5:30 p.m., Sallisaw Satellite Office**

**May 11 Tahlequah District Meeting,  
6 p.m., Jim Proctor Elder Nutrition Center**

\*No other meetings available at press time.

Several towns who had initially located on the St. Francis River, including Diwali's group, had to relocate to the Arkansas River Valley following the ferocious 1811 New Madrid earthquake that centered only a few miles to the north of their settlements. The whole St. Francis valley was disrupted by the shock and aftershocks of one of the most powerful earthquakes in North American history. [Markman, p. 35].

Diwali led his St. Francis-New Madrid refugees to the south side of the Arkansas River to settle in the broader valleys that prevailed their somewhat beyond the hills and bluffs marking the river valley itself. While boundaries were relatively unclear prior to the 1817 Treaty [see below], this location appealed to this group that included several towns by that time. Later, the white pressured Treaty required them to move north, but Diwali again evaded authority and moved his group southwestward into Mexican Texas. [Mary Whatley Clarke, Chief Bowles and the Texas Cherokees, and other sources].

The main portion of the Western Cherokees centered their towns on Illinois Bayou leading up from the north bank of the Arkansas River near present Russellville, Arkansas. Settlements ranged along the river valley and up some of the creeks and bayous feeding the main river as far east as Point Remove [present Morrilton] and as far west as Bluff Hole near present Mulberry. This latter point is just slightly east of the southeast corner of Osage territory [Frog Bayou where it empties into the Arkansas River] as determined by the 1808 Treaty negotiated between the Osage and the United States by new Indian Commissioner for Upper Louisiana Territory, General William Clark. His partner in the previous trek to the Pacific Ocean, Meriwether Lewis endorsed the Treaty as Territorial Governor.

Difficulties between the Osage and the Western Cherokees dated from almost the first days of Cherokee migration into the Arkansas country. During the 1600s and 1700s the Osage expanded their hunting and trading area tremendously. By 1800 they nominally controlled hunt-

*continued on page 6*

# 40th Annual Symposium



A powwow dancer enters the arena during Grand Entry dressed in her Jingle dress regalia at the 40th Annual NSU Symposium on American Indians. Photo by Thomas Jordan



A tree planting ceremony was held on the campus of NSU to celebrate Arbor Day and the second consecutive annual designation of NSU as a Tree Campus USA by planting a second Ancestral Black Walnut tree near Seminary Hall. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Powwow dancers dressed in their colorful regalia danced into the arena during Grand Entry at the NSU Symposium on American Indian powwow. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Tribal royalty were abundant during the 40th Annual NSU Symposium powwow as Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, Rachel Hays and Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, Kristy Daugherty, posed with another Tribal princess for a photograph. Photo by Thomas Jordan

Check out our website at: [www.ukb-nsn.gov](http://www.ukb-nsn.gov)  
or [www.unitedkeetoowahband.org](http://www.unitedkeetoowahband.org)

# of the American Indian



An unidentified Gourd dancer stands at attention and salutes the American flag as the colors are presented during Grand Entry of the 40th Annual NSU Symposium. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Environmental Tech, Summer King, United Keetoowah Band tribal employee, provided information to one of the many visitors attending the 40th Annual NSU Symposium on American Indians. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Kristy Daugherty enters the arena with other tribal princesses and dancers during Grand Entry at this year's NSU Symposium Powwow. Photo by Thomas Jordan



NSU Native American Student Association coordinated the Traditional Stickball game played at Beta Field on the campus of NSU. Traditionally the game was referred to as the "little brother of war" among the Southeast tribes. Photo by Thomas Jordan



The Honor Guard of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians presented the colors during Grand Entry at the 40th Annual NSU Symposium powwow. Photo by Thomas Jordan



A young tribal female dressed in her beautiful regalia dances into the arena as she participates in the 40th Annual NSU powwow. Photo by Thomas Jordan



The host drum performs the flag song as the colors are brought into the arena during the NSU powwow Grand Entry. Photo by Thomas Jordan

Women's Fancy Shawl dancers entered the arena during the 40th Annual NSU Symposium powwow held in the NSU Ballroom. Photo by Thomas Jordan



## Veteran's with Service-Connected TBI May Qualify for New Monthly Compensation Benefit

Compared with veterans of previous conflicts, a statistically larger number of OEF/OIF veterans suffer from residuals of traumatic brain injury (TBI). TBI is likely the signature disability of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts because of the increased incidence of non-fatal blast injuries, improved protective equipment, improved combat medicine, and improved screening and diagnosis.

However, advocates know that many veterans who never served in Afghanistan and Iraq may have suffered a traumatic brain injury during service and may currently experience residuals of TBI.

Any veteran who experienced an open head injury, closed head injury, or cranial shock-wave injury in service may have TBI residuals and be eligible for VA disability compensation benefits.

Effective October 1, 2011, veterans with service-connected TBI who meet the following requirements are eligible for special monthly compensation (SMC)

- The veteran needs regular aid and attendance for residuals of TBI (a veteran who needs regular aid and attendance from another to perform the personal functions of daily living is eligible to receive the regular aid and attendance benefit, which is also called special monthly compensa-

- tion.
- The veteran is not eligible for the higher level of A&A.
- The veteran would require hospitalization, nursing home care, or other residential institutional care in the absence of regular in-home aid and attendance.

Here is a short "formula" that advocates can use to determine entitlement to SMC. The veteran must have service-connected TBI and/or residuals of TBI. The three basic entitlement criteria for service-connected disability compensation are:

- Evidence that the veteran currently suffers from a disability.
- Evidence of an incident, injury, or event during the period of the veteran's military service; and
- Evidence (often medical evidence) of a link between the current disability and the incident, injury, or event during service

It is not a formal requirement that the veteran be rated 100% for his or her service-connected TBI.

Effective December 1, 2011, SMC(r-2) and SMC(+) pay \$7,925 per month for a single veteran.

For more information on this benefit, or on any other veteran's issue contact UKB Tribal Veteran's Representative Jacob Littledave at 918-456-8698 ext. 140 or call him on his cell phone at 918-453-3562.

Source: Purple Heart Magazine

## Update on Programs and Services Discussed at Saline District Meeting April 17

Carrie Haney, the new Health and Human Services Director for the United Keetoowah Band, was introduced by Saline District Representative Charles Smoke during the Saline District meeting, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Haney informed Saline District tribal members of the many programs offered to them through the Health and Human department. She explained programs such as LIHEAP, Social Services, and Burial Assistance, how to apply and personnel to contact along with contact numbers. After the meeting Haney visited with tribal members to answer questions and provide further assistance.

Saline District Representative Smoke talked to his constituents in regards to the recently established ad hoc committee, informing them about the extended deadline for anyone who has previously relinquished from the UKB an opportunity to re-apply for tribal membership on a one-time basis. Smoke explained how the council approved the deadline extension at their last tribal council meeting.

