

Gaduwa Cherokee News

SSG GWY A&P

June 2013

Published Monthly

Issue #6

JHCCM hosts first intertribal stickball tournament



M. Thomas Jordan/GCN

Battling for the ball, these players show just how physical a stickball game can be.

By Lindsey Bark
GCN Reporter

Amid the supposed spring weather filled with 50-degree temperatures, a cloud covered sky and rain, the John Hair Cultural Center & Museum hosted the first Intertribal Stickball Tournament April 27.

Elder assistance continues until mid-June

The UKB is still taking applications for the Spring 2013 Elder Assistance Program. The program provides all tribal elders over 55 years of age semi-annual financial assistance for \$300 for each period.

The tribe will continue taking applications June 3 - 7 and June 10 - 14. The last day for accepting applications is noon on June 14. Applications will be taken Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Fridays until noon.

All required documents for exclusive membership must be on file in the enrollment office. Elders age 55-64 must be exclusive members for one year at the time of the application. Exclusive members 65 and older immediately qualify for assistance after council approval of the enrollee.

Applications are available at any tribal office. A new application is required each time the program disperses checks. If there are any changes to the application from the last time, the applicant applied such as change of address, applicants must come in person to the Enrollment office.

Completed applications may be turned in by fax, mail, or direct delivery to the Tribal Enrollment office. The fax number is (918) 453-9345.

All checks will be mailed. Checks for applicants who applied June 3-7 will be mailed June 11, and checks for applicants who apply June 10 - 14 will be mailed on June 18.

For more information, call the enrollment office at (918) 453-9375.

The stickball tournament was a method to raise funds for the cultural center and museum to expand programs and activities in the future.

Stickball is one of the oldest games still played by Southeastern tribes and was originally known as "the little brother of war." It was a way of settling disputes between tribes and

now played for recreational purposes.

"We thought it might be good event to help generate intertribal interest in the game and to develop good relationships among people of the various tribes," said Ernestine Berry, museum director.

To prepare for the event, Berry and her museum staff sent out information via the internet, newspapers and flyers about the tournament. One of the first to respond was the Choctaw tribe of Mississippi, who hosts the Annual World Series Stickball Tournament in Philadelphia, Miss.

Participants in the tournament played Choctaw style stickball. The reason being, the Cherokee do not have set rules for stickball, it is more of a social game. Choctaw style stickball is competitive. It is a full contact sport with no protection of any kind and played on a football length field with a 4-inch-by-4-inch, 17-foot tall post at each end for scoring.

Five teams across the state of Oklahoma and Mississippi registered for the tournament—the Gadugi Warriors (Keetoowah/Cherokee), Chikasha Toli (Chickasaw), Tvshka Homma

(Choctaw), War Eagle (Choctaw) and Okla Hannali (Muscogee, Seminole, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Shawnee).

Despite the weather and ankle deep mud, and sustained injuries including a broken ankle, pulled muscles, cuts and bruises, the tournament was successful. War Eagle took home the championship title followed by Tvshka Homma in second place and Okla Hannali in third place.

For the museum, it was more than just a game.

"The John Hair Cultural Center & Museum staff is honored to represent the United Keetoowah Band by sharing the Keetoowah Cherokee cultural heritage with the younger generation—to provide ways for them to connect to their ancestors and to understand and respect those who came before them—and to have some fun in the process," said Berry.

Berry and the museum staff would like to give a special thanks to everyone who attended and the Bank of Cherokee County, Keetoowah Cherokee Casino and the Keetoowah Elder Committee for sponsoring the event.



M. Thomas Jordan/GCN

UKB Housing Specialist Denise Rooster hands over the keys to Teresa Webber's new home as Webber's daughter, current Miss Keetoowah Trista Vaughn, and her son, Hunter Webber, take in the moment. This house is almost twice the size as the apartment they were living in.

Housing hands keys over to new homeowner

By Lindsey Bark
GCN Reporter

Teresa Webber, UKB member, received the keys to her new home after patiently waiting seven years in the home ownership program, under the United Keetoowah Band's housing department.

Located in the Briggs community, Webber and her two children, current Miss Keetoowah Trista Vaughn and her little brother Hunter Webber, saw the inside of their three-bedroom, two-bathroom home with a garage for the first time when the keys were handed over May 17.

Webber signed up for the home ownership program in 2006

and made it to the top of the list in October 2012. While waiting to go up on the list, Webber spent her time in between attending classes on occupancy and counseling to be aware of her responsibilities once she received her home.

When officially becoming a homeowner, the buyer is under a 25-year mortgage contract with payments made based on income. Their responsibilities include home and property maintenance, keeping the home sanitary and in a safe condition, different from renting an apartment. The home is in need of self-upkeep.

Webber said she did not think getting her home was ever going to

happen and her apartment was only half the size of her 1,392-square-foot house.

As she prepared to move in, Webber already received advice from neighbors on yard work and putting up a fence. She even jokingly said she wanted to have a painting party.

As Trista and Hunter ran from room to room, excitement over came them from having such spacious living quarters compared to the three-bedroom apartment they previously inhabited. As her children explored the home in and out, Webber's son said he could finally have a tree house.

"As you can see, we're very excited and thankful," said Webber.

In this issue
Chief Wickliffe column, "Forgotten Cherokees".....Page 3
Summer Health Event.....Page 6
Intribal Stickball Photos.....Page 4&5
Cherish Glass.....Page 9
District meetings.....Page 6
UKB Council Minutes.....Page 11

**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

UKB District Representatives



Eddie Sacks
Canadian District
Cell: 918-822-1957



Cliff W. Wofford
Coowescoowee 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



Betty Holcomb
Tahlequah District
Cell: 918-822-3805



Barry Dotson
Sequoyah District
Cell: 918-207-2990

NOTICE

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
CONTRACT HEALTH**

The important aspects to Indian Health Service Contract Health Services is to always abide by the 72-hour rule. If you have a life-threatening emergency go to the nearest health facility for treatment, but you must notify an IHS facility within 72-hours for IHS to reimburse the facility for services provided.

Understanding how to properly use the Indian Health Service (IHS) Contract Health Services Program (CHS) can save Cherokee tribal members time and money.

CHS is utilized if a service or medical need is not available at an IHS or tribal facility, such as W. W. Hastings Hospital, Claremore Indian Hospital or one of the five tribal clinics. When this occurs, the patient is referred to a non-tribal/non-IHS facility to receive the needed medical or health care.

CHS funds are used for patients who are receiving their primary health care at an IHS or tribal facility, rather than from a private physician. You must have a referral in advance from an IHS or tribal physician in order to be considered for payment. Also, a patient can only be referred to a hospital or physician who has signed an agreement with the Oklahoma Area Indian Health Service.

The CHS program is not funded to take care of all the health needs of Indian people. Therefore, a priority list has been developed by IHS and tribes to assist in treating the most urgent, life threatening situations first.

To be eligible for CHS, a person must live in the state of Oklahoma and be eligible for services at an IHS or tribal facility. Oklahoma IHS is divided into service areas. Within the Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area, there are two IHS services areas, Claremore and Hastings. If you use one of the Cherokee Nation clinics, the CHS referral is sent to the IHS hospital nearest you. When an eligible patient is referred to a non-IHS/tribal specialist or facility, the referring physician will initiate a referral from and direct the patient to the contract health office at Hastings or Claremore Hospitals.

The referral will then go before the CHS Medical Review Board, which prioritizes all contract health requests. A referral does not automatically guarantee that a service will be paid for.

When emergency hospitalization or an emergency room visit is required at a non-IHS facility, the patient or someone acting for the patient must notify the contract health office at Hastings or Claremore within 72 hours after the patient has received treatment or been admitted. If the contract health office is not notified within this time IHS will not reimburse the facility for services provided.

As soon as the patient is stabilized as determined by the contract physician and the IHS physician, it is mandatory to transfer the patient to an IHS facility. If the patient refuses to be transferred, IHS will not authorize any payment for hospitalization or medical expenses.

If you live within a 50 mile radius of an Indian Health Service or tribal facility, then you should go to that facility for your immediate care. If you have a life-threatening emergency, you should go to the nearest medical facility and use the 72-hour rule.

Due to the under-funding of CHS, not all individuals who are recommended for contract care will receive it. There are many reasons why the case could be denied for payment. In this circumstance, the patient will be issued a denial letter. Individuals who wish to file an appeal to reverse the decision should see the instructions on the denial letter. Each time a patient receives a denial letter, they should immediately write an appeal to the office listed on the letter. In fact, appeals are encouraged by the tribe and IHS.

If payment is denied for a service which the person has not yet received, such as a consultation visit to specialist, the patient will be sent a deferred service. There is no appeal for denial of a deferred service. Deferred service cases are tracked by the IHS office. If Congress appropriates extra funds for deferred services, patients are contracted to make appointments.

