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Official Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

# Gaduwa Cherokee News

## SSG GWY A&P

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Issue #7

## Keetoowah Cherokee celebrate land in trust

The United Keetoowah Band spent June 25 celebrating a monumental occasion, the government's signing of a land in trust application by the tribe after seven years of legal battles.

The celebration officially started with the UKB Honor Guard posting the colors at 6 p.m. in the pavilion on the aptly named UKB Celebration Grounds to an estimated crowd of 2,500 people.

Chief George Wickliffe gave the assembly a brief history of the Keetoowah Cherokee and their struggles to finally end their days as a landless tribe.

Chief Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Charles Locust honored the numerous lawyers who worked on behalf of the tribe to make the reason for the celebration possible. Assistant Chief Locust also thanked the council members for their work and the Keetoowah members for allowing this administration to work toward this moment and make this happen.

From there, it was time for one of the most anticipated affairs sponsored by the Keetoowah Cherokee, the traditional meal of hog fry and a special treat, buffalo meat.

Workers and VISTA Summer Associates started the night before sorting and soaking beans and preparing for the next day's marathon cooking.

Starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, workers started cooking beans, fry bread, hog meat, buffalo meat, potatoes, etc. for the evening meal. Workers set up on

two ends of the pavilion, the Wellness Center, the Title VI building and the Round House to have enough space to cook all of the food. In all workers cooked 400 pounds of hog meat, 450 pounds of buffalo meat, 500 pounds of potatoes, 300 pounds of succotash and used 250 pounds of flour for fry bread. Also, homemade grape dumplings, cake and other desserts were brought by workers and volunteers.

While the assemblage was being served, the Cummings Family Singers entertained the crowd for 30 minutes followed by the Kingfisher Family Singers. Both groups sang gospel hymns and sometimes took requests. Several members of the Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir also performed some songs in the Keetoowah Cherokee language.

After the meal began winding down, drawings were held for five family packs of fireworks, hats, umbrellas and duffel bags as door prizes. Also given out to the first 1,000 attendees, were red T-shirts with the slogan, "Keetoowah Cherokee, The Real Thing."

With the temperature reaching 95 degrees and a heat index of 100 degrees, the children had the best opportunity to cool off. The tribe brought in three inflatable water activities. One required children to climb up one side of the inflatable and slide down the other side into a shallow pool of water. Another, allowed children to take a small basketball, run and slide toward the goal while racing another child. The third inflatable was a

maze where children were armed with water guns and battled it out for a set amount of time.

A large tent was also set up with misters inside of it for the adults who needed cooling off.

As the sun went down, the temperature began dropping and what was a warm breeze turned into a cool one. People brought out their lawn chairs to relax and observe a stomp dance and the fireworks show.

The Redbird Smith Nighthawk Keetoowah Members were the host grounds for the stomp dance. Although unplanned, each of the five dances was led by people associated with the UKB Stomp Grounds with four of them Keetoowah members. Assistant Chief Locust says this gave a special aura to the celebration with a demonstration of Keetoowah Pride.

As soon as the stomp dance was finished, the fireworks show began.

Hance Pyrotechnics of Tahlequah spent nearly six hours setting up for the 15-minute show. The pyrotechnic team shot between 600 and 700 artillery shells for the show with the largest shell measuring six inches in diameter and flying hundreds of feet into the air. The crowd clapped and cheered at the grand finale as a dazzling array of colors and explosions filled the night sky and was visible for miles around with Chief Wickliffe saying it was the largest fireworks show he ever saw.



A huge crowd of Keetoowah Cherokee tribal members filled the celebration pavilion as others gathered outside in lawn chairs to hear Chief Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Locust speak as they proudly announced to their members that the UKB were no longer a landless tribe. Photo by Thomas Jordan

## UKB sponsors second Day of Champions

The United Keetoowah Band brought back the popular Day of Champions football camp for its second year June 17 and 18. Children ages 8 to 18 from all over the 14 counties, UKB members and otherwise, participated in the camp.

The camp was organized by Coach Ken Heupel, father of former OU quarterback Josh Heupel. Heupel uses a staff of veteran coaches, former college and professional players and academic instructors to teach the campers the fundamentals of sportsmanship and the importance of academic success.

The campers were separated into small groups according to age and sent to various stations to learn a specific skill such as how to get full power off the line, proper ball throwing skills, how to catch a ball, how to properly hold a ball, etc. The coach at each station used their skill lesson to back up the four principles being taught at the camp: discipline, respect, trust and hard work. All campers were expected to maintain an attitude



Coaches and players take time to pose for a photograph with UKB tribal administration during Day of Champions camp. Front row kneeling, left to right, Chris Coke, Quentin Chaney, Ryan Algood, Lee Blankenship, Josh Brewer, Chuck Hepola, and Matt Brand. Back row standing, left to right, UKB Tribal Secretary, Joyce Hawk; Waleed Gaines, Earle Moseley, Justin Iske, Oliver Gibson, UKB Chief, George Wickliffe; EDA Director, Joe Byrd; Education Director, Leroy Qualls; Tony Mitchell, and Hudson Fuller. Photo by Sammy Still

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conductive to learning these four principles and apply them at the camp and in their daily lives.

Heupel said the practice of these four principles let the children succeed in whatever they do in life, whether it is sports, school or a career.

Campers were given water breaks about

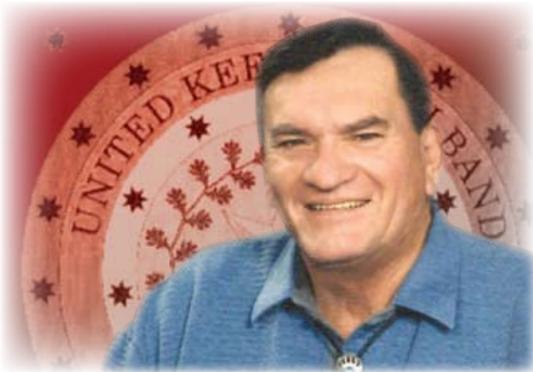
every 30 minutes to rehydrate. The UKB provided water bottles for the campers and the maintenance department kept jugs of ice water full for the campers and coaches.

A meal of hamburgers and hot dogs was provided for the campers and coaches and grilled

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# A Letter to the UKB People

## From Chief George Wickliffe



Dear Tribal Members,

In a booklet created by Louis R. Bruce, Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the early 1970's, it was stated: "While this booklet does not include the names of all Indian tribes, band, or groups, it does list all of those for which the Bureau of Indian Affairs has definite responsibilities."

In his message on Indian Affairs to the Congress July 8, 1970, President Nixon said: "The first and most basic question that must be answered with respect to Indian policy concerns the historic and legal relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Communities."

The tribes in Oklahoma listed as having Federal Corporate Charters include:

Alabama - Quassarte Creek Tribal Town, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Kialegee Tribal Town, Miami Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Wyandotte Tribe. Absentee-Delaware Tribe, Apache Tribe, Comanche Tribe, Kaw Tribe, Kiowa Tribe and Wichita Tribe.

During the next few months, I will continue to share segments of this book that reinforce the fact that the UKB (organized by the OIWA) was recognized as a tribe and considered, in many instances, to have more rights than the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Next time we will discuss Federal Statutes applicable to the UKB.

### POWERS, RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE UKB UNDER FEDERAL LAW

by Louis R. Bruce  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
early 1970's

Indian tribes retain powers of sovereignty that they have possessed from time immemorial except to the extent they have been limited by United States law through the plenary (ie. complete) powers of Congress. These inherent powers are limited by treaties, agreements, statutes and interpretations of the same by the federal courts. While the Cherokees had extensive treaty history; only three of the eighteen major treaties actually contained language which enumerated rights and powers or limited acts of the tribal government. Since the UKB organic documents specifically refer to the protection of rights pursuant to these treaties (UKB Corporate Charter, those limitations or reaffirmations of rights and powers might impact the Keetoowah government.

The treaties will be looked at later in this section. All tribes in the United States are governed by general laws which limit powers and guarantee rights. This section will leave review of those laws and their application to other writers. Specifically, this section will only deal with those laws which were intended to control the Oklahoma Tribes.

Since statehood, (with the exception of the Five Civilized Tribes) the status of Indian tribes in Oklahoma has been similar to that of tribes in other states. Most of the special laws enacted since statehood have dealt with the property rights of individual members of the Five (Civilized) Tribes and the Osage Tribe. When Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) in 1934, tribes in Oklahoma were expected from many of the important provisions. But two years later Congress passed the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (OIWA), which authorizes tribal organization in a manner similar to the IRA and extends to tribes organized under the OIWA "any other rights or privileges secured to an organized Indian tribe under the (IRA)".

