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NEW LOOK
Tribal officials and
students paint the
halls at Bell School.
NEWS, 3

GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY AWP Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma February 2023



INAUGURATED
The 2023-25 UKB District representatives with the tribe's four officers. From left are Cooweescoowee Rep. Clifford Wofford, Delaware Rep. Elmer Panther, Saline Rep. Charles Smoke, Secretary Joyce Fourkiller, Illinois Rep. Peggy Girty, Canadian Rep. Eddie Sacks, Treasurer Sonja Ummerteske Gourd, Flint Rep. Frankie Still, Chief Joe Bunch, Goingsnake Rep. Willie Christie, Tahlequah Rep. Alvin Hicks and Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

UKB swears in Council for tribe's districts

With seven representatives returning, Delaware District Rep. Elmer Panther begins his new term on the UKB Council.

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – On Saturday Jan. 7 the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians kicked off the new year swearing in the councilors who will represent the nine tribal districts for the next two years.

The inauguration took place in Tahlequah at The Venue, where family and friends gathered to celebrate the new term of the UKB Council.

Seven of the individuals returned to serve another term, while the Delaware District representative will be serving his first term and the Sequoyah District seat remained vacant.

At the beginning of the inauguration, UKB Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche gave his opening remarks followed by the posting of colors by the UKB Honor Guard. Pastor Bill Pettit from Freedom Fellowship gave the invocation, and Lani Hansen sang the National Anthem.

After Chief Joe Bunch stated his address, Pettit and Ronny Livers sang a few Cherokee songs for entertainment.

Eight district representatives were sworn in by UKB Court Judge Tripp. Representing Canadian District is

Eddie Sacks, Cooweescoowee District Cliff Wofford, Flint District Frankie Still, Goingsnake District Willie Christie, Illinois District Peggy Girty, Saline District Charles Smoke, Tahlequah District Alvin Hicks and Delaware District Elmer Panther who is serving for his first term.

"It's good we have a minimal change in our council, because everyone knows what is going on and what needs to be done," Assistant Chief Wacoche stated about majority of the Council returning. "With Elmer, it will be an experience to learn on the go. But he expressed he is ready to take on the actions of serving our tribe."

After the inauguration ended, the Council had the first meeting of the year. On the agenda the Council was to appoint Levi Catron to the Sequoyah District seat. The approval was made after the reading of the Constitution.

Now that the UKB Council filled all district seats, Chief Bunch wanted to thank those who applied and went through the election process and those who were elected.

"This is a proud moment for the tribe," Chief Bunch added. "And for Elmer he has a grand opportunity to learn from council who have been on board before."



From left, Reps. Clifford Wofford (Cooweescoowee), Elmer Panther (Delaware) and Charles Smoke (Saline) raise their hands as they take their oaths of office for the UKB Council on Jan. 7 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.



Rep. Charles Smoke (Saline) gets a handshake while Reps. Peggy Girty (Illinois), Eddie Sacks (Canadian) and Frankie Still (Flint) look on during the Council inauguration event.



Council Reps. Elmer Panther (Delaware) and Charles Smoke (Saline) sign their oaths of office on Jan. 7.

Ground broken on tag office

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – On Thursday, Jan. 12 the United Keetoowah Band Tag Agency, tribal administrators, district representatives and employees celebrated the groundbreaking of the new tag agency building.

The UKB Tag Agency was started in 2000, when former UKB Chief Jim Henson received the first tribal tag. In 2018 the office was placed in the UKB Services Building, where it is currently located. The UKB Tag Agency is directed under Sheila Bluebird, working alongside employees Connie Martinez and Jamie Studie-Dick.

"The Tag Agency has moved around to multiple places, when they first started it was in a small shack behind the casino," Bluebird said.

The new office is expected to be done by summer 2023, it will be located on the southeast corner of Whitmore Lane and Keetoowah Circle. Construction will be completed under Industrial Tribal Services LLC.

SEE TAG, PAGE 2



An artist's rendering of the UKB's new tag office, which is expected to be done by the end of summer. COURTESY

UKB Housing celebrates Bolin with new home

Tribal member David Bolin is a new homeowner thanks to the UKB Housing's Elder Cottage Program.

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

DRY CREEK – To bring in the New Year, the United Keetoowah Band Housing Department presented tribal member David Bolin a key to his new home, which sets on top of the hill in the Dry Creek community.

Bolin, a fluent language speaker, has lived in this area his whole life. His living situation was not the best for an elder. It was right before COVID hit when his sister Ella Bolin took matters upon her own hands and came to the tribe for help. She was taking care of him, as he recovered from a stroke.

Ella had learned through the UKB Housing Department about the elder cottage program. She

SEE HOME, PAGE 2



New homeowner David Bolin is surrounded by UKB Housing Department as they helped him celebrate. LANI HANSEN/REPORTER/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



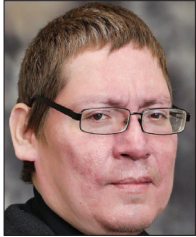
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Canadian Dist.
Eddie Sacks
918-822-1957



Cooweescoowee Dist.
Clifford Wofford
918-822-1953



Delaware Dist.
Elmer Panther
918-226-1668



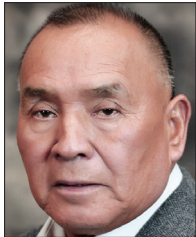
Flint Dist.
Frankie Still
918-507-2822



Goingsnake Dist.
Willie Christie
918-822-3803



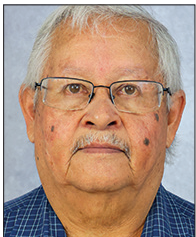
Illinois Dist.
Peggy Girty
918-457-7067



Saline Dist.
Charles Smoke
918-457-7071



Sequoyah Dist.
Junior Catron
918-315-0970



Tahlequah Dist.
Alvin Hicks
918-931-1462

Looking for good things, bright future

Gi du wa, go whl la
February is here. Area basketball is in full swing and headed into March Madness and we have been blessed with not much winter this past January. We inaugurated our 36th Tribal Council the first Saturday in January, and followed a few hours later with our regular Council meeting. Please, welcome our district representatives as they play a vital role in providing service and information to our tribal members in our districts.