Ambulance services, both emergency runs and transfers, may be considered for payment through CHS based on a priority system. Transfers from the hospital to nursing homes are never paid for.

Since the IHS/tribal facilities even with CHS funds, cannot cover all needed health services or expenses, patients are encouraged to apply for insurance and other types of medical coverage, such as Medicare or Medicaid. When the IHS or tribal facilities bill for insurance or Medicare, they can help patients meet the deductible at no expense to the patient. Having the extra medical coverage can help pay for needed medical services if the patient's CHS referral is either denied or deferred. Cases are not denied or deferred base on third party insurance coverage or ability to pay.

In summary, here are a few reminders to help you utilize IHS contract health services. First, a referral for contract health services does not guarantee payment. Second, use the 72-hour rule when forced to go to a non-IHS/tribal facility for emergency services. Third, go the closest IHS facility unless you have a life-threatening condition. Forth, always get a new referral from you IHS/tribal physician each time you go to a non-IHS/tribal physician or hospital.

Sammy Still
Editor

M. Thomas Jordan
GCN Special Writer

Lindsey Bark
GCN Reporter

Marilyn Craig
Public Relations Coordinator

Gaduwa Cherokee News

P.O. Box 746

Tahlequah, OK 74465

(918) 456-6533 FAX: (918) 431-1873 www.ukb-nsn.gov

Published monthly by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma at the Tribal Headquarters, Tahlequah, OK.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$18 per year, \$30 for two years

AD RATES:

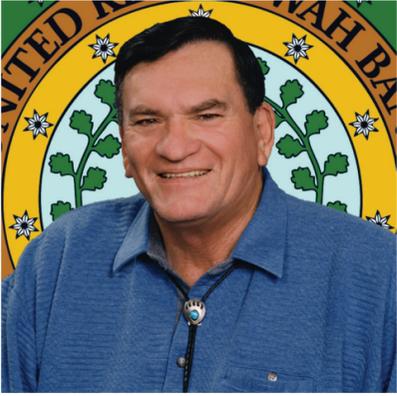
Full Page - \$700; Half Page - \$400; Quarter Page - \$275;
Eighth Page - \$200; and Business Card - \$150

The Gaduwa Cherokee News is mailed free to Keetoowah registered voters, government and other offices and upon request to other citizens.

Mail subscriptions and changes of address to the Gaduwa Cherokee News, P.O. Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 74465, phone 918-453-6533.

Editorial statements of the Gaduwa Cherokee News, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the Gaduwa Cherokee News editor, staff or tribal administration of the United Keetoowah Band.





To the UKB People
From Chief George Wickliffe

I will be publishing a series in my column on the book "Forgotten Cherokees" beginning with chapter one "You Shall Be Called Keetoowah".

George Wickliffe

CHAPTER ONE "YOU SHALL BE CALLED KEETOOWAH"

The sounds are familiar. Children laughing, women talking with each other as they work through their routine, and the joy of men, successful in their day's work. In the background, you can hear the water rushing over the large rocks that pave the bottom of the river.

These sounds are still heard at Kituwah, the Mother Town of the Cherokee. Visitors often mention hearing the laughing children running by them; the children that once inhabited this place. It is a sacred place, where U-ne-tla-nv, or God, placed the first Keetoowah Cherokee man and woman. These echoes of the past are heard by many who visit the site today for ceremonial and social purposes.

Kituwah Mound itself is said to be the place where God gave laws to humans. Tradition says it is the birthplace of the Keetoowah Cherokee people, a place from which smoke from an eternal fire emerged through a hollow cedar trunk. The mound was primarily used as a sacred hearth, where a fire was kept burning all the time inside a structure built on top of it. People came from hundreds of miles, each year, to get fire from the hearth and bring it back to their communities. Often these people would bring earth and ashes from their own hearths to add to the mound. This fire wasn't just any fire; it was the Sacred Fire given by God to the Keetoowah Cherokee people on a mountaintop, still visible today from the site of Kituwah.

Originally, the council house which housed the Sacred Fire that burned at all times sat on this mound. The fire burned perpetually, and was tended by a designated person whose sole job it was to keep the fire. This Sacred Fire was given by God on top of what is known today as Clingman's Dome, in the Great Smoky Mountains.

It was also the spiritual center of the tribal population who lived in an area consisting of approximately 140,000 square miles in what is now the Southeastern part of the United States. These people gathered in relatively small settlements like Kituwah, but maintained active communication among all the communities. The early twentieth century ethnographer James Mooney reported that Kituwah was the original nucleus of the Cherokee settlements and these inhabitants found to be the most conservative element of the tribe as a whole. Among these, he states, have been kept the ancient and secret things.

One of the most sacred aspects of the Kituwah site is its proximity to the Tuckasegee River. Early Keetoowah Cherokee people usually settled by rivers because water has always been a very important part of the Cherokee worldview. "The water

is a living breathing thing. It has life, has spirit," Dan Taylor, a representative of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, said. He elaborated: "The Cherokee were 'baptists' before there were any Baptists," in reference to a ceremonial purification in which every child took part, shortly after birth. The river's ceremonial significance was also reserved for the end of life, when people would gather there for funeral prayer, and where, according to some accounts, the spiritual leader was able to tell whether the death was caused by witchcraft. It is likely that the placement of Kituwah mound was determined by the river, because where it stands the river bends and forks. This forking was crucial for the early Cherokee, who used one side of the river for bathing and ceremony, and the other for drinking.

Kituwah was the largest and most important town in the valley as late as the early 18th century, with 183 residents in 1721. At its height, around 1750, Kituwah probably stretched more than a mile along the valley, with 40 to 50 houses spaced some 50 to 100 yards apart, connected by footpaths that ran through gardens and fields of corn. British merchants came here around the end of the 17th century and traded hoes, knives, brass kettles and other items for deerskins. The traders often took Keetoowah Cherokee wives and reared families here, bringing in hogs, chickens and European crops.

The people of the Mother Town represented the whole tribe or culture, and the settlement lay very close to Hopewell, OK where of the Treaty of Hopewell was signed. The Keetoowah Cherokee towns consisted of a significant number of the signers of this treaty. The document recognized the 'respective tribes and towns' of 'all the Cherokees' as autonomous entities and not one single government representing the whole tribe. Thus, the Treaty of Hopewell is the first treaty between the U.S. and the Keetoowah Cherokee people. The town exercised a controlling influence over all of the Keetoowah Cherokee towns on the waters of Tuckasegee and the upper part of Little Tennessee, the whole body being frequently classed together as "Ani Kituwahagi." The dialect of these towns held a middle place linguistically between those spoke on the east, on the head of Savannah, and to the west, on Hiwassee, Cheowa, and the lower course of Little Tennessee.

The central area of the Cherokee, comprising the Kituwah (Middle) and the Valley Settlements was the heart of the tribe. The Raven of Hiwassee sent Governor Glen, in Charleston a letter regarding theft of traders' goods. In this letter, The Raven named 'Kittawa' as Mother Town of the Cherokee. Each town had its own governing body, not represented, however, by one single chief except in ceremonial practices of large scale.

But in 1761, during the war with the French, British troops burned the town nearly to the ground and slashed hundreds of acres of corn with their broadswords. It was part of an expedition to destroy resistance among the Cherokee, their former ally. The journal of Christopher French, a captain in Col. James Grant's army, described the destruction of Kituwah:

"...about ½ past Ten we march'd for Kittoweh the road to which it pretty good and about three Miles. The River here is very broad and divides into three branches by two islands, the first is very rapid and the last full of round smooth stones. . . Kittoweh stands in a large plain surrounded by Hills but not so high as usual in this Country. Here we destroyed a great deal of Corn and having set fire to the Town march'd for Tuckareetchih, three miles. . . The

Man mention'd to have been scalp'd by the Chickasaws, on the 22nd June, was call'd Ookayula and was King of Kettowih..."

Another account describes, "he marched into the heart of their country, burned the capital of the lower Cherokees, consisting of upwards of two hundred houses..." Kituwah rebuilt, although many of the people moved southwest to northern Alabama, where Major John Norton mentioned that the people "are chiefly of the dialect of Kitoghwa or Kituwa." First moving to the "Big Island" on the Tennessee, historically known as the home of Western Keetoowah Cherokee Chief John Jolly, a portion of the people moved onto this town mentioned, Sawle, and then from that place to Chickamauga.

Like the dozen or so other towns targeted by the expedition, Kituwah never fully recovered. However, as late as 1816, it was still known as the "Council Seat of the Nation" and sent messages to the United States on behalf of the people.

