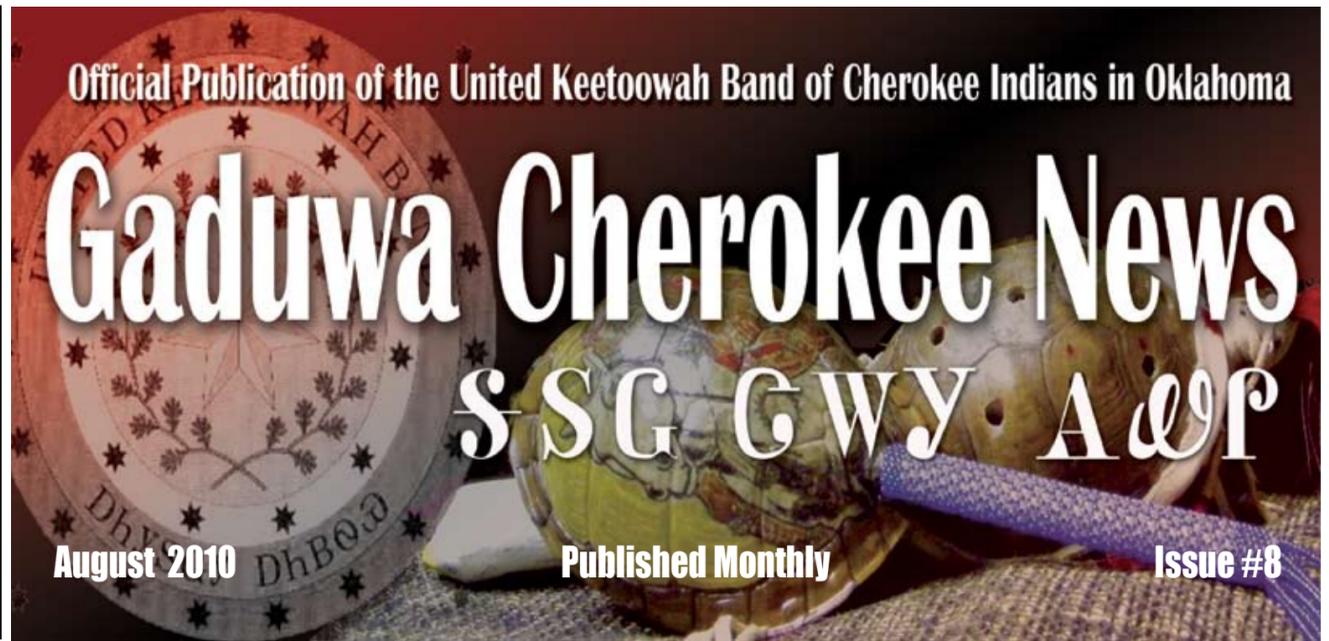


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UKB Housing Program Committed to Helping Provide Families Safe Homes

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma is a tribe known to take care of its own. The tribe provides for the children and elders, and is committed to providing a better way of life for its Keetoowah Cherokee families. One area of care is the UKB Housing Program.

For a few years, the tribe's ability to provide housing services was jeopardized. Back in February 2006, the UKB was notified that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would cut funding to the UKB Housing Authority from \$800,000 to just \$25,000. The Keetoowah Cherokees had been funded since the late 90's, however, sixteen years later, HUD notified the UKB that the tribe was no longer eligible for funds because it lacked the jurisdiction required to receive the funds.

Less than a year before, in 2005, HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu and Deputy Assistant Secretary Rodger Boyd sent a letter to the tribe's attorneys in Washington, D.C. The letter stated that the UKB met the criteria needed to be funded by HUD.

But on November 16, after the appointment of Orlando Cabrera as the new HUD Assistant Secretary, CNO appealed the decision. The UKB then received a letter written by Cabrera reversing Liu's decision and denying the tribe housing funds.

Chief George Wickliffe reported that the letter was the first time the tribe was notified of CNO's appeal – or that HUD even allowed an appeal. As a result of this decision, UKB funding for roads and bridges were also cut, which hurt not only the Keetoowah Cherokees, but the communities in the fourteen counties as well.

Through diligence and hard work on the part of the UKB Administration and attorneys, housing funds were eventually reinstated. In an open letter to tribal members dated June 11, 2009, UKB Chief George Wickliffe stated that last week the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit issued its ruling that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had improperly denied the UKB tribe funding of hundreds of thousands of dollars in housing grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1986 (NAHASDA).

With funds reinstated, the tribe began to assist its members in housing needs. With the gap of five years in funding, the tribe decided to spend a large portion of the money helping as many tribal members as possible in rehabilitation of existing homes, rather than building a few new homes each year.

The United Keetoowah Band Housing Program currently assists tribal members in several different areas – Emergency Rental/Mortgage Payment Assistance, Mortgage Assistance and Home Rehabilitation.

One stipulation with NAHASDA funding is that no home built prior to 1978 can be assisted due to lead base paint regulations. This stipulation affects assistance in all programs - Emergency Rental/Mortgage Payment Assistance, Mortgage Assistance and Home Rehabilitation.

Emergency Rental/Mortgage Payment Assistance is available to a tribal member who has had a loss of income due to a medical or health



The United Keetoowah Band Housing Authority staff, left to right, front row, left to right, Jan Laws, Housing Director; Terri Kendell, Housing Service Processor; Denise Rooster, Housing Specialist; and Jamie Walters, Housing Receptionist. Back row, left to right, Alpheus Byrd, Housing Specialist; and Rick Glory, Housing Inspector. (Not pictured: Clyde Cooper, Darrell Smith and Albert Ross)

related issue. The Housing Department can assist with up to \$500 for rent, rental deposit, mortgage payment, or utilities. This is a one time assistance.

- To become eligible you must provide:*
- Complete Housing Application
 - Utility bills in the applicant's name for the past due rent
 - Most recent tax return for all household members
 - Verification of loss of income (if you request past due rent)
 - Verification of illness or medical condition (if you request past due rent)
 - W-9 filled out by Landlord or Mortgage Company
 - Rental/Mortgage assistance Information Sheet filled out by Landlord or Mortgage Company

For all rental property, the applicant must provide a statement from the landlord that includes the following: legal land description of the property, address of the property, and date of construction of the property.

The Mortgage Assistance Program will assist a first time home buyer with down payment and closing cost assistance of \$5000. The homebuyer must be approved by a lender to purchase a home constructed after 1978.

Owner financing is not available under the Mortgage Assistance Program and applicants must not have occupied the home. No refinancing is eligible for this assistance.

Applicants must be below 80 percent of the National Median Income Guidelines. 80% of the national median income for a family of four is currently \$51,000. per year.

Currently, the housing department is on a time line to spend stimulus funding which has been allocated for home repairs to tribal members who own their home.

The 2008 Stimulus Revision for the Re-

covery Act funding lists elderly, disabled and handicapped tribal members for preference for the Home Rehabilitation Program and also in the 2009 Indian Housing Block Grant Funding.

There is more to conducting a home repair than what the general public sees. There are regulations that the housing department must comply with before any funds are actually spent.

When an applicant is selected for repairs, the Housing Department must prepare an environmental review on the property which takes 30 to 35 days. In addition to that, if the home is built prior to 1978, the housing department must schedule a lead base paint test with a certified LBP inspector.

Once the housing department receives the results of the test and environmental, the housing inspector inspects the home to identify all potential repairs that are necessary to bring the home to a safe and sanitary condition. Repairs vary according to need.

One home that was recently renovated was in Kenwood in the Saline District. "We did

continued on page 4

NOTICE TO ALL HOUSING APPLICANTS

The UKB Housing Authority is in the process of updating ALL Housing files. If your file is not updated by September 1, 2010 you will be placed on the inactive list and you will need to re-apply. For more information please contact Housing at 918-431-1808.

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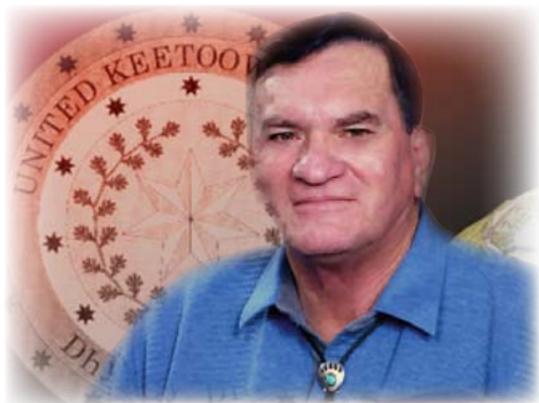


Nellie Downing's home before.



Nellie Downing's home after.

A Letter to the UKB People From Chief George Wickliffe



INDIAN AFFAIRS: LAWS AND TREATIES
Vol. II, Treaties
Compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler.
Washington : Government Printing Office, 1904.

TREATY WITH THE CHEROKEE, 1817.

July 8, 1817. | 7 Stat., 156. | Proclamation, Dec. 26, 1817.

