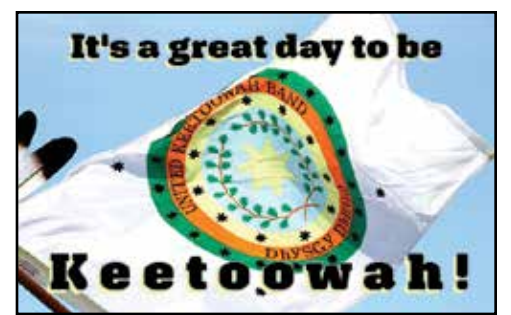




LOOK FOR US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
AND AT WWW.UKB-NSN.GOV



GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY AWP Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma April 2026

UKB CCDF Program Celebrated Dr. Seuss Week and Read Across America

Dr. Seuss Week and Read Across America encourages reading for children.



Parents and children listen to a book reading with Stilwell Public Librarians.



CCDF Manager Kim Gourd welcomed families to the Family Literacy Night.

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

STILWELL, Okla- The United Keetoowah Band Childcare and Development Fund Program celebrated Dr. Seuss Week and Read Across America with a Family Literacy Night.

Dr. Seuss's birthday is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place on March 2. National Read Across America encourages children to read, featuring events in schools and libraries nationwide.

The Keetoowah Child Development Center in Stilwell welcomed its littles and families for book readings from the Stilwell Librarian and Chief Jeff Wacoche. The librarians read stories and had an activity for the children.

Later, in the evening Chief Wacoche read a favorite and one of the longest Dr. Seuss books "Ten Apples on Top."

The UKB Education Department set up their mobile library from their

monthly book swap for everyone to take home a book. Echota Behavioral Health had activities set up for the children and parents to do.

The CCDF Manager stated it was a fun evening, and she looks forward to celebrating again next year.



Chief Jeff Wacoche reads Dr. Seuss's Ten Apples on Top book.

Echota Behavioral Health Opens New Clinic in Stilwell

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

STILWELL, Okla- March was one for the books for Echota Behavioral Health, as they had the grand opening of the newest facility in Stilwell, OK.

EBH's first clinic opened in 2020 providing compassionate, accessible mental health services to individuals and families across Northeastern Oklahoma. They serve both tribal and non-tribal members, meeting people where they are and supporting them through life's challenges with respect, understanding, and quality care.

Services are offered in Tahlequah, Jay, Kansas, Vian and Stilwell.

Whether you are seeking support for yourself or a loved one, EBH team is here to help. They believe everyone deserves the opportunity to receive mental health treatment.

EBH opened its new clinic and was also inducted into the Stilwell Area Chamber of Commerce on March 10, 2026. The location is at 704 South 2nd Street, Stilwell.



Snapshot of Echota Behavioral Health's sign.



Echota Staff with UKB Chief and UKB Council celebrating the grand opening of the clinic.



Echota Behavioral Health Clinic is located at 704 South 2nd Street, Stilwell.

NSU invites all to 53rd Annual Symposium on the American Indian

NSU and CTS focus on Native Scholars and future research, find out more at the symposium.

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- The Northeastern State University's Center for Tribal Studies will be hosting the 53rd Annual Symposium on the American Indian in Tahlequah, OK on April 9-10.

This year the symposium focuses on the "Culture as Medicine: Guiding Education Into the Future." This reflects the understanding that indigenous knowledge systems continue to sustain our communities and shape the direction of education.

The keynote speaker for this year is Dr. Clint Carroll, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and Associate Professor of Native American and Indigenous Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. He will be presenting on the Indigenous Optimism and Cherokee Land-based Resurgence.

The first day of the symposium consists of scholarly presentations and keynote speaker. All presentations will take place in the NSU University Center Ballroom. In the morning of the first day is the wel-



NSU Symposium on the American Indian is on April 9-10, with the Powwow set for April 10.

coming and keynote followed by an academic presentation with Dr. Candessa Tehee.

Lunch will be on your own.

The afternoon session begins with academic presentations and is followed by cultural and scholarly engagement with Dr. Tiffanie Hardbarger. Attendees will be able to check out the Trail of Tears display at the NSU

Library.

Day two is fully focused on student scholars day in the morning, followed by the community celebration/Powwow in the afternoon. Presentations in the morning session will be presented by students.