In recent history, Kituwah was known as "Ferguson Fields". For quite some time, the surrounding property had been used as a corn field, and even an airstrip. One of the most significant places to all Cherokee people - the mound - eventually blended in with the rest of the field, as years of plowing began to remove layers of the sacred spot. In 1996, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians purchased the 309 - acre field in the interest of preserving the mound, and to once again see the Mother Town in the hands of Cherokee people.

Kituwah is located near a fork in the Tuckasegee River, in an area also known as Governor's Island, in western North Carolina, near Bryson City and about three miles outside of the Eastern Band of Cherokee's Qualla Boundary. "The trees and mountains of the Keetoowah Cherokee homelands surround you. You feel as though you're contained within it, sort of cradled by the whole thing," Brett Riggs, former Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Preservation Officer said. (Riggs) The mound itself is now 170 feet in diameter but only 5 feet tall, just a small rise in the center of what looks like a farm field.

Socially, the early Keetoowah Cherokee people lived relatively peaceful and simple lives. The social structure was manageable and cemented by strong spirituality. As each town developed from the Kituwah place of origin, a piece of the Sacred Fire was taken to these new communities. Each year, it was renewed by those trained as spiritual leaders. The first people of Kituwah were divided into seven clans, which were, and remain, matrilineal. All members of a clan were considered brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. There was no such thing as a "cousin" until complete assimilation with U.S. citizenship.

The Houghton-Mifflin Encyclopedia states that the Shawnees even referred to Cherokees as the Kituwah. This is interesting, because both of these tribes were close enough that through later treaties, they were adopted into, and are still part of, the "Cherokee" tribe.

William Eubanks, a Cherokee from Oklahoma, became a noted historian within the tribe in the 19th century. Working as a translator from 1870 until 1906, he used the opportunity of working for the tribal newspaper to publish many articles about tribal history and culture. In one of these writings, Eubanks commented that the 'other' name of the Cherokee tribe was "Ah-ni-gi-too-way-gi," whom he explained had an illustrious history.

"...the Ah-ni-gi-too-way-gi, the direct descendants and remnants

of the greatest moralists and metaphysicians, but they were the grandest architects and astronomers the ancient and truly civilized world ever produced."

The Keetoowah Cherokee language has a very musical sound, which morphed into several dialects, most of still in use today. Also believed to be given by God, this language been used to describe the life, history and practices of Keetoowah Cherokee people orally for thousands of years, until later transcribed into a written form called the syllabary.

Cherokee historian J.C. Starr documented in the early 20th century that the Keetoowah Cherokee, as an organization, 'has for its object the perpetuation of the full-blood race, and its origin dates back into the misty past...'

Wah-ne-nau-hi, a granddaughter of the well-known Cherokee statesman, George Lowrey, reported the Keetoowah Cherokee people's history which her grandfather had passed down to her.

"When the English first came to America, a large tribe of Indians, calling themselves Ke-too-wha, occupied the Southeastern portion of North American the country now comprising the states of Virginia, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky.

"They have always considered themselves the largest and most powerful tribe on the Eastern side of the Continent, and have been so acknowledged by the other Tribes. Holding this place of supremacy made them self-confident and independent. In disposition they were friendly and generous, though always reserved before strangers. Fearless in danger, intrepid and daring when occasion required, they were slow to take offense at fancied injuries or insults. They were always on friendly terms with the Delawares, by whom they were called Ke-too-wha-kee. So highly were they esteemed that at one time, a Ke-to-wha was chosen and served as Chief of the Delaware Tribe.

"The whites first met with these Indians in one of their towns, on the bank of a small stream, which they named Cherry Creek, from the number of cherry trees which grew there; the people they called the Cherry Creek Indians. This name, by gradual variations, came to be Cherok, then, Cherokee..."

When U-ne-tla-nv gave the people their Fire and name, he also revealed a destiny. "Go back to your fires and worship, there is a white ball coming from the East who is your enemy and your grandchildren's feet are directed west. You must prepare to leave and the Great Spirit will direct your footsteps."

It is in this faith that the traditional Keetoowah Cherokee moved west, first to Arkansas Territory and then to Indian Territory.

Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma tribal offices are closed Wednesday, July 3, Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. Offices re-open Monday, July 8 at 8:30 a.m.
We wish everyone a safe holiday.

Education notice

Students who are tribally funded need to submit an official transcript by June 7 to the Education Department to receive their final payment for the spring semester.

Keetoowah Intertribal Stickball Tournament



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Champions of the first UKB Intertribal Stickball Tournament was the War Eagle team.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Runner up in the UKB Intertribal Stickball Tournament was the Tuska Homma team.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Third place winners of the UKB Intertribal Stickball Tournament was the Okli Hannali team.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

The official referees go over the rules of the game to members of each team before the start of the game.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Former UKB Chief John Hair tosses the ball into the air to begin the stickball tournament.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Players scrum for the ball for their team during their stickball game.



Sammy Still/GCN

Sequoyah Guess and Woody Hansen prepare for the games.



Sammy Still/GCN

John Hair and Elaine Hays wait for the start of the games.



Sammy Still/GCN

Barbara Girty prepares a Frito-chili pie on a cold day.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Running toward the goal to score for his team.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Players jump for the ball at the start of their game.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

This player tackles his opponent for the ball.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

A battle for the ball as players keep their opponents away.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

This player shows support for his team by beating the drum.

Keetoowah Intertribal Stickball Tournament



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Some members of the Tuska Homma team represented their team with face paint.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

This lady is battling hard to keep her opponent from passing the ball to her teammates.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Two women physically battle it out as their teammates go after the ball during the stickball game.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Even a friendly competition of stickball can become physical as the players go for the ball.



Sammy Still/GCN

Good sportsmanship is shown by the Gaduwa Warriors as they check on the condition of the injured player.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Teams congratulate each other for a well played game of stickball at the Intertribal Stickball Tournament.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

With the ball in her sticks, this woman is running for the goal.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Players played against each other and against the weather.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

These players look for the ball in the wet soggy ground.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

A cold wet day didn't stop these players from playing hard.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

These two seem to be enjoying a moment of rest.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Battling opponent's sticks can be dangerous.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Ball sticks fly everywhere as teams scrum for the ball.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

This lady keeps her composure against her opponents.

UKB Summer Health Event Scheduled for Tribal Members

By Marilyn Craig
Public Relations Coordinator

The United Keetoowah Band is collaborating for the second year in a row with Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing (FAU) to sponsor a summer health event in June. The three-day event is similar to one presented last July, but each day has been fine-tuned to address specific age groups and their needs.

John Lowe— RN, PhD, FAAN and Wymer Distinguished Professor at FAU— said he designed the program as an option for nursing students to complete the requirements for nursing courses that require students to receive an experience in planning and implementing a community-based program in health promotion and disease prevention.

Lowe, an Eastern Cherokee & Creek, formerly lived in Oklahoma. He said, "I have always been connected to this area and do a lot of work with former UKB Chief Jim Henson. We travel to other aboriginal areas. Last fall we went to Australia and New Zealand."

The nurses who come here are mostly registered nurses with an associate degree working toward completing a bachelor's degree. Some are working toward a master's degree.

This is one option for a required course called Integrative Practicum. Participants can complete all requirements of the class with this event. All of the nurses pay their own way to travel and stay at the location. Through word of mouth, the Oklahoma trip has become one that many of them want to participate in.

On Tuesday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Kenwood School the

camp targets youth, ages kindergarten through eighth grade. The theme of this day is to educate kids about healthy living - nutrition, exercise, and preventing obesity and diabetes.

Health Assessments will be given and include getting participants weight, blood sugar level, height and body mass index (BMI) as well as having students complete a questionnaire on activity level. The staff will record these statistics as baseline information, and we will use it for future comparisons.

"As a norm, kids don't go in for preventive health care, they go because they're sick with flu, have an earache or an injury," said Kathy White, event co-coordinator and administrative assistant for UKB's medical director. "However, with the obesity epidemic affecting more kids every year, we wanted to do screenings and focus on preventative care."

Until recently, the common type of diabetes in children and teens was Type 1. It was called juvenile diabetes. With Type 1 diabetes, the pancreas does not make insulin. Insulin is a hormone that helps glucose, or sugar, get into your cells to give them energy. Without insulin, too much sugar stays in the blood.

Now, younger people are also getting Type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes used to be called adult-onset diabetes. Now it is becoming more common in children and teens, due to more obesity. With Type 2 diabetes, the body does not make or use insulin well.

Children have a higher risk of Type 2 diabetes if they are obese, have a family history of diabetes, are not active, and do not eat well.

Children and teens with Type 1 dia-

betes may need to take insulin. Type 2 diabetes may be controlled with diet and exercise. If not, patients will need to take oral diabetes medicines or insulin.

In addition to the health screenings, other features of the camp include health games, nutrition information and cultural exchange. Each day will have a cultural exchange component - arts and crafts, music and dance, storytelling and singing. The nurses come from countries such as South America and Africa, and islands in Caribbean and they will learn about Keetoowah Cherokee culture as well as sharing parts of their own cultures.