Representative Smoke introduced Delaware District Representative Jerry Hansen who attended the Saline District meeting and was asked to say a few words. Hansen made aware to the members of false information being published in local newspapers as well as negative talk in the communities. "Don't believe everything you hear or read," warned Hansen. He also mentioned the great strides the present Administration has made for its tribal people within the past eight years, the programs and services provided for tribal members and the future growth of the tribe.

After the meeting a pot luck dinner was provided for the attendees to enjoy and attending tribal employees were on hand to answer any questions tribal members had about programs and tribal assistance.



Charles Smoke, Saline District Representative, informs his constituents that the tribal council has approved an extension for applying for re-instatement for membership during his Saline District meeting held at the Kenwood community center. Photo by Sammy Still

## The Keetoowah Cherokee in AR

continued from page 3

ing and trading between the French merchants of St. Louis over the area southwest of there to present southwest Kansas, northwest Oklahoma, northern Arkansas to the Arkansas River valley and almost all of Missouri south of the Missouri River.

Understandably, they viewed the newly arriving Cherokee as competitors. A series of skirmishes ensued. It was rather like throwing two stones into a pond at the same time. Each stone causes ripples that become progressively weaker further out from the point of contact with the water. With two stones thrown at the same time, the ripples at those weaker outer edges will overlap. Usually one set of stones are thrown.

Indian territorial skirmishes operated similarly. The centers of Osage life in 1800 were along the Missouri River [the "Little Osage" band] in west central Missouri, along the upper Osage River near present Nevada, Missouri [the "Greater Osage" band] and the Verdigris Osage centered near present Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma. Southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas where the first Cherokees settled on moving west were on the outer edges of Osage influence and, of course, the Cherokees were almost beyond the edge of Cherokee influence because they had passed through Chickasaw and Choctaw country to get to the St. Francis River valley where they settled.

To carry the analogy forward, the Osage stones dropped in western Missouri and northeastern Oklahoma. Their hunting and trading parties tended to thin out as they progressed through the rich Ozark Plateau country. The Cherokee stones dropped back in Tennessee and Georgia for the time being, so the Cherokee ripples were even fainter at the edge of Osage influence in 1800.

Still, it is significant that Cherokee Agent Meigs, operating near Tellico and Chota in eastern Tennessee reported in 1805 that some Cherokees appeared at his door with three Osage scalps gained to compensate for the killing of two Cherokees by Osage in the Missouri/Arkansas country. First, this seems to attest to the continued operation of clan justice – the re-establishment of balance after the initial killings of Cherokees by Osage. Second, it speaks to the distances over which Cherokee clan members were willing to travel in order to achieve that balancing action. Third, it testifies to the existence of skirmishing conflicts between the two native peoples – the Osage and the Cherokee. In this case, traditional [clan observing] Cherokee went from the Eastern lands to those of their Western Cherokee brethren to carry out clan justice. [Markman, p. 15]

As it turns out, this first decade of the 1800s proved how vulnerable the Osage were after their

two centuries of expansion and dominance. In 1807, the Little Osage fought and lost to a combined force of Iowa and Sac and Fox intruders from the north at a battle near present Smithville in the present Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area. That, together with the successful retaliation by the Cherokees further south, probably combined to cause the Osage to agree to Clark's 1808 Treaty. This document required the Osage to move west of a line drawn from Fort Osage on the banks of the Missouri River to Frog Bayou on the banks of the Arkansas River.

The 1808 document projected the Fort Osage fur factory and military post on the Missouri River around which the Little Osage gathered. It also was drawn far enough east of the future western boundary of Missouri to include the home villages of the Great Osage in west central Missouri. Frog Bayou also lays somewhat to the west of the westernmost site of Western Cherokee towns near Bluff Hole on Mulberry Creek. Thus, it was a deftly drawn line. Of course, it was also an imaginary line south of Fort Osage and north of Frog Bayou. Hence, it could and was frequently crossed by Osage hunting parties ranging back into the Ozark heartland forests and by Cherokee hunting groups seeking animals and fur in the rich northeastern Oklahoma hills.

For the next decade, 1808 – 1817, a series of territorial skirmishes marred life for both the Osage and the Western Cherokees, although the

Cherokees were gaining numbers throughout this period while the Verdigris Osage band felt pressure from the Federal government as well as the Choctaws who had been moved briefly into the country south of the Arkansas River. This last fact also brought a certain amount of conflict between the Western Cherokees and fellow southern tribesmen of the Choctaw people.

It is not frequent that a single battle between Indian tribes comes to have long-term significance, but the Battle of Claremore Mound in 1817 swung Federal government support solidly behind the Western Cherokees. Precipitated by an Osage attack on a Western Cherokee town east of Frog Bayou, a larger group of Cherokees seeking clan justice found a sizeable Osage village near Claremore Mound in present Oklahoma. As it happened, most of the men were out hunting to the west, so the Osage village was occupied primarily by elders, women and children. Operating under clan vengeance rules, the Cherokees took a similar number of lives and captured the remainder to take back to Cherokee country.

The Osage understood the clan retaliation; they operated under a similar set of laws, but they wanted the captives returned. This became an issue in both the 1817 and 1819 Treaties of the Cherokees and Osage with the United States. It also set in motion the unauthorized action by newly appointed Western Cherokee agent William Lewis Lovely [Markman, pp. 36 – 42]

## United Keetoowah Title VI Nutrition Menu May 2012

Title VI Jim Proctor Elder Nutrition Center—Native American 55+ (UKB or CDIB Card) Spouses & or Volunteers



2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Chicken Pot Pie Sweet Potatoes Cheese Stick Cranberry Sauce Salad & Fresh Fruit	2 Lasagna Fried Zucchini Cauliflower Garlic Toast Salad & Dessert	3 White Beans w/ Ham, Greens Yellow Hominy Cornbread Salad & Dessert	4 Brunch Served From 10:30—12:00	5
6	7 Loaded Baked Potato Soup Grilled Vegetables Breadstick, Crackers Salad & Dessert	8 Pork Chops w/ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Carrots, Whole Wheat Roll Salad & Fresh Fruit	9 Smoked Sausage w/Sauerkraut Green beans, Corn Corn Bread Salad & Dessert	10 Chicken Fajita w/ Rice, Guacamole Chile Beans Tortilla Salad & Dessert	11 Brunch Served From 10:30—12:00	12
13	14 UKB Elder Nutrition Center Closed	15 BBQ Brisket/Bun Mac & Cheese Baked Potato Chips Pork & Beans Salad & Fresh Fruit	16 Chicken Fried Steak w/ Mashed Potato & Gravy Carrots, WW Roll Salad & Dessert	17 Catfish Corn on Cobb Black-eyed Peas Hushpuppies Coleslaw & Dessert	18 "Fishing Day" UKB River Park 11:30—?	19
20	21 Cheeseburgers w/Fixings on Bun Potato Wedge Baked Beans Salad & Dessert	22 Open Faced Turkey on W Toast w/Gravy, Dressing Sweet Potatoes Salad & Fresh Fruit	23 Swedish Meat- balls w/Noodles Buttered Peas Corn, Breadstick Salad & Dessert	24 Brown Beans w/ Ham, Hominy Tomato/Zucchini Cornbread Salad & Dessert	25 HOLIDAY UKB Tribal Offices Closed	26
27	28 HOLIDAY UKB Tribal Offices Closed Memorial Day	29 Salisbury Steak w/Onion Gravy Rice, Carrots Whole Wheat Roll Salad & Fresh Fruit	30 BBQ Chicken Mac & Tomatoes Ranch Beans Whole Wheat Toast Salad & Dessert	31 Cultural Foods Day, May Birthdays	Menus are subject to change without notice. For more info call 918-772-4380 or 918-772-4378	Milk, Tea, Coffee & Water Served Daily During Lunch