The community celebration will begin from 3pm-5pm with gourd dancing, from 5pm-6pm community

dinner, powwow will be from 6pm-11pm.

This year the NSU Powwow Head Staff include:

- Head Man: Skylar Vann, Cherokee/Pawnee
- Head Lady: Audree Stehno, Osage/Kickapoo/Muscogee/Otoe
- Head Singer and Drum: Dr. Cornell Pewewardy, Comanche
- Arena Director: Stanley John, Navajo
- Head Gourd: Chris Cote, Osage
- MC: Mark Bolin, Cherokee

"We made a couple of changes this year for our symposium, in the past it has been four days, but we wanted to try the two days," CTS Director Elizabeth Bird said. "And this year, we added a day where it was focused on our students and what is happening in the next generation of research."

For a full schedule or more information about the NSU Symposium on the American Indian visit, <https://offices.nsuok.edu/centerfortribalstudies/NSUSymposium/Symposium-Agenda.aspx>



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April Chief Chat - Standing on My Oath, Standing Up for Our People

Siyó,

In March, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the United States Congress and advocate for the critical right our Members are entitled to of direct access to quality health care.

In my testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I made clear that the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians will defend our right to participate fully in Indian Health Service programs. We are not asking for special treatment, but for the opportunity to access the same resources intended to serve Tribal Nations across the country. And, unlike some, we are not asking Congress to take funding from any other Indian Tribe to fund us.

I directly addressed the continued efforts to block UKB funding. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma remains publicly opposed to UKB health care funding. That position and their actions do not strengthen Indian



Chief's Corner

JEFF WACOCHÉ
Chief
jwacoche@ukb-nsn.gov

Country. CNO denies care to our Members and creates unnecessary barriers where none should exist. Congress needed to hear that truth directly, and our message was received.

When I took the oath of office as Chief of the United Keetoowah Band, I committed to act in the best interests of our Tribe and our Members. Fueled by the spirits of our ancestors, the wisdom of our elders and the potential of our youth, that oath conveys the obligation to work diligently on behalf of the Keetoowah people, especially important to me when our rights and wellbeing are at stake. The allegiance to my oath and you all, grounded my testimony in Washington.

We know that our path has not al-

ways been easy. There have been challenges, and there will be more ahead. But we also know the strength of our people and the importance of continuing to advocate for what is right. There should be room for collaboration but until that is a view shared by all concerned, we must continue to lead and move forward.

The work in Washington is ongoing. We will continue meeting with federal leaders, explaining our documented history, and protecting the rights and sovereignty of the United Keetoowah Band. Securing additional health care funding, is one tangible way of protecting our sovereignty, and ensuring that the United States corrects one of its many historical breaches of our treaty rights.

It is an honor to serve as your Chief, and I remain committed to carrying out my oath of office through the work we do every day on behalf of the UKB and you all.

Wado.

Chief Jeff Wacoche

Chief Wacoche Testified Before Congress and Called for Expanded Funding for UKB Health Care Needs

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Chief Jeff Wacoche testified before Congress On March 18, 2026, calling for full and fair funding of UKB health programs and reaffirming the Tribe's right to participate in Indian Health Service (IHS) programs.

Speaking before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Chief Wacoche urged lawmakers to move past what he described as "misleading rhetoric" and support the Indian Health Service's request to fund UKB.

"The United Keetoowah Band stands ready to defend our right to participate fully in IHS programs," Wacoche said. "We ask Congress to recognize that right and ensure our Members receive the care they are entitled to."

At the center of the request is \$5.6 million in Fiscal Year 2026 funding for Purchased and Referred Care, based on IHS's review of the UKB's tribal roll and unique user population.

Chief Wacoche outlined a long history of barriers that have limited UKB's access to health resources. He described how, in the early 2000s, IHS awarded a Purchased and Referred



Care contract in the Tahlequah Service District without UKB's consent. More recently, in 2025, IHS transferred operation of the Claremore Service Unit without UKB approval.

"Since these unlawful transfers, our Members have been denied care or left underserved," Wacoche testified.

He also addressed ongoing opposition from the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, stating that efforts to block UKB funding are not about resource allocation, but about preventing UKB from accessing care.

Despite these challenges, Chief Wacoche pointed to recent progress. Since funding began flowing in 2025, UKB health programs have expanded rapidly and are already serving the community.