"Tuesday and Thursday will also include 'anytime CPR training'. In the near future, a state law will be in effect, requiring all graduating high school seniors to have CPR training. By introducing and providing the 'anytime CPR training' to our youth now, these youth will be a step ahead in high school," said White.

On Wednesday, June 26, there will be two half-day events. A FAU nurse, who is a certified American Heart CPR trainer, will provide training for all tribal staff who is interested from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the UKB Wellness Center. Upon completion, participants will receive a CPR certification card.

That afternoon, beginning at 1 p.m., there will be "Time for our Elders." This event will focus on cultural sharing and games. This will give the nurses an opportunity to learn about the old ways, and how things have changed, as well as participating with some storytelling from the elders.

The third day of the Summer Health Event will be offered in the

Delaware district at the Jay Community Building on Thursday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Designed for junior high and high school youth, the topics of discussion will be drug awareness and prevention, and will focus on the dangers of methamphetamines, prescription drug abuse and spice.

The seminar will also cover healthy living and preventing obesity and diabetes through exercise and nutrition.

"This event is important for the UKB tribe to be able to outreach with our community on health awareness and health practices that our youth learn from these nurses are invaluable. This collaboration allows the tribe to provide a valuable summer program that will benefit our children's health promotion, the communities' health promotion, CPR training, and provide cultural exchange from those all over the world. We are excited to be able to offer these exciting opportunities to our community youth," said Carrie Haney, UKB Health and Human Services director.

For more information, contact event coordinators, Carrie Haney at 918-456-8698 or Kathy White at 918-458-6708.

UKB June 2013 Calendar of Council, District and Special Meetings

June 1	UKB Regular Council Meeting 10 a.m. UKB Community Services Building
June 4	Saline District Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Kenwood Gym
June 13	Illinois District Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Vian Satellite Office
June 13	Sequoyah District Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Sallisaw Satellite Office
June 15	Tahlequah District Gospel Singing and Social Gathering Hot Dog Lunch bring desserts/drinks Bring your lawn chairs UKB Pavilion, noon-?
June 20	Goingsnake and Flint Districts Meeting, 6 p.m. Stilwell Satellite Office
June 27	Delaware District Meeting and Potluck Jay Community Building, 8 a.m.-5p.m.

The many benefits of gaining the Miss & Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee titles

By Marilyn Craig
Public Relations Coordinator

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma is announcing a call for entries for the Miss and Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Pageant. The event is set for August 22, 2013 at the Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center beginning at 6:00 p.m. The pageant will be the kickoff event of the annual UKB Celebration.

The theme for the 63rd Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration is "Weaving the past into our future". Participants must be between the age of 13 and 17 years old before August 22, 2013, to compete for Jr. Miss, and 18 to 21 before August 22, 2013 to compete for Miss Keetoowah Cherokee.

Contestants must be an exclusive UKB tribal member and present a copy of tribal enrollment, show proof of school enrollment, provide two references, must not have been married or cohabitated, no children, and never convicted of a felony.

Preceding the pageant, contestants are given a leadership class where they learn about the tribe, its history, culture and language, as well as getting tips on makeup and etiquette. The girls also get to know each other and have the opportunity to meet the chief, assistant chief, and pageant staff.

Contestants participate in a rehearsal the night before the pageant, where they get their contestant numbers and do a walk-through of the performance. The performance consists of introductions in traditional dress, talent, and a question and answer session. Contestants draw questions from four categories that cover information such as history, culture, language and an impromptu question.

Representing the UKB as a

goodwill ambassador is an honor for the young women chosen annually at the Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Pageant. With it comes the opportunity to give back to the tribe and to be a role model for the younger tribal members.

They participate in many functions such as the Veteran's Luncheon, the UKB tribal and Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Christmas party, the Tahlequah Christmas parade, the annual Easter Egg hunt, culture camps, and special events. In the past, some of the young women have attended Red Earth, Gathering of Nations, and events in Cherokee, North Carolina, and the Symposium on the American Indian.

The first official function is participating in the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration. Miss and Junior Miss Keetoowah participate in the dignitary breakfast, the parade, the

state of the nation activities, and the grand entry at the powwow.

Holding the Miss and Junior Miss Keetoowah crown has many benefits, including cash prizes and gifts. Education Scholarships are awarded to the winner, first and second runner-ups of \$2,000, \$1,000, \$750 for Miss Keetoowah Cherokee and \$300, \$200, and \$100 for Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee. There is an opportunity to gain confidence and knowledge by assisting in hosting events, and speaking before groups.

Pageant applications are available from the UKB Tribal Facebook site at United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma or picked up at the UKB Community Services building in July. For any questions on the competition, categories or if assistance is needed please call Georgia Dick or Brenda Locust at (918) 456-8698 or 1-800-259-0093.

Title VI Jim Proctor Elder Nutrition Center—Native American 55+ (UKB or CDIB Card) Spouses & or Volunteers/Guest Meals \$3.50

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Menus are subject to change without notice. For more info call: 918-772-4380 918-772-4379 918-772-4378	Milk, Tea, Coffee & Water Served Daily During Lunch 11:30 - 1:00					1
2	3 Steak Fajita w/ Rice, Salsa Corn, Tortilla Guacamole & Chips Salad & Dessert	4 Hamburger Vegetable Stew Hominy, Cheesestick Cornbread, Salad Strawberry Dessert	5 Baked Potato w/ Fixings, Broccoli Cheese Soup Crackers Salad & Dessert	6 Ham/Cheese Sandwich w/fixings Potato Wedge Broccoli Salad Banana Pudding	7 "Brunch" Served From 10:30-12:00	8
9	10 Goulash Hominy Tomato Zucchini Garlic Toast Salad & Dessert	11 Baked Ham Candied Sweet Potato's, Hot Roll Green Beans Salad & Fresh Fruit	12 Supremes Pizza Casserole, Grilled Veggies Cheesy Breadstick Salad & Dessert	13 White Beans w/ Ham, Greens Grilled Potato's Cornbread Salad & Dessert	14 "Fishing Day" UKB River Park 10:30-12:00 Flag Day	15
16	17 Sloppy Joes on Bun Potato Chips Corn on Cob Salad & Dessert	18 Chicken Strips w/Gravy, Hot Roll Mashed Potato's Mixed Veggies Salad & Fresh Fruit	19 Cheeseburger w/ fixings on Bun Steak Fries Pork N Beans Salad & Sherbet	20 Catfish w/Tartar Sauce, Hushpuppies Black-eyed Peas Buttered Potatoes Coleslaw & Dessert	21 "Brunch" Served From 10:30-12:00	22
23	24 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Grilled Veggies Garlic Toast Salad & Dessert	25 Baked Pork Chop Scalloped Potatoes Carrots Roll Salad & Fresh Fruit	26 Supreme Pizza w/ Marina or Ranch Green Beans Cheesy Breadstick Salad & Jell-O	27 Traditional Lunch Indian Taco w/ Fixings, Salsa Hominy, Salad & Fruit Mix	28 Kitchen Closed for Cleaning	29
30						

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

Cookson native graduates from University of Oklahoma

By Lindsey Bark
GCN Reporter

From the small community of Cookson to the city of Norman, Corey Still, University of Oklahoma graduate, endured a journey of balancing his identity with moving forward in the world.

Graduating from Sequoyah High School in 2009, Corey was a Gates Millennium scholar. With this honor, he was able to attend his No. 1 choice college, OU. Though he never thought he would be able to go due to financial reasons, this scholarship allowed him to pursue a childhood goal.

Corey is a first-generation college student and said his family is his biggest influence.

"I have pushed myself to strive for my dreams, not only for myself, but also for my family and community," said Corey.

His family also influenced him on the importance of keeping his Cherokee language and traditions. Corey said these two elements have been the heart of his family. Many of his family elders only spoke Cherokee and in order to speak with them, he and the younger generation had to learn to speak it as well.

Corey received his bachelor's degree on May 11 in Native American Studies, with a minor in Anthropology, for the class of 2013. Hitting close to home, choosing this field of study was a way he could stay involved in the Native American community while teaching others at the same time.

"I have always had a passion to work for Indian people and I knew I could achieve this through this program," said Corey.

Since 2009, Corey has been

actively involved in the OU and Native American community, becoming part of various organizations, receiving numerous awards and the opportunity to travel, all the while representing the school and his heritage.

Some of the organizations and activities he took part in are American Indian Student Association, which he was vice president then president for a couple of semesters, Council of Fire Leadership and Debate Society, American Indian Student Life and National Indian Education Association.

The organization that has had the biggest impact on him was being part of the Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma fraternity, also known as the Society of Native American Gentlemen.