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

# UKB Regular March Council Meeting Minutes

**UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting  
At the UKB Community Services Building  
March 03, 2012  
10:01 a.m. – 12:07 p.m.**

## I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe

## II. Invocation: Cliff Wofford

**III. Roll Call:** 11 + Chief answered Roll Call; Hansen absent at roll call

## IV. Chief's Address

- We have a short agenda this morning. We have a lot of planning going on for the tribe. Ever since EchoHawk gave us that 76 acres land in trust ruling we have been planning to establish a casino in Vinita. Planning of this project has been planned for a lengthy time but we are getting closer to having this project becoming a reality. Council voted for this to have a trust application when our present casino get the trust approved and the corporate charter is the business stated for economic development. This is an administrative process and is finished, yet there can be an approval by another party. Unfortunately CNO appealed, briefings began on the trust land and no changes. As of today it still stands and we expect an answer anytime. Enter federal registry with a time frame and after entered in registry it is complete. Also, the casino (Keetoowah Cherokee Casino) acre (2.03) will be under the Corporate Charter business. This week some small changes were modified with the language and now it is complete. Now it is in Washington, D.C.

- At this time we (UKB) have followed all steps to get it to the completion and await our approval. Last week I (Chief) received a letter stating a "directive" was given to get the acres in trust.

- Health issues and the Health Committee members will need to be reappointed due to upcoming expiration of terms.

- Hawk: stated the names of the committee to the Council. These members will be reappointed as to the vote of the Council and staying consistent to their terms. two years is the time frame for each member.

- Corporate Charter discussion: mentioned the EDA Board and the Corporate Charter to join as a whole and be the Corporate Board with the land in trust. I do believe a lot of activity that will take place of this business. For example, were items the UKB could use as a business such as: Incorporations, Federal ID number and smoke shops.

- While attending the meetings in D.C. we walked a lot of miles in the halls to get to the meetings and express our government business and history to state our facts of our struggle as UKB to obtain what rightfully belongs to us. This activity is something we do to keep communication with attorneys and the people in D.C.

We are still in negotiations and frequent communications on the casino operations. The corporate charter and EchoHawk's statement that our casino will be put into trust. All this has been an ongoing battle but we feel we will overcome and the casino will be put in trust very, very soon. This battle would not be fought if not for the tremendous revenue from the casino to pay legal to continue our fight for trust land approval. Also the programs we have to assist members as well as their families.

Self-governance discussion: This will help the tribe to be eligible for a lot of grants. We are negotiating daily with the B.I.A., even though funding is getting cut in all programs. We are still able to get grants. "If" the casino was to ever close there would be a lot of loss of employment and federal programs so this is why it is of most importance to seek the trust for our casino property. This is why we keep in communication with our legals to make sure we keep moving forward. Other tribes are doing their best to put land in trust also.

Chief's office: A lot of times when you see the papers piled on my desk, the reason is I have those documents of importance so some means of business. All officers tend to business after hours and through the day and available on a needed basis. This is a good time as well as a busy time to acknowledge who the UKB people are and the progress and growth at present.

Once stated by ancestors we will someday overcome, not today, not tomorrow but in the future. We are at the point of prediction to obtain what rightfully belongs to us (UKB). Even today, we have ancestors who are able to witness this among the tribe, but we have those who have gone on to be with our Creator but have been blessing us from above; therefore, let's just keep moving with progress and for us as Council to continue working together.

## V. Approval of the minutes for the month of February 2012

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the Regular Council minutes of February 2012 with corrections on page 5 (MOTION ES not WC) as stated; SECONDED by Cliff Wofford; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

## VI. Presentations

1. Diane Barker-Harrold: discussed the Tribal Child Support Funding Proposal. Discussion included: Title

IV Funding, Indirect cost, (4) case workers, I.T. services. This strengthens tribal self-governance and tribal court.

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the Tribal Child Support Funding Proposal; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

2. Ken Bellmard: Gaming Compact

Gaming compact is Class III. The deadline is 05/01/2012.

Holcomb: stated she recalls this had once been brought to Council and signed in her previous term on Council at the Proctor term.

Bellmard: stated we have Class II, but will do Class III once we get the land in trust.

Holcomb: What is the difference in Class II and Class III?

Bellmard: Class II is bingo style and Class III is the random of change in the regulatory act and changes all the time.

Dotson: in a previous meeting we discussed an issue concerning state and UKB, we need to make sure with the compact state cannot collect back taxes at a later time.

Bellmard: we can use this as a settlement and from this time as document states is a settlement.

Locust: since the deadline is May 1st and the timeframe is the time of trust land approval and then it will be based on coordinating these at that time.

MOTION by Charles Locust to authorize the approval and execution of a Class III Gaming Compact between the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and the State of Oklahoma, and authorizing the submission of the Class III Gaming Compact between the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and the State of Oklahoma for federal approval; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

3. Ken Bellmard: Advisory Board (Corporate Charter)

Discussion included EDA, day-to-day business, bonds, lease in different forms, etc.

The strength of the O.I.W.A. and the letter from EchoHawk strengthen the business of the tribe.

Dotson: this is a lot of power so will there be a report to Council?

Bellmard: a monthly report to be given to Council as a requirement.

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the establishment of an Advisory Board to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Corporate Authority and to appoint Charles Locust, Bryan Shade and Tim GoodVoice as the members of the Advisory Board to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Corporate Authority; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

Dotson: stated in the Sequoyah County Times Newspaper there is a cemetery, named "Duncan," first one in Sallisaw. Would it be possible to have someone look into this issue? There may be some Keetoowah members buried there.

Chief Wickliffe: at some point they are turned over to the County, the commission is to start upkeep of the grounds of the site.

Dotson: I believe at some point CNO has been involved with upkeep, could we also to the same for our ancestors that are buried there?

Chief Wickliffe: Yes we will proceed to have the matter looked into at this time. A cemetery can be closed in 15 years if no one comes to visit any marker.

Holcomb: two years ago I came forward and asked about the clothing voucher, could there be an increase in the amount?

Worley: We did discuss the increase and it was not feasible at that time, but does not mean we can't review the amount again. There is a meeting scheduled for next week and we can present this at that time with the Budget and Finance Committee.