We have one new district representative in the Delaware District, Elmer Panther. So if you have the chance, please welcome him to this position. All the remaining district representatives were re-elected. Three had no contest, and one was re-appointed to the district representative position by the supreme governing body, the Council.

Some would argue, “why did we have a referendum vote to amend the election policy to include a drivers license and high school diploma or equivalent to be an elected official?”

The Constitution provides in Article V, Governing Body, Section 3, the following: The term of office of members of the Council, other than officers of the band, shall be for a period of two years, or until their successors are duly elected



Chief's Corner

JOE BUNCH
Principal Chief
jbunch@ukb-nsn.gov

and qualified. In this case there was no successor elected and qualified candidate. The Council approved Councilman Levi Catron to continue his role as district representative.

Another district representative race, the Saline District, was challenged, and citing electioneering and loitering, a hearing was held by the Election Board, and they upheld their decision to disqualify Charles Smoke from office.

In Smoke’s appeal in the tribal courts, the court decision filed in his favor and the disqualification was dismissed. Rep. Smoke was re-elected as the Council member in the Saline District.

In seating a House of Representative delegate, Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, House Representative Torie Holland and myself discussed with then-Chairman James P. McGovern of the House Rules Committee the UKB’s history and the need for the three federally recognized

Cherokee tribes having representation in the House, provided by treaties with the Cherokees. This was articulated due to no consultation with either the Eastern Band of Cherokees Indians or the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees. Rest assured that we will continue to fight this until all three federally Cherokee tribes are represented, or no representation is permitted.

We held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new tag office building, and we look forward to the drive through access it will have.

We are negotiating the repair of our T-6 building, building back better. The groundwork on the south side of our grounds is the Housing Warehouse already in progress, other activities include the first time ever, visit by the Indian Health Service Secretary Rosland Tso, who listened to our health concerns and discussed a possible general medical facility for the UKB. During her visit, she and the Oklahoma Regional IHS Office toured our complex and museum.

We look for good things happening in 2023. The future of Keetoowah looks bright. Thank you and God Bless the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians.

Do da go hv I, until we see again. My office is always open call or come by.

HOME: Bolin’s home sits on his family’s land.

FROM PAGE 1

applied for him, and they waited about three years or more before the home was completed.

“COVID had set us back and finding a spot for a well to the house,” Housing Assistant Director Richard Vann said.

Bolin’s home sits on top of the hill in the Dry Creek community on his family’s land. It is a one-bedroom house with a handicapped accessible bathroom, a living room area and kitchen area.

“I’m 100 percent thankful for the tribe of getting this home built for me,” Bolin said.

The UKB Housing Department Elder Cottage program was started a few years ago, with seven homes that were then replaced by one or two-bedroom cottages, with Bolin being one of the seven recipients according to Housing Director Roxana Wilden.

In order to be eligible for the program one must be exclusive UKB elder (ages 62 and up), meet an income guideline and never have owned a home.

On days like January 13th when the Housing Department went to Bolin’s new home and presented him with a key, they saw how much appreciation comes from the family.

“I look forward to giving the homeowner the keys, because sometimes they are speechless, but the families see more of appreciation because the tribe did something for their family member that needed help,” Vann said.

As the director, Wilden was the one



Housing Director Roxana Wilden, Tahlequah District Rep Alvin Hicks and Assistant Director Richard Vann present the key to the new home of David Bolin.

to hand the key over to Bolin as he was surrounded by a few of his sisters.

“We are helping out our elders, but we relieve the burden from most of their family members,” said Wilden.

Bolin’s key presentation was the first one Wilden and Vann did together as Director and Assistant Director.

To apply for an elder cottage or other programs, hard copy applications are provided at the UKB Housing Department located at 18300 W. Keetoowah Circle in the main complex.

For more information about the Housing Department, call 918-871-2773.



The new home of UKB member David Bolin. Bolin received his home in Dry Creek via the UKB Housing Department. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

TAG: The new facility will be 1,217 square feet.

FROM PAGE 1

“We are thankful for the AARP funding, it has helped us with getting this new place,” Bluebird said. “It will be exciting to call it our own, once completed.”

The new facility will be 1,217 square feet and come with a larger waiting area with a restroom, one breakroom for employees, one employee restroom, one office, one large service area and a drive thru.

“The facility is a testament to the tax commission who had come together and built this plan,” Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche said.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on Jan. 12, when tribal administration, ITS representatives, district representatives and employees came together to celebrate.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the tag office, it’ll be more convenient for customers with the drive thru services,”

Chief Joe Bunch said.

The new facility will continue operating the same services such as registration renewal, personalized tags, active-duty tag, adding and removal of name, duplicate title/lost tag, repo affidavit, adding a tribal member, updating information with Tag Agency and delegation forms.

Hours of operation will remain the same, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. For assistance, call 918-871-2770.