Like tribes elsewhere, tribes in Oklahoma retain powers of self government except to the extent that their powers have been limited by Congressional action. Even though tribal land base, in

Oklahoma, has been reduced by allotment, the inherent powers of self government over lands that retain the status of Indian Country are undiminished. In addition, Oklahoma tribes have the right to organize under the OIWA.

Laws which specifically limit the powers of the Cherokee include the Curtis Act, the Cherokee Agreement (Act of March 1, 1901), and the Five Tribes Act (Act of April 26, 1906). The Curtis Act purported to abolish the Courts of the Cherokee, and made the civil laws unenforceable in federal court. The Cherokee Agreement restated the abolition of tribal courts and terminated the application of the tax laws. The Five Tribes Act permitted the president to appoint the principal leaders of the tribes, abolished all tribal taxes, required presidential approval of all tribal legislation and contracts affecting tribal property, and limited the length of tribal Council sessions to thirty days. Section 28 of the act, however, specifically continued the existence of tribal governments. Thus, the Cherokee, while specifically retaining rights of self government, were severely limited in their governmental activities. Today,

**In his message on Indian Affairs to the Congress July 8, 1970, President Nixon said: "The first and most basic question that must be answered with respect to Indian policy concerns the historic and legal relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Communities."**

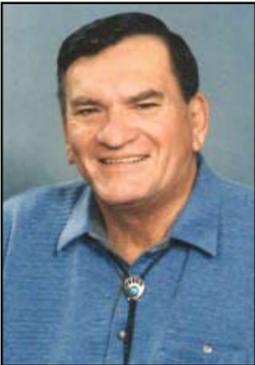
many writers allege that these statutes did not terminate the various rights but simply required presidential approval for reinstatement of operations or activities. In 1934 Congress passed the Wheeler Howard Act (IRA). This law authorized the reorganization of tribes under a Constitutional form of government and allowed for incorporation. The IRA specifically enumerated tribal rights and privileges and incorporated by reference all other rights which had not been limited by Congressional action. The Oklahoma Indians were excluded from many of the most important provisions of the IRA. In 1934, John Colliers, Secretary of the Interior, stated, "It is hoped that Congress will amend the act so as to extend all benefits to all Oklahoma Indians."

Section 3 of the OIWA, by reference, extended all rights of tribal sovereignty, expressed in Section 16 of the IRA, to the tribes in Oklahoma. The provision for organization under constitution, by-laws and corporate charters, in both statutes, offered tribes "new structure" for their existing governments. Under section 18 of the IRA and through section 3 of the OIWA, tribes could elect to retain their prior form of organization or adopt a different one. It has been suggested that organization under either act operates to repeal all prior acts of limitation. (See Harjo below) It would be arguable, that such repeal by operation of law would only occur when an entity decided to organize and such organization was approved by the Department of the Interior. One of the most important aspects of organization came under the IRA or the OIWA is that to terminate a tribe, so organized, there must be congressional action to specifically revoke the Charter, the Constitution and the By-laws.

In the recent case of Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Hodel; D.C. Circuit, (1988) the D.C. Court of appeals held that the OIWA repealed the Curtis Act, which abolished tribal courts, and that

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### Notice

UKB Tribal Member Donna F. Shockley of Westville, is now Donna F. McIntosh. You may reach her at the same contact numbers.

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

**Joyce Hawk** Secretary  
**Ella Mae Cooksey 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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## A Letter to the UKB People

From  
Assistant Chief  
Charles Locust



Why did the United Keetoowah Band want to celebrate our Land In Trust decision? Because, we wanted to share this historic event and communicate the good fortune that should follow and be the results of having this new tribal classification. We also wanted to allow everyone to have a sense of why the people continue to go through the struggles we have endured, to reach this new level of Tribal Government classification for our people. It allowed us to demonstrate to our own members and the general public, how important this is for us as a people and tribe.

At Saturday's celebration the temperature was not exactly how we would have wanted it, but our hard working staff prepared for it and it went on with our celebration plans, even though it was hot and in the high 90s. With the box fans, the misters, the waterslides, cool drinks and good food, we were able to overcome the heat.

What made us feel proud, was the fact the heat did not lessen the pride we witnessed in our elders' faces, and happiness in our children's smiles, and the excitement expressed in our members' voices when they would shout out, "congratulations," to the Administration and staff. Then some would say, "you are doing a great job, look at what you have done since you have been in office, you all keep up the good work." But, when you work for your tribe, you want to work hard, and do a good job for your tribe, family and friends.

Other comments received, included a former Sequoyah High School student, whom I attended school with in the 1970's. His name is Mr. Douglas Duck, who lives in Texas now, he just came by and wanted to tell us to keep up the good work and that he has been keeping up with us through our tribal newspaper.

A tribal elder, Ms. Nellie Hunt, congratulated the Administration for doing a good job while in office and with the celebration event. A visitor, Mekko Tiger Hobia, from the Kaligee Tribal Town, stated he came down to attend the celebration event and to meet the leaders of the UKB, he has heard a lot about.

When you hear our people's voices and see their faces and you know they are finally feeling comfortable with their tribal government, especially when you hear the statements of appreciation from several individuals. The trust that we have built in the last seven years must continue to drive us as leaders, to continue to provide more jobs and increased services for the people.

This weekend, made me very proud of how our staff worked so hard in making sure this day would happen, especially since they only had three weeks to prepare and schedule everything. When you see our members appreciate their hard work, it makes us want to work harder for everyone. But, we do have a number of employees, who seem to always work hard and go above and beyond their job requirements and duties. These individuals are the people who make these special occasions operate efficiently and be on schedule. These type of workers, who are conscientious about the work they produce, are the future leaders of the tribe, because they care about our other members and also how others view their tribe.

After the Buffalo and Pork dinner, we got to hear some very uplifting gospel singing from the Cummings and Kingfisher Families, and also a special appearance from some of the UKB youth choir members.

After the Gospel singing, a Stomp Dance Exhibition was held before the Fireworks Show. The Redbird Smith Nighthawk Keetoowah Society has assisted the Tribe since 2005 and hosted all previous Stomp Dances that have been held during our annual October celebration. So, Redbird Smith Nighthawk Keetoowah Members were the host grounds for our event on Saturday again.

But, this time it was a little different. If you did not notice, they only did five dances Saturday night. In other dances, we always had a variety of

leaders and shell shakers from different grounds and tribes, represented at our dances. This makes it very entertaining, as well as gives the audience a taste of variety of tribal songs, they may not hear from their grounds or from other dances.

On Saturday night, something else took place, that wasn't planned but just happened and I thought it would be a interesting conversation piece. And so, I wanted everyone to know and try to remember this when you attend our next dance.

We had five dances Saturday night. The first dance was lead by Mr. Richard Baily, (Cherokee) who also drives one of our Tribal Transportation buses, and who, by the way, does an excellent job for the tribe. Then, the next dance was lead by myself and I belong to the Redbird Smith Ceremonial Grounds. The third song was lead by Mr. Jim Mankiller, (UKB) who belongs to Flint Rock Grounds. The fourth song was lead by Mr. Choogie Kingfisher, (UKB) who belongs to Stokes Smith Grounds. And, the fifth song was lead by Mr. J.D. Teehee, (UKB) who belongs to the Redbird Smith Nighthawk Keetoowah Ceremonial Grounds.

What I thought was an interesting fact for the UKB Stomp Grounds today, was that we had only leaders who were associated with the Tribe. What made today interesting, was that four of the leaders were UKB tribal members. I was very proud of that fact. I also, wanted everyone to know that some UKB members continue to practice our tribal ceremonies and worship and pray in a way similar to how our ancestors did years ago.

During the dance Saturday night, what also made it a memorable night, was that we were celebrating our land in trust decision, but also, what myself and others, who work for the tribe witnessed among our members, was they were demonstrating a higher sense of "Keetoowah Pride." This shown in our members' faces as well as the children's, because you could see their expression when the large number of children participated in the dances.

The children asked to join in on the dances and asked about the songs, leaders and shell shak-

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## POWERS, RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE UKB UNDER FEDERAL LAW

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the Creek Nation has the power to establish"... (governmental processes) subject to the limitations imposed by statutes generally applicable to all tribes." By implication, the operation of organization under the OIWA would repeal all statutes inconsistent with either the IRA or the OIWA.

