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NEW ROYALTY
Olivia Briggs is crowned Miss Indian Bacone 2023-24.
ANI GIDUWAGI, 7

GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY A&P Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma May 2023

Cherokee tribes unite at D.C. festival

BY LANI HANSEN
Senior Reporter

WASHINGTON – The United Keetoowah Band, Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians joined together in celebration of the annual Cherokee Days in Washington, D.C.

The three-day festival celebrated its seventh year from when it started in 2014. The festivities included meet-and-greet sessions with tribal officials from UKB and Cherokee Nation. Artists representing the UKB, Cherokee Nation and Eastern Band presented their work throughout the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian.

John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum Director Ernestine Berry has been attending this festival from the beginning. She helped organize the first year of Cherokee Days. With her knowledge of the tribe, it has led Berry to take what she knows and present it at the festival. She has been sharing the history of the

Keetoowah tribe at Cherokee Days every year.

“This festival allows us as Keetoowah, to show people who we are and that we exist from being overshadowed by Cherokee Nation,” Berry stated about Cherokee Days. “I try and tell people the differences between the three Cherokee tribes when I present.”

This past year Berry was placed on the agenda for two sessions, and she spoke on “Who Are The Keetoowahs?”

The three-day festival featured storytelling, traditional flute music, traditional dancing demonstrations, music from the Cherokee National Youth Choir and hands-on activities in the activity center of the museum.

The activity center hosted corn husk dolls making, clay turtle medallions, miniature gourd masks and paper mat weaving for the children.

The crew from Cherokee Nation’s Osiyo TV was showing clips from their Cherokee Almanac Series. Artists demonstrated basket weaving, loom weaving,



Tradition Keeper Carrie Vance demonstrates loom weaving at the annual Cherokee Days in Washington, D.C. The three-day festival was held from March 31 to April 2 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

SEE DAYS, PAGE 2



United Keetoowah Band member Kyndal Neugin, left, visits with the Buddhist priest, Ono, at the Chuo-ji Temple in Hokkaido, Japan, as part of a cultural exchange program through the Kakehashi Program. PHOTOS COURTESY OF KYNDAL NEUGIN

Three UKB members were involved in a cultural exchange program with Japan’s International Council.

BY SHAYLEY FOURKILLER
Media Intern

TAHLEQUAH – Three UKB members were involved in a cultural exchange program with Japan’s International Council. The Center for Tribal Studies at Northeastern State University oversaw their part in the Kakehashi Program, which also included Howard University in Washington, D.C.

UKB member and NSU Tribal Studies Chaperone for the Kakehashi Program Melody Proctor said the program “is to promote deeper mutual understanding among the people of Japan and the United States. It encourages future leaders of U.S.-Japan exchanges to form networks, and help young people develop wider perspectives for potential active roles at the global level.”

UKB member and full-time NSU student, Raelie Grayson, was excited to share her culture and experiences with her Japan cohorts. Grayson showed her cultural food and tribal attire presentation, which covered the traditional Kituwah clothing post-Columbus contact, over a teleconference leading up to the trip overseas. After the trip had been postponed for two years

due to COVID, the group looked forward to learning more about what Japan has to offer culturally. They toured two temples in Hokkaido and Japan and stayed with a host family for a day to experience everyday Japanese life.

Kyndal Neugin, UKB member and a NSU student, was also a part of the tribal attire presentation, showing and explaining her Navajo moccasins. Neugin was also able to share storytelling with other counterpart of Hokkaido and Tokai University, telling “Why the Turtle hides in his Shell” by Robert Lewis.

Kyndal found that even though they were thousands of miles away, the Indigenous peoples of Japan, the Ainu, were very similar to Indigenous peoples from the U.S. by the way they made baskets, were forced to relocate when Japan was colonized and how their language was suppressed. The NSU students fondly call them their “brothers and sisters across the sea.”

The women were encouraged and comforted to know that sharing their language and culture was taken so well. Both students were grateful to be able to go after two years of cultural correspondence. To learn about travel opportunities, call NSU Center for Tribal Studies at 918-444-4350 or follow it on Facebook.

UKB Child Development Center breaks ground

HLDCDC focuses on the safety of kids with a multipurpose storm shelter.

BY LANI HANSEN
Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – The United Keetoowah Band Office of Child Care administrators, tribal administrators and MASKA Builders representatives celebrated the groundbreaking of the multipurpose storm shelter expansion at the Henry Lee Child Care Center.

The expansion will include three offices, a kitchen, a storm shelter/gym area and two classrooms. It is expected to be completed by fall 2023, according to HLDCDC Director Christie Kirk.

“This expansion will double as a gym and shelter for the kids to play and stay safe during a storm,” Kirk said. “We are excited about it; we’ll be able to offer a year-round school age group.”

The year-round program will be offered during school breaks such as summer, winter and spring for children ages 4-12. The cost of this program varies, beginning at \$75 a week.

“For the summer program, it’s tough to get kids in because we have parents who apply early and we just want to be fair to everyone,” Kirk said. “This year we will not be able to offer a summer program at all, but I hope by the fall we will start offering it.”

HLDCDC is currently serving about 46 children. Kirk said its largest class is between the infants and 2-year olds, and with the new expansion one of the classrooms will be for additional infants.

The center was established in June 2006. They accept children 6 weeks to 4 years of age and its mission is to provide quality, worry-free, educational childcare for community children. Working in the center is a service driven team of individuals dedicated to the goal of meeting the needs of each individual child, while educating and assisting the child’s family.

HLDCDC is a certified 2-star facility that is currently contracted with OKDHS and several tribal subsidy programs.

The Henry Lee Doublehead CDC is managed by Director Christie Kirk. For inquiries or to check enrollment availability, call 918-871-2799. To download an application for childcare enrollment, visit, <https://www.ukb-nsn.gov/henryleecdc>.



From left are CCDF Manager Kim Hair, HLDCDC Director Christie Kirk, Site Manager Makayla Mouse and Childcare Program Analyst Leslie Bark. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



Kakehashi Program participants and chaperones.



United Keetoowah Band member Raelie Grayson pictured at the Meiji Shrine in Harajuku, Tokyo, Japan.



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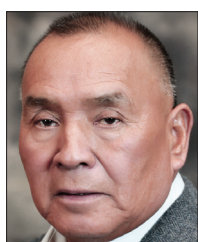
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Sharing our culture in U.S. capital

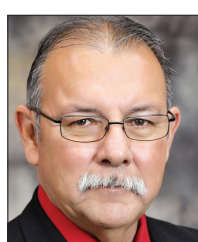
Gi do wa go we la
April has been a very busy month! We are almost through the severe weather season, with the month of May remaining, but today's sever weather can happen any time, so be careful.