THE UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND’S OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
FEB. 20 FOR PRESIDENTS DAY



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Bell School gets new coat of paint

UKB Education, tribal employees, Cave Springs students and Bacone students paint the halls of Bell.

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

BELL – UKB employees, students from Cave Springs and Bacone College all came together to give Bell Elementary School a new look inside the building from what was a southwestern style to a more modern look of school colors.

Bell serves about 75 students from Pre-k to eighth grade. The school sits 9 miles southeast of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

It is one of the oldest schools that was established in the 1870s that serves Native American children, according to Bell Principal Tony Davidson.

The school has 17 staff members, with Davidson serving as the principal for the past 15 years.

After having the hallways painted a southwestern design for more than 35 years, it was time for a change for the school, he said.

Davidson said the students and teachers decided they wanted a new color and look.

“We had contacted Dr. (UKB Education Director Leslie) Hannah with the UKB, and he set us up bringing donations from Lowe’s,” Davidson said. “So we painted it in the school colors now which are black, white and yellow. We had a lot of volunteers from the Keetoowahs and



A Bacone student helps paint the walls at Bell Elementary School. Students from Cave Springs and UKB employees also helped give the school a new look. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

thanks to Dr. Hannah, after 35 years we got it painted.”

Lowe’s donated all the material such as brushes, paint and tape. Fors Marsh, a



Bell Elementary before the paint job.



Bell Elementary after the paint job.

consultant company out of Virginia made a monetary donation which went toward the paint. On Jan. 4, Hannah and some tribal employees went to Bell to prep and

“We had a lot of volunteers from the Keetoowahs and thanks to Dr. Hannah, after 35 years we got it painted.”

Tony Davidson, Bell principal

tape the walls. Helping were some staff members from Bell and students from Cave Springs. Hannah was overwhelmed by all who came on the days to paint.

“We had employees from almost each department, some students from Cave Springs who are a part of the FFA group and students from Bacone College come help,” Hannah said.

Many of the staff at Bell were happy with the tribe coming in and helping with upgrades for the school. Bell teacher Eileen Tidwell said with the new look she hopes it will make the students proud of their school.

Davidson plans the continuation of working with the tribe, as the education department has already begun a reading program with the students from kindergarten through second grade.

The environmental department will be tree cutting and hauling off brush, so the school can have more access to their property.

“We are hoping to do some remodel to the gymnasium as it needs, and hope the tribe will help out,” Davidson said.

Hannah said he was really proud of the outcome to paint the hallways of Bell School.

Stitt inauguration & IHS visitor



UKB Chief Joe Bunch, third from right, and Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, fifth from right, attend Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt's inauguration on Jan. 9 in Oklahoma City. Stitt, center, won a second term as governor in November. PHOTOS BY LANI HANSEN/GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS



Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, left, and Chief Joe Bunch take a picture with Oklahoma first Lady Sarah Stitt on Jan. 9 during Gov. Kevin Stitt's inauguration.



Indian Health Service Oklahoma City Area Director Rear Adm. Travis Watts, IHS Director Roselyn Tso, UKB Chief Joe Bunch and Treasurer Joyce Fourkiller tour UKB facilities on Dec. 21 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, during Tso's visit to the state.



Indian Health Service Director Roselyn Tso, center, poses with UKB Chief Joe Bunch, left of Tso, along with other UKB and IHS officials on Dec. 21 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, during Tso's visit to the state.

UKB Tribal
Lighthouse Police

An officer is always on-call if you are ever in need of emergency assistance or assistance with a civil or criminal matter.

Call 918-207-9955

UKB Tribal Enrollment

18300 W. Keetoowah Circle Tahlequah, OK 74464
Open Monday-Friday | 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As with other federally recognized tribes in the U.S., the United Keetoowah Band has its unique process to determine its own 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.