Articles of a treaty concluded, at the Cherokee Agency, within the Cherokee nation, between major general Andrew Jackson, Joseph M'Minn, governor of the state of Tennessee, and general David Meriwether, commissioners plenipotentiary of the United States of America, of the one part, and the chiefs, head men and warriors, of the Cherokee nation, east of the Mississippi river, and the chiefs, head men, and warriors, of the Cherokees on the Arkansas river; and their deputies, John D. Chisholm and James Rogers, duly authorized by the chiefs of the Cherokees on the Arkansas river, in open council, by written power of attorney, duly signed and executed, in presence of Joseph Sevier and William Ware.

WHEREAS in the autumn of the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, a deputation from the Upper and Lower Cherokee towns, duly authorized by their nation, went on to the city of Washington, the first named to declare to the President of the United States their anxious desire to engage in the pursuits of agriculture and civilized life in the country they then occupied, and to make known to the President of the United States the impracticability of inducing the nation at large to do this, and to request the establishment of a divi-

sion line between the upper and lower towns, so as to include all the waters of the Hiwassee river to the upper town, that, by thus contracting their society within narrow limits, they proposed to begin the establishment of fixed laws and a regular government: The deputies from the lower towns to make known their desire to continue the hunter life, and also the scarcity of game where they then lived, and, under those circumstances, their wish to remove across the Mississippi river, on some vacant lands of the United States. And whereas the President of the United States, after maturely considering the petitions of both parties, on the ninth day of January, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and nine, including other subjects, answered those petitions as follows: "The United States, my children, are the friends of both parties, and, as far as can be reasonably asked, they are willing to satisfy the wishes of both. Those who remain may be assured of our patronage, our aid and good neighborhood. Those who wish to remove, are permitted to send an exploring party to reconnoitre the country on the waters of the Arkansas and White rivers, and the higher up the better, as they will be the longer unapproached by our settlements, which will begin at the mouths of those rivers. The regular districts of the government of St. Louis are already laid off to the St. Francis.

"When this party shall have found a tract of country suiting the emigrants, and not claimed by other Indians, we will arrange with them and you the exchange of that for a just portion of the country they leave, and to a part of which, proportioned to their numbers, they have a right. Every aid towards their removal, and what will be necessary for them there, will then be freely administered to them; and when established in their new settlements, we shall still consider them as our children, give them the benefit of exchanging their peltries for what they will want at our factories, and always hold them firmly by the hand."

And whereas the Cherokees, relying on the promises of the President of the United States, as above recited, did explore the country on the west side of the Mississippi, and made choice of the country on the Arkansas and White rivers, and settled themselves down upon United States lands, to which no other tribe of Indians have any just claim and have duly notified the President of the United States thereof, and of their anxious desire for the full and complete ratification of his promise, and, to that end, as notified by the President of the United States, have sent on their agents, with

full powers to execute a treaty, relinquishing to the United States all the right, title, and interest, to all lands of right to them belonging, as part of the Cherokee nation, which they have left, and which they are about to leave, proportioned to their numbers, including, with those now on the Arkansas, those who are about to remove thither, and to a portion of which they have an equal right agreeably to their numbers.

Now, know ye that the contracting parties, to carry into full effect the before recited promises with good faith, and to promote a continuation of friendship with their brothers on the Arkansas river, and for that purpose to make an equal distribution of the annuities secured to be paid by the United States to the whole Cherokee nation, have agreed and concluded on the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1.

The chiefs, head men, and warriors, of the whole Cherokee nation, cede to the United States all the lands lying north and east of the following boundaries, viz: Beginning at the high shoals of the Appalacy river, and running thence, along the boundary line between the Creek and Cherokee nations westwardly to the Chatahouchy river; thence, up the Chatahouchy river, to the mouth of Souque creek; thence, continuing with the general course of the river until it reaches the Indian boundary line, and, should it strike the Turrur river, thence, with its meanders, down said river to its mouth, in part of the proportion of land in the Cherokee nation east of the Mississippi, to which those now on the Arkansas and those about to remove there are justly entitled.

ARTICLE 2.

The chiefs head men, and warriors, of the whole Cherokee nation do also cede to the United States all the lands lying north and west of the following boundary lines, viz: Beginning at the Indian boundry line that runs from the north bank of the Tennessee river, opposite to the mouth of Hywassee river, at a point on the top of Walden's ridge, where it divides the waters of the Tennessee river from those of the Sequatchie river; thence, along the said ridge southwardly, to the bank of the Tennessee river, at a point near to a place called the Negro Sugar Camp, opposite to the upper end of the first island above Running Water town; thence, westwardly, a straight line to the mouth of Little Sequatchie river; thence, up said river, to its main fork, thence, up its northernmost fork, to its source; and thence, due west to the Indian boundary line.

ARTICLE 3.

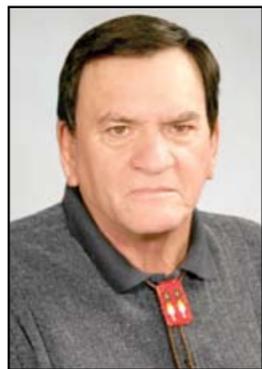
It is also stipulated by the contracting parties, that a census shall be taken of the whole Cherokee nation, during the month of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, in the following manner, viz: That the census of those on the east side of the Mississippi river, who declare their intention of remaining, shall be taken by a commissioner appointed by the President of the United States, and a commissioner appointed by the Cherokees on the Arkansas river; and the census of the Cherokees on the Arkansas river, and those removing there, and who, at that time, declare their intention of removing there, shall be taken by a commissioner appointed by the President of the United States, and one appointed by the Cherokees east of the Mississippi river.

ARTICLE 4.

The contracting parties do also stipulate that the annuity due from the United States to the whole Cherokee nation for the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, is to be divided between the two parts of the nation in proportion to their num-

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UKB Council



Chief
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Office: 918-431-1818
Cell: 918-207-2991



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



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



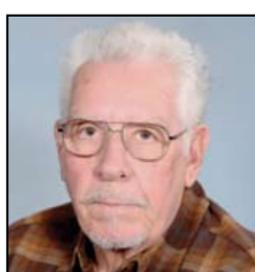
Saline Dist. Rep.
Charles Smoke
Cell: 918-457-7071



DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:



Flint Dist. Rep.
Woodrow Proctor
Cell: 918-822-3811



Sequoyah Dist. Rep.
Barry Dotson
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Cell: 918-207-2990



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Canadian Dist. Rep.
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Tahlequah Dist. Rep.
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Cliff Wofford
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Illinois Dist. Rep.
Barbara Girty
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George G. Wickliffe **Charles D. Locust**
Chief **Assistant Chief**

Liz Littledave **Ella Mae Cooksey Worley**
Secretary **Treasurer**

District Representatives

Barbara Girty Jerry Hansen Betty Holcomb
Barry Dotson Woodrow Proctor Charles Smoke
Joyce Fourkiller-Hawk Eddie Sacks Cliff Wofford

Keetoowah News

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Sam L. Still, Editor

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From The Chief

continued from page 2

bers, agreeably to the stipulations contained in the third article of this treaty; and to be continued to be divided thereafter in proportion to their numbers; and the lands to be apportioned and surrendered to the United States agreeably to the aforesaid enumeration, as the proportionate part, agreeably to their numbers, to which those who have removed and who declare their intention to remove, have a just right including these with the lands ceded in the first and second articles of this treaty.

ARTICLE 5.

The United States bind themselves in exchange for the lands ceded in the first and second articles hereof, to give to that part of the Cherokee nation on the Arkansas as much land on said river and White river as they have or may hereafter receive from the Cherokee nation east of the Mississippi, acre for acre, as the just proportion due that part of the nation on the Arkansas agreeably to their numbers; which is to commence on the north side of the Arkansas river at the mouth of Point Remove or Budwell's Old Place; thence, by a straight line, northwardly, to strike Chataunga mountain, or the hill first above Shield's Ferry on White river, running up and between said rivers for complement, the banks of which rivers to be the lines; and to have the above line, from the point of beginning to the point on White river, run and marked, which shall be done soon after the ratification of this treaty; and all citizens of the United States, except. P. Lovely, who is to remain where she lives during life, removed from within the bounds as above named. And it is further stipulated, that the treaties heretofore between the Cherokee nation and the United States are to continue in full force with both parts of the nation, and both parts thereof entitled to all the immunities and privilege which the old nation enjoyed under the aforesaid treaties; the United States reserving the right of establishing factories, a military post, and roads within the boundaries above defined.

ARTICLE 6.

The United States do also bind themselves to give to all the poor warriors who may remove to the western side of the Mississippi river, one rifle gun and ammunition, one blanket, and one brass kettle, or, in lieu of the brass kettle, a beaver trap, which is to be considered as a full compensation for the improvements which they may leave; which articles are to be delivered at such point as the President of the United States may direct: and to aid in the removal of the emigrants, they further agree to furnish flat bottomed boats and provisions sufficient for that purpose: and to those emigrants whose improvements add real value to their lands, the United States agree to pay a full valuation for the same, which is to be ascertained by a commissioner appointed by the President of the United States for that purpose, and paid for as soon after the ratification of this treaty as practicable. The boats and provisions promised to the emigrants are to be furnished by the agent on the Tennessee river, at such time and place as the emigrants may notify him of; and it shall be his duty to furnish the same.

ARTICLE 7.