"This organization gave me support and reminded me of my cultural roots and ties," said Corey. "They have helped me achieve my goal and through them have allowed me to help ensure that the number of native males that will graduate will continue to increase."

Having received numerous awards and honors, Corey ended his undergraduate career with the honors: Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education for Outstanding Upperclassmen Leader for 2013, Brett Williams Memorial Outstanding senior award, Renee R. Cook Student Life Award and the J.R. Morris University of Oklahoma Campus Life Award.

OU President Boren presented the J.R. Morris Campus Life Award to Corey, which came as a total surprise. This award recognized Corey for his service within the Native American community.

"I was truly humbled," said Corey. "Growing up I was taught to do all I can for the people around me and



Joy Lyn/Courtesy Photo

Corey Still graduates with a bachelor's degree in Native Studies with a minor in Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma.

to expect nothing, it is what is expected of us. To receive recognition for those things and to know that what I was doing was being seen and made a difference, I truly felt honored."

During the summer of 2012, Corey said he took the trip of a lifetime. He traveled to the United Kingdom, more specifically England, to work as a cultural delegate for the Emissaries of Peace Tour. Operated under the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, it was a collaborative event with the United Keetoowah Band and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to commemorate the 250th anniversary of three Cherokee chiefs who visited England in 1762.

Corey's job, while there, was to help members from the Cherokee Cultural Tourism department coordinate the final details of the trip and prepare for the delegation to arrive.

"England was amazing," said Corey. "I was fortunate to spend two months there and meet and work with a wide variety of people from across the world. That trip is something that I will treasure for the rest of my life."

Being who he is, is what drives Corey to do what he does. He has spent four years promoting, teaching and serving the OU and native community about the issues of identity that many tribal people face.

"Without our culture, without our language, who are we?" said Corey. "Through education we can begin to explain the importance of our Indian identity and hope that those who want to learn will do so in a productive, yet respectful way."

Now graduated from OU, Corey plans to return home to Tahlequah and pursue his master's degree in Higher Educational Leadership from Northeastern State University. After obtaining his master's degree, he wants to return to OU and continue his education toward a Ph.D. or Ed.D. in education.

Corey would like to thank his family, friends and community members who have supported him through his undergraduate journey. He also thanks those at OU for their guidance and support and helping him to achieve his goals.

Keetoowah senior at OBU takes a medical mission trip to Ukraine



Martha Johnson/Courtesy Photo

Jade Hansen (right), OBU senior and Valentina Murajova, Ukraine translator help a Ukraine elder pick out a pair of reading glasses at a free clinic.

By Lindsey Bark
GCN Reporter

She had never been out of the country and the intimidation had set in. Jade was not sure about the language, the food, the people and where she would sleep. However, upon arriving in Ukraine, all of those things exceeded her expectations.

Jade Hansen, senior at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, is in her second to last semester. In the fall of 2013, she receives her Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sports Science: Pre-Allied Health with a minor in youth ministry.

Throughout the year, she stays actively involved with Indian Falls Creek, a church fellowship of indigenous peoples, as the health director. Last summer, another director in the program approached Jade and asked if she was interested in an overseas medical mission to Ukraine.

After much thought and consideration, Jade believed God led her to go on this trip to another country.

She made sure she would not fall behind with her schoolwork and had the support of family and friends to help raise funds for the trip. Moreover, she mentally prepared herself to take part in something that had the potential to reach out to others.

"After receiving numerous accounts of encouragement, and many prayers, I knew I was ready," said Jade. "That was the biggest impact of preparation, is knowing how many people were praying for us."

The youngest to travel to Ukraine, Jade had the support of her team of nurses, doctors and volunteers who traveled with her.

Landing in Ukraine April 19, Jade and her team set out for Dnipropetrovsk. For the rest of the week they reached out to towns Nikopol, Ordzhonikidze, Tokovskoye, Leninskoye, Loshkovrivka and Vesolye. In each town, they immediately set up free clinics to provide healthcare to citizens, checkups and eye care where Jade helped to find the prescriptions patients needed for reading glasses.

They also handed out medi-

cines for pain, blood pressure and children's cough. Jade said these are easy to purchase in the United States but not in Ukraine.

Reaching one town per day for medical care at local churches, these locations also helped draw in people for the local evangelism team to witness or pray with the patients as they waited to see a doctor.

Jade said she is grateful for the missionaries who hosted her team and provided great lodging, caring translators, good food and hospitality.

"It opened my eyes to a whole other world, in a good way," said Jade. "I now see that we have things good here in America, and we should be thankful for everything. It makes me want to go to other places and continue to do the work of God."

In the week she was in Ukraine, Jade said the mission team reached more than 1,000 people with medical attention and the word of God.

Since her trip, other mission opportunities have opened up for her and she is excited about possibly traveling to a new location to do her work. She has a particular interest in medical mission but also continues to serve locally.

Her inspiration to do what she does comes from her aunt Diana Mouse-Buiting. After she passed, Jade remembers what kind of person she was.

"She was one the most encouraging people I have ever met," said Jade. "She left a lasting legacy that made an imprint on my life. She told me 'I am so proud of you, keep doing what you're doing.'"

After graduating from OBU, Jade plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to work toward her master's degree in Public Health. With her minor in youth ministry from OBU,

she wants to continue her work with youth at her home church. She plans to work with the United Keetoowah Band or Indian Health Service to further her career in the medical field.

She hopes her story is an inspiration for others to see the world and chase their dreams.

"This trip put so many memories in my life that I will always reflect on, so whether you go visit Ukraine or go on a mission trip, go for it," said Jade. "Why not do what you strive to do or why not go and change the world for the better?"

Jade also thanks everyone who supported her trip: her parents, brothers, sisters, her pastor and his wife. She is available to speak to groups and at functions. Email her at jade.hansen@okbu.edu.

Gospel Singing and Social Gathering on Tap in June

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. -- UKB Tahlequah District Representative Betty Holcomb will host a Gospel Singing and Social Gathering on Saturday, June 15 beginning at noon. The event will be held at the Celebration Grounds pavilion located off Keetoowah Circle at the UKB Tribal Complex.

A hot dog lunch will be provided. Attendees may bring desserts and/or drinks and are also encouraged to bring their lawn chairs.

All gospel singers are welcome to perform and everyone is welcome to attend. Those wishing to sign up in advance may call 918-822-3805, or performers may sign up the day of the event.

66th Annual Stilwell Strawberry Festival



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Travis Foreman, UKB Lighthorse officer drives along the parade route during the May 11 Stilwell Strawberry festival.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

UKB Chief Wickliffe, Saline District Charles Smoke, Assistant Chief Locust and Flint District Tom Duncan wave to the parade crowd.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Tribal members of the United Keetoowah Band walk along the parade route passing out goodies to the attending parade crowd.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

The Keetoowah Cherokee Honor Guard marches in the 66th annual Stilwell Strawberry festival.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Delicious sweet tasty Stilwell strawberries were displayed May 11 during the strawberry festival parade downtown Stilwell.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Trista Vaughn, Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, waves to the crowd.



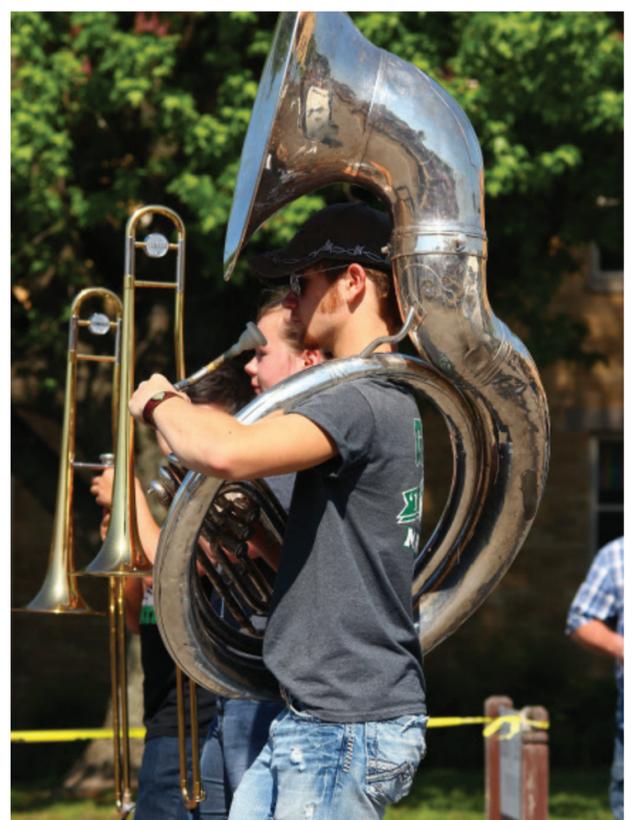
Thomas Jordan/GCN

Keetoowah Cherokee Casino staff rode on their float as they waved and passed candy to the crowd attending the strawberry festival parade.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

These two lovely young strawberries enjoyed the warm weather as they participated in this year's Stilwell Strawberry Festival parade.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

This tuba player marches alongside his fellow band members at this year's festival parade.