Under its organization, pursuant to the OIWA, the Keetoowah are freed from all limiting provisions which related to the Cherokee Nation. This writer would argue that such organization, pursuant to the Stigler Act, separated the Keetoowah from the Five Civilized Tribes and from the operation of the special Five Civilized Tribes statutes.

Organization under the OIWA operates to place the tribe in a clear, specified trust relationship with the federal government.

Examination of history, purpose, wording and structure of the Indian Reorganization Act (and the OIWA, through the operation of section 3) leads to the conclusion that Congress intended to impose specific trust responsibility on the Secretary of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs with respect to tribes organized under the act; government to government relations of the United States and Indian tribes organized under the Act are governed by the Act and specific trust responsibility it engenders (creates). (Roger St. Pierre et al V. Commissioner of Indian Affairs) 1982.

Such specified trust responsibility is guaranteed to the UKB by the OIWA; and failure of the Bureau to comply would be a violation of such trust. Where the Bureau had attempted to abolish a tribal government without specific consent of the Congress, the court stated that "an administrative official cannot exercise legislative power under the guise of regulation." Logan v. Andrus, (1978) 457 F. Supp 1318. That court granted jurisdiction to hear an action where such behavior on the part of such official was alleged by the Osage Tribe.

The actions of Bureau Officials in relation to UKB funding requests would arguably constitute and administrative attempt to denigrate the status of the Band and a clear violation of trust responsibilities under the OIWA. It would seem that the UKB has, in several instances, the right to maintain actions against the Bureau for impermissible exercise of legislative powers and violation of trust responsibility.

Often, the Bureau administration raises the issue of lack of tribal land base, or former reservation, against the UKB. It would seem that this action is also an impermissible behavior on the part of the present day officials. The United

Keetoowah Band was organized pursuant to specific Congressional legislation. The specific jurisdictional language in the UKB organic documents [Constitution, Articles V & VII; and By-laws, Articles II & III] was, through delegation of power, approved of by congress and has to be viewed as Congressional recognition of a former reservation even though that land is shared with members of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

While the provisions stated above tend to establish powers in relation to the UKB; specific limitations also apply. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 defines an Indian Tribe as consisting of "Indians". Many other provisions of federal law and regulations specifically relate only to persons of Indian descent. Thus the UKB limitation of membership to persons of Cherokee blood enables the Band to operate under such statutes while inclusion of all Dawes Roll Cherokee Citizens and their descendant might cause problems. In the case of U.S. v. Rogers, 45 U.S. 567 (1846) the Supreme Court specifically stated that "non Indians adopted citizens are not, under specific United States laws, considered Indians for the purpose of those statutes."

There are only five provisions within the Cherokee treaties that continue in effect today. Even though it is arguable that organization under the OIWA repealed all limitations found within specific legislation and treaties enacted prior to such organization. The UKB's specific reference to those treaties in its Charter could result in having to apply those limitations, at least as they relate to individual rights:

1. Under the Treaty of New Echota and the Treaty of 1866, all laws must be consistent with the Constitution of the United States. This would entail a more strict protection of individual rights than required by the Indian Civil Rights Act.
2. The Treaty of New Echota provides that the laws enacted cannot be applied to persons not considered Cherokee citizens.
3. The Treaty of 1846 provided for trial by jury for all criminal actions.
4. The Treaty of 1866 granted freedmen, free colored persons, Delawares and Shawnees equal rights as citizens; arguably repealed, as to reorganized entities, under operation of federal statutes defining "Indian".
5. The Treaty of 1866 requires all laws to be subject to approval of the President of the United States.

While it is probable that these provisions continue to limit the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma; it is equally probable that operation of reorganization under the OIWA, by application of the Harjo rational, has repealed these limitations as they might affect the UKB.

The rights, powers, and limitations of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma are different from those of the UKB. Under Harjo v. Kleepe, 420

Fed Supp 1110 (1976), the federal district court determined that the Creek Nation's Government, pursuant to the Constitution of 1867, survived legislative attempts for dissolution. Therefore, the Cherokee Nation could have also survived the operation of the Curtis Act, the Cherokee Agreement, and the Five Civilized Tribes Act. However, one must remember that there is one other method of limitation or abolishment of tribal powers; that of voluntary relinquishment. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's constitution specifically adopts many limitations found in those acts. There are no provisions for tribal courts, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma specifically allows for an Appeals Tribunal which is limited to review of constitutional provisions and council enactments. [Article VII] There is no provision for jurisdiction over civil disputes between members or over criminal actions. Council sessions are limited to 30 days for pay purposes [Article V.] The principal chief and his subordinates may be removed from office by the President or Congress of the United States [Article V]. The Constitution does not have any provisions allowing taxation or delineation of jurisdiction.

While the Cherokees, under case law, have the right to reorganize for the purpose of removing such limitations; it is arguable that under section 18 of the IRA, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma may be prevented from reorganizing under the OIWA. Their 1975 constitutional election may have operated as an affirmative vote to disallow application of the Act; any tribe which has voted to exclude itself from the operation of the act may not reorganized under it.

A final word on the status of the UKB as part of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is warranted. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the Bureau often attempt to say that while the UKB is recognized it is still part of the Cherokee Nation. If this were intended to compare the Cherokee to the Sioux Nation, it would be correct. Congress has often allowed single tribes to divide into a number of tribes or "bands". Examples are the Chippewa, the Sioux and several groups which remained behind when the majority of their members were removed west. "These and other subdivisions of ethnological tribes are also "tribes" for federal, political, legal and administrative purposes." If these tribal entities are allowed to exist separately, the Bureau cannot claim that the Keetoowah do not.

Under the operation of federal statute, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma are clearly a federally recognized tribe with all rights, powers and responsibilities guaranteed to other tribes by the laws of the United States. Actions by the Bureau which tend to treat them differently are impermissible.

# 2011 Land in Trust Celebrations



Assistant Chief Charles Locust addressed the members of Saline District on how it felt to be recognized and how proud he was to be Keetoowah Cherokee. "This is a historic time for the United Keetoowah Band." Photo by Thomas Jordan



UKB Tribal Attorneys were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the tribe. Standing left to right, Dianne Barker-Harrold, Ft. Gibson, OK; Steve Pruitt, Washington, D.C.; Michael Rossetti, Washington, D.C.; Tamara Pullin, Oklahoma City; Ken Bellmard, Edmond; George Wickliffe, UKB Chief; and Charles Locust, UKB Assistant Chief. Not present were, Jim McMillin, Oklahoma City; Carl Artman, Milwaukee, WI; Judy Shapiro, Washington, D.C.; and Bill Rice, Cushing, OK. Photo by Sammy Still



Ending the successful UKB Land in Trust celebration tribal members enjoyed an amazing display of fireworks on their 76 acre tribal complex. Photo by Thomas Jordan



With the Oklahoma temperature reaching 95 degrees with a heat index of 100 degrees Saturday evening, water inflatables were provided by Jumpin Jiminy of Tulsa, for the children to keep cool in the hot weather. Photo by Thomas Jordan



In honor of the May 24, 2011 approval of UKB's Land in Trust, Saline District representative Charles Smoke held a celebration for his district. Former UKB Chief John Hair gave a brief history of his tenure as Chief and paving the way for the future of the tribe. Photo by Thomas Jordan



UKB tribal employees and council representatives listen intently as Assistant Chief Charles Locust thanks the employees and council for their hard work and dedication to the tribe. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Treasurer for the UKB, Ella Mae Worley, answers a question for one of the Saline District members during the meeting. Photo by Thomas Jordan



John Hair, former UKB Chief, speaks to Keetoowah Cherokee Casino employees during the employees' Land in Trust celebration as Chief George Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Charles Locust listen. Photo by Thomas Jordan



The Cummings Family sang gospel songs in their native Cherokee language. Entertainment was also provided by the Kingfisher Family and the Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir. Photo by Sammy Still

# Land in Trust Celebrations 2011



George Wickliffe, Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, praised tribal administration, council and tribal attorneys for all their hard work and dedication, during their June 25th Land in Trust Celebration held on the 76 acre UKB grounds. Photo by Sammy Still