It is also allergy season as well. Growing up as a kid, I never knew I had allergies, but today I do, stuffy noise and so on. So, take care of yourself out there, because the next season is one of my favorites too, the time for some amazing fried green tomatoes!

April began with District Representatives, Alvin Hicks, Clifford Wofford, Elmer Panther, Levi Catron, Officers Joyce Hawk, Sonja Gourd and me, elders and tradition keepers going to Washington DC for Cherokee Days held at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. Cherokee Days is sharing with the world who we are, our traditions and language of the three federally recognized Cherokee tribes.

The first day was a reception of the three tribes, followed by two days of basket making, flint knapping, bow making, song singing, storytelling, flute playing, meet and greeting the Chiefs. This was the first time we had such a representation, meeting folks who wanted to know our history, especially after hearing from the John Hair Museum curator Ernestine Berry. She delivered a message of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and who we are not. We are not the foreign federally recognized tribe or dormmat tribe, we are the tribe the creator named Keetoowah.

The Eggstravaganza was held on the grounds in early April and there is still talk of the smiling faces looking for easter eggs. I thank the Henry Lee Doublehead



Chief's Corner

JOE BUNCH
Principal Chief
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Child development Center staff, and all departments' staff and volunteers who helped make this year's activity a huge success. I thank the parents who allowed their children to take part in the UKB Eggstravaganza. The departments and staff are already discussing next year activity.

We have had some delay with breaking ground on the new Tag Office and the Child Care Center expansion. The Child Care Center in Stilwell in moving forward and we look forward to opening this fall. Our Stilwell sub-office recently move to the UKB Transportation Office next to Walmart in Stilwell, so be sure to stop in and say Siyo.

The Treasurer, Secretary and I attended the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board Conference in Durant, OK. There were many health-related sessions and keynote speakers. One of the sessions, I went to was dealing with males being victimized and abused. There is nowhere to report these types of crimes. Male victims are looked down on as law enforcement and agency officials find difficulty in males wanting to break the stigma that 'males don't get abused', when they do.

Another session dealt with data collection. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma received an award for their unique way of capturing and receiving data.

One method was the use of art. Grade schoolers were asked how they saw themselves as grown-ups. They were provided with art supplies, and they drew themselves as doctors, and so on, with money and buying homes for their family. However, the most popular answer was about money, the children wanted to be rich and take care of the family. Another technique, using building and making things like ribbon shirts and stick ball sticks, participants would sit around making the shirt while discussing issues at hand. This is a simple example of data collection utilizing a different method of collection.

Assistant Chief Wacoche was elected to be the Palmer Mosley of the Chickasaw Nation tribal representative and elected by peer tribes as an alternate to the Tribal Interior Budget Committee. As an alternate, he represents the UKB and 17 tribes from NE Oklahoma. The discussion was the FY 2024 budget and was held in Washington DC. In reviewing the Interior budget, the Assistant Chief commented on the federal process and how the process works. He also learned how the budgets are assigned to the different regions. In Oklahoma there are two regions, Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains. Assistant Chief stated that being a committee representative is very enlightening and he was happy to be able to bring the information back to our tribe. Great job Assistant Chief!

In closing I ask you to pray for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, officers, district representatives and for the M-opinion to be in our favor. My door is always open, and my cell phone is 918-772-0666.
Wa do, do da go hv i

Feeling at home at Kituwah Mound

I recently visited the Kituwah mound and was invited to the stomp dance later that evening. The members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians were there that day. That evening at the stomp dance, I introduced myself as Kituwah from Oklahoma. They all told me, welcome home.

This was the first visit I had experienced to North Carolina. I felt like I really was home and they made me feel welcome



Council Note

ELMER PANTHER
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and I was taken care of by our distant "family". They fed me, gave me a chair

to sit in and just had a really great time there enjoying the fellowship.

They really had high regards for the Kituwah. I felt like they were happy to have a proud Kituwah in their presence. I just want to say I am very proud to be Kituwah. I want to thank and acknowledge Ernestine Berry for all her hard work bringing and keeping the history of the Kituwah alive and well.
Wado

DAYS: The UKB takes six Tradition Keepers.

FROM PAGE 1

bead work, twining, stone carving, wood carving, flint knapping, painting, pottery, moccasins and how to make balls used for stickball.

The UKB was able to take six of the Tradition Keepers in Berry, Matt Girty, Janelle Adair, Carrie Vance, Michelle Downing and Charlotte Kingfisher-Wolfe. They were also joined by four of the district Reps. Cliff Wofford, Alvin Hicks, Junior Catron and Elmer Panther. Chief Joe Bunch, Treasurer Sonja Gourd and Secretary Joyce Hawk were also present. According to Berry, this was the first year the tribe was able to send so many representatives to attend the festival. Panther commented on how this was his first trip there and he had a really good time overall.

"My experience in D.C. was surreal. I've always seen the pictures of all the historic buildings and monuments in school but to see them up close and personal was very impressive," Panther said. "I met so many people, some from the Eastern Band of Cherokee and a couple from CNO. The part I enjoyed the most was I got to



Chief Joe Bunch, Delaware District Rep Elmer Panther, Sequoyah Rep Junior Catron, Tahlequah Rep Alvin Hicks and Cooweescoowee Rep Cliff Wofford attend the Cherokee Days Reception. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

hang out with Chief Bunch, Sonja, Joyce, Councilman Catron, Councilman Wofford, Councilman Hicks and the other UKB delegates. It was really a good bonding experience for me."

He is hoping to take his wife back with him someday and show her around. Gourd also said it was her first time

going to Cherokee Days .

"It was good to come together and collaborate on our culture as a whole," she said.

Although many people couldn't attend the festival, the museum has posted some sessions on its Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@SmithsonianNMAI>.

THE UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND'S OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MAY 26 FOR EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY AND MAY 29 FOR MEMORIAL DAY.

GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

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KEETOOWAHS IN ACTION

UKB employees take a break from cleaning debris in Shawnee after a tornado hit the town on April 19. From left are Buck Nofire, Archie Vance, David Collins and Curtis Hummingbird with an unidentified homeowner COURTESY PHOTOS



UKB employees Curtis Hummingbird and David Collins cut up a downed tree in Shawnee following an April 19 tornado.