## VII. Reports to Council

1. Enrollment Report: Joyce Hawk

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to accept and approve 14 new applicants for UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to acknowledge and honor 6 membership relinquishments from UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Willie Christie; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

Hawk: stated she has been given a statement as to a tribal member who relinquished and has just been granted by Council approval of relinquishment. At this time he wishes to withdraw, but he missed the deadline by Enrollment policy; therefore, he remains a relinquished member, but will ask A.G. and verify with Enrollment the procedure of the relinquishment process.

## VIII. Public Forum – NONE

## IX. Unfinished Business

Chief Wickliffe: stated there will be a procedure to follow to be granted a return to become a member. A one-time opportunity.

Dotson: Will the member who is granted to return be given a new roll # or keep the # once obtained prior to relinquishment?

Holcomb: I also would like to know how they will be entered?

Hawk: as of this past week the Ad-Hoc Committee did meet, Ella Mae, Peggy, Tom and myself. The questions that have been brought to our attention today, were already discussed in that meeting. I informed my staff to put together a summary of questions to bring to the committee on the procedure of the one-time approval of returning back to the tribe. During the next meeting these will be discussed: New #, same guidelines as new member (6 month time-frame for services), dual members, color-coded files to distinguish from others.

Dotson: What is the situation on dual membership?

Chief Wickliffe: actually we do have a safeguard on dual enrollment, when members request services upon finding they are dual enrolled they are denied services. Communication with CNO on dual membership is getting better.

Bellmard: Election Board met and they met on the ballot process of the system on the count and the new company that will be setting up for the election this fall (2012).

Dotson: Is there anything being done on the item in the Election Codes I mentioned at last month's meeting?

Barker-Harrold: We will look into this phrasing of the code.

Bellmard: Candidate for office or district representative, can you talk about or is it prohibited? This will be reviewed and brought back to inform Council of findings of evidence in the Election Codes.

Worley: Now from my understanding when the codes meeting took place, it was stated that these could be changed by Council.

Bellmard: Yes you can change it by Council but we have been asked to review and give opinion and present a draft to have Council vote.

LENGTHY DISCUSSION of Ad-Hoc Committee pertaining to the many questions that surround the gravity of a one-time approval by Council on returning to the tribe; therefore, this will be brought to the Ad-Hoc Committee for review.

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve to re-appoint the five (5) the Health Committee members as follows: Kathy White, Charles Smoke, Willie Christie, John Hair and Dr. Gosnell; SECONDED by Barry Dotson; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve to change the Regular Council Meeting for April 7th 2012, to April 14th, 2012 due to the Easter Holiday; SECONDED by Betty Holcomb; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

## X. New Business

1. MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the submission of a grant application to the National Park Service Historic Preservation Tribal Project Grant due March 16, 2012 in the amount of \$40,000.00; SECONDED by Willie Christie; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

2. MOTION by Barry Dotson to adopt the drawing (attachment J) with copy of memo for the John Hair Museum logo design; SECONDED by Ella Mae Worley; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

Dotson: Chief from my understanding of what I am reading, "we own," own what?

Chief Wickliffe: You are correct, the same jurisdiction.

3. MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve to table the adoption of the UKB Tribal Water Plan due to more information on environmental; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen absent).

Chief Wickliffe: made an announcement that our Flint District Representative, Tom Duncan, was recently a burn-out victim. He lost his entire home to a fire.

## XI. Announcements –

**XII. Benediction:** Tom Duncan

## XIII. Adjourn:

MOTION by Eddie Sacks; SECONDED by Willie Christie; Approve by affirmation: 12:07 PM

Tribal Veterans Representative  
Jacob Littledave has new phone numbers.

Office number is  
918-456-8698  
Cell number is  
918-453-3562

## Winter 2012 Keetoowah Cherokee Syllabary Class Follow-Up

Spring fever has hit and so ends the winter months along with the Cherokee syllabary class that took place at Steeley Baptist Church in Kenwood, and throughout the nine districts.

After 10 weeks of learning to read and write in Cherokee, several students showed some success. Starting out at 16 students, the class ends with 10 who stuck with it and continued learning because they wanted to, like Chester Crittenden, Jay, and his wife Shirley.

Brenda Hair, Raper Hollow, said she wanted to learn so she could read the "Cherokee New Testament" when attending church. Others, who are fluent in speaking the language, just wanted learn how to read and write it.

Thomas Proctor, retired educator, Tagg Flatts, said he has a love and appreciation for learning from years of teaching and wanted to become more familiar with his Native language. Many said the class was fun, but challenging. They had repetitious reviews and quizzes over the syllabary they learned each week.

"The fellowship made it fun," said Thomas Proctor. "The syllabary, or rather the retention of the syllabary, was a challenge. Overall, very enlightening."

Many said Cherokee instructor Clara Proctor, Tagg Flatts, made it easy to learn the syllabary and retain it.

"Clara's teaching style is just awesome," said Hair. "She makes it easy to learn and I loved how she would give examples."

Matt Budder, Kenwood, said Clara made the course fit all levels of knowledge.

Most of the class said they would continue to learn on their own. They also believe that it is important a Cherokee person be able to learn to read, write and speak the language.

"My parents could read, write and speak their language," said Lizzie Kingfisher, Tagg Flatts. "I hoped I could learn to read and write it, also."

Kaye Littledave, Tagg Flatts, said it is important to learn so the language can keep going. Thomas Proctor said without the language, the Cherokee would cease to exist as a people.

The language has come a long way from



Participants at the Steeley Baptist Church Cherokee language class proudly display their certificate of completion for the 10-week language course taught by Cherokee instructor Clara Proctor. Pictured are left to right, Gracie Scott, Brenda Hair, Woody Hair (background), Chester Crittenden, Shirley Crittenden, Lizzie Kingfisher, Matt Budder, Bobby Sapp, Kaye Littledave, Thomas Proctor, and Clara Proctor, Cherokee instructor. Photo by Lindsey Bark

the days when even speaking it was not allowed in schools. Bobby Sapp, Tagg Flatts, said he was one of many who were abused in the classroom for speaking his language.

Clara Proctor said this class was a start and that students need more opportunities to learn from one another. She said it would help if they had more reading materials.

"It's important, especially if you can begin at a very early age," said Clara Proctor. "Our 'Cherokee' brain needs to know the Native language first because it gets ready to learn other things later."

In the class, she saw how it was a challenge for her fluent-speaking students to learn the phonetic sounds of the syllabary. But she enjoyed very much teaching speakers and non-speakers because it kept her mind thinking in Cherokee.

"The people who are fluent speakers, readers and writers need to develop materials and saturate our Keetoowah daily life with it, where we can see our language everywhere every day, and use it," Clara Proctor. "It's getting to crunch time as far as saving our language with this generation. When people who are now 50 years and above are gone, our language as we know it, may be, too. Let's not let that happen, because it's a gift from God and we've been guilty at neglecting it, though not intentionally. We can all contribute in some way to

save our language before our elders are gone, too."

By Lindsey Bark  
GCN Intern and Writer

### GCN Intern Studies Cherokee

Hello, my name is Lindsey Bark. I am Keetoowah. I go to school at NSU and I am studying writing. I am learning to read, write and speak Cherokee. I work at Gaduwa Cherokee News. Thank you.