And for all improvements which add real value to the lands lying within the boundaries ceded to the United States, by the first and second articles of this treaty, the United States do agree to pay for at

the time, and to be valued in the same manner, as stipulated in the sixth article of this treaty; or, in lieu thereof, to give in exchange improvements of equal value which the emigrants may leave, and for which they are to receive pay. And it is further stipulated that all these improvements, left by the emigrants within the bounds of the Cherokee nation east of the Mississippi river, which add real value to the lands, and for which the United States shall give a consideration, and not so exchanged shall be rented to the Indians by the agent, year after year, for the benefit of the poor and decrepid of that part of the nation east of the Mississippi river until surrendered by the nation, or to the nation. And it is further agreed, that the said Cherokee nation shall not be called upon for any part of the consideration paid for said improvements at any future period.

ARTICLE 8.

And to each and every head of any Indian family residing on the east side of the Mississippi river, on the lands that are now or may hereafter be surrendered to the United States, who may wish to become citizens of the United States, the United States do agree to give a reservation of six hundred and forty acres of land in a square to include their improvements which are to be as near the centre thereof as practicable, in which they will have a life estate with a reversion in fee simple to their children reserving to the widow her dower, the register of whose names is to be filed in the office of the Cherokee agent, which shall be kept open until the census is taken as stipulated in the third article of this treaty. Provided, That if any of the heads of families, for whom reservations may be made, should remove therefrom, then, in that case the right to revert to the United States. And provided further, That the land which may be reserved under this article, be deducted from the amount which has been ceded under the first and second articles of this treaty.

ARTICLE 9.

It is also provided by the contracting parties, that nothing in the foregoing articles shall be construed so as to prevent any of the parties so contracting from the free navigation of all the waters mentioned therein.

ARTICLE 10.

The whole of the Cherokee nation do hereby cede to the United States all right, title, and claim, to all reservations made to Doublehead and others, which were reserved to them by a treaty made and entered into at the city of Washington, bearing date the seventh of January, one thousand eight hundred and six.

ARTICLE 11.

It is further agreed that the boundary lines of the lands ceded to the United States by the first and second articles of this treaty, and the boundary line of the lands ceded by the United States in the fifth article of this treaty, is to be run and marked by a commissioner or commissioners appointed by the President of the United States, who shall be accompanied by such commissioners as the Cherokees may appoint; due notice thereof to be given to the nation.

ARTICLE 12.

The United States do also bind themselves to prevent the intrusion of any of its citizens within the lands ceded by the first and second articles of this treaty, until the same shall be ratified by the President and Senate of the United States, and duly promulgated.

ARTICLE 13.

The contracting parties do also stipulate that this

treaty shall take effect and be obligatory on the contracting parties so soon as the same shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the United States.

In witness of all and every thing herein determined, by and between the before recited contracting parties, we have, in full and open council, at the Cherokee Agency, this eighth day of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, set our hands and seals.

Andrew Jackson, [L. S.]

Joseph McMinn, [L. S.]

D. Meriwether, [L. S.]

United States Commis'rs.

Richard Brown, his x mark, [L. S.]

Cabbin Smith, his x mark, [L. S.]

Sleeping Rabbit, his x mark, [L. S.]

George Saunders, his x mark, [L. S.]

Roman Nose, his x mark, [L. S.]

Currohe Dick, his x mark, [L. S.]

John Walker, his x mark, [L. S.]

George Lowry, [L. S.]

Richard Taylor, [L. S.]

Walter Adair, [L. S.]

James Brown, [L. S.]

Kelachule, his x mark, [L. S.]

Sour Mush, his x mark, [L. S.]

Chulioa, his x mark, [L. S.]

Chickasautchee, his x mark, [L. S.]

The Bark of Chota, his x mark, [L. S.]

The Bark of Hightower, his x mark, [L. S.]

Big Half Breed, his x mark, [L. S.]

Going Snake, his x mark, [L. S.]

Leyestisky, his x mark, [L. S.]

Ch. Hicks, [L. S.]

Young Davis, his x mark, [L. S.]

Souanooka, his x mark, [L. S.]

The Locust, his x mark, [L. S.]

Beaver Carrier, his x mark, [L. S.]

Dreadful Water, his x mark, [L. S.]

Chyula, his x mark, [L. S.]

Ja. Martin, [L. S.]

John McIntosh, his x mark, [L. S.]

Katchee of Cowee, his x mark, [L. S.]

White Man Killer, his x mark, [L. S.]

Arkansas chiefs:

Toochalar, his x mark, [L. S.]

The Glass, his x mark, [L. S.]

Wassosee, his x mark, [L. S.]

John Jolly, his x mark, [L. S.]

The Gourd, his x mark, [L. S.]

Spring Frog, his x mark, [L. S.]

John D. Chisholm, [L. S.]

James Rogers, [L. S.]

Wawhatchy, his x mark, [L. S.]

Attalona, his x mark, [L. S.]

Kulsuttchee, his x mark, [L. S.]

Tuskekeetchee, his x mark, [L. S.]

Chillawgatchee, his x mark, [L. S.]

John Smith, his x mark, [L. S.]

Toosawallata, his x mark, [L. S.]

In presence of—

J.M. Glassel, secretary to the commission,

Thomas Wilson, clerk to the commissioners,

Walter Adair,

John Speirs, interpreter, his x mark,

A. McCoy, interpreter,

James C. Bronaugh, hospital surgeon, U. S.

Army,

Isham Randolph, captain First Redoubtables,

Wm. Meriwether,

Return J. Meigs, agent Cherokee Nation.

continued from page 1

extensive repairs to this home including new siding, a new roof, added a front porch, remodeled the kitchen, painted the entire interior and remodeled the utility room," said Rick Glory, Housing Inspector.

Another recent renovation was a home belonging to Nellie Downing of Locust Grove. "We replaced the siding, painted the interior walls and built a back porch," said Glory.

"I'm very pleased with the work done. The carpenters and painters did a good job. My house looks like a new one," said Downing.

Alice Wolfe, lives in Jay, Oklahoma and first spoke to Delaware Tribal Councilor Jerry Hanson about getting her bathroom fixed. Hansen put her in touch with the Housing Department. "I had my bathroom renovated. I am very pleased with the results. The crew were very nice, very friendly, easy to communicate with and very considerate," said Wolfe.

Funding for building homes is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Program's Native American Housing and Self Determination Act funding. A tribe or tribally designated housing entity submits an Indian Housing plan for the current funding year and budgets money for housing activities.

"The United Keetoowah Band obtained 25 FEMA Trailers and most of the funding in 2009 will be used to move the FEMA Trailers, costs of utility hook ups, trailer set up, skirting, and site developments," said Jan Laws, UKB Housing Director. "We hope to begin building homes again in the future," added Laws.

Required documents for Housing Applications include:

1. Complete Application with signatures
2. Income Verification for every household member. (Award Letters, Unemployment Letters etc...)
3. 2 most recent check stubs for each household member.
4. 2009 Tax return/W2 for each household member.
5. CDIB Card for each house hold member.
6. Social Security Cards for each household member.
7. DEED IN APPLICANTS NAME (if you apply for rehabilitation).
8. Authorization for Release of Information signed by all household members over the age of 18.
9. Declaration of section 214 status for each household members (Parents must sign for their children)

It is the applicant's responsibility to update

your application each year.

Another way the housing program can assist tribal members is by providing jobs to help renovate or build homes. The UKB Housing Department is currently accepting applications for Native American vendors including residential construction, roofing companies, licensed plumbers and licensed electricians. Owners must have general liability insurance, workman's compensation insurance. For an application, call (918) 431-1808.

The UKB Housing staff is comprised of a group of hardworking and dedicated individuals whose goal is to serve tribal members. The staff includes Housing Director Janice Laws; Rick Glory, Housing Inspector; Clyde Cooper, Crew Leader; Darrell Smith, Laborer; Albert Ross, Maintenance; Alpheus Byrd, Housing Specialist; Terri Kindell, Housing Specialist; Denise Rooster, Housing Specialist; and Jamie Walters, Receptionist/Intake Clerk.

The housing office is located at 16315 on Scenic Highway 10 outside of Tahlequah on the Illinois River. Offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (918) 431-1808.

By Marilyn Craig

UKB Media Cooridantor

Keetoowah Cherokee Elders visit Mother Town of the Kituwah

A group of Keetoowah Cherokee elders recently traveled to Cherokee, North Carolina to attend their 4th of July annual Powwow. The three-day authentic Indian dancing was only one of several events the elders attended.

One of the most exciting and historic sites visited during their trip was the Kituwah Mound. Located near Bryson City, N.C., considered the "mother town" of the Kituwah, the Kituwah Mound was where the Creator gave the first laws and first fire to the Kituwah people. The elders were given a historic tour of the mound by Cherokee historian Thomas Belt, a Cherokee tribal member from Oklahoma and Cherokee Language Coordinator for Western Carolina University. Belt is a full-blood Cherokee who resides on the Qualla Boundary Reservation in Cherokee N.C. and speaks his native tongue.