Cherish Glass: An up-and-coming Keetoowah youth

By M. Thomas Jordan
GCN Special Writer

It is April 23 and Cherish Glass prepares to drive the first tee at Cobblestone Golf Course in Muskogee at the high school girls' regional tournament—her fifth tournament for the year.

She faces two other first-bag golfers who are supposed to be just as good, if not better, than she is.

She blocks out the dropping temperatures, spitting precipitation and the competition. This is her gift—the ability to stay focused, calm, concentrating only on her target down range. According to her coach, Ron Dunaway, it is what lets her hold her own against better players.

The 5-foot-1 17-year-old hits the ball and plays her game.

The team takes third place and secures a spot at state for the first time—where another batch of bad weather kills the second day of tournament play putting the Stilwell team in 11th place overall. The team has a tendency to pull in third place and Cherish tends to place fifth individually, this year.

Cherish started playing golf in the eighth grade at Dahlongegah Elementary School courtesy of her P.E. teacher, Mike Girdner. She placed fourth in her first tournament as an extra and the sport hooked her. When she entered Stilwell High School as a freshman, she did so as the golf team's first-bag player.

She says she likes the challenge, and pushes herself to do better because she knows she has the ability.

Now, at the end of her junior

year, Cherish is keeping up the pressure on herself.

She practices an hour each day during school and, then, on the weekends she plays at Western Hills Golf Course.

On April 24, she started putting in 11 1/2 hours a week at Greenleaf Nursery. On top of all of that, she maintains mostly A's and B's in her class work—English 4, Native American History, Health and Safety, Study Skills, Art and College Prep.

Her mom, Teresa Nofire, said it is not easy for Cherish at times. She gets tired and a little discouraged in her struggle to stay caught up.

On tournament days, Cherish has to make up the work she misses, starting soon after she gets home and staying up past midnight on some days to complete everything before getting up early to head back to school. She does not like to miss school, and six tournaments this semester stacked up the work.

While the beginning of summer should promise a more relaxed pace, Coach Dunaway says it is the time for Cherish to move her game up one more notch to put her in the money for scholarships to college.

The plan is to work on everything, but spend extra time on putting and chipping.

This could help her gain entrance to either the University of Arkansas or Oklahoma State University where she wants to study veterinarian medicine or become a midwife.

The path she has chosen is not easy, by any means, but Cherish has plenty of support from her mother. When she can, Nofire takes



M. Thomas Jordan/GCN

Cherish Glass, a member of the Stilwell High School golf team, takes a practice swing before she tees off on the first tee at the Cobblestone Country Club in Muskogee.

Cherish to play golf on the weekends even though Nofire does not play herself. She just goes to be there for her daughter.

"I'm very proud of her," said Nofire. "I know she can go far and I will do whatever I can to get her there."

This is an attitude Nofire

passed onto her daughter.

Cherish says she works hard at everything she does.

"I'm not a quitter," said Cherish. "And, I want to make something of myself for myself and family."

It is this attitude that makes Cherish Glass a young Keetoowah to keep an eye on.



M. Thomas Jordan/GCN

The UKB Honor Guard presented the colors during a gourd dance. The dance was in honor of John Stay at Home, second from right, a member of the honor guard.

Veterans honor Stay at Home 45 years after he returns home

By M. Thomas Jordan
GCN Special Writer

In 1968, the U.S. government drafted John Stay at Home into the Army as part of its peak buildup in Vietnam.

At the age of 20, he was one of the 549,500 troops who went overseas, and was fortunate enough not to be one of the 16,592 killed, that year.

Stay at Home started in the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) before being switched to the 196th Light Infantry in northern Vietnam 30 miles south of the DMZ. A place where, he says, he saw plenty of action.

The Army awarded him the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, the Merit Unit Commendation/Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with a palm, a Unit Citation Badge, the National Defense Medal, Republic of Vietnam campaign medals, an Army Commendation Medal and a Valorous Unit Award (L).

After surviving his draft, Stay at Home came home to his wife in 1969. He did not come home to parades, praise or a grateful nation. Like the other soldiers, he came home to the revulsion of the general public.

Forty five years later, the United Keetoowah Band's Veterans Office honored him with a gourd dance.

"Since both Jacob (Littledave) and John returned from Vietnam, or any of us American Indians returning were never honored; this is just a small portion of our Indian traditions and custom, honoring a warrior, returning from battle," said Norman "Hominy" Littledave. "Wes (Proctor) and I decided that we could honor them with a dance. And, I know there's more. If we continue, we will not be able to name them all. That's how it became: 'Honoring Veteran Gourd Dance.'"

Ed Ketcher was the head dancer, Tim Washee was the head singer with the Kituwah Inter-Tribal Singers and the Chuck Bread was the arena director.

The United Keetoowah Band Honor Guard, with Stay at Home carrying the UKB guidon, presented the colors in the opening songs.

Stay at Home's wife, son, two daughters and four of his grandchildren were present to witness the first time he was honored for his service.

"I'm proud of them doing that for me," said Stay at Home. "It was pretty good."

Stay at Home, currently serves on the UKB Honor Guard and is a member of the DAV in Stilwell.

Clothing Voucher Program distribution schedule	
7-25	Cooweescoowee 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. location TBA
7-26	Canadian 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. location TBA
7-29	Flint 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Stilwell sub-office
7-30	Saline 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Kenwood School Gym
7-31	Delaware/Goingsnake 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Kansas sub-office
8-1	Illinois/Sequoyah 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sallisaw sub-office
8-2	Tahlequah 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. UKB Wellness Center
8-5	All others 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. UKB Wellness Center

*For UKB exclusive children in grades K-12. Parents need to bring in child's report card.

UKB Library Special Events

Wednesday, June 19, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., there will be a marbles demonstration along with a brief history about the game of marbles.

Wednesday, July 24, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., UKB Tradition Keeper Cindy Hair is teaching basket making.

For more information, call Sonja Hartness, tribal librarian, or Susan Adair, Education director, at 918-456-8698

63rd Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Moved to September

Due to cold weather the past several years, on May 4, 2013, the UKB tribal council passed resolution 13-UKB-34, which states that the council "approves to move the UKB Celebration from its original date of the first Saturday in October to September 14, 2013."

The 63rd Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration begins Friday, September 13. On the schedule for Friday night is the Keetoowah Cherokee Powwow, Gospel Singing and arts and crafts and food vendors.

On Saturday, September 14, there will be a dignitary breakfast, parade, state of the nation ceremony, hog fry, children's activities, turtle races, volleyball, horseshoes, cornstalk shoot, blowgun shoot, marbles demonstration, and stickball game. There will also be free bingo, arts and crafts, food vendors, and the powwow, with the grand entry set for 2 p.m. and a Stomp Dance.

Other events associated with the celebration but not held on the same weekend, will be the Miss and Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee pageant, the Keetoowah Cherokee Golf tournament and men's fast pitch and co-ed softball tournaments.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Weaving the past into our future". The Keetoowah Cherokee is a traditional tribe that has always woven the past into the future by honoring our elders and their knowledge. We also know the importance of learning history, and keeping language, culture and traditions alive.



Sammy Still/GCN

A new competition was added to this year's Employee Appreciation Day activity, the water balloon volleyball event. Four team members use only a small sheet to toss a water balloon over the net to their opponents

Admin thanks employees for their hard work

By M. Thomas Jordan
GCN Special Writer

Tribal administration highlighted the efforts of its roughly 300 tribal and casino employees, and singled out the top of the bunch with the manager and employee of the year recipients from both entities May 14 at Camp Heart O' Hills in Welling.

Chief George Wickliffe began the day by thanking each of the employees for their hard work in helping the tribe move forward and grow.

Marilyn Craig, media specialist, and Georgia Dick, grants writer, started the day's activities by enlisting 24 employees onto 12-person teams for "The Tribal Feud"—a spoof of The Family Feud. Employees answered questions such as what colors are on the United Keetoowah Band flag to who won Thunder tickets at last year's employee Christmas party—KCC General Manager Rod Fourkiller—and everything in between.

After the game, and a round of drawings doled out \$50 gift cards to iTunes and Walmart, cash prizes, two rounds of golf at Cherry Springs Golf Course and an ice chest and two chairs, Fourkiller and executive director of Tribal Operation Tim Good Voice named this year's top employees and managers.

Fourkiller said, for the casino's employee of the year, all of the casino directors meet in a room and do not come out until they have a consensus on the employee of the year. This year, it took no time at all for them to designate Tina McAlpine, revenue specialist, as the KCC employee of the year.