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### Sequoyah High School Alumni Association May 2012 Activities

**Friday, May 4, 2012**  
5 – 9 p.m.

Indian Taco/Beans/Fry bread/Meat Pie Sale  
Auction and Cake Walk  
Location: Restaurant of the Cherokees  
Tsa La Gi Community Meeting Room

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

Alumni Golf Tournament  
Registration: 8 – 8:45 a.m.  
Tee Off Time: 9 a.m.  
Location: Sequoyah Cherokee Trails Golf Course  
Contact: Jefferson Adair – (918) 458-0878

Picnic and Annual Business Meeting  
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Location: The Place Where They Play

Annual Banquet

5 to 6 p.m. Cost- \$10.00  
Update: Sequoyah Schools, Hall of Fame Inductions, Entertainment, and Raffle

Social Hour, Dance, Gospel Singing – To be announced

**Sunday, May 6, 2012**

Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Cost- \$3.00  
Location: Cafeteria

Website: <http://www.sequoyahalumni.net>

### Illinois District Meeting held April 19 at the UKB Satellite Office in Vian

The UKB Illinois District meeting was held Thursday evening, April 19, at the UKB satellite office in Vian with District representative Peggy Girty providing information to tribal members regarding the April tribal council meeting.

Girty announced to the members that an extension for applying for re-instatement into the UKB was extended to former tribal members. She informed them that this was a one-time re-instatement for members who have relinquished from the tribe and that they would have the opportunity to meet with the ad-hoc committee to plead their case to be considered for re-instatement.

Representative Girty also announced the Election Board had been re-activated due to the upcoming tribal election in November of this year. The council appointed Mary Stiglet onto the election board with Norma Jimerson as chair filling the vacancy left by the late Leroy Adair.

The district representative announced the upcoming Tri-Council meeting which will be held in Cherokee, North Carolina, July 13, 2012. The three federally recognized Cherokee tribes will meet for the first time in history.



Illinois District Representative, Peggy Girty, reports to her district members regarding information discussed during the April UKB tribal council meeting during the Illinois District meeting held at the Vian UKB satellite office. Photo by Sammy Still

A question and answer session followed the meeting with district members asking questions regarding medication refills and Medicaid insurance.

Strawberries and ice cream were served to attending members with door prize winners announced ending the meeting.



### Happy Birthday Addyson Nicole Stopp

Addyson Nicole Stopp celebrated her 1st Birthday on April 1st, 2012 at the UKB wellness center with Dad, Mom, Sister Krista, Brother Rance and other close family and friends. We would like to say thank you to all that attended and made our Princess's day even more special than it already was!

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## UKB Hires Housing and Health and Human Services Directors

The United Keetoowah Band brought in two new directors to fill vacancies in the tribe's housing and social services departments.

The tribe hired 34-year-housing-veteran Ron Qualls to lead the Housing Department.

Qualls graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in 1970 with a double major in accounting and business administration.

Since that time, he has spent time as the housing director for Muscogee (Creek) Nation, technical assistance/training specialist for the National American Indian Housing Council, executive director for the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, executive director for the Housing Authority of the Creek Nation,

executive director of the Citizen Pottawatomie Nation Housing Authority, controller for James Jackson and Associates and as a field auditor and staff accountant for Stanfield and O'Dell Certified Public Accountants.

Qualls also served as president of the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association, a board member on the National American Indian Housing Council and on the initial Negotiated Rule Making Committee for the implementation of the NAHASDA regulations.

During his tenure in various positions, Qualls oversaw multi-million dollar budgets and was responsible for bringing in millions of dollars in grants for housing projects.

The second director's position was filled by Carrie Haney in the Social Services Department.

Haney is a UKB tribal member and lifelong member of the Tahlequah community.

She graduated from the University of Tulsa in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is working on a master's degree in Health Administration.

Haney has extensive nursing experience in both acute and chronic care health. She worked at OSU medical Center in ICU for 2 years, in the IHS system for 8 years as both an ICU nurse and as a clinical nurse, focusing on chronic care and preventative nursing, as a diabetic nurse educator for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and as an RN case manager for Carter Home Health.

While at IHS, Haney was active in policy writing and participated on different committees to increase the level of patient care provided.

"Being in the community has prepared me for issues that I see our elders facing on a daily basis," said Haney. "The rising cost of medications, lack of resources for services and equipment needs, and increase in fuel costs for medical travel



Ron Qualls, recently named the new United Keetoowah Band Housing Director, is pictured with Denise Rooster, Housing Specialist with the tribe. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Carrie Haney, Health and Human Services Director. Photo by Thomas Jordan

are among the top issues concerning our elders. As an advocate for our UKB tribal members, I look forward to helping them find appropriate resources and advocating for assistance to help meet our members' needs."

By Thomas Jordan  
GCN Special Writer

## Former Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Has Varied Work and Leadership Experience

When Victoria (Tori) Proctor graduates in a few weeks, she will be prepared to enter the full time work force immediately, something not all graduates are prepared to do. In addition to a high grade point average and graduating with honors, Ms. Proctor has valuable work experience as well as many leadership experiences that will put her ahead of the competition seeking career employment.

Part of her work and leadership experiences have been acquired working with her tribe. Ms. Proctor currently serves as the Assistant to the Assistant Chief and as Special Projects Assistant with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. But before she worked for the tribe, she served as Miss Keetoowah Cherokee.

Tori competed as a contestant in the 2009 Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Pageant. This young lady was not only beautiful and articulate; she was also very knowledgeable about her tribe, UKB History, Culture and the Keetoowah Cherokee Language. What's more, she was equally impressive in the talent portion of the pageant, when she played a classical piece on the piano.

Tori won the competition and went on to become a very strong and positive ambassador for the UKB. She represented the UKB at many special events, including Powwows, parades and special events. She participated in one of the largest Powwows in North America, "The Gathering of Nations".

The Gathering of Nations is held annually the fourth weekend in April, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over 500 tribes from around the United States and Canada travel to Albuquerque to participate.

An outgoing young lady, Proctor was always gracious and cordial at UKB events such as the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration, Veteran's Luncheon, and UKB Easter Egg Hunt. While she attended and did some hostess duties as Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, she now helps plan and coordinate almost all the special events for the tribe.

Employee Appreciation Day, the UKB employee and Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Christmas Party, Halloween Carnival, and special meetings are among the various activities Ms. Proctor assists Tribal Community Coordinator and Special Projects Coordinator Brenda Locust in planning and producing.

As the Coordinator of the Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration the past couple of years, Ms. Proctor helps plan events and oversees logistics of this tribal homecoming event. She also meets with committee chairpersons to track progress and help publicize the events.

In addition to this job, she has also worked



Victoria Proctor, UKB Administration Assistant Intern, teaches College Strategy to Northeastern State University Freshmen students. Photo by Thomas Jordan

for the past two years at Northeastern State University as the Registrar's Assistant where she tracks enrollment reports and sends correspondence to over 1000 admitted students. She serves as the Undergraduate Research Day organizer, including planning and execution the day of the event.