Other sites visited by the elders were the Oconaluftee Indian Village, a "living museum" and replica of an 18th century eastern Cherokee community; and "Unto These Hills" drama, an outdoor historical drama staged annually that depicts the demise of the Cherokee Tribe of the Eastern Region as they were forcefully removed from their land to Oklahoma.

During the first night of the Powwow the elders were recognized and received a warm welcome from members of the Eastern Band of Cherokees.

"It was very educational and informative; I enjoyed the trip very much. I think there should be more of a push behind the elder committee to al-



Keetoowah Cherokee elders visited the Kituwah mound, Mother Town of the Cherokees, near Bryson City, N.C. Pictured with the elders is Cherokee Historian Thomas Belt, far left, along with a couple of Eastern Band Cherokee tribal members.

low more trips for the elders, not necessarily back to North Carolina, but even if they just offered day trips. A lot of elders have never been outside their communities," said Leroy Adair.

Several of the elders attended the July 10 tribal council meeting to thank the Administration and council for allowing them the opportunity to travel to North Carolina.

Keetoowah Cherokee Tag Agency 2450 S. Muskogee Ave, P.O. Box 746 Tahlequah, OK 74464

ATTENTION:

Renew your tag or register your vehicle by mail. If you would like further information you may contact the UKB Tag Agency at (918) 456-3235 & fax number (918) 456-3394.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
2nd Saturday of the month 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Tribal members in the nine districts of the United Keetoowah Band applied for the UKB Clothing and School Supply vouchers recently. The Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center also provided backpacks filled with school supplies to children ages 4 to 12 years old.



Construction workers pour concrete for the foundation of the new John Hair Cultural Museum. Opening for the new museum is scheduled for Spring 2011.

All Elders are invited to attend monthly Elder Committee Meetings

The UKB Elder Committee was recently formed as an advisory committee to the Chief on ways to strengthen the UKB. The committee discusses issues that pertain to the needs of the UKB Elders advising the Chief of any issues that come before the committee during their meetings. The purpose of the committee is to inform, to recommend and/or advise the council of elder issues and concerns. The first meeting was held in May 2007. The Elder Committee meeting date is on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the council meeting room. All elders are encouraged to attend.

Duke Energy Identifies Possible Sites for Substation

On June 9, three months after a 90-day moratorium placed on Duke Energy by the Swain County Commissioners to halt construction at the Kituwah site, Duke Energy spokesperson Jason Walls announced they have identified some possible sites to construct their substation. Duke Energy will be selecting two alternate Swain County locations; one is inside the Swain County Industrial Park and the other in the Sheppard's Creek area. Eastern Band of Cherokees Principal Chief Michell Hicks felt very confident that a new alternate site would be identified by Duke Energy avoiding the destruction of the view shed at the Mother Town of the Cherokees.

In November of 2009, Duke Energy began bulldozing part of a mountain side to construct the Hyatt Creek Substation near the sacred Kituwah mound site. EBC Principal Chief Hicks announced concerns about the \$79 million project after learning about the construction in late December declaring the project a "desecration".

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma released a statement denouncing Duke's failure to communicate with all Cherokee bands that hold a stake in the cultural legacy of Kituwah.

"When I attended a meeting with Duke Energy and the Eastern Band of Cherokees we discussed alternative sites for Duke Energy to construct their substation. The Eastern Band of Cherokees tribe stated they would even allow a trade of land as a possible alternative site. Evidently both entities have made an agreement to this situation and I feel that it has been resolved. We will continue to retain our religious birthplace, keeping our traditional homeland intact. I appreciate all the collaboration and efforts that Duke Energy has put forth and the hard work the Eastern Band Cherokees has accomplished," stated George Wickliffe, Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

UKB Veterans Benefits Day Educates Vets on Available Services

The United Keetoowah Band Tribal Veterans Office sponsored a meeting between veterans and several veterans' service officials July 23. Jacob Littledave, veteran representative, invited officials from the Veteran's Affairs (VA), National Cemeteries, State of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to talk with veterans concerning benefits and claims procedures.

Littledave said he learned how to deal with the VA while filing his claims for benefits and then later working for the VA. It took him 13 years to receive his first benefits. Now he works with veterans to keep them from going through everything he went through to file his claims. This meeting was one way to get veterans in touch with the people they need to know in order to successfully process their claims. It also was a chance to showcase the new Tribal Veterans' Office to be located in the UKB Wellness Center. The office is scheduled to open beginning August 17, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m..

Ken Rystedt, Commander VFW Post 3707, was present to represent the DAV Transportation Office. The program provides transportation for veterans going to doctor's appointments. Veterans needing transportation should give the office 72 hours notice and can call 918-577-3737 for Muskogee, 918-628-2607, 405-270-1540 for Oklahoma City and 580-353-1131 ext. 4079 for Lawton.

Service officers are at the DAV the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help veterans with any problems they are having. Rystedt said the DAV serves coffee and doughnuts for anyone who wants to stop by and visit. Veterans do not have to be DAV members to receive help. Danny Oliver, DAV state adjutant, said the DAV transportation program averages 575,000 miles a year in Oklahoma taking veterans to doctor appointments.

Jim Becker, public affairs officer of VA, said he was there to help veterans learn how to get information from the U.S. government. Trying to find information on one's own can be difficult and trying, but the VA employs subject-matter experts who can find the information for veterans. Becker also said it is nice for tribal veterans to have the choice of going to tribal veteran representatives such as Jacob Littledave if they feel uncomfortable going to the VA by themselves. To get information from the VA, call 1-800-827-1000. To talk to a veteran representative, call Jacob Littledave at 348-4637.

One of the problems plaguing veterans for years is the amount of time it takes for the VA to process claims and either deny the claim or begin benefits. As with Jacob Littledave, the VA took 13



Officials from the Veteran's Affairs, National Cemeteries, State of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans were on hand to answer questions and provide vital information on health care and benefits to veterans at the UKB Tribal Veterans Office sponsored event.

years before completing his claim.

Dean Thompson, assistant coach with the Veterans Service Center, said the management team of the VA is working to improve the claims process for veterans. The team hopes to eliminate redundant paperwork and lower the amount of time it takes to process claims. The team hopes to lower the amount of days to process a claim to no more than 125 days by 2015.

Tribal veterans may also have access to IHS facilities to seek treatment. If the veteran informs IHS and the VA of dual access then the veteran can use whichever service can provide the needed treatment. IHS and the VA can coordinate treatments and work together to help the veteran. Another section of the VA is also trying to improve its services and serve the veterans in its care as good as possible. This is the food service program for veterans in the VA hospital. Terry Townsell, minority officer and general cook manager, said his team tries to make everyone as comfortable as possible. They want to serve food everybody likes. His team is constantly surveying patients to see what patients like, dislike or would like to see in the future.

Benefits do not end at the death of a veteran. The VA continues its service into and past burial for those who are eligible. Timothy Spain, director of Fort Gibson and Fort Sill National Cemeteries, handed out packets to veterans for burial benefits. The packets contained information for those who wish to be buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery and all of the benefits allowed each veteran. Spain said some veterans are eligible for family members to be buried in a national cemetery and they need to be aware of all possible benefits.

Even if veterans are receiving benefits it does not hurt to talk to veteran representatives to see if they are receiving all of the benefits they are eligible for. Gary Guthrie, Keetoowah Cherokee veteran, said he is receiving some benefits now, but attended the meeting to get more information about what he can use. He is currently trying to upgrade his disability status. For more information on veterans benefits, call Norman "Hominy" Littledave, UKB community coordinator, at 431-1818 ext. 165.

By Melvin Thomas Jordan
UKB Writer

UKB Natural Resources Department Thanks Participants of Well Study

The Keetoowah Cherokee Natural Resources Department would like to thank everyone who participated in the Private Well Monitoring Study. The Natural Resources Department began this study to fulfill a concern of tribal members. One hundred Keetoowah private water wells were sampled for bacteria and nitrates in Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, and Mayes Counties. Due to the great response by the Keetoowah tribal members, the Department completed the project ahead of schedule. This study could not have been completed without the assistance from tribal members. A copy of all data collected from this study will be available for review at the Natural Resources Department. Please call (918)453-2823 if you would like to make an appointment to review the results.

United Keetoowah Title VI Nutrition Menu August 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Pizza Green Beans Caesar Salad Dessert	3 Brown Beans Spinach Galley Chips Cornbread Salad & Dessert	4 BBQ Chicken Baked Beans Corn on the cob Texas Toast Cole Slaw & Dessert	5 Enchiladas Spanish Rice Refried Beans Salad & Dessert	6 Brunch Served From 10:30-12:00
9 Shepherds Pie Broccoli Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	10 BLT Sandwich Potato Chips Baked Beans Salad & Dessert	11 Boiled Cabbage w/Polish Sausage Lima Beans Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	12 Marinated Chicken Wild Rice Tomato/Zucchini Hot Rolls Salad & Dessert	13 Fishing Day @ River Park 11:30-???
16 Baked Fish Rice Pilaf Corn Cole Slaw Hushpuppies	17 White Beans W/Ham Turnip Greens Galley Chips Cornbread	18 Beef Stew Hominy Cornbread Crackers Salad & Dessert	19 Mac-N-Cheese Lil Smokies Green Beans Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	20 Brunch Served From 10:30-12:00
23 Frito Chill Pie w/Fixins Salad & Dessert	24 Chicken Casserole w/Hominy Tomato/Zucchini Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	25 Spaghetti w/Meatballs Green Beans Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	26 Cultural Day & August B-Days	27 Closed For Cleaning
30 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato Corn Hot Rolls Salad & Dessert	31 Hamburgers w/Fixins Fries Baked Beans Salad & Dessert			Menus are subject to change without notice. For more info: call 918-771-4380.