Echota Behavioral Health has become a leading provider in the Tulsa

and Cherokee communities, recognized for quality care. The Tribe's Purchased and Referred Care program has served more than 1,000 patients since launching on January 1, 2025 – a clear indication of both need and impact.

"UKB has demonstrated the capacity to operate strong, effective programs," Wacoche said. "We are meeting the needs of our people, and we are ready to do more."

Chief Wacoche also emphasized that UKB's eligibility for federal health services is firmly grounded in law. The Tribe achieved federal recognition in 1946 and reorganized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in 1950.

"For nearly 80 years, we have had to fight to secure the rights and benefits that come with that recognition," Wacoche said. "Those challenges continue today."

He closed by reinforcing the connection between health care and sovereignty.

"Health care is a cornerstone of Tribal sovereignty," Wacoche said. "Expanding our ability to deliver care strengthens our right to self-determination and ensures our Members can live healthier, stronger lives."

Sequoyah's Teaching by Ed Rackleff

Keetoowah Storytelling Through Art

EXHIBIT

**Exhibit Opens
April 13, 2026**

Teaching Basket Weaving by Roger Loftis

Immerse yourself in Indigenous and Keetoowah culture, as the John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum showcases two talented Keetoowah artists, Roger Loftis and Ed Rackleff. Both tell stories of our ancestors and the ones who came before us, stories of our customs and lifeways, and show their challenges and triumphs.

John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum | 18280 West Keetoowah Circle, Tahlequah, OK
Admission \$5. Ask about group rates | Info: 918-871-2866

**The 53rd Annual
SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN**

APRIL 9-10
Northeastern State University | University Center | Tahlequah, OK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Clint Carroll
Cherokee
Moving Forward While Rooted In Ancestry

*Indigenous Optimism and
Cherokee Land-based Resurgence*
April 9 | 10:20 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Ballroom (2nd Floor)

NSUOK.EDU/SYMPOSIUM

UKB Tribal Enrollment

18300 W. Keetoowah Circle Tahlequah, OK 74464
Open Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As with other federally recognized tribes, the United Keetoowah Band has its unique process to determine membership. Visit ukb-nsn.gov/membership for Enrollment documents and a brief FAQ section of the most common questions about UKB membership. Find forms for Membership Applications, CDIB Instructions, Update Your Information and UKB Relinquishment.

For additional questions, or if you are a member who has lost your enrollment card, call the UKB Enrollment Office Registrar Amanda Stopp at 918-871-2797. Questions concerning history, cultural practices, clothing, language or ceremonies are better suited for our John Hair Cultural Center and Museum. Visit ukb-nsn.gov/john-hair-cultural-center-museum or call 918-871-2866.

UKB Housing Seeking Young Keetoowah Artists

AMERIND announces 2026 Safety Poster Contest for grades K-3, 4-6, 7-8

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- The United Keetoowah Band Housing Department is seeking young Keetoowah artists for the 2026 AMERIND Safety Poster Contest.

Instructions for The Safety Poster Contest:
 Use blank 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper
 Clearly print on one side of the paper
 First & Last Name
 Grade
 Tribal affiliation
 Phone Number
 Housing Authority

On the blank side of the paper, create your masterpiece

AMERIND gives young artists an opportunity to compete in a poster contest with themes like fire safety, driving safety or any type of safety topic. Individuals are selected from each category from grades K-3, 4-6, 7-8. UKB Housing will select one winner from each category, where they will receive \$100.

Winners are then sent to the regional housing association for regional voting. Regionals are throughout



2025 AMERIND Safety Poster Contest K-3 Winner: Nakoma Drum

the months of June and July for the association to select one winner from each category.

Regional winners from each category are submitted to AMERIND no later than July 31, 2026, for national voting. Please email submissions to marketing@AMERIND.com. National online voting will be on the AMERIND website in August, where one winner



2025 AMERIND Safety Poster Contest 4th-6th Winner: Acy Rice

is selected from each category.

Winners will then be announced at the AMERIND Annual Meeting and notified afterwards in September. The National winner of each category will receive \$1,000.

"Last year was our first year competing in the AMERIND Safety Poster Contest," UKB Housing Director Roxana Wilden said. "Two of our winners



2025 AMERIND Safety Poster Contest 7th-8th Winner: Leland Deere

we selected made it to regionals, those two were Acy Rice and Leland Deere."