For KCC manager of the year, it is up to the employees to decide.

This year, they chose Roman Ridge, manager on duty.

On the tribal side, a group of honorees from previous years sort through employee nominations of the top manager and employee before voting on their choices.

Good Voice announced Weylin "Smoke" Thompson, maintenance, as tribal employee of the year and Amanda Stopp, registrar, as tribal manager of the year.

All four employees received a plaque in their honor.

Employees then took advantage of some free time before lunch to play tennis, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, fish, walk around and make baskets or tissue flowers.

Lunch provided baked chicken, baked beans, potato salad, toast and strawberry shortcake for the employees.

After lunch, the employees began battling it out for \$20 prizes in horseshoes, tug-of-war, a three-legged race and, new for the year, a water balloon volleyball tournament, where four employees each grasped the corner of a small sheet and lobbed a water balloon over volleyball net at an opposing team.

Employees took advantage of another round of drawings before heading back to the cafeteria to play Bingo.

Choogie Kingfisher, cultural coordinator, called number after number as employees sweated out the suspense of straight-line Bingo for prizes ranging from a wooden rocking chair to cash to a Garmin GPS unit and more.

A final set of drawings netted two employees \$250 each and ended this year's employee appreciation day.

Students teach recycling

By M. Thomas Jordan
GCN Special Writer

Leach Elementary School's Gifted and Talented students became teachers for the school's first Earth Day workshop April 26.

Ginny Raith, teacher, said her fourth through eighth grade Gifted and Talented students researched different approaches to teach their fellow students what they believed was vital for protecting the environment.

The students broke up into five groups for the different stations. The rest of the school spent 20 minutes at each station in their respective groups.

Two groups met in the gym—recycled bowling and a recycling relay.

For bowling, the students used wadded up old newspapers wrapped in used plastic wrap for the bowling balls. Empty water bottles served as pins. Each student had two tries to make a strike or pick up the spares for a prize.

For the recycling relay, Brandi Ross, director of UKB Natural Resources, laid out a cone course in a zigzagging pattern on the gym floor.

Two groups of students formed at one end to race each other through the course to boxes of recyclable materials—aluminum cans, boxes, etc.—and back again to place each item in its proper recycling container.

Outside at the pond, students used binoculars and spotting scopes to look for the school's resident turtles. They also looked for a bucket and other items that could be considered litter. Afterward, they took a short survey to see if they missed anything.

Back inside, the students set up two more stations for Earth Day Bingo and a lecture on the history of Earth Day.

For Earth Day Bingo, the students loaded the cards with words such as water, preserve, litter, etc. instead of numbers. They used dry beans as place markers.

During the lecture, the students taught the history of Earth Day and then showed the film "Sid the Seed."

Raith said she was very proud of her students with the way they researched and made everything happen. She only had to assist them.

She also said she has ideas for making it an even better event next year.



Lindsey Bark/GCN

Leach Elementary School students prepare to turtle watch at the school's pond as part of the school's Earth Day events. Along with turtles, the children were supposed to spot any litter or other wildlife present.

obituary

Former UKB Assistant Chief and Tribal Attorney Bill Rice's father, Edgar W. Rice passed away on May 2, 2013. Mr. Edgar W. Rice was born on March 27, 1925, in Apache, Oklahoma to Osa Caswell Rice and Flossie Mae Rice (Parmer) and went home to be with his Lord and Savior on May 2, 2013, near Little City, Oklahoma at the age of 88.

He is preceded in death by his parents and numerous aunts and uncles.

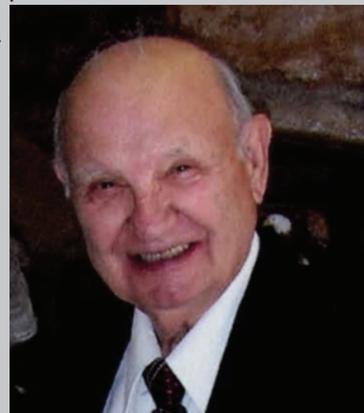
Rice is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorris of the home; sons, G. William (Bill) Rice and wife Annette of Cushing, Ok, James S. Rice of Cumberland, OK; daughter, Laurie G. Rice of Burbank, CA; grandchildren, Mikel Lee, John, Brian, Karen, and Harrison; brother, Charles Edwin Rice of Norman, OK; sister Betty Ruth Darnell and husband Jack; and numerous great grandchildren.

Professor William (Bill) Rice earned his B.A. from Phillips University in 1973, and his J.D. at the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1978. Mr. Rice has a vast

background with Native American tribal law. He has served as a former Attorney General for the Sac and Fox Nation, Chief Justice for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Assistant Chief and Chief Judge for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma from 1999 to 2001, and served as Chairman of the Board of the Keetoowah Tribal Loan Fund. from 1977-1981, and in other capacities with various Indian tribal governments.

Teaching and writing interests include Indian law with an emphasis on the revitalization of the legal and political systems of Indian Tribes; Jurisprudence with an emphasis on the comparison of western and American Indian concepts of law; and Constitutional law. His book, Tribal Governmental Gaming Law (Carolina Academic Press, 2006) is the first law school level casebook to be published for use in Indian gaming law classes.

Professor Rice currently serves as Co-Director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Tulsa College of Law.



Edgar W. Rice

Do you need help paying for child care?

Requirements:
 *Live within one of the UKB tribal jurisdictional service area.
 *Parent/parents working or attending school full or part-time.
 *Parent/parents or child meets the federal definition of an Indian (UKB member or pending member).
 *Child/children is between the ages of birth through 12 years.
 *Family income meets monthly income eligibility guidelines:

Family Size	Income
1	\$2,241.00
2	\$2,930.00
3	\$3,619.00
4	\$4,309.00
5	\$4,998.00

*For each working parent in the family a deductible of 20 percent, or \$120.00, or which ever is greater per month for cost of living on total gross income to arrive to adjusted income.

Info needed for applying:
 *Birth certificates for children
 *Social Security cards of household
 *UKB cards of household

*Current proof of residence
 *Current check stubs both spouses
 *Work schedules of both parents must be on company letterheads and list days and hours. If have flexible hours must provide a weekly schedule. Work schedule must list pay rate, hours per week and payment type (weekly, bi-weekly etc.) signed by employer.
 *If divorced need court documentation. If separated needs a notarized separation statement.

Info needed for relative provider:
 Provider needs a social security card, driver's license and CPR/First Aid card. Any one in the household of the provider that is 18 years and older needs to have an OSBI background check before anything can be done for childcare assistance. Both client and provider need to come into the office to apply for childcare assistance. For any questions or inquiry about the program please call 918-431-9998 and request Lala Durossette or Pamela Birmelin.

UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting At the UKB Community Services Building

April 06, 2013 10:03. a.m. – 1:07 p.m.

I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe

II. Invocation: Cliff Wofford

III. Roll Call: 9 + Chief answered Roll Call; Locust, Sacks & Christie absent at roll call

-Chief Wickliffe's summary to Council: There are things that are going on in Washington today. The topic is the budget and the date of September 30, 2013. The sequester is going to cost a lot of money. There is a notification of cut in the amount of \$53,000.00 in the self-governance budget. There are negotiations going on with the B.I.A. and officials in Washington. If we get any funding it will be small. Senators have given up some of their money already and turned it over to people in need. My father was a Republican, the Keetoowah people in the past were the same way, they were Republican also. They would not vote for a Democrat because of Andrew Jackson. The Keetoowah Society Constitution written in 1859 was the first time any Native American had the opportunity to sit down with the U.S. because there was no way you could talk to U.S. The Trail of Tears had already happened in 1838-1839. Anytime we had conflict, the English would out-shoot us. We did obtain weapons by trade. By trade we were able to get enough weapons and ambush them. There is no room anymore to ????? in the United States. We agreed to abide by any treaty we have with the United States. In 1808 we volunteered to move. We sat down with the U.S. and set up a system where a repeat of the Trail of Tears would not happen ever again. There was Wall Street greed during the Presidential election, everyday. People who had the money were trying to get us to do something. We have 3 treaties with boundaries. 1839 Constitution, minutes were written in syllabary. People are vicious. I found a letter addressed for me and Charlie Locust in our office. The letter was anonymous meaning no signature and it was a death threat to Chief and Assistant Chief. This happens every time we move a little toward progress for the tribe.

-Anyone who would go to that extreme I believe there is something wrong with the individual. How can anyone want to tear down what has been built and works today. Two months ago Councilman Barry Dotson said, "I would like to bring up a point. Ever since I have been on Council I have not missed a meeting." Everywhere I have been someone usually gets recognized for their great deed they have done for someone.