ABOVE: The Easter Bunny shows up at the 2023 Eggstravaganza community egg hunt in April at the UKB Cultural Grounds. SHAYLEY FOURKILLER/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



RIGHT: Kids of all ages enjoy hunting eggs during the UKB's Eggstravaganza community egg hunt. SHAYLEY FOURKILLER/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



The 2023-24 Miss Indian Bacone Olivia Briggs receives her sash after winning the title on April 10. See story on Page 7. COURTESY



2023-24 Miss Indian Bacone Olivia Briggs is pictured with first runner-up Jayla McIntosh, left of Briggs, and second runner-up Allison Primeaux, right of Briggs. COURTESY



UKB administration and dignitaries break ground on the Henry Lee Doublehead CDC expansion on March 28. See story on Page 1. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



Tradition Keeper Janelle Adair shares stories during the Cherokee Days festival in Washington, D.C. See story on Page 1. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



A rivercane gathering participant studies rivercane by Barren Fork Creek. UKB ethnobiologist Roger Cane led the gathering. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



UKB ethnobiologist Roger Cane shares info on rivercane to participants at a rivercane gathering. LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

OBITUARIES

Brenda (Wolfe) Bird

Brenda (Wolfe) Bird was born on October 26, 1952, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Annetta Duncan and Jeff Wolfe. She passed from this life on April 1, 2023, at the age of 70 years.

Brenda loved listening to her oldies, watching her shows, and being with her

husband. She was the sweetest woman and made friends everywhere she went.

Canning food, cooking, and making everyone laugh was her specialty, but there was nothing more she loved to do than spend time with her grandkids and the babies.

Brenda was preceded in death by both parents Annetta and Jeff, her

grandparents Sarah and Taylor Duncan, sister Linda Duncan, brother Pete Eli, and great-grandbabies Jordyn and Kyson Lyman.

Those left here to cherish Brenda's memory is her husband Leo Bird and her children Vickie Rueda of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Lynetta Bird and husband Eric Canoe of Stilwell, Oklahoma,



Lysandra Torres and husband Cory Torres of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; grandkids Vernon Gann, Vernice Gann, Kaleesha Gann, DeLacie Bird, KeJuan Rueda, Desha Canoe, and Jakoby Torres; great-grandkids Riley Beaver and Acasia Lyman; two special nieces Chelsey Harvey and Lorielynn Loman and her brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who loved and care for very much.

Andrew Dreadfulwater Jr.

Andrew Dreadfulwater Jr., age 76 of Stilwell, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, April 6, 2023 at the Brentwood Extended Care in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Cremation has taken place and Memorial Graveside Service was held April 17 at the Cedar Tree Cemetery with Dale Wilson officiating under the direction of the Hart Funeral Home.

Andrew Dreadfulwater Jr. was born



December 14, 1946, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Andrew Sr. and Rebecca (Manus) Dreadfulwater.

He joined the Army after he graduated from Chilocco Indian Schools and attended NEO for a short time. He liked OU football and enjoyed going to the casino for fun. He was a journey painter for many years.

Andrew is survived by two brothers, Albert Dreadfulwater and wife Sheila of Tahlequah, Phillip Dreadfulwater and wife Karla of Longview, Texas; three sisters, Charlotte Essman, Rebecca Dreadfulwater, Angelina Badillo and husband Humberto all of Tahlequah; his sons Donald Ray Dreadfulwater, Anthony Dreadfulwater, and Andrew Dreadfulwater 3rd; four grandchildren, Angel Rose Rynnice Dreadfulwater, Lylli Proctor, Nathan Dreadfulwater, Savannah Rose Dreadfulwater.

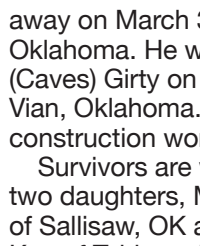
Andrew was preceded in death by his parents and daughter Stacey Dreadfulwater

Andrew was a good man who was well traveled. He always had a smile and enjoyed playing music whenever he had the chance. He never met a stranger, and will be remembered for his music that he made with his guitar and songs that showed his love for family. Andrew will be dearly missed.

Mike Snake Girty

Funeral service for Mike Snake Girty, 82 of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, were April 3 at Agent Mallory Martin Chapel in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Burial followed at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Vian, Oklahoma under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Service.

He was born on January 23, 1941 in Vian, Oklahoma to Bessie Mae (Hicks) Girty and Frank Girty and passed



away on March 30, 2023 in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. He was married to Julie (Caves) Girty on December 15, 1974 in Vian, Oklahoma. Mr. Girty was a retired construction worker and a Christian.

Survivors are wife, Julie of the home; two daughters, Michelle Lee and Craig of Sallisaw, OK and Barbara Foster and Ken of Tahlequah, OK; one son, Michael Girty of Sallisaw, OK; seven grandchildren, Brooklyn Gerred and Clay of Yukon, OK, Brandon Lee and Tabitha of

Muldrow, OK, Sway Girty of Sallisaw, OK, Jacqueline Girty of Stilwell, OK, Jennifer Alverson and Michael of Keys, OK and Timothy Roberson and Deana of Park Hill, OK; 13 great-grandchildren, Raelynn, Jaedy, Herbert III, Aden, Kallie, Maison, Addison, Amiyv, Jaxson, Blakelyn,

Daxon, Roary and Mavrick; one sister, Wynona Christie of Vian, OK;

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Gypsy Girty and four brothers, Monroe, Archie, Robert and John Girty.

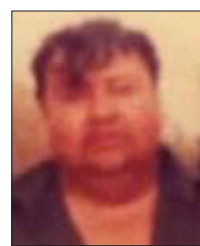
Active Pallbearers will be Craig Lee, Michael Girty, Sway Girty, Clay Gerred, Brandon Lee and Timothy Roberson.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Monroe Girty, Jr., Lance Teague, Phillip Thomas and Jacob Caves.

Billy Gregory

Billy Gregory was born on February 6, 1978, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to Merle and Ella Mae Gregory. Billy would pass from this life on March 31, 2023, in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Billy was a good man. He was always willing to lend a hand. There was never a moment when he wasn't laughing or had a smile on his face. Billy always loved to make jokes, either in a good



way or a bad way. He really loved spending time with his kids whenever he got the chance.

Billy loved going to church, talking about God, watching movies, and watching his favorite show "Bones". His best friend was a sock monkey (George) and Nick Fourkiller who was more like a

brother than just a friend.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents Merle and Ella Mae Gregory, and brother Bobby Ross.

Those left here to cherish Billy's memory is his sons William Gregory and wife Delacie Bird of Stilwell, Oklahoma; four daughters Hayley Harjo of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Summer Shell and husband Syneka (Simba) Lyman of Kansas, Oklahoma, Channelle Gregory and husband Carlos Rivas Martinez

(Mamacita) of Stilwell, Oklahoma, and Latavia Roland of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; grandkids Carmelo Wayne Rivas Martinez and soon to be granddaughter in May, and Vincent Harjo; siblings Vanessa Gregory, Levonna Grimmert, Robert Harjo, and Donald Grimmert; and a host of nephews, family, and friends.

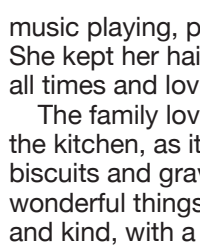
Billy wouldn't want anyone to be sad for too long. He would want everyone to remember the love, laughter, and good memories.