Another job she performs is NSU Peer Instructor, which she has done from Fall 2009 to present. A peer instructor is a student teacher that has the responsibility of instructing a class of about 30 freshmen on how to succeed in college. Subjects addressed in this class include improving study habits, time management, and responsibility.

She currently serves as a RiverHawk Ambassador. Only about 40 students are chosen for this position each year. They recruit potential students and give campus tours.

She was also involved in Rookie Bridge Camp, as a volunteer in the Summer 2009-10. She then became a Director of the camp in 2011. As a volunteer, she led a group of 60-80 incoming freshmen instructing them in how to succeed in college. As a director, she interviewed and selected volunteers, took care of all logistics, and made sure camp ran smoothly while managing 200+ rookies (freshmen) and about 70 volunteers

There are many organizations this young lady participates in, including the President's Leadership Class, which she has been a member

of from Fall 2008 to present. Only 15 incoming freshman are chosen for this scholarship organization. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.25 and be involved in other campus organizations.

Other organizations include the Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority, Northeastern Student Government Association- President's Cabinet, National Indian Women's Health Resource Center Student Ambassador, Homecoming Director, Panhellenic Task Force and the Northeastern Activities Board.

Past volunteer work she has done includes the Polar Plunge, Special Olympics, Service Learning, Breakfast with Santa, Fish for a Cause, The Big Event, The Small Event, The Student Council for Exceptional Children dances, Regional Summit Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity Day of Service and Remembrance.

"I love working with people, and I also love to plan, coordinate and promote events," said Proctor. "I have been fortunate to be able to work for my tribe and my university, two entities that are very important to me. No matter where my career may take me in the future, there will always be a special place in my heart for Tahlequah, NSU, and the Keetoowah Cherokees."

By Marilyn Craig  
UKB Media Specialist

## Phillip Bluebird: Keetoowah Cherokee Elder

Within many Indian communities, most elders are deemed to be knowledgeable from their life experiences and what they have learned from those experiences. They have seen things that now can only be read about or shared through memories.

One person who defies the word 'elder' and is still making a name for himself through his current activities is Phillip Bluebird, aka Mr. Softball.

Back in the 1960s, at a little country school on Allen Road in Tahlequah, one could pass by and find children enjoying a day of playing ball, like most children do. But little did anyone realize one of those children can still be found today on a softball field, on the mound, throwing junk that could catch any batter off guard if they are not ready.

Bluebird, now 65, is that pitcher. Having over 50 years of fast-pitch experience, he can be found on the weekends wherever there is a softball tournament. Many of his pitches include the change-up, rise ball, drop ball, curve ball, and any other kind of pitch, he can throw it.

Born in Tahlequah April 18, 1947, to Elias and Nancy (Belt) Bluebird, Bluebird grew up in the Shady Grove community as the youngest of 11 children. Though he got his start in country school, he became more serious about fast-pitch at 18, when he began playing independent ball. He has played every year since then, with the exception of one summer when he suffered from a pinched nerve and had to sit out. But he was back the next season.

Bluebird said there were not many teams when he first started playing. But eventually fast-pitch began to make its way around to different Northeast Oklahoma communities.

"There were two tournaments a weekend at different places with about 20 teams in each tournament," said Bluebird. "Now you can't hardly find ball teams."

Bluebird continues to add to his long list of tournaments and the places he has played, which include Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Florida, and North Carolina. Many wonder and ask how and why he continues to play ball.

"I like playing ball, that's why I still play," said Bluebird. "As long as I can get around I will be playing."

Bluebird said even umpires question his age when they see him on the field, but are silenced when they see him play.

He tells tales of all he has experienced while playing softball over the years. He played long weekends in summer heat, he traveled long distances with barely enough players for a team, and he saw many fights among teams, and knew, and still knows, what it is like to be the victor of many tournaments. He said his first trophy he won was a mere four inches tall. Yet, he continues to play because it is what he loves to do.

"I keep saying I might quit this round, but when it gets warm I'm ready to go again," said Bluebird. "As long as I can move, I will be playing as long as I can and as long as I feel like it."

By Lindsey Bark  
GCN Intern and Writer



Phillip Bluebird

## United Keetoowah Band Donates to NSU Annual Golf Classic

The Northeastern State University is sponsoring their 15th Annual Golf Classic Monday, June 4, 2012 hosted by the Cherokee Hills Golf Club in Catoosa.

Athletics are an important part of the overall educational experience at NSU and the United Keetoowah Band is proud to be a part of the Golf Classic by becoming a Corporate Sponsor of the event by donating \$3,000.

Since 1998, the beginning of the annual golf tournament has been a major fund-raiser for NSU Athletics.

A contribution, as a sponsor or as a participant, allows student athletes and coaches to represent Northeastern State University with pride and distinction.

NSU Athletic Association also invites you to join their organization. The organization directly influences the many outstanding projects which directly impacts NSU programs and your support is graciously accepted.

Deadline entry for the 15th Annual Golf Classic is May 25, 2012. Format is a Four Person Scramble and entry fee is \$600 per team, Visa and MasterCard accepted, and make checks payable to: Northeastern State University Foundation/Athletic Association.

For more information on the golf tournament or to join the Association please contact Athletic Association Secretary, Jim Quetone at 918-444-3930.



United Keetoowah Band Chief Wickliffe presented Carl Scott, President of Athletic Association for Northeastern State University, with a \$3,000 donation as a corporate sponsor for the 15th Annual NSU Golf Classic to be held at the Cherokee Hills Golf Club June 4. Pictured with Chief Wickliffe and Scott are UKB Assistant Chief Charles Locust, left, and Secretary of the Athletic Association for NSU, Jim Quetone, right. Photo by Sammy Still

## Obituary for Joseph Wolf

Joseph Dean Wolf, 16 year old, Kenwood, Oklahoma resident and member of the Keetowah tribe, passed away Sunday, October 16, 2011.

Joseph was born on February 4, 1995 in Grove, Oklahoma to Christi Panther and Phillip Wolf. He was a member of the Euwasha Baptist Church. He was an avid fisher and hunter, Joseph also enjoyed basketball, horseshoes, as well as video games.

Joseph was preceded in death by a grandmother, Maxine Stick and an Aunt Delores Gilley.

Joseph is survived by his father Phillip Wolf and his wife Melissa, mother Christi Panther and her husband Gary, brothers Kris Wolf, Kyle Panther and Jason Panther all of Kenwood, Oklahoma. Joseph is also survived by his grandparents, Shirley Wolfe of Kenwood, Richard Wolf, Kenwood, Gary Oakley, Karrie Oakley both from Vinita, Oklahoma, Betty Panther, Kenwood; great grandparents, Norma Chase, Salem, Missouri, Geneva OtherMedicine of Crow Agency, Montana, and great-great grandfather Star NotAfraid of Crow Agency, Montana, numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and a host of friends.

Funeral services for Joseph were held at 11 a.m., on Friday, October 21, 2011 at the Kenwood Gymnasium in Kenwood, Oklahoma.