Check out our website at:
www.ukb-nsn.gov or
www.unitedkeetoowahband.org

OBITUARIES

Obituary for James L. Hair

James Lee Hair was born in Claremore, OK to Ned Tecumseh and Senia (Davis) Hair on October 8, 1943. He passed from this life on July 26, 2010 in Tahlequah, OK at the age of 66 years, 9 months, and 18 days.

James loved his family and enjoyed getting together and telling stories on all of them. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

James was preceded in death by parents; 1 grandson; and 1 brother Marvin Hair.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Cindy Hair of the home in Tahlequah; 5 daughters: Kimberly Hair and husband Edward Gourd of Lost City, Stephanie Sapp and husband Aaron of Kansas, OK, Teresa Webber of Hulbert, Frankie Hair and husband Justin Killer of Tahlequah, and Kamisha Hair and husband Matt Daniels of Tahlequah; 2 brothers: Lacy Hair and wife Lorene and Danny Hair and wife Darla all of Salina; 1 sister: Annie Bell Carpenter of Watts; 15 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and 1 great-great granddaughter. Many nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives also survive him.

Services were at 2:00 p.m. Thursday July 29, 2010 at the New Mission Church at Rocky Ford with Rev. Randall Cummings and Rev. Fox Blackfox officiating. Interment followed in the Euwasha Cemetery under the direction of Reed-Culver Funeral Home.



James L. Hair

Obituary for Annie Drywater Gourd

(September 18, 1924 - July 3, 2010)

Funeral services for Annie Drywater Gourd, age 85, were held at 2 p.m., Monday, July 5, 2010 at the Hart Funeral Home Chapel. Reverend Gil Hooper and Reverend Ross Gourd presided.

Annie Drywater Gourd was born September 18, 1924 in Hulbert, OK to Jess Drywater and Lucy Grasshopper Drywater. Annie was a lifelong resident of the Tahlequah area. A homemaker, Annie enjoyed being around her family. She had a great sense of humor and enjoyed traditional Native American foods, cultural kanuchi, gathering wild onions and fishing.

Annie was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Elizabeth Drywater and Juanita McLemore; three brothers, Ross, Esiah and Archie Drywater. Annie departed this life on Saturday, July 3, 2010 in Tahlequah at the age of 85 years. Survivors include four daughters, Regina McLemore and husband Donald of Tahlequah, Billie Vance and husband Lee Cobb of Lost City, Brenda Locust and husband Charles of Stillwell and Lisa Drywater of Tahlequah; one son, Harold Hooper of the home; one sister, Nanita "Dixie" Wolf and husband Leroy of Tahlequah; ten grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. Also surviving are numerous nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.



Annie Drywater Gourd

UKB Assists Students With Scholarships for College

In a time of rising tuition costs, the United Keetoowah Band (UKB) offers a helping hand to its citizens. The education assistance program gives scholarships to tribal students trying to expand their horizons in a modern world.

The UKB provides assistance for college, vo-tech and testing fees as long as funding is available.

For the college assistance, applicants need to turn in a completed application, a copy of their UKB membership card, a copy of their social security card, an official transcript, a class schedule, a FAFSA submission confirmation and a financial aid notification award letter.

Applications are due Sept. 1 at the education assistance office in the Community Services Building at the UKB Tribal Complex for the fall semester and Jan. 10 for the spring semester. The only documents needed for the spring semester are the student's spring class schedule and a copy of their official transcript.

For a full scholarship of \$1,500, students must take 12 hours or more of classes a semester. For a half scholarship of \$750, students must take between six and 11 hours of classes a semester.

Students are required to maintain at least a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA). There is not an income qualification in the guidelines.

Applicants must also be a UKB member for at least six months before applying for assistance.

The scholarship is paid in two parts. Part one is paid to the student at the beginning of the semester. Part two is paid to the student at the end of the semester when they turn in their grades.

Students only receive the second part of the scholarship if they still meet the guidelines.

Also, students are only eligible for assistance for 136 hours toward a bachelor's degree.

For a master's degree, a full scholarship of \$1500 a semester requires students complete nine hours a semester. A partial scholarship of \$750 a semester requires students to complete six to eight hours a semester.

A minimum 2.0 GPA is also required and the payments are made at the beginning of the semester and the end of the semester just as for a bachelor's degree.

Assistance is also available for doctorate and law degree programs.

For vo-tech assistance, applicants need a completed application, a copy of their UKB membership card, a copy of their Social Security Card, a training institute acceptance letter on institutional letterhead, a transcript from their previous semester and any receipts or invoices.

Applicants must be an exclusively enrolled UKB member for at least six months before applying.

Awards cannot exceed \$1,000 in one calendar year for any one program or for any one student.

Awards are paid directly to the training facility, not to the student.

For the testing fee assistance, applicants need to be an exclusive UKB member for six months before applying, bring a copy of their UKB membership card and complete an application each academic year.

Assistance is awarded for OHLAP Incentive, High School Class Credit Recovery, concurrent fees for high school students attending college, ACT, SAT, GRE, LSAT, MAT and GED fees.

Fees are only paid once per year per category.

Della Wolfe, education intake specialist, said there are currently 144 students being helped. When students come to her she tries to advise them on a good career path.

"The best skills they can learn is in the health field or in computers because that is where the jobs are," said Wolfe.

The ability to help its members attain an education

continued on page 12

THANK YOU

The family of James Hair would like to thank everyone who brought food, sent flowers and stopped by to show us support. Special thanks goes to the Keetoowah Lighthorse, Chief Wickliffe, Assistant Chief Charles Locust, Tribal Secretary Liz Littlegrave, Tribal Treasurer Ella Mae Worley, Tahlequah District Representative Betty Holcomb, Delaware District Representative Jerry Hansen, Saline District Representative Charles Smoke and the other district representatives. We would also like to thank Pastor Randall Cummings of the New Mission Church and Pastor Fox Blackfox of Johnson Prairie Baptist Church and the church members who provided the dinner.

Cindy Hair and daughters
Kim, Stephanie, Teresa, Frankie and Kamisha

WA-DO

We would like to express our appreciation during the loss of our wonderful mother.

Wa-do to those who graciously gave food, flowers, and time. It is such a blessing to receive during the loss of a loved one, so from all of us we thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and love on behalf of our "Mother".

Wa-do
Annie Drywater Gourd Family
Brenda, Billie, Regina, Lisa & Chooge

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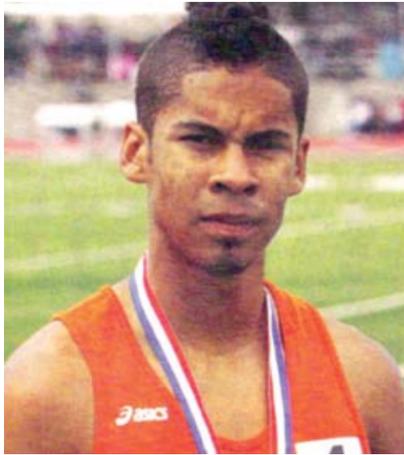
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UKB Athletes

UKB Member Excels in Cross Country and Track and Field

Malando Brown, better known as "Moe" to his family and friends, was encouraged at a young age to start running by Mike Elizondo, a family friend. Elizondo would take his sons and Moe to 5K runs around the Green Country area. This was the beginning of the young man's passion for running. Moe is the son of Kim Jumper-Brown and the grandson of UKB Council member Betty Holcomb.



Malando "Moe" Brown

During the 2009-2010 school year at Tahlequah High School, Moe ended the year coming in 20th at the State Cross Country Meet. It would not be until the 2010 Track and Field season that Moe would take his running talent to the next level with the guidance of his coaches, Jason Proctor and Bart Frank. The coaches would encourage Moe to not just depend on his talent, but the whole track team's talent to make him the runner he is today. He also depended on the support of his best friend, Paul Blevins, who would make sure Moe was up and ready to run in the mornings during the summer.

During the State 5A Track Meet that was held at Tulsa East Central High School, Tahlequah's 3200 meter relay team took the State Gold Medal. The relay team consisted of Rusty Fowler, Ara Poteete, Ben Grant and Moe. In the individual 800 meter run, Moe would take the State Gold Medal. Moe's mom Kim said, "It is a blessing for Moe to be surrounded by a team that supports each other and that they all have the same passion for running."

Among many awards this year, Moe has been named Athlete of the Week by the Tulsa World, Athlete of the Month by the Muskogee Phoenix, Athlete of the Month by Arvest Bank and was also honored with the Character Counts Award by Muskogee Credit Union, which was featured in the VYPE High school sports magazine.