UKB Housing encourages our Keetoowah youth to submit a safety poster, those who submitted and winners from last year may enter again.

Safety Poster submissions are due to the UKB Housing Department by May 1, 2026.

Giduwa Cherokee News Calls for UKB Graduate Profiles

Deadline for submissions is April 15 for Grad Profiles

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- The United Keetoowah Band Giduwa Cherokee News is looking to honor and recognize our Keetoowah graduates.

If you have a family member or friend who is exclusively UKB and is graduating in May or June from Kindergarten, eighth grade, high school, college, military and technical school please submit your graduate profile to be featured in the newspaper.

Profiles need to include a high-resolution picture, name, school and bio of 150 words or less.

"People love to see their kids in the newspaper, and I believe it's a great achievement for native students who graduate," GCN Senior Reporter Lani Hansen said.

These profiles will run in the May newspaper and June newspaper. Submit to ukbmedia@ukb-nsn.gov by April 15.



UKB Graduate Profiles submission deadline is April 15.

class of
2026
 Congratulations!
Attention Keetoowah Grads:
 Graduation cord and stole requests must be turned in by April 17 to Amber Dry @ adry@ukb-nsn.gov for May/June graduation dates. Students may also come by the UKB Education Center to fill out a form and receive cords. Graduates must be graduating from high school, vocational school or college/university. The form can be found at www.ukb-nsn.gov/education.

Raising Cane

Marilyn Craig, Museum Marketing Coordinator

Tahlequah - A dozen people came together on February 21 at the John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum to kick off the "Getting Back to Basics" series about gathering and harvesting river cane. UKB Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Roger Cain taught the four-hour class on river cane and did a slide show on the subject as well. His presentation included the following information.

The United States has four indigenous species of bamboo:

- *River Cane (Arundinaria gigantea)* is an evergreen and can be found in the southeastern United States.

- *Switch Cane (Arundinaria tecta)* is evergreen and can be found in coastal states.

- *Hill Cane (Arundinaria appalachiana)* is deciduous and can be found in the Appalachia Mountains. Our ancestors made arrows from Hill cane due to the culms being solid.

- *Tallapoosa Cane (Arundinaria alabamensis)* is an evergreen and is a switch cane/river cane hybrid found in Alabama.

"We have to re-learn river cane technology because we lost it when we migrated,"
- Roger Cain, Keetoowah Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

River cane ecosystems are indigenous evergreens and have erect, perennial woody culms that can reach one and half inches in diameter and have been known to grow 30 ft tall. The historic record accounts of river cane being 50 ft tall with the diameter of the culms the size of a man's arm. River cane culms can live for 5-7 years and add new branches every Spring.

Today, river cane still grows across much of its historic range in twenty-two states. The river cane

range is located in the southeastern United States and as far west as Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. These ecosystems are known as canebrakes. Canebrakes offer refuge and forage for a broad range of wildlife.

As many as six species of butterflies depend on river cane in the caterpillar phase; and there are at least twelve species of moths and butterflies whose caterpillars either feed upon or are endemic to canebrakes.

River cane ecosystems are considered critically endangered ecosystems with a 98% decline in river cane ecosystems as measured through area loss or ecological degradation.

The UKB Office of Historic Preservation is responsible for the protection of cultural resources, restoration, and maintenance of historic assets, and for developing standards to guide the functions of the office.

Efforts of the Keetoowah Cane Conservation crew are underwritten by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a 501c (3) nonprofit organization that is governed by a 30-member Board of Directors approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It is the United States' largest private conservation foundation, working with both the public and private sectors to protect and restore our nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats.

Before contact, houses were built near a cane brake to hide them and to give the people an escape route. The older the village, the smaller the canebrake and the larger the canebrake, the newer the village. Two of the first weapons used include the spear and the atlatl. An atlatl is a spear throwing tool that acts as an extension of the arm, increasing leverage and velocity when throwing a dart or a spear.

"We have to re-learn river cane technology because we lost it when

we migrated," said Cain. One piece of technology the class learned that day was how to make a torch. Torches were used to go in caves to get rock. The last part of the class was spent making torches that participants took home with them. The next class is set for March 21. For more information, contact the museum at (918) 871-2866.