Annie Sue Holcomb

Annie Sue "Nan" Holcomb was born on March 22nd, 1956 in Tahlequah, OK, the daughter of Johnson and Eliza (Pigeon) Holcomb. She grew up in the Tailholt and Tahlequah community, attending Tenkiller School along with her six brothers and two sisters, Charley, Jeff, Richard, Betty, Henry, Oley, Joe and her twin sister, Mamie Sue.

She loved playing basketball. She attended and graduated from Tahlequah High School. She decided on a raising a family as her most important goal in life. She raised a family of three children, Roger Brian, Kimberly and Andrea. She spent her days caring for her home, family and special companion, Randy Zamitalo, and partner of 26 years, Tim Taylor.

Along with her canine companions Chad and Baxter, you could find her out in her yard, tending to her flower beds. In the background would be some



music playing, probably George Strait. She kept her hair and makeup done at all times and loved to go out.

The family loved to see her going to the kitchen, as it meant Indian Tacos, biscuits and gravy, and any number of wonderful things to eat. She was loving and kind, with a caring heart, that also was outgoing and sure to make you laugh. She adored time spent with her daughters and her grandchildren, they were the light of her life.

She was proud of her Cherokee heritage and carried on many of the traditional ways, including her membership in the Stokes Smith Ceremonial Ground, and attended stomps every chance she had. She passed from this life on April 3, 2023 in Tulsa, OK, surrounded by those that loved her. She was 67 years old and will be greatly missed.

She has gone on to join her grandparents, Thomas and Annie (Scott) Pigeon, and George and Betsy (Bunch)

Holcomb. She also joins her parents, her companion, Randy Zamitalo, five brothers, Charley, Richard, Jeff and Oley, Joe, twin sister, Mamie, and two grandchildren, Patricia McClendon and Randi McClendon.

Those left to celebrate her life include her daughters, Kimberly Williams and husband Tony of Midlothian, TX and Andrea Zamitalo and companion Glenn Hamby of Muskogee, OK. She leaves her son, Roger Brian Keys of Tahlequah. She leaves one brother, Henry Holcomb and wife Shirley of Briggs, OK, and one sister, Betty Holcomb of Tahlequah. She will live on in her thirteen grandchildren, Tony Mac Williams III of Midlothian, TX, Tristin Williams of Midlothian, TX, Alissa Keys and fiancé Lauren Keys of Midlothian, TX, Brooke Keys and



fiancé James Smith of Midlothian, TX, Nevaeh Large of Muskogee, OK, Tori Large of Muskogee, OK, Haylie Large of Muskogee, OK, Cody McClendon of Muskogee, OK, Ryan Keys of Tahlequah, Darion Keys of Tahlequah and Taylor Keys of Tahlequah, OK, and four great grandchildren, Rylee Smith, Riley Keys, Avery Sequichie and Denver Sequichie, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends and loved ones.

Funeral services for Annie Sue "Nan" Holcomb were April 6 at Reed-Culver Funeral Home with Chief Joe Bunch officiating and Jackie Bush at the Committal Service. She was laid to rest at Caney Cemetery with her family. Pallbearers for Annie include Tony Mac Williams III, Tristin Williams, Moe Brown, Wesley Hudson, Alissa Keys, and Will Atkins. Her honorary pallbearers include Tony Williams Jr., Roger Keys, Henry Holcomb, Ricky Holcomb and Glenn Dale Hamby.

Mildred Kauley

Funeral service for Mildred Kauley, 88 of Lawton was held April 11, 2023 at Lawton Ritter Gray Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Phil Goombi officiating. Burial was at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK.

Mrs. Kauley passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2023, in Lawton, OK.

Mildred Maxine (Ross) Kauley was born to Field and Maggie Ross at the Claremore Indian Hospital on August 17, 1934. She grew up in rural Mayes County, Oklahoma, near the small town of Salina. As a child, she began her education in a one-room county school where she learned to speak English, a language very different from the Cherokee language that was fluently spoken in her family's home.



Maxine attended school at Chilocco Indian School and Salina High School, where she played basketball. She wasn't very tall, but she developed an outside shot and she could make it rain!

She was also Salina royalty as the very first Chouteau Day queen. After high school Maxine attended Bacone College in Muskogee, OK.

It was in choir class that she caught the eye of the young man that she would eventually marry. On October 7, 1953, after a Sunday church service in Salina, she wed Reuben Kauley. Soon after, their adventure as an Army family began. For the next 20 years they spent time at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Fort

Chaffee, Arkansas.

They did two tours in Germany before heading back to Fort Lewis, and eventually on to Fort Sill where Reuben retired after 20 years of military service. They settled in Lawton where they made their forever home with their four children. After Reuben's retirement, Maxine went back to college and earned a degree in Elementary Education from Cameron University. Reuben passed away on August 25, 2003, just a few weeks shy of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Maxine was a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. She enjoyed sewing and watching sports, especially Lawton High Football, and Atlanta Braves Baseball. She also liked to sing; she was a past participant of the Handel's Messiah Performance, held in Lawton every December.

Maxine was a devout Christian and she attended a number of Baptist Indian churches in Southwest Oklahoma throughout the years. She volunteered her time in the children's house at the annual Easter Pageant in the Wichita Mountains for a number of years.

She is survived by her son, Gary Lee and wife, Carolyn, of Norman; daughters, Becky Kraetzer, also of Norman, and Candy Taylor and her husband, Chris, of Lawton. She was the grandmother of five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, her parents, her brothers Floyd and Norman Ross, her sisters Amelia Haven and Norma Jean Sanders, her daughter, Suzanne Whitlock, her son-in-law, Keith Kraetzer, and three grandchildren.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

The United Keetoowah Band wants to be a source of comfort during a family's most difficult time. The UKB's Burial Assistane program can assist members with up to \$3,000 for funeral services or cremation costs. Please call 918-871-2800 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for a list of approved funeral homes we partner with and income guidelines for this program.

www.ukb-nsn.gov/human-services info@ukb-nsn.gov 918-871-2800

OBITUARIES

Viola (Feathers) Lopez

Viola (Feathers) Lopez, known to many as Guwisto, was born on September 22, 1951 in Tahlequah Oklahoma. She passed from this life on Wednesday March 29, 2023 in Tulsa Oklahoma at the age of 71 years 6 months and 7 days.

Viola was a member of Cherry Tree Baptist Church and attended as her health permitted. Viola loved spending

time with family and friends. She enjoyed going to yard sales and having yard sales of her own.

Her family will remember for the love that she showed them. Her willingness to always help. Also by the things she taught them. Things like gathering wild onion, mushrooms, and crawdads. She enjoyed attending ball games of her loved ones and cheering on the Dallas Cowboys. She married the love of her

life and best friend Victorio Lopez on February 23, 2013.