Tribal members of the Saline District listen as Chief George Wickliffe as he proudly announced the achievement of Land in Trust. Chief Wickliffe discussed the possibilities for the future of the tribe. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Chief of the United Keetoowah Band George Wickliffe announced to the tribal employees that May 24, 2011 marks an historical day with the tribe's attainment of Land in Trust and the course the tribe will take for future endeavors for its members. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Hog fry and buffalo meat was served to tribal members and attendees to the June 25 UKB Land in Trust celebration. Preparing the hog fry was Kenneth Foster and William Deerinwater, preparing the buffalo meat was head chef Mickey Spears and his crew. Pictured are, Roy Poteete, Jim Woodard, Mickey Spears, and William Caviness. Not pictured are, T. J. Spears and Teris Spears. Photo by Sammy Still



Members of the Hance Pyrotechnics of Tahlequah prepared up to 6 inch artillery shells in preparation for the huge grand finale fireworks display. Photo by Thomas Jordan



The grandson of former UKB Chief John Hair stares in admiration toward his grandfather. Chief Hair was instrumental in keeping the UKB moving forward so that one day the Keetoowah Cherokee would reclaim their rights as a sovereign government. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Saline District members enjoyed a delicious meal of hog meat, beans, wild onions and various desserts during the Saline District meeting celebration. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Former United Keetoowah Band Chief John Hair receives applause from UKB council and employees as he is introduced during the tribal employees' Land in Trust celebration. Photo by Thomas Jordan

# Brittney Bennett and Martha Hardbarger Awarded Gates Millennium Scholarships

Two Keetoowah Cherokee high school graduates have been awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. The Gaduwa Cherokee News joins the UKB Administration, Council and Staff in congratulating Brittney Bennett and Martha Hardbarger.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program selects 1,000 talented students each year to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice. Gates Millennium Scholars are provided with personal and professional development through leadership programs along with academic support throughout their college career.

This program is more than a scholarship—it's an opportunity to change your life! The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential by:

- Reducing financial barriers for African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American and Hispanic American students with high academic and leadership promise who have significant financial need;
- Increasing the representation of these target groups in the disciplines of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences, where these groups are severely underrepresented;
- Developing a diversified cadre of future leaders for America by facilitating successful completion of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees; and
- Providing seamless support from undergraduate through doctoral programs, for students selected as Gates Millennium Scholars entering target disciplines.

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, established in 1999, was initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Martha Mary Hardbarger graduated as class salutatorian from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. She is the daughter of Thomas Hardbarger of Marble City and Verna Williamson of Sallisaw. Her siblings are Shadow Harbarger and Bear Harbarger.

Martha will attend Stanford University in San Francisco, California. She selected Stanford because she wanted to attend a school with a large Native American population. "I heard about it and I went to visit and stayed in the dorms. I got a travel grant to go. It is so pretty out there. There is a Native American themed house where I plan to live. People are so nice and welcoming there," said Hardbarger.

Hardbarger will major in computer science, and will complete her bachelor's degree and try and go for a master's degree.

When asked about the process of applying for the scholarship, Hardbarger said, "The Gates Millennium Scholarship is for minorities who must show a hardship to be eligible. The application is a time consuming process. Then you have to write eight to ten essays on different subjects. One was on overcoming adversity and struggles in your life to excel. You get to ask two people to help you that really know you. I picked my college prep teacher and my academic counselor. I started working on it several years back."

"It is also important that the student not only gets good grades, but that they are involved in extracurricular activities. I was on the robotics

team, The HOPE (Honoring Our People's Existence) Club, AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) and the Book Club," Hardbarger said.

"This scholarship is one of the toughest in the world to get, but the benefits go above and beyond room, board, tuition and books. It also provides spending money, and it will pay for my education through a doctorate degree," she continued.

Martha said she plans to spend her summer hopefully getting a summer job in Sallisaw and going to a swimming hole in Marble City.

Brittney Michelle Bennett graduated from Colcord High School. Her parents are Jeffery and Carmelita Bennett of Colcord. and she has one sister, Miranda Kingfisher, who lives in Salina, OK and brother in law Chad and her two adorable nieces Taylor and Lainey. Her grandparents are the late Betty and Jess Grass of Salina, and Sherrel and the late Joe Bennett of Colcord.

When asked about the process of applying for the Gates Scholarship, Brittney said,

"I knew from the beginning that the Gates Millennium Scholarship wasn't going to be easy. I even attended a workshop in conjunction with Oklahoma State University to help me learn more about it and to prepare myself for the application. It was a completely free and beneficial experience that I would recommend to anyone applying. You get tips, meet some current Gates scholars, and help with setting up an account on the GMS website to get you started with your application if completing it online, which I would recommend.

The process is long; you're filling out information about classes taken in high school, activities and organizations you have been involved in, community service and any special awards received, all coupled along with the knowledge that the application also includes answering eight essay questions. I speak from experience when I say it's definitely overwhelming if you don't get started early. My advice would be to take an hour or so each week as soon as the application goes live to work on it until the January deadline. In March, after each and every application is viewed, GMS sends out notifications about semifinalists, and by the end of April or early May, the recipients of the 1,000 scholarships are notified.

Anyone applying needs to be willing to accept that the whole process takes a significant amount of time, but receiving the scholarship is truly worth it. Patience was my motto every day."

"The award is considered a last dollar scholarship, and they figure the amount of money you receive after factoring any scholarships given to you by the university and how much your family is expected to pay for your education.

However, Gates does take into consideration the total cost to attend, including any personal expenses, transportation, and fees along with books and tuition. For the 2011-2012 school year, I will be receiving nearly \$14,000 towards attending OU, for which I can't even begin to describe how much it means to me and my family. I cannot stress how important this scholarship truly is," said Bennett.

Brittney will attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall. When asked how she decided what college to attend, Brittney said, "It was an easy decision; I've always wanted to be a Sooner. I actually received my acceptance letter from The University of Oklahoma on my birthday in November, so that was very special to me. The tagline at OU

is that there is only one Oklahoma, and I have had the wonderful opportunity to personally experience that each time I have stepped on campus.

I'm taking classes in filmmaking in hopes to one day land a job in the film industry either producing or directing, which is something I've wanted to do since I was about seven years old. Of course, that sounds crazy to most people including myself, so I'm considering double majoring in something a bit more lucrative in the new few years just in case I become a starving artist and need money."

"My first goal now that I've graduated high school is to simply do great in college and graduate with my degree and honors. Beyond that, I would love to be able to secure a job in the film industry and work my way up to doing my own projects, as well as supporting the cause of having more females in a male dominated industry.

I would also love to be able to use film as a medium to educate the world about Native American heritage and create a bigger role for them in the movie industry other than just a vital role in a cowboys and indians movie. There is so much Native Americans have to offer, and I want the world to see that as I've seen it," said Bennett.



Brittney Bennett



Chief George Wickliffe, United Keetoowah Band, presents a gift to Martha Hardbarger during a reception from the Administration in her and Brittney Bennett's honor as a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Photo by Thomas Jordan

## Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Voted Top Casino in Tahlequah

The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino has legions of loyal customers. It was recently voted Tahlequah's Best Casino in Tahlequah Daily Press' "Best of Tahlequah" poll. There are many reasons why it is the best, but one reason given by regular customers is that "the pay-off is better" and customers win more often at Tahlequah's original choice for gaming fun.

Many people will tell you the reason the casino is the best in town -- it's the employees.

Keetoowah Cherokee Casino employees are very service oriented, helpful, and friendly, and most of them love their jobs because they are treated well.

One long time casino employee is Janice Davis, who has been with the operation for 14 years. In that time, she has done housekeeping, concessions, worked the floor during bingo, worked as a cashier and is currently a Manager on Duty. At the UKB Employee Appreciation Day in May, Davis was named Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Manager of the Year.

Davis said, "I like the job, and I like the people I work with and the customers. This is a friendly place; all the employees are friendly and customers love the great service we provide. I know almost every customer by name."

Of course the Keetoowah Cherokee casino is also known for great food. The grill will satisfy any appetite with a delectable menu for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a quick snack. Try one of the famous hand-rolled burgers made fresh while you wait or their legendary Keetoowah Taco served every Tuesday. The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Hamburger has won the "Best Burger in Tahlequah in the past".

They also have great daily specials, which are available beginning at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. A few of their specials include spaghetti, hamburger steak, chicken fried steak, meatloaf, and goulash, which comes with potatoes and gravy, a vegetable and a roll. Dine in or carry out is available. Call (918) 458-6762. Beverages are always complimentary.