A wake for Joseph was held Thursday evening at Euwasha Baptist Church in Kenwood, starting at 4 p.m. with a service at 7:00 p.m. with Reverend Richard Budder officiating. J.J. Wilson, Nathan Gilley, Christopher Tagg, Tyler Sanders, Koy Marble, Kalin Kaul, Nathan Cheater and Marcus Bearpaw will honor Joseph's life by serving as casket bearers. Joseph was laid to rest at Euwasha Cemetery in Kenwood, Oklahoma.



Joseph Dean Wolf

## Cultural Events Coordinator Cindy Hair Says Thank You

I'm sad, that another year has gone by. I'm talking about UKB Spring Break Culture Camp. Even though this year it was raining all week, but to the kids, it didn't matter to them that it was raining. They all enjoyed their camp and learned a lot from the instructors.

On the first day, we could tell the kids were all glad to see one another. Since most of them were at the camp the year before, they all gathered around and were glad to see each other. I know this because you have to be there to see how the kids act on the first and second day of the camp. I'm sure most of them made new friends, too.

The Culture Department would like to THANK YOU for making this possible to have another Spring Break Cultural Camp.

They are some other people that we need to thank for taking their time to be with the kids and teach the Keetoowah History and Culture.

Keetoowah Cherokee Language: Peggy Girty and Lawrence Panther.

Baskets: Marie Bendabout

Cornhusk Dolls: Barbara McDaniels

Flat Reed Baskets: Betty Frogg

Education on Snakes: Woody Hansen

I Believe: Brian Jackson

Blowgun: Tim Kingfisher

Stickball Sticks: Mike Killer

Storytelling: Sequoyah Guess and Robert Lewis

Stompdance Presentation: Nathan Wolfe

Demonstration on how to make stomp dance shackles and history of the shackles Charlotte Wolfe. We would like to thank everyone that was here to help out the stomp dance Friday afternoon.

Indian Zumba: Joyce Barnes.

Camp Counselors: Frankie Killer, Carmen Daniels, Corey Still and Zack Adair.

Volunteers: Stevi Kingfisher, Kendall Lee, Frannie Bendabout, and Raven Shade.

And a special thank you goes to Mike Bradley, Uniforms of Antiquity of Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma. Mike was a speaker during UKB 2012 Cultural Camp about the Civil War and uniforms, when the kids toured the John Hair Museum. Also thank you to Ernestine Berry, Interim Museum Director.

Also a big special thank you goes to Betty Holcomb, Tahlequah District Representative and Tribal Council member. She has helped us a lot. We don't need to ask her for her help, she volunteers her help weeks before the Cultural Camp.

Also, Jerry Hansen, Delaware District Representative and Tribal Council member for coming out to be with the kids, which he has done in the past.

I would also like to thank Keetoowah Transit drivers Danny Hair and Richard Bailey for providing transportation for the campers.

Again, I say thank you for the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles or whoever brought the kids in the morning.

Cindy Hair

## Obituary for Shirley Wolf

Lifetime resident, Shirley Ann Wolf, age 57, died on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at her residence in Eucha, Oklahoma.

Shirley was the daughter of Maxine (Budder) and Leland Stick; she was born on June 27, 1954 in Gravette, Arkansas. Shirley enjoyed doing beadwork, cooking, making baby blankets for the grandchildren, gardening, going to yard sales and thrift shopping. She was a member of the Steeley Baptist Church.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, one son Richard Wolf, jr., one sister, Delores Gilley, and a grandson, Joseph Wolf.

She is survived by three sons; Phillip Wolf (Melissa), Kevin Wolf (Nadine), Randy Wolf, two daughters; Deidre Sapp (Nathaniel Sapp), Sandy Chancellor (Steven). Shirley was blessed with nine grandchildren; Wolfee, Dakota, Sierra, Shelby, Kenley, Kolby, Alyssa, Paisley and Ethan. She is also survived by four siblings; Leonard Stick, Betty Blackbear (Richard), Norma O'Field (Tommy), Stephanie Stick (Bryant) and Lena Stick.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at the Steeley Baptist Church in Kenwood, Oklahoma with Reverend Richard Soldier officiating. Shirley was laid to rest at Round Springs Cemetery in Eucha, Oklahoma. Services are under the direction of Worley-Luginbuel Funeral Home in Jay, Oklahoma.



Shirley Ann Wolf

# NEED A RIDE?

Call

KEETOOWAH CHEROKEE

Tribal Transit 918-772-4350

or 1-800-259-0093

## Tribal Member Requests Return of Billfold

UKB Tribal Member Loretta Doublehead said her wallet was taken around 1 a.m. on Monday, April 9th from the waiting area at the emergency room at Stilwell Memorial Hospital. She requests that the lady who took the wallet return the contents to the emergency room and said there will be no questions asked. She would like to get back the irreplaceable family photos, ID cards and such. If anyone has information about the wallet, please call 918-218-4168.

## Obituary for Lora Staller

Lifetime area resident, Lora Jean Staller, age 34, died at her residence on Monday, October 17, 2011 in Colcord, Oklahoma.



Lora Jean Staller

Lora was the daughter of Robert Staller and Omilen Mouse, she was born on September 22, 1977 in Claremore, Oklahoma. Lora enjoyed reading, listening to music, and writing poetry. She was a member of the Steely Baptist Church.

Lora was preceded in death by her parents, and her daughter Kelsey. She is survived by her partner Robert Page of Colcord, Oklahoma, her sister Teresa McGuirk and her husband William, four nieces; Melinda Page, Kera Page, Samantha McCuirk and Kelly Spivey, three nephews; Sean McGuirk, Kevin Page and Kyle Spivey.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Brush Creek Baptist Church with Pastor Larry Pritchett officiating. Nathaniel Summerfield, Randy Page, Chris Weeley, Marvin Friend and Joshua Summerfield will honor Lora's life by serving as casket bearers.

## Disabled American Veterans Transportation Program

The purpose of the DAV transportation program is to provide transportation for veterans to their VA authorized medical appointments. The veteran must be able to enter and exit the vans with NO ASSISTANCE. The vans are not handicap accessible.

All transportation requests must be scheduled with the Hospital Service Coordinator in your area. Please give a 72-hour notice. If you are going to the VAMC MUSKOGEE, you should schedule appointments between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and at the VAMC OKC between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please let the team know you are a DAV rider when you are scheduling your appointment. Rules and Regulations: All passengers must have an authorized VA medical appointment. All travel requests will be made in advance with the HSC office. There is no smoking, chewing tobacco, drinking, food, foul language, weapons, drugs, or any illegal activity allowed in the vans. Seat belts will be used at all times. All passengers must be ready at the appointed times. The vans will not make personal side trips. Any veteran utilizing the vans will not be eligible for reimbursement through the VA travel reimbursement program. Any passenger who violates any of the regulations will be denied travel.

Comments: The DAV Transportation Network needs volunteer drivers at each location. If you would like to volunteer please contact the HSC office closest to you. Volunteer drivers do not receive payments for the services they provide.