She worked for many years at Dahlongah school where she retired. You might have also seen her working the concession stand or the ticket gate at the Stilwell Little League games.

Viola was preceded in death by her mother; Eunice Chuculate, father; Sessler Feathers, step father; Bill Chuculate, Sisters; Linda Littledeer, Josie Vann, Betty Duncan, and Norma



Lowe, brother; Ed Feathers, Sister in law; Janis Sawney, brother in law; Tim Lowe, niece; Shelly Black, and nephew; Jimmy Lee Sawney.

She is survived by her loving husband; Victorio Lopez, sister Virginia and husband Carl Black, sister Mary Feather, brother Jimmy Ray Sawney, all of Stilwell oK, sisters Fannie Robinson of Fayetteville AR and Linda Wyatt of Decator AR, brother Mike Feather of Worlds, Maryland. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

Tonya Kay Vann Reyes-Romero

Tonya Kay Vann Reyes-Romero, age 43 of Jay, OK went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Tonya was born on February 15, 1980 to Jerry and Velma "Cherk" Vann Tagg in Jay, Oklahoma.

Tonya attended Kansas Public Schools, Kansas, OK. She loved spending time with her kids and husband. She was a homemaker that loved doing yard work and burning stuff around the house, whatever she could get her hands on. She also loved



doing crafts, sewing, going out for cruises around town. Tonya absolutely loved gambling and was an avid Texas Longhorns fan.

Tonya was preceded in death by her mother Velma Tagg; Sister, Jerilynn Leach; mother-in-law, Maria.

Tonya is survived by her husband Jorge of the home; sons, Christan, Pedro, and Sampson of the home; Daughters, Natalia, Novalee, and Lupe

of the home and special niece Jasmine; Dad, Jerry Tagg of Kenwood, OK; Sisters, Carmelita Vann of Kenwood, OK, Katie Phillips and husband David of Jay, OK, her twin, Tina Turner and husband Josh of Kenwood, OK, Jo Delgadillo and husband Victor of Jay, OK, Kim and husband Adrian Esparza of Kansas, OK; Brothers, Crandall Tagg and girlfriend Ruby of Ketchum, OK, Tre' and Kimmy Tagg of Kenwood, OK; Special friends, Lisa Watkins and Kim James; Bonus kids Ty, Jayce, Cameron, Gavin, Jaylam, Chandler, Marcus, Brooklyn, Hallen, Creden, Kierra and

Jaydence; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Tonya will be missed dearly by her family and friends.

Tonya's Wake Service was held on March 30, 2023, followed by her family visitation to greet friends at Lawson's Funeral Homes & Cremation Services.

Tonya's Celebration of Life Funeral Service was March 31 at Lawson's Funeral Homes & Cremation Services in Jay with Rev. Stanley Grass officiating. Followed by her funeral procession to Euwasha Cemetery, Kenwood, OK.

Joe Edward Rooster

Joe Edward Rooster was born on May 2nd, 1942 in Briggs, OK, the son of Dobson and Arlie (Ratt) Rooster.

He grew up in Briggs, Jay and Tahlequah communities with his two brothers and five sisters, William, Jim, Sarah, Betsy, Lucinda, Peggy, and Martha.

He attended school and then was enlisted into the United States Army and was stationed in the C Company 2nd Battalion, serving in the infantry, in Fort Ord, CA. he remained in the Army National Guard until his honorable discharge in 1975.

He returned to the Tahlequah area, the place he called home and it was here he began his family. He married Sandra Jones and together they raised a family of two sons, Dobson and Sammy. He also had one daughter Renee.

Joe was a hard working man that

loved life just the way he found it in his hometown. He held various jobs as a laborer. When he wasn't at work, he was taking the family out for a little fishing and camping, hunting and gathering wild onions, crawdads, wishi, strawberries, blackberries, and blueberries just to name a few.

He was an accomplished shade tree mechanic and could get a few more miles out of the old car and quick to give advice on how to fix a vehicle. Joe liked collecting time pieces and figurines of animals. He had never met a stranger and loved to go to town and talk with people and home visits when he could, he was everyone's friend.

Most days, especially on Sundays were devoted to the Savior he served. He taught Sunday School and served as the Director, and attended faithfully at the First Indian Baptist Church of Tahlequah. He served as Layman at the DD Etchison Church and sang in the

DD Etchison Adult Cherokee Choir, he loved his church family. And singing in Cherokee. He loved sharing his faith with others. His wife passed from this life and Joe remained close to his children.

The Lord called this good and faithful servant home from his many labors on April 2nd, 2023 at Tahlequah, OK, surrounded by those that loved him and knew him best. He was 80 years old and lived a full life.

He has gone home to join his grandparents, James and Lucy (Bullett) Rooster and James and Sally (Jumper) Ratt. His parents, Dobson Rooster and Arlie Ratt, precede him, his wife, Sandra in 1997, all of his brothers and sisters, William, Jim, Sarah Swimmer, Betsy Turtle, Lucinda Wilkerson, Peggy



Daugherty, and Martha Spade. One niece, Roberta Olvera, one nephew, Levi Spade and two great nephews, Steven Spade and Alvin (Sonny) Oliver.

He will be lovingly remembered by his children, Renee Goodwin and husband Tim of Springfield, MO, Dobson Rooster and wife Denise of Tahlequah, OK, and Sammy Rooster and wife Betty of Tahlequah, OK. He will live on in his six grandchildren, Steven Rooster and wife Katlin of Wagoner, OK, Jordan Rooster, Joshua Rooster, Treven Rooster all of Tahlequah, Kayla Rooster of Hulbert, OK, and Monte LaRoque, Jr. and wife Hope of Tahlequah. He leaves his great grandchildren, Harper Faith Rooster, Oliver Ray Rooster, Archer James Rooster, Phoenix LaRoque, Kyden LaRoque, Keelie LaRoque, and Asher LaRoque as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends and loved ones too numerous to mention.

Fayola Shell

Fayola Shell was born on April 17, 1967 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She departed this life to be with our Lord on March 20, 2023, in Springfield, Missouri at the age of 55.

Fayola was a member at Oakridge



Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending time with her two boys and granddaughter. She was always willing to help anyone in any way she could. She will always be in

our hearts.

Those who went on before her are her parents Ancie Mae Soap-Shell, Mose Shell Sr., one baby brother Billy Wayne Shell, three uncles Ute, Billy, and Calvin Soap, two aunts Lela Mae Soap and Hattie Soap.

She is survived by her two sons

Terrance and Terran Shell, one granddaughter Eleena Shell, three brothers Terry Shell and wife Janice, Mose Shell Jr., and Billy Jack Sanders, one sister Patsy Shell. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. We will miss her dearly.