Another feature that many people enjoy is a non-smoking room on level three. Not all casino customers are smokers, and for those who do not smoke, they love the clean air in level three. Local radio personality Cindy Lea Sellers of Lakes Country Radio said, "As ex smokers for almost 3 years, my husband and I appreciate having a non-smoking option like KCC added! Kudos to KCC for providing a smoke free environment!"

United Keetoowah Title VI Nutrition Menu July 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Menus are subject to change without notice. For more info call: 918-772-4380	Milk, Tea, Coffee & Water Served Daily During Lunch				1. Holiday	2.
3.	4. "4th of July" Holiday	5. Holiday	6. Brown Beans Diced potatoes Spinach, Jalapeno Cornbread, Salad & Dessert	7. BBQ Brisket / Bun, Corn, Baked Beans Chips Salad & Dessert	8. Brunch Served from 10:30-12:00	9.
10.	11. Spaghetti W/ Meat Sauce Grilled Veggies Garlic Toast Salad & Dessert	12. Marinated Chicken, Rice, Tomato/Zucchini Breadstick Salad & Dessert	13. Pork Roast Mashed Potato w/ Gravy, Hot Rolls, Baby Carrots Salad & Dessert	14. Catfish Diced Potatoes Black-eyed Peas, Hushpuppies, Cole Slaw & Dessert	15. "Fishing Day UKB River Park" 11:30 - ?	16.
17.	18. BBQ Smokies Mac N Cheese Green Beans Texas Toast Salad & Dessert	19. White Beans w/ Bacon, Greens, Diced Potatoes Cornbread Salad & Dessert	20. Meatloaf Mashed Pot. w/ Gravy, Broccoli, Hot Rolls Salad & Dessert	21. Lasagna Brussels Sprouts Baby Carrots Garlic Toast Salad & Dessert	22. Brunch Served from 10:30-12:00	23.
24.	25. Goulash Hominy Tomato Zucchini Bread Stick Salad & Dessert	26. Hamburger Steak w/Br. Gravy Scalloped Potatoes Corn, Hot Roll Salad & dessert	27. Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Mixed Veggies, Texas Toast, Salad & Dessert	28. Cultural Day July Birthdays	29. Closed For Cleaning	30.
31.						

# UKB Honor Guard pays tribute to fallen with laying of the wreath ceremony

The United Keetoowah Band Honor Guard and members of the American Legion Post 15 honored their fallen comrades in arms Memorial Day with a laying of the wreath ceremony.

The ceremony gives physical testimony to the memories of the brief lives of those who died in service to the United States. A matter even more somber for Native Americans as more Native Americans join the military than any other race.

Bikers with the Rolling Thunder accompanied the American Legion Riders to pay homage at the ceremony at the entrance sign to the UKB Celebration Grounds.

The official ceremony included the UKB Honor Guard marching the



Members of American Legion Post 15's rifle squad fire a three-round volley at the Memorial Day event.



The UKB Honor Guard flies the colors as Norman "Hominy" Littledave, adjutant, and Jacob Littledave, three-time Purple heart recipient, prepare to lay a wreath at the entrance to the UKB Celebration Grounds.

colors to the entry sign and laying a wreath at the base of the sign then a rifle squad from Post 15 fired a three-round volley before a bugler played "Taps."

At the end of the ceremony a Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma youth group laid two wreaths to accompany the first one.

Most of the participants then hurried off to other ceremonies. The UKB Honor Guard traveled to the National Cemetery at Ft. Gibson to participate in the ceremony there.



Norman "Hominy" Littledave, adjutant, lays a wreath at the entrance to the UKB Celebration Grounds to honor all of those who fell in service to the United States.

## Obituary for Veeta Jean Davis

Veeta Jean Davis was born on March 14, 1951 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She was the daughter of Jim and Hettie (Fields) Cochran. Veeta graduated from Union High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma and then attended "Flaming Rainbow University."

Veeta loved nature and loved to fish, she enjoyed the times spent playing games with her family, especially Wahoo and marbles. But most of all, she cherished the times spent with her family and friends. The Lord called Veeta to her eternal home on May 31st, 2011 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was 60 years old. She will be greatly missed by all the lives she

has touched in her brief years of life.

Veeta is preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Marylyn Cochran, and three brothers, Leo, Jimmy and Raymond Cochran.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband Keith of the home, four sons, Scott, Kevin, Brent, and Brett Davis, all of Kansas, Oklahoma, two daughters Tamarra, and Kimberly Davis, of Kansas, Oklahoma, two brothers, George Cochran and his wife Shelia of Oaks, Oklahoma, and Randy Cochran and his wife Renee of Kansas, Oklahoma, one grandson and a host of friends and loved ones.

## Thank you from the Davis Family

Dear United Keetoowah Band,

We the Davis Family would love to thank you for the support, help, and the flowers. We're so grate-

ful for all you've done for us. Thank you again. God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
The Davis Family

## Day of Champions

*continued from page 1*

by Mickey Spears, director of casino surveillance and Lighthouse. The campers were allowed meat, bun and either ketchup or mustard.

Heupel did not want a large meal with lots of side items to be served so the campers would not overeat and then run right back into the heat to train as it would make them sick.

With the camp starting at 8 a.m. and the noon lunch lasting an hour, campers spent the longest and hardest portion of the day before eating. The afternoon portion lasted two and a half hours with an easier regimen of exercises, drills and games.

This year the camp brought a new game to the field, COC ball. While similar to football, there were a few differences. A yellow softball was used instead of a football. Upon catching the ball, the player could move four steps before passing to a teammate. The goal being to run the ball to the end of the short field and either place or hit the goal with the ball for a score. No tackling was allowed. Players could intercept the ball, but not strip the ball from their opponent. Dropping the ball or taking too long to pass the ball brought a penalty and the ball was given to the opposing team. Games were fast paced and lasted between five and 10 minutes.

For an extra bit of fun for the campers, each team was assigned a team name from college football teams such as the OU Sooners. The teams had playoffs throughout the two days with the Florida Gators walking away with the championship.

The second day added academics to the camp.

Cindy Heupel said the addition of academics gets the children to think critically about solving problems. The instructors taught the campers to use cooperation and teamwork to solve problems involving science.

One of the lessons involved a balloon with a straw taped to the side of it. Campers blew up the balloon and then ran a string through the straw. Two campers were on each team. Each member held one end of the string with one of them holding the end of the balloon. On the instructors mark, they let go of the balloons. The team whose balloon travelled the farthest won.

Kenny Biggs, structural engineer, said the exercise taught the campers about Newton's laws of physics by directing energy--air--to move a balloon along a specified path. It also taught them to work together to accomplish their goal of moving the balloon.

Also during the second day, parents were allowed to participate with their children after lunch. The coaches went through a series of stretches with them and then put them to work going through several drills and games with their children.

At 3 p.m. the coaches called the camp to a close by allowing each child to bring an object to be autographed by the staff.

Through two sunny, windy days the UKB partnered with a winning program to teach the youth the lessons needed to help them succeed tomorrow.

## Obituary for Michael Leroy "Mitch" Adair

A Celebration of the Life of Michael Leroy "Mitch" Adair was held on Saturday, June 18th, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Church in Tahlequah, OK with Reverends Alan Nolan, Eric Allen, and Jerrod Adair officiating. Interment followed at Memorial Park Cemetery in Muskogee. Services were entrusted to Reed-Culver Funeral Home of Tahlequah, OK.

Pallbearers for Mitch include Ronnie Goad, Robert Mondaine, Roger White, Ricky White, Tung Vu, Larry Stonebarger, Charles Allen, and Kyle Sourjon. Honorary Pallbearer will be Frank Mondaine.

Michael "Leroy" Adair, or Mitch to his friends, was born on October 10th, 1949 in Tahlequah, OK the son of Ned and Katherine (Squirrel) Adair. He attended school at Seneca Boarding School, Sequoyah, The Haskell Institute, and finally Central State University. Leroy was a member of the Operating Engineers Local 627C, working for the City of Muskogee and finally Zapata.

On November 27, 1971, he married the love of his life, Beverly June Weathers. This union was blessed with one daughter and three sons.

Mitch or "Leroy", as Beverly called him, was not a man to sit down and watch the world go by. He served as Chairman of the Election Board for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

He was always active in youth sports helping the youth to learn softball, billiards, karate and his favorite, baseball. Leroy was blessed with musical talent and was a well known drummer for bands playing Southern Gospel Music.