Moe is looking forward to setting and achieving new goals for cross country and track and field for his upcoming senior year at Tahlequah High School. He hopes that he will be able to get a scholarship from a college or university with an excellent cross country and track and field program. One of his long term goals is to be the first United Keetoowah Band member to be on the United States Olympic Track team.

Erianna Drywater wins trophy

Erianna Drywater, 8, played in the Cherokee County Girls Softball League on the Infernos team. The girls won fourth place in the 8 and under age group. Erianna is the daughter of Kim Drywater and Rick Panther. She will be in the third grade at Shady Grove School in the fall.



Erianna Drywater

Oaks Hawks placed 3rd in World Series



The 11 and Under USSSA Baseball team Oaks Hawks placed 3rd in the World Series in Kansas City, Mo on July 18th. The players are from the following communities: Tahlequah, Locust Grove, Oaks, Jay and Kansas. Team was coached by Barry Sanders, Ben "Dink" Cummings and Red Sands.

Chico Foreman Plays with Locust Grove State Champs; Cal Ripkin All Stars

UKB tribal youth Chico Foreman had an outstanding season as a member of the 2010 Twelve and Under Baseball State and Northeastern Oklahoma Champion team, the Locust Grove Outlaws. The young Keetoowah Cherokee had a very special birthday as his team won the state tournament that day.

Chico also played in the Cal Ripkin League for the Boys and Girls Club in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The 2010 Cal Ripkin All Star Team picked up Chico to finish the season out. His family said, "Chico, we're so proud of you!"



Faren Walker Wins with Oklahoma Rockers Team

Faren Walker, 11 has had a winning season in fastpitch softball as a member of the Fort Gibson based Oklahoma Rockers. Faren has been with the Rockers for one year. She is the daughter of Raven Owl and Stephen Walker and the granddaughter of UKB Tribal Treasurer Ella Mae "Cooksey" Worley.

The Oklahoma Rockers won their age division in the Colorado Sparkler, an event held at various locations in Colorado in early July. The Rockers were perfect in eight contests and beat the Chicago Wasco Diamonds 9-3 in Windsor, Colorado. They went on to win the national International Fast Pitch Association 10 and under Division later in the month. The Rockers finished the season with a 63-5 record, with a total of 668 runs, while allowing their opponents a total of only 113 runs.

Rockers players are Lauren Diebold, Taylor Sanchez, Megan Crow, Elixis Watson, Kenzie Mize, Cheyenne Marshall, Brittany Kickapoo, Faren Walker, Tyler McMillan and Jasmine Scott. Clifford Marshall is an assistant coach.



Faren Walker

Braves Runners-up in State Tournament

The Braves, a Cherokee County six and under All-Star baseball and all Indian team comprised of United Keetoowah Band and Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma tribal members completed their regular season as 2010 State Runners-up. The Tournament was held in Durant July 15-18.

The All-Star squad battled high temperatures with near 100 degree weather. Their first game resulted in a loss to the undefeated Durant Rangers with a score of 16 to 17.

The Braves fought back in the Loser's bracket to defeat another home town team, the Durant Angels 21 to 10. With a win over their next opponent the Cherokee County Diamondbacks the Braves gained a rematch with the Durant Rangers. The Rangers faced their first defeat of the season against the Braves by a score of 14-10 earning the Braves a trip to the finals. A championship win met that the Braves would have to defeat the Rangers in a second game; unfortunately the outcome was unfavorable for the Braves.

Motivated by a promise to get Mohawk haircuts by their coaches if the team reached the finals, the Cherokee County All-Stars reached their goal of making it to the championship game. For many of the players, this was their first year playing baseball and all players learned so much during their season and made their fans proud. Coaches for the Braves were Jim Teehee, Jim Hicks, Jim Woodard and Anthony Pritchett.

A special thank you goes out to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma for their support and assistance in helping to achieve the team's goal. Attendance at the tournament would not have been possible without the support from the community. On behalf of the team and their families, we would like to say thank you to all of our sponsors who supported our efforts.

The Coaches would also like to thank the families of the players for their hard work, their fundraisers, and the support they have given their children throughout the season.



Are you a Keetoowah Cherokee with traditional skills??

The Keetoowah Cherokee Language, History and Culture Department is looking for traditional Keetoowah people who would like to share their skills with youth. Whether it is basket-making, stickball, marbles, bow-making, traditional cooking or any other skill, we need you!

Please contact Cindy Hair, Cultural Coordinator at: 918-431-9998



2010 UKB Graduates



MASTER'S DEGREE

Bryan Clark Shade

Bryan Clark Shade graduated with a Master of Business Administration Degree from Northeastern State University. Bryan is the UKB Federal Programs Director and has worked for the tribe for the past five years. He is married to Jennifer and they have two daughters, MaKayla, 5 and Savannah, 1. He is the son of Loy and Dodie Shade and grandson of Leonard and Christine Shade of Hulbert.

His future plans include attending law school at the University of Tulsa or the University of Arkansas.



Bryan Clark Shade

MASTER'S DEGREE

Samantha Bearpaw McGee

Samantha Bearpaw McGee graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences with a Master of Science degree in Nursing – Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. She is the daughter of George Bearpaw of Tucson, Arizona and Nellie Bearpaw of Stilwell, Oklahoma.



Samantha Bearpaw McGee

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Stacey Jera Rachel Brown

Stacey Jera Rachel Brown graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. She was on the President's honor roll for several semesters and graduated Cum Laude.



Stacey Jera Rachel Brown

Stacey is the daughter of Bruce Brown and Marquita D'Amico. She is married to Shaheen Nabatian and has two children, Skylar and Kian Nabatian. She credits her success to the love and support of her family, and hopes to begin her career as an educator this fall.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Dustin Scott

Dustin Scott graduated from Oklahoma Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice. He is the son of Earnie and Geraldine Scott. His grandmothers are Lucille Samples and Ruth Scott. His siblings are D.O. Scott, Deidra Wofford, Davidaa Roberts, Dexter Scott and Drew Scott. His hobbies are hiking, golf and physical fitness.

Dustin's future plans include working for the UKB Casino as Manager on Duty and returning to school to receive his master's degree.



Dustin Scott

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Nikki Renae Jones

Nikki Renae Jones graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with an Associate of Arts degree with an emphasis in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Her parents are Charlie and Wanda Jones and her grandparents are the late Carrie Jones Cochran, and Jennie Cameron. Her sister is Nena Jones and brothers are Jess and Chad Jones.



Nikki Renae Jones

Her hobbies are Intramural Basketball, playing basketball, volleyball, and softball tournaments, spending time with family, going to the movies, and volunteer work. She plans to pursue her Bachelor degree in Science at Northeastern State University and then to transfer to the University of Oklahoma's Medical program.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Robert Alan Conrad

Robert Alan Conrad graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree. His parents are Toni and Randy Conrad. His grandparents are Frank and Clara Smith of Rocky Ford, Elva (Townsend) Conrad of Tahlequah, and Hiawatha Conrad of Tahlequah. His sister is Raelee Conrad.

His hobbies include spending time with family, being outdoors, playing with the family's three dogs and sports. He plans to attend North Carolina State University to pursue a Master of Science in Natural Resources.



Robert Alan Conrad

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Vasiliki Pashos

Vasiliki Pashos graduated from Rogers State University with an Associate Degree in Business Administration.



Vasiliki Pashos

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Quannee Oosahwe

Quannee Oosahwe from Phoenix, Arizona, graduated from Phoenix College with an Associate of Arts Degree. Her parents are Leon and Linda Oosahwe of Mesa, Arizona. Her grandparents are Beatrice Oosahwe of Tahlequah, Oklahoma and Flora Relacion and the late Canuto Relacion of Honolulu, Hawaii. Quannee plans to pursue a B.A. in History and Culture from Arizona State University.



Quannee Oosahwe

HIGH SCHOOL

Tiffany Renee Rea-Knox

Tiffany Renee Rea-Knox, 19 from Tahlequah, Oklahoma, graduated from Sequoyah High School. She was in the National Honor Society. She is the wife of Solomon Knox, and mother to Malikai Knox. She is the daughter of Vicki James of Roland and Grand-daughter of the late Junior James and Fannie Hooper-James of Tahlequah. She has three siblings; Sandy Adair of Roland Oklahoma, Travis Rea of Aurora Colorado, and William Rea of Tahlequah.

Tiffany loves spending time with her son and hanging with her family and friends. Her future goals are to become a nurse.



Tiffany Renee Rea-Knox

HIGH SCHOOL

C. Schuyler McGee

C. Schuyler McGee graduated from Stilwell High School. He was on the Stilwell Indians baseball team, all NOAA Conference, 2010 Outstanding Outfielder. He will be playing in the Heartland All Star Classic. Schuyler's parents are Bill and Samantha McGee and his grandparents are George Bearpaw of Tucson, Arizona and Nellie Bearpaw of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Jim and Betty McGee of Stilwell. His brothers are Dylan, Austin and Bejiman McGee. Schuyler plans to attend Northeastern State University in the fall.



C. Schuyler McGee

HIGH SCHOOL

Ronnie Gene Leach

Ronnie Gene Leach graduated from Hartshorne High School. He is the son of Mark and Kay Leach. His siblings are Kelsey, Jeanetta, John and Ricky Leach. He plans on attending Indian Capital Technology Center to obtain a heating and air certification in the fall.