LUNCH MENU

The United Keetoowah Band's Title VI Lunch Menu for May 2023 in the Jim Proctor Community Center at 18419 W. Keetoowah Circle in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. For information, call 918-871-2800.

May 1 Ham/Cheese on Wheat Potato Soup Potato Chips Fruit Cup	May 2 Beef Tacos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Fruit Cup	May 3 Vegetable Soup Garden Salad Crackers Fruit Cup	May 4 Chicken n' Dumplings Green Beans Carrots, Hot Roll Fruit Cup	May 5 Taco Salad Tortilla Chips/Cheese Mexican Corn Pineapple Cake	May 8 Turkey/Cheese on Wheat Pasta Salad Ruffle Chips Fruit Cup
May 9 Frito Pie Spanish Rice Hominy Fruit Cup	May 10 Stuffed Green Pepper Rice Pilaf Cauliflower Hot Roll, Fruit Cup	May 11 Brown Beans Fried Potatoes Salad, Cornbread Fruit Cup	May 12 Oven Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Salad, Bread, Strawberry Shortcake w/Ice Cream	May 15 Tuna Sandwich Potato Chips 3 Bean Salad Fruit Cup	May 16 BBQ Brisket Baked Beans Carrots, Bread Peach Cobbler
May 17 Chili Crackers Corn on Cob Fruit Cup	May 18 Catfish & Fries Tartar Sauce Coleslaw, Hush Puppies Fruit Cup	May 19 Sloppy Joe on Bun Broccoli/Cauliflower Potato Chips Fruit Cup	May 22 Veggie Hamburger Stew Hominy Cornbread, Dessert	May 23 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potato w/Gravy Peas & Carrots Hot Roll, Fruit Cup	May 24 Hamburger w/Fixings Steak Fries Birthday Cake Ice Cream
May 25 Kitchen Closed Cleaning Day	May 26 Tribal Offices Closed Employee Appreciation	May 29 Tribal Offices Closed Memorial Day	May 30 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Italian Green Beans Salad, Garlic Toast Fruit Cup	May 31 Chicken Strips w/Gravy Mixed Vegetables Salad, Hot Roll Fruit Cup	

RECIPES

Fall Apart Beer Brisket
(Diabetic Friendly)
2 Tbsp canola oil (30 mL)
1 1/2 lb trimmed beef brisket (750 g)
canola oil cooking spray
1 1/2 cups diced onion (about 1 large onion) (375 mL)
2 tsp minced garlic (10 mL)
1 bottle (12 oz/341 mL) dark stout beer
2 Tbsp cider vinegar (30 mL)
1 1/2 tsp dried oregano leaves (7 mL)
1 tsp dried thyme leaves (5 mL)
3 Tbsp steak sauce (45 mL)
3 Tbsp no-salt-added tomato paste (45 mL)
1/2 tsp salt (2 mL)
6 multigrain bread slices

Heat 1 Tbsp (15 mL) of canola oil in large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Brown beef 3 minutes on each side. Place beef in slow cooker coated with cooking spray. Heat remaining 1 Tbsp (15 mL) canola oil, cook onions 4 minutes or until beginning to brown, stirring frequently. Stir in garlic and cook 15 seconds. Remove skillet from heat and stir in garlic, beer, vinegar, oregano, thyme, steak sauce, and tomato paste. Stir until well blended and pour over beef in slow cooker, making sure that beef is covered completely with liquid. Cover and cook on low setting for 6 hours. Remove beef and place on cutting board. Stir salt into slow cooker mixture. Thinly slice beef (it

To submit a recipe, email it to travissnell75@gmail.com or mail it to Giduwa Cherokee News, P.O. Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 74465.

will shred automatically as you slice). Return beef to slow cooker and stir. Cover and let stand 15 minutes to absorb flavours. To serve, place strainer in large bowl, strain beef mixture, shaking off excess liquid and place in serving bowl. Serve juices alongside. Place equal amounts of shredded beef on warmed multigrain bread slices (2 oz/60 g per serving) as open-faced sandwiches. Spoon desired amount of liquid over each. NOTES: A hearty, comfort food meal with rich flavor. Buy beef brisket that weighs almost 2 pounds before trimming as there is quite a bit of fat to discard. If a sliced brisket is preferred over the shredded variety, cook

about 30 minutes less than recommended above. Serving size: 1/2 cup (125 mL) beef, 1/3 cup (75 mL) sauce.





Party poppers are set off during an April 21 celebration of seven United Keetoowah Band tribal members who are graduating high school, college or technical schools this May. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

UKB graduates honored, recognized by tribe

BY LANI HANSEN Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – May is here and graduation time is around the corner whether it is from high school, college or technical schools, and the United Keetoowah Band Education Department hosted a graduation dinner for seven graduates on April 21.

This was the second year to recognize UKB graduates, said Education Generalist Jacqueline Watson.

“This year turned out great, we had more numbers in graduates than our first year,” Watson said. “I am hoping for next year we can have a bigger agenda.”

The evening started with a welcome from Education Director Dr. Leslie Hannah, who shared words of encouragement with the graduates. The meal was catered with sandwiches, fruits and meatballs from Vidalia’s in Tahlequah. Cake was also served to celebrate the graduates.

Education invited a special guest to speak to the graduates, Dr. Corey Still. A UKB member, Still has a passion in education and helping Native students. After graduating from Tahlequah-Sequoyah High School, he received the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor’s degree in American Indian Studies. He pursued a master’s degree in higher education leadership in education from Northeastern State University. In 2019, he finished his doctoral in adult higher education. He spoke to the graduates, relating to a Dr. Seuss book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” Sharing about the education and career path he has been



Dr. Corey Still speaks to the upcoming graduates during a dinner honoring them.

on since graduating high school, and where it has taken him. Still has worked as an adjunct faculty member for Bacone College, a graduate assistant at NSU, the director of Scholarships Operations with the American Indian Graduate Center and is now the Senior Research Director at One Fire Associates, LLC.

“We were happy Corey was able to join us for the evening,” Watson said. “We also had several of our dignitaries in attendance Chief Joe Bunch, Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, councilman Junior Catron, councilman Alvin Hicks and councilman Charles Smoke.”

Each of the dignitaries wished the graduates their best. At the end of the evening, graduates and their families had the opportunity to have pictures taken by UKB Media staff. Graduates also got their headshots to go into the newspaper for the graduate profile section that will be posted in the June 2023 issue. If you have not submitted a profile, do so before May 21 by 5p.m. to media@ukb-nsn.gov.