OBITUARIES

<p>Johnny Lee Bird</p> <p>Johnny Lee Bird was born on March 4, 1945 to John Bird and Betty Smith(Bird) in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He departed this life on December 14, 2022 surrounded by those who loved him most at the age of 77 years old.</p> <p>Johnny loved life and lived it to the fullest. He had a huge heart and would</p>	<p>help anyone in need.</p> <p>He was always laughing, smiling and joking with everyone. He loved spending time with his friends and family but especially his wife, grandkids and great grandkids.</p> <p>It was his greatest joy was to serve the Lord and encourage anyone he came across to join in his fellowship. His hobbies included tinkering with</p>	<p>cars, fixing/building things, fishing, going on adventures and teaching his grandkids about life.</p> <p>He was an amazing husband, father and grandfather. His life was loving the Lord and his family.</p> <p>Johnny was proceeded in death by his father John Bird, mother Betty Smith both of Stilwell, Oklahoma, sisters Janie Greyson, Laura Bunch,</p>		<p>Lila Gonzales, brothers Ocie Bird, Sammy Bird, Wesley Bird and Fabian Bird. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Shirley Bird, his two daughters, Nona Price and husband Jeff, Cheryl Powell and husband Floyd, two nephews/sons Donnie Bird, Dennis Bird, grandkids, Jacob Shell, Megan Shell, Lauren Shell, Kendall Todd, Hayden Price, Krymsen Price, Cheryl Jean Willis, Natasha Bird, Kyle Bird, Delaney McGee, Nikolas Bird, great-grandkids, Jade Henson, Azakiah Ellis, London Ellis.</p>
<p>Norma Jean Gifford</p> <p>Norma was born in a log cabin near Kenwood, OK, December 20, 1934, to Eugene and Flonnie Partain.</p> <p>The eldest of three daughters, she attended elementary school in Kenwood and graduated from Kansas High School.</p> <p>In 1963, she received her Bachelors in Elementary Education, later returning</p>	<p>to receive her Master's in Special Education. After teaching at Tahlequah Public Schools and Lost City for 40 years, she retired in the late 90s.</p> <p>In 1955, She married William Smock. They had two children, William (Bill) and Candis, before divorcing in the late 1960's.</p> <p>In 1993, she married her best friend, Isaac Gifford. They loved to camp and fish, enjoying too few years together</p>	<p>before Issac's passing in 2004. She was a talented cook and seamstress, and enjoyed creating many crafty home decorations.</p> <p>She is survived by her two children of the home and two sisters, Jeri of Prairie Grove, Ark., and Ruby of Salina, Ok. Norma leaves behind 3 grandchildren; Casey, Cody, and Jacob. Also blessed by 4 great-grandchildren; Mya, Maci, James, and</p>		<p>Juniper of Tahlequah. They all Loved their Memee so much. She will be remembered by her numerous cousins, friends, and those she took in as her family for the love she radiated and taught to everyone who knew her.</p> <p>She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and joined her Savior and loved one waiting with Him on December 12th, just shy of her 88th birthday</p>
<p>Katherine Lou (Holmes) Ketcher</p> <p>Mrs. Katherine "Kathy" Ketcher was born January 24th, 1955 to Ted Holmes and Annie Ruth Holmes (Buzzard). She passed this life on December 27th, 2022 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Kathy was a proud member of Church On The Rock. She enjoyed going on long car rides, the sounds</p>		<p>of gospel singing bellowing through the air, and attending church. Being with grandkids and family is where you could find Kathy enjoying quality time spent.</p> <p>Kathy was forever lending a helping hand to those in</p>	<p>need. Her gifts of giving to others is the legacy she leaves her friends and family. Kathy will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.</p> <p>Kathy is survived by a loving and devoted family who include husband Jimmy of the home. Two daughters: Rita Stockton of Muskogee, OK, Veronica Hubbard and Reece of Blackwell OK, Three sons: Donnie</p>	<p>Ketcher of Stilwell, Jimmy Jr. Ketcher of Stilwell, Lonnie Ketcher and Jamie of Stilwell. Four sisters: Mary Drywater, Ella Mae Gilberth, Gracie Wilburn, and Ramona Finch. Two brothers: Joe Holmes and Mitchell Holmes. Kathy was also survived by a beloved and cherished friend Brenda Adair.</p> <p>She was perceeded in death by her parents.</p>
<p>Michael Shondell King</p> <p>Michael (Shon) Shondell King, 49, passed away on Friday, November 18, 2022. He was born on September 2, 1973 in Gravette, AR to James & Nancy King.</p> <p>Shon was raised up around the Zena and Jay area where he was well known by many for being a handyman that would do anything for anyone that he could to help his neighbors and friends. He attended Public Schools for many years. Shon enjoyed being outdoors, he liked to hunt, work on vehicles and was always tinkering with something. If it didn't run fast or good</p>	<p>enough, he was always trying to find a way to make it run better or faster. In 2000 he became a father to Dalton James King. Shon dedicated his life to raising his son, he was a devoted and loving father and made sure that his son always had everything he needed. Shon was a member of the UKB tribe and participated actively in his Indian heritage. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.</p> <p>Shon is preceded in death by his father James Edward King; Mother Nancy Sue King; Grandparents Sherman King, Dorothy King, Cephus Sourjohn, Ella Mae Sourjohn and Wilma "Bruce" Sourjohn.</p>	<p>He is survived by his Son Dalton James King and Finance' Lacreacia Patterson of Zena, OK; Brother Kenny King and wife Patti of Eucha, OK ; Niece Casey Goins and husband Wayne of Eucha and Niece Keeta Tillman and husband Marcus of Eucha, OK; his one Nephew Cody King of Eucha, OK; One Great Niece Madison"Dude" King of Eucha ,OK; Four Great Nephews Kaylib "Cotton" King, Korbyn "Roper" Tillman, Bayler "Rider" Tillman and Lawson "Newt"</p>		<p>Tillman; As well as many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins from the King and Sourjohn Side of the family that he loved dearly; extended family and friends.</p> <p>Shon's Wake Service were November 25, followed by his family visitation to greet friends at Lawson's Funeral Homes & Cremation Services.</p> <p>Shon's Celebration Of Life Funeral Service were November 26 at Lawson's Funeral Homes & Cremation Services Chapel with Rev. Jheri Roberts officiating. Followed by his funeral procession to Hilderbrand Cemetery, Zena, OK.</p>