Ronnie Gene Leach

Vera Rooster

Vera Rooster, 18, from the Tahlequah/Stilwell area graduated from Sequoyah High School. She was in the National Honor Society and received awards from OCAST for doing well in biology and chemistry. Vera is the daughter of the late Jim Rooster of Tahlequah, the niece of Reba Valves of Stilwell and the granddaughter of Letha Dugger of Stilwell.

She loves spending time with her family. Her future goals are attend college and to major in biology.



Vera Rooster

Autumn Jo Studie

Autumn Jo Studie graduated from Stilwell High School. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Sherry Studie and the granddaughter of Twilia Hudson and the late Swimmer and Lizze Studie. Her siblings are Josh and J.J. Barnett and Katie Studie.

Autumn plans to attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah in the fall and her goal is to become a physical therapist.



Autumn Jo Studie

Elizabeth Bird, administrative assistant promotes Tahlequah

One definition of leadership is the ability to guide, direct or influence of people. For the United Keetoowah Band one of the people stepping up to lead is Elizabeth Bird, administrative assistant.

Bird graduated from the Leadership Tahlequah program of the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce.

Class XIII graduated 18 leaders June 15 to an audience of family, friends and local community leaders.

David Moore, executive director of Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce, said the idea of the program is to take small groups of people and develop leadership skills through team building, problem solving and familiarizing the group with various aspects of Tahlequah.

David McClain started the program in 1997 when he was the chamber president. Fourteen people graduated in the first class by completing four class dates.

Now a class takes 10 months to complete with one meeting per month. Each meeting started at 7:30 a.m. and lasted most of the day, with members usually touring multiple places throughout the day.

Currently there are more than 200 graduates of the program.

Bird said she saw an ad in the Tahlequah Daily Press for people interested in the class. She wanted to become more involved in the community and decided this was one way to learn how.

The class toured the Tahlequah Public Schools, city government offices, county government offices, utility offices, the United Keetoowah Band, Northeastern State University, the State Capital and several other places of business during its meetings.

Touring the numerous businesses and governments teaches the class there is more to Tahlequah than most people think.

"You learned so much information in a short amount of time," said Bird. "I was amazed at how much I learned because I didn't know that much about Tahlequah. It was really humbling."

Not only did the class learn about Tahlequah business it also learned how individuals contribute to the town.

"The greatest thing I learned was how I contribute to the economy," said Bird. "Now I try to support the chamber and events sponsored by various local companies every chance I get. I see now how I can give to the community."

Although the class graduated it still plans to work together to service Tahlequah.

Bird said her class is partnering with the city to work on a section of the Tahlequah History Trail, but this is only one project.

"I see my group as being involved in Tahlequah," said Bird.

Bird said her class plans to continue working together to promote and serve the Tahlequah community.

While Bird promotes Tahlequah as a leader she also promotes the United Keetoowah Band to the town as an organization caring about the people in the surrounding area.

Chief George Wickliffe, United Keetoowah Band, said anytime people honestly need help they can come to the United Keetoowah Band for assistance. The United Keetoowah Band supports Tahlequah and all of the 14 counties in its jurisdiction.

To go even further in being a leader, the Native American Alumni of Notre Dame Board elected Bird to serve on the board for the next three years.

Bird said she put her name in to serve on the board. Out of nine people competing for four positions her fellow alumni elected her to serve.

The board works on recruitment, retention, rally, relations and revenue.

Bird said this position allows her to give the UKB exposure to a broader audience and represent small tribe issues to the board.

"The UKB administration is very honored and proud to have Elizabeth be a member and an employee," said Charles Locust, assistant chief of UKB. "This position will allow her to get the UKB name out to areas it probably wasn't really out there before. With her leadership skills, there is no telling where this will lead to or what she can take this to. The sky is the limit as far as possibilities as far as what she wants to do."

By Melvin Thomas Jordan
UKB Writer



Elizabeth Bird, Administration Assistant, displays her certificate and plaque she received at the Leadership Tahlequah Class 13 graduation held at the Tahlequah Municipal Armory Building recently. Bird was also elected to a three-year term on the Native American Alumni of Notre Dame Board.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



UKB Employee MeLinda Cookson Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of The Year

MeLinda Cookson, Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Marketing Director

To some people showing up for work is just a job or a paycheck. For others a job is an extension of themselves and a chance to not only excel in the workplace, but also to promote their employer to the community for the betterment of everyone involved. One such person is MeLinda Cookson, promotion coordinator of the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino. Cookson started working at the casino in the human resources department. At the time the casino did not have a marketing department. Cookson said she pitched promotional ideas to the former general manager and when the casino opened a marketing office she got the job.

To promote the casino and the United Keetoowah Band (UKB) to the community Cookson goes the distance. One of her journeys took her to the Arrowhead Resort on the Illinois River in February for a swim. Cookson said she had an assignment to recruit 500 fans for the casino Facebook page. She decided to challenge the community to join the page. If the quota was met in a one month period, she would take the Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics. Rod Fourkiller, general manager of the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino, told Cookson if she met the time limit he would take the plunge with her. Facebook fans met the quota in one week.

Jumping in freezing cold water is not easy for most people to do, but for Cookson it is even harder. "I'm cold natured," said Cookson. "I freeze during the summer." The cold did not stop her though and she did jump in the river. "I would do it again for Special Olympics," said Cookson. "You can't find a more worthwhile organization."

Along with taking the Polar Plunge, Cookson also walked the Relay For Life and serves Thanksgiving dinner for the less fortunate. Cookson said she was not always so civic minded, but learned the lesson from her mother and grandmother. Both women know the importance of giving back to the community and the necessity of helping those in need. Cookson said her mother is strong-willed and determined. She overcame many obstacles in her life. Those examples taught Cookson many lessons about perseverance. "She is one woman," said Cookson. "I don't know how she did it when we were young."

The effect of those hard earned lessons is evident to those who work with Cookson.

One of her fellow employees nominated Cookson for employee of the year and management agreed with the nomination. "It really comes down to her being a great person," said Fourkiller.

Fourkiller said the biggest client base for the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino is the Tahlequah community. It is the civic duty of the casino to help out the community when it needs something. "They've been good to us and we want to reciprocate when we can," said Fourkiller.

As part of her job in promoting the casino and tribe Cookson joined the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce as an ambassador. Ambassadors attend ribbon cuttings for businesses, membership lunches, grand openings and committee meetings. David Moore, executive director of the Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce, said an ambassador is present at every event the Chamber of Commerce holds. Participation at these events is the largest consideration of determining the Ambassador of the Year. After only one year as an ambassador, Cookson's fellow ambassadors voted her Ambassador of the Year. "Melinda represents the finest hallmarks of what it means to be an ambassador," said Moore. "It is an attitude the people recognize when it comes time to vote."

Between a full time job and ambassadorial duties one would think Cookson does not have time for anything else. They would be wrong. Cookson and her husband, Reece, have seven children and one grandchild. She met Reece in high school where they dated and then went their separate ways. Years later they met each other again and got married.

Her husband helped educate Cookson on a dialect of the English language she was unfamiliar with. To help others ignorant of this dialect Cookson started a Facebook page known as Cooksonisms. An example of a Cooksonism is, "Faster than blue blazes." As a child Cookson dreamed of writing a book, but has not completed this dream. Cookson said the Cooksonism page is a step towards writing a book. If she collects enough sayings she wants to put them in a book similar to the "You May Be a Redneck" book.

Whether promoting the casino or UKB, serving as an ambassador, taking care of her family or preserving Cooksonisms for future generations, Melinda Cookson is giving it her all.

By Melvin Thomas Jordan
UKB Writer

UKB Regular June Council Meeting Minutes

**UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting
At the UKB Community Services Building
June 05, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 12:34 p.m.**

I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe

II. Invocation: Cliff Wofford

III. Roll Call: 7 + Chief answered Roll Call (Fourkiller, Smoke absent) (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb informed they would not be in attendance)

Hansen assisting in benefit fund raiser for church Worley in Alaska being honored by an Alaskan tribe

Holcomb assisting in needs relating to the death of a family member

IV. Chief's Address

- Has been a very active year for the UKB
- Ground breaking ceremonies were conducted for the John Hair Museum

- Every new construction has been named in honor of our elders

- Many people have contributed to the success of the UKB. One such individual was Jim Pickup. Jim Pickup was Chief at the time the UKB By-Laws were written.

- CNO is not the old/original Cherokee Nation. CNO has no history before 1976 when their constitution was approved.

- The newspaper of the Eastern Band mentions a joint meeting of the Eastern Band and CNO, recently held at Catoosa. At this meeting a resolution was passed against "want-to-be Indian tribes." There is a reported number of over 600 such tribes. The individual who wrote the article in the Eastern Band had written the UKB was not present at this joint Council Meeting at Catoosa. (NOTE: The UKB was not invited)

- The question was asked why the UKB was not present at the Catoosa meeting. This question led to a lengthy discussion. Chad Smith reportedly walked out of this meeting. Some of the most traditional people on the Eastern Band Council voiced how this meeting should have included the UKB. The author of this news article informed he was 1/8 Cherokee and was an Echota Indian and that his tribe was a state recognized tribe.