UKB EDUCATION 2023

CALL 918-871-2851 FOR MORE INFORMATION



- 05.01-05.12// 9:30-3:30 Certified Medical Admin Assistant
- 05.15-05.26//2:30-7 Certified Medical Admin Assistant
- 05.29-06.09//2:30-7 Mental Health Tech
- 07.10-07.21//2:30-7 Certified Coding and Billing Cert.
- 07.24-08.04//5:30-10 Certified Coding and Billing Cert.
- 08.07-08.18//9:30-3:30 Mental Health Tech
- 08.21-09.01//9:30-3:30 Certified Medical Admin Assistant
- 09.04-09.15//2:30-7 Certified Coding and Billing Cert.
- 09.18-09.29//5:30-10 Certified Coding and Billing Cert.
- 10.16-10.27//2:30-7 Mental Health Technician
- 10.30-11.10//2:30-7 Certified Medical Admin Assistant
- 11.13-11.20//9:30-3:30 Certified Coding and Billing Cert.
- 12.04-12.15//2:30-7 Certified Coding and Billing Cert.

CLASSES ARE FREE TO UKB MEMBERS. NON-MEMBERS PRICE \$50 PER CLASS.

OPEN SUBMISSION

For eighth grade, high school, college, military and technical graduates profiles

If you would like to feature your graduate in the June edition, please send a high resolution picture, name, and bio (150 words or less) to media@ukb-nsn.gov.

Deadline at 5 p.m. 21 May, 2023

No late submissions will be accepted!

While Echota Behavioral Health prioritizes UKB citizens, Echota Behavioral Health is open to anyone and everyone who is seeking assistance with mental wellness. EBH will have a grand opening of its new Tahlequah location on June 3. COURTESY



Echota Behavioral Health sets June 3 grand opening

Osiyo nigad, Echota Behavioral Health has moved. Our former location was stationed across the highway on Keetoowah road. As our services and clientele grew, so did our need for a larger space.

Thankfully, we were able to remain in a familiar area not far from our other building which continues to serve our clients. Echota Behavioral Health and its establishment is now housed inside a warm and inviting home where individuals can come to receive the support and care they need.

While Echota Behavioral Health prioritizes UKB citizens, Echota Behavioral Health is open to anyone and everyone who is seeking assistance with mental wellness.

Echota Behavioral Health honors its relationship with the United Keetoowah Band. The primary concern of the tribe and staff at EBH is to create an organization specializing in physical, mental, and spiritual health.

EBH and the UKB understand the importance of maintaining not only individual wellness, but communal wellness.

The staff at EBH is led by Jennifer Shade-Leep, UKB citizen, and Kathy Stafford. Their guidance aims to create an environment for any person needing support. EBH and the UKB want to ensure that every citizen within the nine-district area, (tribal and non-tribal), has the access and support they need to achieve the level of wellness every human deserves. The direction of Shade-Leep and Stafford is committed to creating a community that is centered around the wellness of the community by any means necessary. Individuals needing assistance can obtain support in a variety of ways. Resources range from peer support to clinical support. EBH and the UKB hope to become a resource center people will benefit from utilizing for many years to come.

Please join us on June 3, as we welcome the community to our Grand Opening. The event starts at 11 a.m. and lasts until 3 p.m. Please bring the entire family. We will have food, fun games, prizes, and the public will have the opportunity to meet our amazing team.

Wado, Echota Behavioral Health

Warhawk comes out of the kitchen

Ronald Holden takes on professional wrestling within Native American Wrestling.

BY LANI HANSEN
Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – Many people have seen him at the United Keetoowah Band Title VI in the kitchen during the weekdays, but when it comes to outside of work Ronald Holden busts out his moves inside the wrestling ring.

Holden is a native from Tahlequah, who lives to take care of his son. He has been working for Title VI since early 2022 as a cook. Title VI is the elderly nutrition center for the tribe.

In his down time, Holden likes to hit the gym. He has always enjoyed watching wrestling, until recently he felt called to become a wrestler of his own.

“One day I told a buddy of mine that I wanted to train, so he started training me,” Holden said. “I did not know I was going to get thrown into the ring so quickly.”

Holden is a wrestler with an organization based out of Chewey called Native American Wrestling (NAW). He trains with a guy who goes by Manico. According to Holden, before NAW got its name, they went by SPW in 2008, 412 in 2009 and NAW originated in 2012. The organization is family-oriented, where the wrestlers come to entertain the crowd.

“I like being able to perform in front of a crowd, but mostly being an athlete,” Holden stated of wrestling at NAW.

As other wrestler,s either amateur or pro, they have a stage name, so their real identities are not revealed before the match.

For Holden, he goes by the name Brandon Warhawk. This name came to him while he was sitting in the locker room one day, he said.

“I was sitting there thinking of names, and my middle name is Brendon so that’s how we came up with Brandon, then the Warhawk was a random name we thought of,” Holden said when deciding on a stage name.

Although he has been performing in other matches since he started



Ronald Holden, aka Brandon Warhawk, surveys the crowd during a recent Native American Wrestling match. COURTESY

“One day I told a buddy of mine that I wanted to train, so he started training me. I did not know I was going to get thrown into the ring so quickly.”

Ronald Holden, NAW wrestler

wrestling, his first big match was against Manico in April.

This match was for the championship belt, and it drew a big crowd including fans from the tribe. UKB Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche was able to attend the match and he was proud of what Holden was doing.

“I would just like to say that I’m very proud of him as he’s always been a huge fan of wrestling since he was a little kid and now, he gets to live out his dream as a real wrestler and has the opportunity to entertain the local wrestling fans of all ages. I encourage everyone to come

out and cheer him on as he moves up the ranks of Native American Wrestling (NAW) and I know he won’t stop until he straps that championship belt around his waist,” Wacoche said. “He’s aspiring to be a Chef as well and is the cook for the UKB Title VI Nutrition program so I end with ‘Can you smell what the WARHAWK is cooking?’”

With Warhawk taking off in the wrestling path, be sure to check out the Native American Wrestling Facebook page for upcoming matches. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/NativeAmericanWrestling/>

Briggs named 2023-24 Miss Indian Bacone

BY LANI HANSEN
Senior Reporter

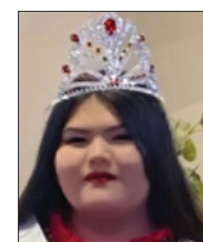
MUSKOGEE – United Keetoowah Band member Olivia Sunshine Briggs took a chance and was recently crowned as the 2023-2024 Miss Indian Bacone.

Bacone College hosted the Miss Indian Bacone Pageant on April 10 at the Bacone Memorial Chapel. Dr. Corey Still served as the emcee. The judges included Lori Hytche Thompson, RaChelle Jaramullo, and Lahoma Schultz. Briggs ran against two other contestants Jayla McIntosh and Allison Primeaux.

Briggs is from Tahlequah, and is an active tribal member. She is the daughter of Wendy McCulley and the granddaughter of Bill and Roberta McCulley.

Briggs grew up attending powwows and dances with her family when they would set up to sell artwork. She enjoys acrylic painting where her grandfather Bill showed her the appreciation for art.