(This is the first in a three-part series on River Cane.)



THPO Roger Cain talks about rivercane and the importance of conservation.



The Getting Back to Basics Rivercane Technology Class.



Juan Domas carries his torch.

Teaching the Teacher - An Indigenous Cultural Arts Workshop

“We enjoy taking our culture out into the communities and we look forward to increasing our outreach programs,” said Barbara Girty Foster, Assistant Museum Director

Marilyn Craig, Museum Marketing Coordinator

The John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum staff, four Keetoowah Tradition Keepers, a volunteer Culture Keeper, the UKB Education department, and Kansas Schools Federal programs director and some Kansas community volunteers, fifteen teachers and over a dozen sponsors collaborated and came together for an Indigenous Cultural Arts Workshop, titled “Teaching the Teacher”.

The program was created by Kansas Schools District Federal Programs Director Tammie Bowman as part of her initiatives/grants for Improving Teacher and Principal Quality and her Indian Education grant.

“Our teachers were requesting more cultural training, so I stopped by the UKB Education Department and spoke with Director Dr. Leslie Hannah,” said Bowman. Bowman and Hannah had worked together in the past on clothing distributions, book donations, and other school projects.

“Tammie asked me if I would help, and I said of course. I sent her to the museum to see Assistant Museum Director Barbara Girty Foster, and things developed from there,” Hannah said. “Our department purchased the craft kits/materials used that day. In observing the class, the teachers were engaged and dare I say excited about the various little projects they worked on. Time and money well spent, I think,” he added.

Barbara reached out to some of the Tradition Keepers and a schedule was developed. The workshop included painting, making a stickball ball, mini stickball sticks, flat reed weaving, and beading on a visor.

Sponsors for the event included Delaware County Community Partnership, Young’s BBQ, Kaiser’s Farm/Businesses, Custom K, Shackelford Farm, Goat Lahoma Grass Bandits, Vinny’s Coffee Shop, Green Gate Grill, Keystone Food Management, UKB Education Department and UKB Goingsnake District Community Building.

The event was the brainchild of Kansas Schools Federal Programs Director, was coordinated by the John Hair Cultural Center and Keetoowah Museum, taught by UKB Tradition Keepers, funded by the Delaware County Community Partnership and the UKB Education Department.

Assistant Museum Director Barbara Girty Foster welcomed the participants to the workshop, began with a brief introduction of the Keetoowah museum, gave an overview of the day’s crash course in five cultural classes, door prize information, and then introduced Ernestine Berry, the Tribal Historian and Museum Director.

Ernestine gave a brief history of the Keetoowah tribe, the migration to Arkansas Territory in the late 1700s and early 1800s, the treaties of 1817 and 1828, migration to Indian Territory in 1828, ten years before the removal of the remaining Cherokees, or the “Trail of Tears,” as it is historically referenced.

Dr. Leslie Hannah spoke briefly to the group about UKB education

programs and talked about how they assist individual members in their career training needs. The education department donated books to the event and purchased all craft materials for the day. In addition to financial assistance for higher education, the UKB Education Department offers online classes, and coordinates fun activities and reduced cost tickets to Native American Nights for the OKC Thunder, the Drillers and the Tulsa Oilers. The department also hosts a book swap with refreshments one Thursday a month.

The first craft session was painting on canvas and was taught by UKB Tradition Keeper Lena Deere. Deere paints and is also a seamstress who was named Tradition Keeper in 2023. She makes various textile products including soup bowl cozies, Christmas ornaments, quilts, and clothing. Deere also taught about colors and their meanings to the Keetoowah.

Tradition Keeper Char Wolfe taught the next two craft sessions. Char became a Tradition Keeper in 2022 for Traditional Arts. In the first class, she taught how to make a ball for stickball. She talked about the significance of the game and how it was played. This session was followed by a class making mini stickball sticks.

First language speaker and Keetoowah culture keeper Alice Wilder gave instruction on how to weave a flat reed mat. The room became quiet as everyone focused on weaving the pieces over and under. Alice makes baskets from commercial round and flat reed as well as traditional basket materials. Among the various crafts she makes, her woven bracelets are extremely popular and sell well to both men and women.