<p>Thelma Jane Kingfisher</p> <p>Thelma Jane Kingfisher, 81, of Salina, passed from this life on Monday, November 14, 2022, in Tulsa. She was born on June 2, 1941, in Claremore, Oklahoma to Sam and Jennie (Christie) Blossom.</p> <p>She married Clarence Kingfisher on July 1, 1975, in Salina and spent many wonderful years with him until his passing in 2017. She took any opportunity to go on the road and travel, especially with her husband Clarence. She enjoyed any time she could take a drive and loved looking at the foliage in the fall.</p>		<p>She also liked cooking, sewing, and making quilts for her grandkids. Most of all, she loved going to church, church events and activities, serving her Lord, and</p> <p>spending time with her family. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandma, and aunt. She leaves behind many memories for all to cherish and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.</p> <p>Funeral services for Thelma were held November 21 at the Salina First</p>	<p>Baptist Church with Reverend Richard Budder officiating.</p> <p>Burial followed at the Little Rock Indian Cemetery with Jacob Kingfisher, Bryce Kingfisher, Traiven Kingfisher, Jacob "Earl" Smoke, Darrian Kingfisher, and Trent Brown serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers were Josh Smoke and Easton Kingfisher. A wake service was held November 20.</p> <p>She is survived by her sons, Samuel Kingfisher of Salina, and Daniel Kingfisher and Wendy of Salina; daughter, Jennie Rogers of Salina; sister, Roselene Lenio of Salina; grandchildren, Whitney Rogers of</p>	<p>Pryor, Brooke Rogers of Locust Grove, Summer Smoke, Kristen Smoke, Josh Smoke, Sarah Smoke of Grove, Jacob "Earl" Smoke of Locust Grove, Jacob Kingfisher of Claremore, Traiven Kingfisher, Brailee Kingfisher of Salina, Cadence Kingfisher of Salina, Emily Kingfisher of Pryor, Darrian Kingfisher of Pryor, and Easton Kingfisher of Salina; 8 great grandchildren and 3 on the way. She is preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Jennie Blossom; husband, Clarence Kingfisher; son, Kelly Smoke; daughters, Lisa and Diane Rogers; twin sister, Wilma Kingfisher; sister, Vionita Littledave; and grandson, Brett Owen Rogers.</p>
<p>Lillie Mae Ross</p> <p>Lillie Mae Ross, daughter of Levi Ross and Mary Hardbarger Ross, was born on October 10, 1944 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at her home on Ross Mountain.</p> <p>Lillie was a teacher's aide and a cook for Greasy School for several years. She loved singing Cherokee Hymns</p>	<p>and was a member of the New Baptist Church in Greasy.</p> <p>Lillie enjoyed family, playing softball, wrestling, playing jar rings and OU Sports.</p> <p>Lillie was a blessed Mom to her 3 children: daughter – Jimmie Lynn Ross, son – Terry Ross and son – Jerry Ross.</p> <p>Lillie was preceded in death by her father – Levi Ross, mother – Mary Hardbarger Ross; 3 brothers – George Ross, Albert Ross and Ronnie Ross;</p>	<p>2 sisters – Emma Swimmer and Ollie Ross; and niece Sharon Sawney.</p> <p>Lillie is survived by her loving family: Children – daughter Jimmie Lynn Ross, son Terry Ross, son Jerry Ross and wife Lori. Granddaughters: Catherine Emujakporue and husband Moses;</p>		<p>Tiffany Gonzalis and husband Omar; Jayme Stepp and husband Wes. Grandsons: Sheldon Gatewood, Jayson Steeley, and Lane Trammel and wife Andrea. Great grandchildren: Jay Emujakporue, Jaelyn, Wyatt, Kayden, Gage, Emmy and Korbin. Brothers: Johnny Ross and Richard Ross. Her special kin, Joe Grayson.</p> <p>A host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends also survive her.</p>
<p>Lorene Ross</p> <p>Lorene Ross, 91, of Kenwood, passed away on Dec. 9, 2022, at her home. She was born on Dec. 21, 1930, in Teresita; the daughter of Elwood Whittington and Arlene (Levi) Sac. She married Archie Leroy Leaf in 1947 and had four children, Fred, Leroy, Sharon and Carolyn. In 1969, Lorene married Stanley Budder of Kenwood, and together had 4 children as well, Stanley, Melissa, Sheila, and Briana. In 2007, Lorene married Woodrow Ross. Lorene loved her Lord and Savior. She attended Emmanuel Baptist Church with Woodrow and also attended Amazing Grace Church. She loved spending time outdoors, especially when it came to cutting grass and tinkering in her flower garden. In</p>		<p>1985, she watched children at home and was offered a job at Kenwood Schools to watch the kids. Lorene became a home health care giver to Cherokee speaking elders.</p> <p>She spent time on the Tax Commission for the UKB. She loved spending time with family and friends, and having cookouts. In the fall, she would gather hickory nuts to make kanuchi. Lorene enjoyed watching TV and sitting on her porch. She was also writing stories about things God was revealing to her and how her life was growing up as a child and the hardships they faced. She was a strong Christian woman, fluent Cherokee speaker, and was</p>	<p>loving and kind to all she met. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.</p> <p>Funeral services were Dec. 19, 2022 in the Little Rock Indian Baptist Church in Locust Grove. Burial followed in the Little Rock Indian Cemetery with Keith Jason, Jr., Brad Davis, Ashton Budder, Brian Proctor, Dakota Jackson, and Rob Chumwalooky serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers were Paul Leaf, Bo Leaf, Braydon Thomas, Keelan Davis, TJ Cummings, and Josh Butcher. Lorene is survived by her sons, Leroy Leaf of Salina; and Stanley Budder, Jr., and Rose Lyman of Kenwood; daughters, Sharon Proctor of Colcord; Carolyn Chumwalooky of Kenwood; Sheilah Thomas and husband Brandon of Pryor; and Briana Lamb and husband Keith of Kenwood;</p>	<p>sisters, Joan Garnett and Ida Sac both of Tulsa; 19 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, 31 great-great grandchildren, and 7 great-great-great grandchildren; and many relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents; husbands; sons, Baby Boy Leaf and Johnny Leaf; daughter, Melissa Budder Davis; sons in law, William Chumwalooky and Dallas Proctor; siblings, Charley Sac, David Sac, Mary Sac, Marlene Sac Tiger, Juanita Sac Rice and Katherine Whittington Alderman; grandsons, Marwin (Boy) Leaf and Wes Proctor; granddaughters, Chassidy Butcher and Layla Leaf; great grandsons, Trifton Wacoche, Rylan Smith, Jordan Proctor and Shanendoah Leaf; and great-great-great granddaughter, Jovi Backwater.</p>