-That 76 acres and 2.03 acres are so close to being placed in trust, just about 8% away from completion. These people who wrote these constitutions had been through a lot, they had heard the ancestors. The traditional people have singings and gatherings and there is always the prayer and always revolve around God the Creator. I look forward for great things to happen, it will go beyond July just a little but it will happen. In 1889 we honored our treaties and the law of the land. We should always stay united. We will hold hands together to represent unity. We have some business to tend to this morning. We are a unique tribe and have had a procedure of standards/rules and regulations on the meeting procedures. We must follow these as Council.

-Dotson: Chief I would like to request we move into Executive Session to the end of the agenda. I have received numerous complaints from members of having to sit out in the lobby for a

lengthy time of about 2 hours during Executive Session.

-Chief Wickliffe: I still state we are to maintain business.

IV. Executive Session - Business

MOTION by Jerry Hansen to enter into Executive Session with legal present; TIME – 10:52 AM; SECONDED by Willie Christie; VOTE: 7 Yes, 3 No (Dotson, Holcomb, Worley), 0 Abstentions.

MOTION by Willie Christie to exit from Executive Session and return to regular session; TIME – 12:14 PM; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

V. Approval of the minutes for the month of March 2013

MOTION by Jerry Hansen to approve the minutes for the month of March 2013; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

VI. Reports to Council

1. Hansen: I would like to refer to our newspaper. I would like to commend Lindsey Bark on her effort to do the human interest stories she does a great job. I asked her to come up one day which was some cold weather on that day. I asked the question, "Where's the guys?" Miss Lindsey was present and still she done a good job. I would like to re-emphasize this newspaper (holds up the paper to show Council) is bubble gum. There is no hard hitting news. Comments to Chief, I would like to see more legislative/hard hitting news that affects the tribe and D.C. I'm getting flack over this. It doesn't have substance. The second reason for my report; I have a gentleman here, Marvin Summerfield, who would like to do a quick presentation.

-Summerfield: states he is to do his presentation in May as he is on the agenda. He approached the C.A.B. board and outlined his knowledge of sanitation. He has 15 years in the field. He was directed to go speak to the C.A.B. board which handles the business part of the tribe.

-Chief Wickliffe: I'm going to comment about our housing. We did build homes. Sizeable grants were received. Being raised in Indian Country and knowing the full-bloods; some homes were burned and insurance was collected. The environmentalists were questionable. This progressed through the years and some tests were not being done. It was just a condition of the times. H.U.D. money was restored and housing was taken over by the Council which still remains in effect. D.E.Q. gets involved, then take other measures. Watch steps on housing.

-Hansen: We need to use his knowledge to keep the tribe from having to ever lose our Housing based on all the factors we just discussed.

-James Locust: You have to have a licensed person. I'm living in a house now and there is sanitation issues but there is other factors revolving around the trailer I'm currently residing in.

-Holcomb: Let's bring somebody in with experience, not who we know.

-Hansen: Talk to him! Find out about his knowledge.

-Ken Bellmard: May I say something? Is this through our Tribal Housing Authority?

-James Locust: Mine isn't, I'll explain my situation. I received assistance. The crew doing the job raised the amount of the job. The scope of the UKB Housing.

-Ken Bellmard: stated after the meeting we can discuss the nature of James Locust's issue.

-Hansen: Listen it has been 8 years since I've been crying to get some kind of sanitation setup and have not seen it yet. Reading from the Natural Resources department report. He reads there is means of having to have trust land before an EPA test can be done. 106 programs require trust land, but could apply for 106 which would be by using it is services land. Someone asked if they are operating on federal money. The proposal to obtain environmental grant to be looked into by legal of the language and review to re-apply. I would like to have our people be able to be eligible for this from our housing. I would also ask for a return call. I would also expect to have you return calls to constituents from you Chief.

-Ken Bellmard: We will get together on these two separate issues and put them together.

-Dotson: Chief may we continue the meeting?

-Duncan: I would like to request a 25% increase in our District Funds. Gas prices are rising as well as groceries and jobs are scarce and the people are having hard times. I'd like an increase for next year if possible.

-Hawk: If it's just a recommendation then that would revert back to the Budget & Finance Committee, correct?

-Worley: I have not called a meeting as you recall I am still blocked/locked out of the system. I cannot fulfill my duties as elected Treasurer.

-Holcomb: We have not received a report. I have people asking me about the budget and I have no report.

-Duncan: I will make a motion for 25% increase of District Funds for each district.

-Chief Wickliffe: I know there is need among the people. I think that's not too much but each funds are increased by population.

-DISCUSSION: This discussion of increase is voiced by several parties.

-Hawk: Let's make a recommendation for the increase be reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee.

-Worley: I will call a meeting (Budget & Finance) if I am not stopped and if not yelled at or harassed.

-Hawk: I don't see why that should be stopped because it is a recommendation from Council to be reviewed.

-Holcomb: I would like to see a report.

-Hawk: With that motion in mind, the language states: To recommend for the Budget & Finance Committee review the budget for a 25% increase of district funds for FY 2014 or immediately.

MOTION by Tom Duncan to recommend for the Budget & Finance Committee review the budget for a 25% increase of district funds for FY 2014 or immediately; SECONDED by Ella Mae Worley; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

2. Enrollment: Joyce Hawk

MOTION by Willie Christie to accept and approve 9 new applicants for UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Cliff Wofford; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

MOTION by Willie Christie to acknowledge and honor 7 membership relinquishments from UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Cliff Wofford; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent

at vote).

Item discussed in Executive Session pertaining to business. This needs to be supported with a resolution and vote of Council. The language is in the motion as follows:

MOTION by Willie Christie to appoint as Attorney General at the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Attorney Christina Vaughn of the McAfee & Taft law firm; SECONDED by Cliff Wofford; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

K. Bellmard: to harmonize the commissions on the terms, we know who the commissioners are. This allows the commissioners to be aware of their term limits, as defined in the BFRC Act.

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to approve the reappointing and confirming commissioners of the Business and Finance Regulatory Commission; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 7 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions (Holcomb, Worley); (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

VII. Unfinished Business – N/A

VIII. New Business

1. MOTION by Cliff Wofford to approve the changing of insurance companies from Meritain Health to HealthCare Solutions Group; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

2. MOTION by Cliff Wofford to approve the new bank account labeled Health Care Plan; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Hansen, Locust & Sacks absent at vote).

X. Announcements –

-Hawk: Spring Elder Assistance Program will begin on May 6, 2013 and continue until June 14, 2013 at NOON. 12:00 PM will be the close of the program on June 14th. Elder applications will be available for Council at the May Council meeting. Satellite offices will be given applications at the start of the program.

-Tahlequah District meeting will be April 12, 2013 at Keener Baptist Church at 6:00 PM and May 10, 2013 at the Jim Proctor Nutrition Center at 6:00 PM.

-Flint District meeting will be April 18th and May 16th at Stilwell Sub-office at 6:00 PM

-Goingsnake District meeting April 18th and May 16th at the Stilwell Sub-office at 6:00 PM.

-Cooweescoowee District Meeting April 25th, May 23rd and June 27th at 1st Christian Church of Pryor at 5:30 PM.

-Illinois District meeting will be May 16th and June 13th at the Vian Sub-office at 6:30 PM.

-Saline District meeting will be April 9th at the Kenwood Gym at 6:30 PM

XII. Benediction: Tom Duncan

XIII. Adjourn: MOTION by Willie Christie; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; Approve by affirmation: 1:49 PM

Keetoowah Employee's Appreciation Day



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Chief Wickliffe and the tribe's administration honored tribal and casino staff during the UKB's Employee Appreciation Day May 14, 2013. Standing left to right are, Rodney Fourkiller, Keetoowah Cherokee Casino General Manager; Tina McAlpine, revenue specialist, KCC employee of the year; Roman Ridge, KCC manager of the year; Chief George Wickliffe; Joyce Hawk, tribal secretary; Amanda Stopp, registrar, tribal manager of the year; Tim Good Voice, executive director of tribal operations; and Weylin "Smoke" Thompson, maintenance, tribal employee of the year.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

UKB Tribal and Casino employees listen intently as they are thanked by the administration for their valuable services to the tribe.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Twenty-four employees are matched to two 12-person teams as they play "Tribal Feud", a spoof of the Family Feud.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

The trials and tribulations of playing volleyball.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

These two employees seem to soar into first place.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Wesley aims for a ringer as Dusty looks on.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

A friendly game of one on one basketball.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

This employee is enjoying a nice quiet afternoon of fishing during the employee appreciation day.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Employees taking the time to visit and enjoy the spring weather away from their offices.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Chris and Amanda Stopp, Amanda Mink, Felicia Hadley, and Jake Foreman pull for a win at the tug-a-war competition.



Thomas Jordan/GCN

Willis hits the ball over the net giving his team another chance for a point during a volleyball game.