He loved his wife and family dearly and any time spent with them was a privilege for Leroy. He was a born again Christian and professed the love of the Lord in his daily life. He never met a stranger and spent hours keeping up with his many friends and loved ones on the phone. His favorite expression was "If you have an Indian for a friend, you have a friend for life!"



Michael Leroy "Mitch" Adair

The Lord called Leroy home from his labors on Thursday, June 16th, 2011 at his home in Muskogee, OK. He was sixty-one years old. He will be remembered for his smile and the many lives he has touched during his all too brief life.

Leroy is preceded in death by his mother, father, two brothers, Bill Adair and Chooch Christie, and four sisters, Cecilia Collins, Nadine Adair, Joann Adair, and Lillian Adair.

His family that survives him includes his loving wife Beverly of the home in Muskogee, OK. He leaves four adored children, daughter Jenna Adair of Wichita, KS, son Michael Adair and wife Brandi of Ft. Gibson, OK, son Jerrod Adair and wife Melissa of Muskogee, OK, and son Chase Adair of Muskogee, OK. His brothers and sister include Grant and Berlinda Adair of Washington, Dennis and Sandra Adair of Muskogee, OK, Betty Griggs of Muskogee, OK, and Rick Christie of Oklahoma. Leroy's legacy lives on in his nine grandchildren, Deanna Adair, Michael Adair, Ned Adair, Taylor Duncan, Philip Duncan, Albany Adair, Simeon Adair, Nate Adair, and Nyah Adair, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends and loved ones.

Check out our website at:  
[www.unitedkeetoowahband.org](http://www.unitedkeetoowahband.org)

# Day of Champions Camp



Coach Justin Iske teaches camp participants how to block their opponents during skill training. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Day of Champions camp participants bend and stretch during warm up session under the supervision of coaches before hitting the field. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Football camp was not only for boys, girls participated in the camp as well. This camp participant concentrates her hitting skills as she learns skill building, hard work and dedication. Photo by Thomas Jordan



In addition to learning skills, training and dedication, this year academics was introduced to the camp participants. Instructors taught the children to think critically about solving problems. Photo by Sammy Still



Ken Heupel along with Oliver Gibson speaks to the young athletes as they prepare for a full day of skill training and workout. Photo by Thomas Jordan



These three young Cherokees learn the technique of ball handling and throwing. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Florida Gators, (left) First team conference champs. Photo by Norman "Hominy" Littledave



The second day in the afternoon session of the Day of Champions parents and grandparents were encouraged to participate with their children and grandchildren in learning skills and training. Photo by Sammy Still



United States Congressman Dan Boren (right) and family visited the Day of Champions camp on the grounds of the United Keetoowah Band. Pictured with Congressman Boren is Coach Justin Iske. Photo by Thomas Jordan



Camp participants and coaches for the Day of Champions were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers during their lunch break donated by U.S. Foods. Photo by Sammy Still

# 2011 UKB Graduates



## PRE-K

### Jermiah Robbins

Jermiah Robbins is five years old and graduated Pre-K from Shady Grove Elementary and is from Tahlequah, Ok. He loves playing outside and going to the creek and loves to annoy his brothers and sister. He has three brothers, Jess Jr., Jayson and Josiah Robbins and one sister, Jaeden Robbins. Jermiah is the son of Ryan and Lucy Girty and Jess Robbins. He is the grandson of the late Nancy Rock and Anthony and the late Sharon Robbins.



Jermiah Robbins

## KINDERGARTEN

### Gabriel Carr

Gabriel Carr is five years old and from Sallisaw, Oklahoma. He graduated from Kindergarten at Liberty Elementary in May 2011. His parents are Scott and Sandra Carr of Sallisaw. He has an older brother, Zane Carr. He is the grandson of Patricia Dunn and the late Richard Sanders of Sallisaw and Sharon Shannon of Evansville, Arkansas, and the late Debbie Adair of Prairie Grove, Arkansas.



Gabriel Carr

Gabriel would like to be a fire fighter when he grows up.

### Beau Daniel Grimmatt

Beau graduated Kindergarten at Maryetta School on May 6th from Mrs. Unger's class. Beau is the son of Diane Wolfe, a Keetoowah Cherokee tribal member who works at Keetoowah Casino HR department and the grandson of Della Wolfe, also a UKB member who works as an intake specialist in the UKB education department. Beau is a UKB member from the Goingsnake District.



Beau Daniel Grimmatt

## EIGHTH GRADE

### Jeremee Cesyl Collins

Jeremee Cesyl Collins graduated from 8th grade at Shady Grove Schools. She is the daughter of Paula Buzzard and Jeffrey Collins and the granddaughter of Sylvia and Richard Wilson, Cecelia Adair Collins and Johnny Collins. Jeremee is the great granddaughter of Lydia Swimmer and Easley Buzzard and Sakie Bread and Ned Adair.



Jeremee Cesyl Collins

### Makala Jo Littledeer

Makala Jo Littledeer, daughter of Nakima Littledeer, graduated from Dahlenegh School. Her honors included the Citizenship Award and Outstanding Leadership in Sports Award for the 8th grade class.



Makala Jo Littledeer

Her activities include basketball, softball, track, cheerleading, and 4-H. She plans to attend Stilwell High School in the fall.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Censee Joann Buzzard

Censee Joann Buzzard graduated from Sequoyah High School. She is the daughter of Paula Buzzard and James Soap and the granddaughter of Sylvia and Richard Wilson and great granddaughter of Lydia Swimmer and Easley Buzzard.



Censee Joann Buzzard

### Travis Brian Fuentes

Travis Brian Fuentes graduated from Sequoyah High School. He is the son of Gaylynn Vann and Pancho Fuentes. His grandparents are the late John Ann Reese Gritts, Lincoln Vann and Casimiro and Ventura Fuentes.



Travis Brian Fuentes

His siblings are Junior, Zachary, Ricky, Nathan, and Shawna.

His hobbies include hunting, fishing, welding, and anything outdoors. He plans to get a welding job and move out on his own.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

### Jerry Jones

Jerry Jones graduated from Indian Capital Technology Center in Tahlequah with a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning certificate. He is the son of Rock Jones and Dolly James. His grandparents are Arch and Nannie Jones.



Jerry Jones

His hobby is fishing. He plans to go to work using his training.

### Tonya Pinkerton

Tonya Pinkerton graduated from Indian Capital Technology Center in Stilwell/Sallisaw. She is the daughter of Ida and Neal James.



Tonya Pinkerton

Her hobbies include horseback riding and reading.

She plans to attend Connors State College in the fall. Her goal is to obtain a Bachelor degree in Medical Science.

### Leslie Ridge

Leslie Ridge graduated from Indian Capital Technology Center with a Heavy Equipment Operator certificate. He is the son of Charles Ridge and Frances Goodrich. His grandmother is Maria Gonzalis. His siblings are Augusta Reed and Robert Vallad.



Leslie Ridge

His hobbies include playing softball, golf and bowling. His immediate goal is to find a good paying job.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

### Clifton Wofford

Clifton Wofford graduated from Kansas Technology Center with a Welding certificate. He is the son of Joanna Wofford. His siblings are Susan and Clarissa.



Clifton Wofford

His hobbies are fishing and running 5Ks. He plans to get a good job using his education.

### Stephanie Stick

Stephanie Stick graduated from Northeast Technology Center in Kansas, Oklahoma with a Business Administration/Office Information Specialist Certification. She is the daughter of the late Maxine Stick. She plans to attend OSU Tech to obtain an Associate degree in Business Technology.



Stephanie Stick

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE

### Susan Gonzales Bunch

Susan Gonzales Bunch graduated with honors with an Associate of Arts degree in Sociology and Psychology, as well as an Associate of Arts in Pre-Secondary Education from Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma.



Susan Gonzales Bunch

Her parents are Emmott and Hazel (Kester) Gonzales. She has one brother, Steve Gonzales and four sons, Kyron Gonzales, Nate, Riley and Heath Bunch, and is married to Greg Bunch.

Her grandparents are the late "Toss" and Betsy (Cochran) Gonzales and the late Junior and Reba (Green) Kester.

She enjoys playing the piano and singing as well as any kind of outdoor activities.

Susan plans on attending Northeastern State University in Tahlequah in the fall of 2011. She would like to obtain her master's degree in psychology and sociology and work with youth or veterans.