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

Jerry Dale Shade

Jerry Dale Shade, 69, passed away on Nov. 23, 2022. The night before, he went to bed with thoughts of when to begin deep-frying this year’s Thanksgiving turkey. He would not wake again.

Jerry (Tshisata) was born Feb. 5, 1953, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to Tommy (Dinisogi) and Betsy (Quedi) Shade of Gore, Oklahoma. Cherokee was the language spoken in the home, but he learned English quickly from his older brother Emmett (Dvnai) Shade and from elementary school. Younger brothers Richard, William, Thomas, Albert and Robert looked up to him. Jerry took care of family from his earliest years. After high school, he attended Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, in 1971 where he met Judy Ann Lovato. Though he didn’t stay at Bacone, Jerry and Judy wrote to one another and eventually met again at Northeastern State

University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. They married on Dec. 31, 1973, and their children Karen, Gloria and Christopher soon followed. In those early years, Jerry and Judy moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and later to Sequoyah County. Jerry was a welder for several companies, including Lee C. Moore Company. For a time, he made the 1 ½-hour commute between Tulsa and the place he would call home for the rest of his life. With help from family and friends, Jerry built a home for his family from the ground up. He and Judy raised their children in the quiet, rural countryside surrounding Lake Tenkiller and the Illinois River that he knew as a child.

He worked long, hard hours in road construction that tested him when summer temperatures climbed into triple digits. Winter could be even tougher on work boots and will. As their children left home for college and, eventually, their own lives, Jerry and Judy looked toward their own

pursuits. Judy finished her college bachelor’s degree. Jerry filled his time-off with the outdoor activities he loved most, especially fishing. He retired from construction in 2015. In early 2020, Jerry underwent surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. Though slow, his recovery was remarkable to everyone around him. He wore a walking path around his land to make himself stronger. He spent time with friends juggling for catfish. When he had enough catfish in the freezer, he had a fish fry. He also liked to smoke ribs in the cast-iron smoker he built himself. Jerry loved time spent with his kids, especially on long nature walks. He spent hours in the backyard doing what he called “piddlin’ around.” Jerry especially loved drinking morning coffee on the front porch with Judy and their miniature schnauzer, Pepper. Jerry and Judy’s bond only strengthened over time. He was proud of and loved his family and the life that he and Judy



made together. He was also proud to be part of Cherokee Nation’s Cherokee language preservation efforts as a Cherokee elder and language speaker.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Judy Shade; daughters, Karen Shade-Lanier and husband Jim Lanier of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Gloria Shade and husband Ross Greenawalt of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and son Chris Shade of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He is also survived by brothers William Shade and wife Joann of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Thomas Shade of Gore, Oklahoma; Albert Shade and wife Karen of Riverside, California; and Robert Shade of Muskogee, Oklahoma. He is also survived by cousin Rosa Mae Carter of Gore, Oklahoma; aunt Sally Gourd of Gore, Oklahoma; uncle Jake Phillips of Stilwell, Oklahoma; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Tommy and Betsy Shade; and brothers Emmett Shade and Richard Shade.

Memorial services for Jerry were December 2 at Blackgum Baptist Church in Vian under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Service.

Katherine Ann Summerfield-Newcomb

Katherine Ann Summerfield-Newcomb (Kat), passed away peacefully at Saint John’s Hospital in Tulsa, OK, November 25, 2022 on Friday afternoon to be with her Lord at the age of 65.

Kat was born on February 7, 1947 in Claremore, OK to John Wayne



Summerfield and Mary Louise Tanner Summerfield.

Kat enjoyed most of her time spent with her grandchildren, who she loved dearly. She was an excellent cook, always in the kitchen. She was an artist, she loved to

paint with her music loud. Never wore the same outfit twice, however you remember her she was sure to leave a lasting impression.

Kat was preceded in death by her father John Wayne Summerfield; mother Mary Louise Tanner-Summerfield; brother Marvin Summerfield.

Kat is survived by her loving husband, Don Newcomb; lovingly

remembered by grandchildren, Skye, Mahki, Jaylem, Jeron, Armando, Kameron, Johnny, Jordan, and Andres; extended family and friends. Kat will be missed by all that knew her.

Kat’s family was to have a Private Celebration of Life Memorial Service at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Lawson’s Funeral Homes & Cremation Services in Jay, OK.

Alex William Swimmer

Alex William Swimmer was born on March 31st, 1971 in Riverside, CA, the son of Charley and Imagene (Miller) Swimmer.

He was raised in the household with two brothers and one sister, Larry, Charles and Kim. He attended school at Will Rogers High School in Tulsa, OK, where he played football, baseball, but most of all, volleyball. Alex decided to earn his living as a machinist. He married Sheila Douglas in Tulsa, OK on April 29, 1991, and together they would raise a family of Brittnee, Jordan, Alex, Amber, Jayden, Talon, Koi, and Amiyah. After he graduated, he continues his love of volleyball

coaching OKRVA, the mens team, the womens team, and his beloved Red Wing Team. There was a good day spent hunting, or fishing or sometimes, working with his gun collection. He loved any chance to gather his family together, do a great meal on the grill, and be with the children he adored. He was quick with a joke and loved having fun. The Oklahoma Sooners were always on his TV. He was outgoing and loved to hang out with his friends, and in his younger years, could break dance with the best of them.