- Cherokee blood quantum for the Eastern Band is 1/16 degree. It is hard to maintain a certain blood degree because if intermarriages which lowers Cherokee Blood degree. (NOTE: Chief Wickliffe said he was not voicing support in changing blood quantum for the UKB. He said the people are in charge of such.

There are people living in the same households where some are UKB members and some are CNO citizens and there are some people who would like to be members of the UKB but cannot meet the 1/4 or more degree of Cherokee blood.

(10:15 AM – Fourkiller & Smoke arrive)

The author of the news article in the Eastern Band newspaper states how the UKB has said; CNO is an organization which was formed in 1976. He asked why does CNO have say, they are a new organization.

Chief Wickliffe: CNO does not have a blood quantum. You only are required to trace back to a name on the Dawes Roll. Blood quantum can only be a "dribble" and you can be a CNO citizen.

There is no doubt, the Keetoowah is the original Cherokee people. We have the history and facts to prove this.

The Keetoowah people have always been in touch with "the Creator." We didn't know who He was but we knew He was there.

Chad Smith says, CNO is the original Cherokee Nation that they were here 10 years before the Trail of Tears. When he says this, he is telling a lie.

The UKB will struggle at times but we now have equal opportunities as other tribes. This was given to us by the EchoHawk decision.

The UKB now has self-governance and that is the biggest thing a tribe can have.

Self-governance allows the UKB to make our own decisions.

The Secretarial Election will be conducted for voting to by-pass the Muskogee Area B.I.A. office in most instances. When making application for taking land into trust there is a process which would involve B.I.A. Regional office. Our level of status would now probably consist of filing the

proper Trust Land application which would be processed through the Muskogee Office. Before the EchoHawk decision every application for trust land was denied at the Muskogee B.I.A. office.

There was a Cherokee Nation until 1906. When Oklahoma became a state the Cherokee Nation was abolished.

The UKB kept leadership through a corporate charter. UKB has always been.

The UKB Casino has provided finances to our tribe. Church ministers who were on the UKB Council recognized the need of finances for the tribe approved "bingo" and as a result, God has blessed the UKB.

God is on our side if we are doing the right thing for the people.

Some people question the need for lawyers but lawyers are necessary for continued progress of our people. Lawyers are vital in UKB business. Lawyers are the eyes and ears of the UKB.

Chief Wickliffe said he honestly believed God shows us the way.

The people are strong when they get involved. The Council is the supreme authority but only when they come together and act and make decisions by vote.

When the Secretarial Election happens, we need to pass the question; to by-pass the Muskogee Regional Office. This election will happen we just don't know when.

V. Approval of the minutes for the month of May 2010

1. MOTION by Charles Locust to approve the Council minutes of May 2010; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb absent)

VI. Presentations -

1. Woodrow Proctor

Spoke of problems at Bell and Greasy schools, RE: concerns for closing, stating would like to help any schools having similar problems but he realizes the UKB cannot save all schools facing similar problems.

Lengthy discussion on schools being supported through ear-marked money from state compacts revenue.

Stressed strong concern for all schools staying open.

Chief Wickliffe: stated he would be willing to assist and guide any school if the school(s) would request his involvement. He spoke of funds which were available to schools.

Lengthy discussion continued.

2. Barry Dotson:

Read a letter of appreciation to Council & Administration from Raven Francis, graduate from Muldrow High School, for dedication of help and support she had received from the tribe.

Announced there would be a benefit on July 1st with proceeds going to funeral cost of Darci Scraper. Mr. Dotson said he was aware the tribe had already assisted toward this need but he felt certain the family would appreciate any additional support.

Chief Wickliffe verified the tribe had actually assisted, then stated he would check into what might could be done.

3. Dora Grayson:

Introduced Maxine Glory, the daughter of past UKB Chief William Glory, for a special presentation to the tribe. Accompanying Maxine was her sister, Francis and her great-niece Jessica Baker. On behalf of the Glory family, Maxine presented an 14 X 22 framed picture of William Glory.

Chief Wickliffe stated the picture would be placed in the John Hair Museum.

4. Barry Dotson:

Informed Linda Eagle had a serious problem with an electric wiring problem whereas; the power is turned off for safety sake.

Chief Wickliffe stated someone would check into this situation.

5. Woodrow Proctor:

Informed Gary Guthrie received assistance from UKB in getting a tree off his house. The tree had fallen during the ice storm.

VII. Reports to Council

1. Enrollment Report: Liz Littledave

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to accept and approve 14 new applicants for UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb absent)

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to acknowledge and honor 1 membership relinquishment from UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb absent)

FYI:

For the month of May 784 applications for elder assistance were processed for a total of \$156,800.00. Elder applications will continue until noon on June 11th.

2. The Enrollment Audit was approved by the auditor. Enrollment = 14,417. Since this current administration came into office, there is a membership increase of 5,598.

VIII. Public Forum

1. Arthur Ross:

Thanked Council for assisting his wife, Adrianna, in her medical needs. Adrianna was now at home. He inquired about a handicapped ramp being built onto his home and to remodel the bathroom to be handicap accessible. He also informed home was leaking and asked if situation could receive attention. Situation was referred to Bryan Shade for needed attention.

Discussion: various possible assistance available.

IX. Unfinished Business – NONE

X. New Business

1. MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve authorization to submit an application to the Indian Health Service in the amount of \$70,000.00 for a Tribal Management Grant; SECONDED by Joyce Fourkiller-Hawk; LENGTHY DISCUSSION: concerns for medical treatment of UKB members; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb absent)

2. MOTION by Woodrow Proctor to approve methodology of determining official childcare count for Child Care Development Fund program; SECONDED by Cliff Wofford; EXPLANATION: Bryan Shade; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb absent)

3. MOTION by Woodrow Proctor to approve the submission of a FY 2010 grant application through the Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Tribal Transit Program for services to Tribal Members; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; LENGTHY DISCUSSION; VOTE: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen, Worley and Holcomb absent)

XI. Announcements

Littledave: encourage District Representatives to encourage children ages 8-14 to attend the Day of Champions on June 18th at the Celebration Grounds.

XII. Benediction: Hominy Littledave

XIII. Adjourn:

MOTION by Charles Locust; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; Approve by affirmation: 12:34 PM



NOTICE

UKB Tribal members should make it a point to change registration for tribal membership at all Indian hospitals and clinics to the full title of United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

Keetoowah Cherokee Casino celebrates 24th Anniversary



The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino celebrated its 24th Anniversary. Established as one of the first Bingo Hall in the state of Oklahoma, later adding Class II electronic games the UKB tribe is grateful for having a casino establishment such as this. Pictured are, seated front row, left to right, Tribal Treasurer Ella Mae Cooksey, Chief Wickliffe, and Tribal Secretary Liz LittleDave. Standing back row, left to right, Cody Quetone, Accounting Supervisor; MeLinda Cookson, Marketing Director; Rodney Fourkiller, General Manager; Dianne Barker Harrold, UKB In-House Counsel; and Mickey Spears, Surveillance Director.

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is a great feat. Not all tribes or organizations can afford to help its members financially.

"I think it's amazing," said Cody Robinson, NSU student. "It goes to show that even in these highly political and bureaucratic times, the United Keetoowah Band places the citizens first. After tuition costs and book costs, I normally don't have very much money left to spend on things such as fraternity dues and the trip to the state capital with the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature each semester. Since I don't really have the time to work during the school year, the extra \$750 a semester is a godsend."

The money for college students can be used for whatever they deem necessary, but sometimes the money is essential to finishing school.

Elizabeth Bird, UKB administrative assistant, said the assistance she received kept her in her last year at seminary.

"It absolutely helped me out," said Bird. "The only way to finish school and come home was to pay for my classes. They really helped out the last year because money was really tight."

For the students who make their way through school, the UKB goes further and rewards graduates with a bonus.

Bonuses are \$200 for 1050 hours of vo-tech, \$300 for an associate degree, \$400 for a bachelor's degree and \$500 for a master's degree, doctorate or law degree.

The funds for this program come from the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino general fund.

"I explain to everyone God is pretty good," said Wolfe. "We have to rely on all of our funding from casino money. If someone wants to say thank you to the tribe, they are the ones to thank. We are lucky to get this much."

All assistance and bonuses are contingent on the availability of funds.

By Melvin Thomas Jordan
UKB Writer

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Rayna Dee Pratt

Rayna Dee Pratt was born April 22, 2010. Her mother is Jessica Pratt. Her grandmother is Die-dra Robbins and her great grandmother is Juanita Robbins.




Miss & Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Pageant

Entry Deadline:
Thursday,
September 2

Pageant Date:
Friday,
September 17

Education Scholarships will be awarded to the winners




Help us encourage eligible young ladies to enter the competition. It is a great place to meet new people and make lasting friendships. Excellent learning experience. Awards presented to first, second, and third place. Participants must be between 13-17 years old for Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee and 18-21 years old for Miss Keetoowah Cherokee.
Call (918) 456-8698 for more information.

Check out our website at: www.ukb-nsn.gov or www.unitedkeetoowahband.org