She said her father is a disabled veteran from the Vietnam Era and she feels there is a great need for both counseling and social services for all veterans. She also said there is a great need among our youth for counseling and social services. She would be honored to serve in either area.

### Katie Marie Duncan

Katie Marie Duncan graduated with an associate degree in Allied Health. She is the daughter of Toney and Kay Duncan. Her sister is Celia Brown and Toni Leigh Duncan.



Katie Marie Duncan

She enjoys hanging out with her family and friends and running.

She plans to attend Northeastern State University in the fall.

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

# 2011 UKB Graduates



## ASSOCIATE DEGREE

### Coby Fourkiller

Coby Fourkiller graduated from Carl Albert State College in Poteau with an Associate of Science – Pre-Med. His parents are Joyce Hawk and Frankie Duncan. His grandparents are the late Grover and Polly Fourkiller



*Coby Fourkiller*

His hobbies are fishing, golf, playing the guitar, hanging out with friends and family and riding all terrain vehicles.

He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall, then Medical School and upon graduation, work in a hospital as a pediatrician. He's hoping he will have a family of his own by then.

### Shalissa Ross

Shalissa Ross graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree in Child Development from Carl Albert State College in Poteau. Her parents are Adriane and Arthur Ross and her brother is Justin Ross. Her grandparents are Juanita and Woodrow Teehee and Frank and the late Emma Swimmer.



*Stephanie Stick*

Her hobby is playing softball. She plans to obtain her Bachelor degree in Child Development.

### Colene Wagnon

Colene Wagnon graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with an associate degree in Liberal Arts. She is a former graduate of Sequoyah High School. She is from Tahlequah, Oklahoma and her mother is Lucinda Wagnon-Maqueda of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Colene is the granddaughter of the late Nancy Pickup-Rock from Salina, Oklahoma. She has six sisters and five brothers who all live in the Tahlequah and Muskogee area. She has three children, Taylor, 16, DJ, 14, and Brianna, 8. She is married to Shannon Ross, from Cherokee, North Carolina



*Colene Wagnon*

She has enrolled in the four year program at Haskell Indian Nations University and plans to obtain her bachelor's degree in Business Management. She hopes to work in Human Resources.

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

### Elise Romelle Clinton Bridges

Elise Romelle Clinton Bridges received double Bachelor of Science degrees this past May from Northeastern State University. Her degrees were in Health Care Administration and Environmental Health and Safety.



*Elise Romelle Clinton Bridges*

She has four daughters; Morgan Burgess, Jessica Combs, Jada Bridges and Cheyenne Bridges. She also has six grandchildren including Snow Burgess, 7; Cutler Combs, 6; Merrick Combs, 4, Avarie Combs, 2 and Roxanne Baker, 1 month.

Romelle is the daughter of Joe and Gladys Clinton and the granddaughter of William and Catherine Clinton and Audie and Helen Thompson. Her siblings are Hershel Clinton, Virginia Crow, Regina Mann, Jimmy Clinton, Gordon Clinton, Mike Clinton, Rhonda Clinton, Camille Clinton, Bronwyn Duncan and Joey Clinton.

Her hobbies include reading, quilting, fishing, swimming, spending time with grandbabies and working in her flower garden.

Her goal for the future is to seek a career in the field of Health Care Administration and Safety Management that will foster her abilities and provide a challenge.

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

### Toni Leigh Duncan

Toni Leigh Duncan graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. She is the daughter of Toney and Kay Duncan and the granddaughter



*Toni Leigh Duncan*

of Roger and Marrieta Duncan and Joe and Marie Sellers. Her sisters are Celia Kay Brown and Katie Marie Duncan.

Her hobbies include anything outdoors. She plans to attend graduate school at the University of Nebraska.

### Chrissie Sugar

Chrissie Sugar graduated with a degree in General Studies from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She had originally planned to get a degree in anthropology, however that degree program was discontinued before she could complete it. She is the daughter of Chris and Verlita Sugar. Her grandparents are Martin and Ester Welch and Chris and Johnnie Mae Sugar. Her siblings are Justin Sugar and Summer Sugar.



*Chrissie Sugar*

Chrissie's hobbies are making ceramics, and traditional native pottery, along with contemporary pottery.

She plans to continue to further her education in ceramics and attend the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## Sage Locust Named Outstanding Writer

Sage Locust, 11, from Tahlequah was named the Outstanding Writer in the 5th grade class at Woodall School. He received this award from his teacher, Claudia Carnes. He was also named Student of the Month in May.

Sage is the son of Rochelle Locust. His siblings are Jordan Jumper, Dakota Eastham and Elias Bluebird. His grandparents are the late Charles "Rock" Locust and Mary Locust, of Tahlequah.

His hobbies include playing video games and skateboarding.



## College Tune-up

Moe Brown is going from one southwest to another. Before beginning the next chapter of his track and field career at Southwest Christian University, Brown competed with Team Oklahoma at the Great Southwest Track Classic in Albuquerque, N.M.

Brown's highest finish came with his teammates (Edmond Santa Fe's Gunnar Nixon and Travis Hinton and Ardmore's Jywayne Allen) in the one-mile relay race. The quartet logged a time of 3:14.89, finishing not too far behind Team Texas (Tyris Jefferson, Ronald Vaughn, Malik Summers, Richard J. Gary II), who was first at 3:14.00.

In the 3,200-meter relay, Brown, along with Hinton, Alex Monaghan and Clay Shepperson, came in sixth at 8:03.21. Team Colorado (Chuck Zulana, Kirk Webb, Colin Best, Boris Berian) won the gold at 7:47.87.

Brown's final event was the 400-meter race, where he logged a 14th-place showing at 49.54. Texas' Gary II bested 33 other runners at 47.26.

"It was a good experience," Brown said of the whole event. "Everyone on the team was cool, and we all got along really well."

The three-day event, featuring other athletes from Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada, was something Brown had never experienced before.

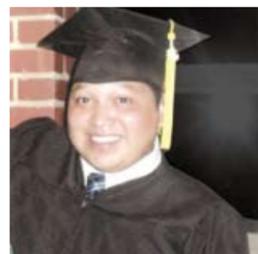
"The track meet as a whole was very hard," he said. "I had never been pushed that hard to perform that well."

Competing at nearly a mile above sea level, Brown said the altitude was tough to battle.

## BACHELOR'S DEGREE

### Miguel Ortiz

Miguel Ortiz graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education. His mother is Rebecca Ortiz and his grandparents are the late Blue and Nancy Rock.



*Miguel Ortiz*

His siblings are Alvin Bluebird, Erica O'field, Eric Rock, Hector, Andrew and Maria Ortiz and Luis, Sylvia, B.J. and Jasmine Martinez.

Miguel enjoys spending time with his family, going crawdad hunting, and coaching basketball team, the Oklahoma Magic.

His goal is to become a Health and P.E. teacher and to continue his education to obtain his master's degree.

### Kimberly Houston

Kimberly Houston graduated from Northeastern State University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Her parents are Sandy Houston of Teresita and Dan Houston of Tahlequah.



*Kimberly Houston*

Her grandparents are the late Don Houston, Sr. and late Juanita Houston and the late Eli Blossom and Sara Blossom. Her brother is Aaron Houston.

Kim has two daughters, Darian 16, Cory 4, and Reese 1. Kim Plans to continue her education by getting a master's degree next year.



*Moe Brown*

"The altitude was a huge factor," he said.

Brown added that competing against other top athletes across the nation will do nothing but help him at the college level.

"It got me ready to perform at the next level," said Brown, who will report to Southwest Christian in Bethany in August. "Everyone in college is already at that next level, but it prepared me for what I'll have to do for every track meet in college."

The star of the entire competition was Brown's teammate, Nixon, who set a new national decathlon record with 8,035 points — besting Curtis Beach's old mark of 7,909.

Nixon's performances in the 100-meter dash, the long jump, shot put, the high jump, the 400-meter dash, the 110-meter hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin throw and 1,500-meter run left Brown in awe.

"He is amazing," Brown said of Nixon, an Arkansas signee. "That kid has a lot of talent; he's really good."

# Chief Informs Council United Keetoowah Band Receives Confirmation of Land in Trust

"Bureau of Indian Affairs officials in Washington, D. C. have confirmed that we (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma) do have Land in Trust," Chief George Wickliffe told the nine district representatives during the June 4 tribal council meeting. The UKB delegation met with Washington officials on Friday, June 3 and the tribe was asked to begin making applications and organizing programs for the UKB.