He always wanted the best for his children, wanting them to get an education, wanting them to play sports, and so very grateful for the love and support he showed them. A

Christian by faith, he attended the Victory Church in Tulsa, OK.

The Lord called this loving and kind man home from his labors on December 2nd, 2022 at his home in Tulsa, OK.

He was 51 years old and will be greatly missed.

He is preceded in death by grandparents, Alex William and Maud (Scott) Swimmer and Sherman Thomas and Eliza (Wilson) Miller. He also joins his mother and father, his beloved son, Alex Canyon Swimmer in 2022, two brothers, Larry Swimmer in 2020 and Charles Swimmer in 2018.



Those left to celebrate his life include his wife, Sheila Swimmer of the home in Tulsa, and his children, Brittnee Swimmer and Nathan Soap of Oaks, OK, Jordan Swimmer and wife Robin of Red Oak, OK, Amber Swimmer of Tulsa, Jayden Swimmer of Tulsa, Talon Swimmer of Tulsa, Koi Swimmer of Tulsa, and Amiyah Swimmer of Tulsa, OK. He leaves his sister, Kim Swimmer Holmes and husband Derrick of Tulsa, OK. He lives on in his four grandchildren, Rhiyah Soap of Oaks, Chayton Swimmer of Broken Arrow, OK, Renaya Soap of Oaks, and Nizhoni Badoni of Tulsa, OK. He also leaves a lot of nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends and loved ones too numerous to mention.

LUNCH MENU

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

Feb. 1 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans, Hot Roll Fruit Cup	Feb. 2 Dorito Beef Taco Salad Mexican Corn Chips/Cheese Fruit Cup	Feb. 3 Cooks’ Choice Breakfast or Lunch?	Feb. 6 Goulash Italian Green Beans Garlic Toast Fruit Cup	Feb. 7 Chicken Fajitas Mexican Rice Refried Beans Pineapple Cake	Feb. 8 Potato Soup Ham/Cheese Sandwich Salad Fruit Cup
Feb. 9 Baked Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Green Beans, Hot Roll Fruit Cup	Feb. 10 Meatball Sub Potato Salad Coleslaw, Roll Fruit Cup	Feb. 13 Frito Chili Pie Mac N Cheese Fried Zucchini Sticks Fruit Cup	Feb. 14 BBQ Brisket on Bun Potato Salad Baked Beans Cake & Ice Cream	Feb. 15 Pork Chop Smothered Mushroom Gravy Rice, Brussel Sprouts Hot Roll, Fruit Cup	Feb. 16 Catfish w/Tartar Sauce Black-eye Peas Coleslaw Cornbread, Fruit Cup
Feb. 17 Soup & Sandwich Salad Fruit Cup	Feb. 20 UKB Tribal Offices Closed Presidents Day	Feb. 21 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Italian Green Beans Garlic Toast Fruit Cup	Feb. 22 Tuna Sandwich Coleslaw Garden Salad Ruffles, Fruit Cup	Feb. 23 Hamburger w/Fixings French Fries Birthday Cake & Ice Cream	Feb. 24 Kitchen Closed Cleaning Day
Feb. 27 Veggie-Hamburger Stew Hominy Crackers Fruit Cup	Feb. 28 BBQ Pulled Pork on Bun Potato Salad Baked Beans Pickles, Fruit Cup				



WOOD RECYCLING PROGRAM



The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians’ Wood Recycling Program offers a FREE and safe alternative for the removal of downed timber on your property. Tribal membership is NOT required. The timber will be ricked and donated as firewood for UKB elders and tribal members unable to harvest their own firewood for the winter season.

The Wood Recycling Program will under certain circumstances cut intrusive or unwanted trees down, but a special assessment and waiver will be required. For information or if interested in donating/need timber removed, contact the Office of Environmental Services.

918-871-2825 or 918-871-2800 · oes@ukb-nsn.gov · www.ukb-nsn.gov

Student prep program yields college scholarships

In 2018, of the 500 scholarships offered through the Dell Scholars Program, 281 were awarded to Advancement Via Individual Determination students.

NEWSUSA – The Dell Scholars Program was developed by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation to assist high-school seniors who have overcome significant obstacles to obtain a college education.

In 2018, of the 500 scholarships offered through the Dell Scholars Program, 281 were awarded to Advancement Via Individual Determination students.

Students in the program work to overcome challenges, including funds for college and limited family experience with college and college preparation.

AVID is a nonprofit that provides training and support to educators, so they can ensure that all of their

students are college-ready. AVID educators are trained to tutor as well as mentor students, and to provide opportunities for the students to develop friendships and support networks with peers. Many of the AVID participants are first-generation college students who benefit from the mentoring and social support as well as from the academic instruction.

“The Dell Scholars are an inspiration to all of us at AVID. These students have overcome significant obstacles to succeed, and we’re honored to be a part of their college journey,” said Dr. Sandy Husk, CEO of AVID. “I’m excited to see what they will achieve in the

Dell Scholars Program.”

All students who become Dell Scholars receive not only financial assistance to help defray the cost of college, but also resources and mentoring throughout their college experience. These supports reinforce their study habits and relationship-building skills from AVID and similar high school programs that will help them succeed and earn a bachelor’s degree in the subject of their choice.

According to the Dell Scholars website, “Our support is constant until they leave campus with a degree in hand.” Dell and AVID share the common goal of leveling the playing field for promising high school students who might not otherwise have been empowered and motivated to prepare for and attend college.

For information about AVID, visit [avid.org](https://www.avid.org). For details about the Dell Scholars Program, visit <https://www.dellscholars.org>.