She is 19, currently finishing her freshman year at Bacone. Briggs is an Agriculture Science major and received a USDA Scholarship from Bacone.



Olivia Briggs

“As a student in the ‘Ag in the Classroom’, I attended the 2022 AISES National Convention in Palm Springs, California,” she said. “This semester I represented and presented for Bacone College at the 44th Annual Southwest Popular American Cultural Association conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.”

Briggs had learned about the pageant when she started her second semester. “At first I didn’t think I’d have time in my schedule to do this, but I made room for it,” she said.

At the pageant each contestant spoke about their goals as Miss Indian Bacone.

“My goal for Miss Indian Bacone is to represent Bacone College as a strong and unified tribal college,” Briggs stated.

“I am going to do the best in my ability to represent myself, my tribe and college well,” Briggs added.

WARHAWK

\$25 each S-3XL

Visit UKB Media office in the UKB Services building to purchase. (918)871-2800

Spotlight on Cindy Hair

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – Cindy Hair holds the honor of being the first person in the Keetoowah tribe to be honored as a UKB Tradition Keeper.

Beginning in 2005, The John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum has awarded the title of Tradition Keeper to UKB members dedicated to continuing the culture through practicing various ancient skills and traditions. From stone carvers to basket weavers, bow makers and traditional dress makers, storytellers to marbles players, there is no shortage of cultural and creative talent. Many Keetoowahs are preserving the culture through making their art into something that they can pass down to future generations. The UKB recognized Hair for basketry.



Cindy Hair

As part of the museum's "Back to Basics" series, early next spring, Hair will be teaching a Hunting and Gathering class, including finding and preparing

buckbrush, honeysuckle and wild onions. Hair has been making baskets for more than 50 years.

"The first time I made a basket, I used buckbrush, the real stuff," Hair said. "My mother showed me how to gather the materials and do the whole process, because there's a lot to go through when using the buckbrush. I have a big family and we would all go out there in the woods to get the materials."

Since that time, Hair has made baskets, vases, and other woven objects from materials such as buckbrush, honeysuckle and river cane, as well as using commercial reed. Hair has taught hundreds of people how to weave baskets and has taught classes for organizations, including the UKB, Cherokee Heritage Center, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Spring Break camps, culture camps family camps.

'Lunch and Learn'



United Keetoowah Band employees Elaina Belmonte, left, and Shirley Sam, right, show the balls they made in April's "Lunch and Learn" class taught by Char Kingfisher Wolfe, center. PHOTOS BY MARILYN CRAIG/UKB MUSEUM



UKB employee Ann Guinn cuts leather to make her ball.



This ball made during the April "Lunch and Learn" is ready to go.

Museum gets 'Back to Basics' with new series

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – The Cambridge Dictionary states the phrase "back to basics" means returning to the simple and most important things. For some people, going back to basics also means returning to a knowledge of working the land.

Getting back to basics has been trending, and the pandemic, which resulted in isolation, and for most, an unprecedented time at home, changed some people's perspective. It was followed by the bottleneck of supplies and imports, which created shortages, raised the price of everything. Many people started growing, gathering, and preserving their own food.

On June 17, The John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum will begin its "Back to Basics" series with a three-class session on Canning for Beginners. Classes will be held on the second Saturday of each month. June 17, July 8 and Aug. 12 are the dates for the first series of classes. Each series is limited to 12 participants and the price is \$75 per person.

"When you think about the old days and old ways, many people were self-sufficient. People may not have had money, but they had gardens, orchards, gathered wild foods, fished and hunted game for their food. With food today coming from all over the world, you do not know how it grew, or what kinds of pesticides might have been used. Whether it is for economic reasons or food quality concerns, growing and preserving foods will be an option many will choose for their families," said Barbara Girty Foster, assistant museum director. "In reverting back to the old ways, we can become more self-sufficient and less dependent on grocery chains."

The next series of classes, Quilting for Beginners will be offered on Sept. 9, Oct. 14, and Nov. 11.

The final group of classes, Gathering and Harvesting, will be offered next year on Feb. 10, March 9 and April 13, 2024. For information, call Barbara Girty Foster at 918-871-2794.

Gift Shop seeks arts, crafts

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – Like most businesses, the John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum has seen an increase in sales since the pandemic's decrease.

"We noticed an uptick in business in December last year, and business has continued to increase at a steady pace this year," said Barbara Girty Foster, assistant museum director.

The increase is partially due to the larger billboard at the corner of Willis Road and Muskogee Ave.

"Often people will stop in and say they never knew the museum and gift shop were in Tahlequah. People come in and they love the items we have for sale. That in turn leads to word of mouth and

increased sales. And that is good news for Keetoowah artists and artisans," said Girty Foster.

"Everything in the shop is handmade by Keetoowah tribal members. All the artwork, beadwork, stickball sticks and balls, baskets, medicine bags, rattles, shackles, moccasins, quilts, pipes, flutes, walking sticks, tear dresses, ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts, dolls, teddy bears, stone carvings, flutes, blowguns, and paintings are all created by the Keetoowah people," said JHHC Director Ernestine Berry.

This has led replacing items as fast as they sell. "We are putting out a call for quality, handmade items, made by our Keetoowah people," said Berry.

If you are a UKB tribal member with items for sale, call 918-871-2866 to schedule an appointment.

JOHN HAIR CULTURAL CENTER & KEETOOWAH MUSEUM PRESENTS

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

A series of cultural experiences led by Keetoowah Elders sharing their knowledge about traditional lifeways.

Starting June 17 with remaining classes held on the second Saturday of each month from 9am-3pm.

\$75 per person includes supplies, tools and materials needed. Bring your own lunch.

Class size is limited. Not recommended for Children under 12 years of age.



Summer

CANNING FOR BEGINNERS

Are you ready to start preserving your own healthy foods?

Preserving food is more than an art, it's a lifelong skill.

Learn the secrets of simple canning and freezing fresh fruits and vegetables to keep the bounty of seasonal harvests on your plate all year long.

CLASS DATES: JUNE 17, JULY 8, AUGUST 12, 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 918-871-2866 • 18280 W. KEETOOWAH CIRCLE, TAHLEQUAH

Autumn



QUILTING FOR BEGINNERS

Begin quilt making, from fabric selection and pinning accuracy to borders and binding. Learn the basics or brush up on your skills -- great for beginners and seasoned quilters alike.

CLASS DATES: SEPT 9, OCT 14, NOV 11, 2023

Winter/Spring



GATHERING & HARVESTING

Be ready to hunt in the woods, dig in the dirt, wade in water, and go fishing. Learn how to identify, cut, gather, and prepare natural materials for basket making, traditional foods, plus catch and clean a fish.

CLASS DATES: FEB 10, MAR 9, APRIL 13, 2024