Chief Wickliffe did tell the council there has been an appeal, but that the tribe will not slow down. "The Federal Government has made a decision for 76 acres to be put into trust," added Chief Wickliffe. There will be many opportunities for tribal members as the tribe gets more involved in education and training and new programs are implemented through this recent decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In a Report to the Council, Craig Legener, auditor with Standfield and O'Dell, reported to the tribal council of an excellent rating on the tribe's 2010 audit. "This is the best possible report you can receive. As I told the council when we first came on board that the accounting department was not the best we had seen, but the one you have on board now is one of the best accounting departments we work with," stated Legener. "All of the individuals are very knowledgeable, they have been properly trained, cross trained so they can fill in if someone is missing, and never have any issue with being able to get documentation or how things are presented. They've done a great job, you should be greatly proud of them," added Legener.

In New Business, council discussed to vote to approve or disapprove to rescind the sub-charter issued May 4, 1996 as resolution #96-UKB-08 and issued to Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee. In the past a former UKB Administration had issued a charter to Georgia Tribe of Eastern Chero-



UKB Assistant Chief Charles Locust visits with Craig Legener, Standfield and O'Dell, as Tribal Secretary Joyce Hawk looks on, prior to the June 4 council meeting. Photo by Sammy Still

kee recognizing the tribe as a subordinate group to the UKB which brought them in officially as part of the UKB and even though the tribe was not federally recognized they were organized under a federal recognized tribe. A motion to rescind the charter that was issued May 4, 1996 was made and council voted unanimously to revoke the charter for the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee.

Another resolution was voted and approved by the council for the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant for a Public Facilities project, a

Tribal Transit Facility.

A motion was made to enter into an executive session to discuss the 2010 audit, after a short executive session, the council reconvened into the regular council meeting and voted unanimously to approve the 2010 tribal audit.

Another motion was made and approved by the tribal council to move next month's council meeting to the second Saturday, July 9, due to the July 4 holiday.

Next tribal council meeting will be Saturday, June 9 at 10 a.m. in the UKB Community Services Conference room.

## UKB Education Department Hosts Graduate Reception

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma's Education Department will host a graduation reception on Thursday, August 4 at 3 p.m. in the UKB Community Services Building, which is located at the UKB Tribal Complex on Keetoowah Circle off West Willis Road south of Tahlequah.

All career tech graduates, as well as graduates who have just received their associate, bachelor's or master's degrees and their families are invited to attend.

Graduates who are attending are requested to RSVP by calling Della Wolfe or Leroy Qualls at (918) 456-8698

## Tribe looking for Miss & Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee 2011-12

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma is accepting applications for the Miss, and Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee beginning August 1st. The application deadline is Wednesday, August 31st, 2011.

Miss and Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee will represent the tribe as a good-will ambassador during her reign. Participants must be between the age of 13 and 17 years old before August 31st, 2011 to compete for Jr. Miss, and 18 to 21 before August 31st, 2011 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, must not have been married or cohabitated, no children, and never convicted of a felony.

Pageant applications will be available August 1st and may be downloaded from the UKB Tribal website at [www.unitedkeetoowahband.org](http://www.unitedkeetoowahband.org) or picked up at the Federal programs building. The pageant date will be available at application time. For any questions on the competition, categories or if assistance is needed please call Gwen Goingsnake or Georgia Dick at (918) 456-8698 or 1-800-259-0093.

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

## Get out the Turtle Wax! UKB 10th Annual Turtle Races

The 61st Annual United Keetoowah Celebration will be holding their 10th Annual Turtle Races at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 1st, 2011.



Registration will begin at 12:00 up until 1:30. There will be four age divisions this year: 2-4; 5-6; 7-9 and 10-12. Prizes will be awarded to the top three. There will be a limited number of t-shirts this year. Parents must register their child and sign the permission form. Children should bring their own turtles (tortoise or box shell only) this year as the UKB will have a limited number available. Further information is available by calling 918-456-8698 and ask for Georgia or Debb.

## UKB July 2011 Calendar of Council, District and Special Meetings

**July 9 UKB Regular Council Meeting, 10 a.m.**  
Jim Proctor Elder Center, Tahlequah

**July 14 Sequoyah District Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
Sallisaw Satellite Office

**July 15 Tahlequah District Meeting, 6 p.m.**  
Keener Church in Lost City

**July 21 Illinois District Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**  
Vian Satellite Office

\* No other meeting dates available at press time.

## UKB August 2011 Calendar of Council, District and Special Meetings

**Aug. 6 UKB Regular Council Meeting, 10 a.m.**  
Jim Proctor Elder Center, Tahlequah

**Aug. 11 Illinois District Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**  
Vian Satellite Office

**Aug. 11 Sequoyah District Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
Sallisaw Satellite Office

\* No other meeting dates available at press time.

## UKB Clothing and School Supply Voucher Program Begins July 18

The United Keetoowah Band (UKB) School Voucher Program begins July 18. The program allows children meeting income guidelines to receive a gift card to buy school supplies or clothes. Students in grades K - 12 will receive a \$75 gift card and students in grades 9-12 will receive a \$100 gift card.

Mary Girty, UKB Acting Director of Human Services said locations and dates for voucher distributions are keyed to specific districts. Members should only attend the locations for the district they are enrolled to help the process remain orderly.

**Illinois and Sequoyah Districts** distribution is July 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UKB Gaming office.

**Cooweescoowee and Saline Districts** distribution is July 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the First Indian Baptist Church in Salina.

**Delaware and Goingsnake District** distribution is July 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UKB Satellite office in Kansas.

**Flint and Goingsnake District** distribution is July 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UKB office in Stilwell.

**Tahlequah District** distribution is July 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the conference room of the UKB Community Services Building.

**Canadian District** distribution is July 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the location still pending.

Two extra days for members who do not make it to their assigned locations is scheduled July 27 and August 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the conference room at the UKB Community Services Building in Tahlequah.

Members wanting to apply for the vouchers need to bring a UKB tribal card for each child applying, school verification for each child, proof of residence and household income verification.

School verification forms need to be filled out by the school the child is enrolled in. Parents need to call the voucher office at 456-8698 to have the office fax the form to the school. If the school is closed for the summer the child can bring their last report card.

Along with vouchers, the Child Care Development Fund is distributing backpacks with school supplies to children four to twelve years of age.

continued from page 3

ers. This was some of the reasons we wanted to hold a stomp dance exhibition. We wanted to share with our guests, visitors and some UKB members what we still believe in today and some members still practice our tribal ceremonies in their rural community ceremonial grounds. This is our religion our ancestors brought here from our former lands in the east and we refuse to forget its relationship to us. The fire's sacred smoke is how our prayers are delivered to God and because of this respect we maintain a great respect for the Sacred Fire. We must continue to teach the children our old ways, the language, traditions and culture.

As the fifth and final song ended, the celebration event came to its end with a spectacular and great fireworks show. As everyone left the grounds, some expressed their appreciation and complimented the UKB Government and Administration for doing such a great job on the event and for the people. This event was a very important celebration for our Government, members and children because the "Forgotten" Keetoowah Cherokees and their ancestors believe our sacred fire lives on.

*Charles L. ...*

### Amanda Jo Littledeer Wins Multiple Awards

Amanda Jo Littledeer attends Dahlenegah School, where she will be in the 8th grade next year. She received the Outstanding Softball Athlete Award in the 7th grade class, and the Cheerleading Award for school spirit. She also received awards in 4-H that included the Achievement, Public Speaking, and Clothing Textiles awards.

Amanda is the daughter of Nakima Littledeer.



Amanda Jo Littledeer

**25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Thursday, July 7th - Noon - 10:00pm  
**GAS GRILL EVERY HOUR**

Thursday, July 14th - Noon - 10:00pm  
**FLAT SCREEN TELEVISION EVERY HOUR**

**Friday, July 15th**  
**\$2,500 EVERY HOUR**  
**7:00 pm to Midnight**

Thursday, July 21st - Noon - 10:00pm  
**LAPTOP COMPUTER EVERY HOUR**

Thursday, July 28th  
Noon - 10:00pm  
**\$300 GIFT CARD EVERY HOUR**

**18+ Welcome**  
**(918) 456-6131**  
Tahlequah, OK

**KEETOOWAH CHEROKEE CASINO**

Not responsible for lost tickets, prize vouchers, gift cards / certificates, etc. All winners must be actively playing machine with credits showing. 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.

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