2019 Tradition Keeper Marcela Foreman was recognized for her beadwork and basketry. She presented the last session of the day as she taught participants how to bead a visor. Foreman beads earrings, key chains, necklaces, and bracelets. She also makes baskets, baby moccasins, and dreamcatchers.

“In addition to the teachers learning crafts to teach their students, they also had a day of fun and fellowship with other teachers,” said Barbara Girty Foster. “And there was a lot of food donated and prepared. There were donuts, fruit, and coffee in the morning and for lunch there was some good barbeque sliders, beans, and slaw, as well as a salad bar and delicious homemade cookies and brownies and delicious banana pudding,” she added.

There were door prizes galore! So many that every one of the fifteen participants won a prize, and several won two! There were \$10. gift cards from Starbuck’s and Chili’s and two \$10 gift cards from Vinny’s Coffee Shop, a beautiful lap quilt with pink roses and hearts, flashy beaded turquoise and white earrings, T-shirts, a slate painting, flat basket reed, and a serving tray tower.

“We enjoy taking our culture out into the communities and we look forward to developing our outreach programs,” said Girty Foster. For more information on Keetoowah Cultural programs, contact the museum at (918) 871-2866.



Participants, instructors, tribal employees and volunteers who completed the Teaching the Teacher Indigenous Cultural Arts Workshop.



JHCCM Director Ernestine Berry gives workshop participants a condensed Keetoowah history lesson.



Tradition Keeper Lena Deere shows the class the turtle they will draw and paint.



Tradition Keeper Char Wolfe teaches how to make and stitch balls for stickball.



Alice Wilder shows a woven mat, before teaching them to make their own.



The last class of the day was beading a visor. Tradition Keeper Marcella Foreman answers questions on beadwork



Tribal Secretary Caleb Grimm, Barbara Girty Foster, Kansas Schools Federal Program Director Tammie Bowman, and Chief Jeff Wacoche gathered to pass out certificates of completion.



Char Wolfe talks about the significance of stickball and taught the class to make mini stick ball sticks.

Lunch and Learn



LEFT: Members of Lunch and Learn show off their corn husk dolls. (Far left) Carrie and Noel Grayson show up in support of their daughter teaching her first traditional arts class. (Front row) Raelie Grayson (Back row, l to r)



RIGHT: Raelie Grayson with her corn husk doll.



Five UKB Students lead panel on Native American Issues in Albuquerque

UKB Education had the opportunity to take students to SWPACA Conference.

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico- The United Keetoowah Band Education Department took five students to present on Native American issues for the Southwest Popular/American Culture Conference.

This was an academic conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was the fourth year Education Director Dr. Leslie Hannah has taken students to this conference and it was his biggest group. Jr. Miss Keetoowah J'Leeanna Ramsey represented Maryetta Schools, Miss Keetoowah Grayci Spradlin represented Tahlequah Schools, Oaks Schools sent one student Emily Sanders and Cave Springs sent two students Kaylee Tarin and Adrian Camacho.

"As moderator, we had our students lead the presentations and it was an all-girls panel," Dr. Hannah said. "As the girls presented a tough topic on Native American issues there were some people in audience who got emotional, but I am proud of them for getting up there and getting through the presentation."

The girls had a special support team with them not only from their parents, but also from Education Intake Specialist Amber Dry and Court Clerk Kristie Bradley.

The Education Department made sure this trip was not just about the conference but made it out to be a cultural trip as well. They took the students to the Institute of American Indian Arts School for a tour, Old Town Albuquerque, Old Town Santa Fe and was able to do some sightseeing.

One day they took the Amtrack Train and made it out to be a cultural exchange ride with the Amish who were riding.

"It was such a good trip, and as far as the students presenting, they did a heck of a good job," Dr. Hannah said. "For these students to speak on difficult topics and handle it with such poise, it was maturity beyond their years."

The Education Department hopes to take more students back next year for this conference.



Oaks student, Emily Sanders leading the first session.



Jr. Miss Keetoowah and Maryetta student, J'Leeanna Ramsey leading the second session.



Miss Keetoowah and Tahlequah student, Grayci Spradlin leading the third session.



Cave Springs students, Kaylee Tarin and Adrian Camacho leading the fourth session.





Class of 2026

UKB GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Presented by the UKB Education Committee

Saturday May 2nd, 2026

UKB Venue - 5:00pm to 8:00pm

for more information please refer to ukb.educ.comm@gmail.com



We Are HIRING

Please visit our UKB website at: www.ukb-nsn.gov for all opening positions!