Department Hospital Services Coordinators:  
Muskogee: 918-577-3757  
Tulsa: 918-628-2607  
OKC: 405-270-1540  
Lawton: 580-353-1131 ext. 4079

## Happy Birthday



**Happy Birthday to Sherlene Sanders on May 1!**  
*From your birthday baby, Deandra*

**Happy Birthday to Adriane Sanders**  
*From Deandra*

## 23rd Annual Kingfisher Memorial Gospel Singing

May 24, 25 & 26  
Kingfisher Acres in Moodys, Oklahoma  
(look for signs)

**Thursday and Friday:**  
Devotion at 6 p.m. Singing following

**Saturday**  
Activities begin at 1 p.m., Dinner at 5 p.m.

All Singers and Listeners Welcome!  
Bring your lawnchairs  
Concessions Available

For more information, contact Choogie Kingfisher at 918-316-3731

# UKB Graduates



### Melissa Jumper

Melissa Jumper completed the Office Information program at Northeast Technology Center in Pryor. She is the daughter of David and Linda Jumper. Her grandparents are Ella Mae and the late Roosevelt Jumper and the late Cora Thompson and the late Luke Smoke. Her siblings are David Jumper, Dianna Deere, and Lydia Jumper.



Melissa Jumper

She listed her hobby as watching her children prosper in life.

She plans to attend Northeast Technology Center to become a Graphic Design Specialist. She hopes to find a career that will help her to support her family's every need.

### Corey McCarter

Corey McCarter graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, with an emphasis in finance. He is the son of Danny and Tina McCarter. His grandfather is Edward Self. His siblings are Jake, Jessica and Martha McCarter.



Corey McCarter

He enjoys playing sports. His future plans include moving to Tulsa and getting a job in the accounting or finance field.

### Martha Sixkiller

Martha Sixkiller completed the Medical Coding and Pharmacy Technician program at Indian Capitol Technology Center in Tahlequah. She is the daughter of Sally Adcock. Her grandparents are the late Tom Hicks and the late Ellen Hicks.

She plans to continue her education by enrolling in another program at Indian Capitol Technology Center in Tahlequah.

**REMEMBER**  
WHEN YOU FIRST DUG THE DIRT FOR ME ?

We'd spend afternoons together with the kids, outside. You'd get the satisfaction of planting each seed, watching us grow, then making us into something the whole family would enjoy. I miss that. I just need some fresh seeds and a little care... Please? Teaching kids to plant is fun and healthy!

P.S. I heard planting a garden is coming back in Indian Country. Get ideas. Get involved. Get going at [letsmove.gov/indiancountry](http://letsmove.gov/indiancountry)

Ad Council | USDA | INDIAN COUNTRY

## Museum requests photos for exhibit

The UKB John Hair Museum is in the process of creating an exhibit on the various Keetoowah groups that came together during the 1930s and 1940s to form the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees. We have researched old records and have included in this list the men we found who were in the various groups. We need photos of any of the following men and would really appreciate help from the families of these men who have family photos. The list includes:

Price Cochran, Wilson Girty, Anderson Gritts, Ned Bullfrog, Charley Scott, William Rogers, Dan R. Coody, Chief Ned Blackfox, Joe Fox, Coming Snell, Eli Pumpkin, Jim Hogshooter, James Duncan, Dave Muskrat, Daniel Redbird, Richard M. Wolfe, Wolf Coon, White Tobacco Sam, Charley Sam, Creek Sam, Archie Sam, John Wickliffe, Charles Fry, John Butler, Daniel Gritts, J. Henry Dick, Ed Washbourne, Fred McDaniel, John Redbird Smith, and Eli Barnoskie.

Please bring or send the photos in to: UKB John Hair Museum, P. O. Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 74465. Please include the name of the person in the photograph and your name and return address. If you would like to donate the photo to the museum, please say, "donation." Otherwise, the museum will scan them in to the computer to have professional copies made and return the original to you. Make sure you package the photo so it doesn't get damaged in the mail. For more information call 918-772-4389.

Come explore the history of the traditional Cherokee people

# UKB John Hair Cultural Center & Museum



Located at the UKB Tribal Complex just off West Willis Rd., Tahlequah



**Museum Hours:**  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Tuesday - Saturday  
(closed holidays)  
(918) 772-4389



Donations are accepted  
Admission is Free

## Legislative Focus

*continued from page 1*

sentatives Mike Brown and Will Fourkiller. At the April focus session, Representatives Brown and Fourkiller were unable to attend because the Oklahoma House of Representatives was still in session.

Senator Wilson began his speech talking about teacher's pay for National Certified Teachers. That issue is about to be settled, and the legislature has voted to honor the promise they made to the teachers, who were guaranteed \$5000. per year for ten years if they have already completed the comprehensive, time consuming and difficult course.

"The legislature is currently working on getting the budget done. Law says the legislature has to be done last Friday in May. But they can't do anything until they resolve tax cut issue. There is a real impasse on this issue. Looks like the tax cut will be small - maybe a 1/2 cent", said Wilson.

Senator Wilson added he did not think we should eliminate the Oklahoma income tax. This will be Senator Jim Wilson's last year in the Senate, as he has met his term limit in the Senate.

"Senator Wilson will be greatly missed, he has been a great advocate for Tahlequah," said Sammy Still, UKB Public Information Director.

Senator Garrison agreed that the tax issue - including tax cuts and tax credits is a big issue. He said he thought earned income credit should be left alone, and stressed that cutting this would hurt people with lower incomes, and also added that one reason this is being considered (by some in the legislature) is because there are no lobbyists being paid to fight it. Other tax credits he felt should remain are the child care tax credit and the grocery tax credit. Entities with big lobbying efforts include oil, gas, and wind farms.

"Our job is to try and protect the poor people," Garrison added.

The meeting ended with door prize drawings, and participants having the opportunity to speak one on one with Senator Wilson and Senator Garrison.

The May Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Focus will be held on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

By Marilyn Craig  
UKB Media Specialist

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Now on Facebook and Twitter

# Derby Days

Derby Days of May

Thursdays In May • Noon to 10:00 pm  
**\$200 Hot Seat Drawings every hour;  
\$500 Grand Prize Hot Seat  
Drawing at 10pm**

## Derby Hat Contest

Saturday May 5th • 5:00 pm

**1st Place - \$1,000, 2nd Place - \$500, 3rd Place - \$300,  
4th Place - \$200, 5th Place - \$100**

Hats will be judged on originality & best decoration.

Registration Noon - 4:30pm  
Official Rules available at Players Club

## Keetoowah Derby

### Charity Stick Horse Race

Saturday May 5th • 2pm

**1st Place - \$1,000, 2nd Place - \$700, 3rd Place - \$500,  
4th Place - \$300, 5th Place - \$100**

Join us & cheer for your favorite charity to win a donation!

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Must be playing with a Players Club Card. Prizes are non-transferable. Must be present to win. Must present valid, State issued photo ID and Social Security Card to claim all prizes. Management reserves the right to cancel or modify this promotion without notice.