Apply Now










Applications can be found at www.ukb-nsn.gov/employment

Send your applications to:
 UKB Federal Programs Building at 18300 W. Keetoowah Circle, Tahlequah, OK, 74464. If mailing please address your envelope with ATTN: Human Resources. Completed and scanned applications will be accepted.

LUNCH SERVED MONDAY - THURSDAY 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, ALL MEALS TO GO MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
 BREAKFAST SERVED FRIDAY 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, ALL MEALS TO GO MUST BE PICKED UP BY 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
 All meals subject to change without notice *



EASTER SUNDAY IN APRIL - UKB TITLE VI - JIM PROCTOR ELDER NUTRITION CENTER MENU
 UKB 55+, SPOUSES = FREE, CDIB 55+ & SPOUSE MUST CONTRIBUTE TO COST OF MEAL \$1.00 EACH MEAL, GUEST \$5.00/Child 0-12 \$3.00

Title VI Nutrition April 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jim Proctor Elder Community Center 918-871-2747 918-871-2861	Inclement Weather Tahlequah schools are CLOSED FOR SNOW OR ICE, UKB Offices will be CLOSED.	Bad Weather: There will be no home delivered meals due to the safety of our driver	1 April Fool's Day COOKS CHOICE	2 Nat. Ferret Day Fried Chicken Strips Mashed Potatos/Gravy Green Beans Hot Roll, Cabbles	3 Good Friday TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED	4 Tell a Lie Day UKB Regular Council Meeting 10 AM Wellness Center
5 EASTER 	6 Fresh Tomato Day Ham/Cheese Sandwich Potato Chips Pasta Salad, Pickle Tropical Fruit	7 World Health Day Meat/Cheese Nachos Mexican Rice Corn Pineapple Cake	8 Zoo Lovers Day Stuffed Bell Pepper Rice Pilaf Cauliflower Hot Roll, Fruit	9 Jumbo Day Brown Beans w/ Ham Zucchini/Yellow Squash, Fry Bread Strawberry Cake	10 Day of Silence Biscuits/Gravy Eggs, Bacon Hashbrowns Oranges, Juice	11 National Pet Day 
12 Wear a Star Day 	13 Peach Cobbler Day Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Mex Corn Fresh Fruit Salad	14 Gardening Day Chili w/Fixings Corn Fritos Fresh Fruit Salad	15 Tax Day Pork Chop Au Gratin Potato's Baby Carrots, Roll Peach Cobbler	16 Good Deeds Day Indian Taco w/ Fixings Rice Fresh Fruit Salad	17 Herbalist Day Blueberries Pancake, Eggs, Bacon, Hashbrown Fruit Juice	18 Exercise Day 
19 Cat Lady Day 	20 Look Alike Day Goulash Italian Green Beans, Garlic Toast Fresh Fruit Salad	21 National Tea Day Chicken Fries Steak Mashed Potato/Gravy Green Beans	22 Earth Day Meatball Sub Cauliflower Bites Salad Fresh Fruit Salad	23 Nat. Lovers Day April Birthdays Hamburger w/ Fixins Onion Rings Cake & Ice Cream	24 Arbor Day KITCHEN CLOSED CLEANING DAY	25 Go Birding Day 
26 Help a Horse Day 	27 Babe Ruth Day Hamburger Stew Hominy, Fry Bread Fresh Fruit Salad	28 Save the Frogs Day Chicken Fajitas Mex Rice Mex Beans Carrot Cake	29 World Wish Day Baked Potato Bar Salad Bar Dessert Bar	30 Bugs Bunny Day Chili Cheese Dogs Fritos Potato Salad Fruit	Tornado Season Seek Shelter 	April Birthstone Diamond 

Stay home if you feel sick! Title VI Staff, 2% Milk daily.
 The Full Moon "Pink Moon" is Wednesday April 1st at 10:12 PM EDT
 Be prepared, Tornado season in Oklahoma runs from April through June each year.
 In April, make a container gardening planter, create a bird friendly environment and go fishing!
 "April cold with dripping rain, Willows and lilac brings again, the whistle of returning birds, And trumpet-lowing of the herds"
 Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82)



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