There are 2.5 million children in the United States growing up in “grandfamilies,” meaning they’re being raised by relatives or close friends without their parents in the home. For more information, www.gu.org. STATEPOINT MEDIA

Ensuring good nutrition, health of children and their caregivers

Grandfamilies are disproportionately Black, Latino and American Indian and Alaska Native populations that already have disproportionate rates of food insecurity.

STATEPOINT – There are 2.5 million children in the U.S. growing up in “grandfamilies,” meaning they’re being raised by relatives or close friends without their parents in the home, and they face higher rates of hunger and food insecurity, states a report.

The Generations United report, “Together at the Table: Supporting the Nutrition, Health and Well-Being of Grandfamilies,” shows the struggles of such households, which are often unprepared financially for the job of raising a child and may encounter difficulty accessing food and nutrition programs that help.

In fact, 25% of grandparent-headed households experienced food insecurity between 2019 and 2020, which is more than twice the national rate. The long-term health implications of food insecurity – including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, obesity and eating disorders – are dire. Also, food insecurity negatively affects a child’s ability to learn and grow.

While families from all U.S. areas face food insecurity, for the large number of grandfamilies living in the South and in rural areas, services are often limited or challenging to access. What’s more, grandfamilies are disproportionately Black, Latino and American Indian and Alaska Native populations that already have disproportionate rates of food insecurity.

Recently, the White House released a strategy to reduce hunger. While advocates describe the plan as welcome and comprehensive and say that it identifies the importance of improved outreach to grandfamilies, they also believe it must go further. According to

Generations United, some policy changes to reduce food insecurity for grandfamilies include:

- Develop kinship navigator programs that connect grandfamilies to support and services in communities. These programs should provide food and nutrition aid to grandfamilies outside the welfare system.
- Expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program access by making a “child-only” benefit that is based on the child’s needs as opposed to household income and by increasing outreach to grandfamilies.
- Ensure automatic access to free and reduced school meals for children living in grandfamilies.
- Improve outreach of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to reach more grandfamilies and connect them with benefits for which they are eligible.
- Create joint meal programs for grandfamily caregivers and the children they raise.

“Research shows that being raised by family members or close friends is the best option for children who can’t be raised by their parents,” said Donna Butts, Generations United executive director. “But unfortunately, these families face hunger and food insecurity at much higher rates than the average family. The need for basic nutrition and adequate food is universal, and every family deserves to be healthy and thrive. The fact that many of our policies and programs to reduce hunger were not designed with grandfamilies in mind should not stand in the way of this right.”

5 tips to jump start weight loss post-pandemic

Two in three Americans say the past two years showed them how important health really is.

STATEPOINT – With the New Year here, new survey results suggest that 2023 will finally be the year that Americans bring their health back into focus.

According to a recent poll of 2,000 U.S. adults aged 30 and above commissioned by Nutrisystem and conducted by OnePoll, two in three Americans credit the past two years with teaching them how important their health really is. And 71% believe the pandemic has taught them to be more observant of their health. The poll also revealed that two-thirds of Americans said weight loss is a “top health goal” over the next year.

However, for many, losing weight seems like a hard task. The truth is it doesn’t have to be. Courtney McCormick, corporate dietitian at Nutrisystem, offers these tips to help you achieve a healthier you.

1. Having healthy food at arm’s reach can make losing weight easier. A Cornell study found that women who kept a bowl of fruit where they could see it weighed an average of 13 pounds less than those who didn’t.
2. Children aren’t the only ones who need a bedtime. Adults need a set bedtime as well to be productive the next day. Setting a certain bedtime and sticking to it will also help your body get the rest that it needs to burn stubborn fat. “Not having a good night’s rest can lead to craving sugar and fatty foods, which can also lead to weight gain,” said McCormick.
3. Work out in 10-minute sets: If you’re short on time or have back-to-back meetings, working out in intervals of 10 minutes three times a day creates more flexibility in your busy schedule. Doing this creates long-term healthy habits that will help you lose and maintain weight.
4. Drink more water: What’s not to love about water? It’s hydrating and keeps your body healthy. Water aids digestive health, regulates body temperature and even aids in losing weight and maintaining the weight loss. This is because water helps you stay full between meals and avoid unnecessary snacking. In fact, feeling hungry is often a sign that you’re actually thirsty and it’s time to get hydrated.
5. Forgive a slip-up: Mistakes can actually help you understand what is healthy for your body. Having a slip-up allows you to consider the progress you’re making in your weight loss journey and be able to hold yourself accountable when making future healthy decisions.

For more tips, visit leaf.nutrisystem.com.

“Not having a good night’s rest can lead to craving sugar and fatty foods, which can also lead to weight gain.”
Courtney McCormick,
Nutrisystem dietitian



UKB HOUSING DEPARTMENT Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF Program)



The United Keetoowah Band Housing Department is providing funding assistance for the following delinquent homeowner expenses:

- Mortgage Assistance
- Homeowner Utility Expenses (Must have checked with Human Services Program for LIHEAP availability first.)

- Property Taxes

- Homeowner Insurance

The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program was developed by the Department of the Treasury to assist homeowners who are experiencing financial hardships associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic after January 21, 2020.

For questions, please call Housing at 918-871-2773

Deere creates language tools via VR

Jessica Deere, a UKB tribal member, learns to create a language classroom inside a game.



UKB tribal member Jessica Deere shows how to use a virtual reality gaming world to create a language learning tool. LANI HANSEN/ GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

“The whole premise of this activity is to bring in an object and see if the kids know Cherokee.”
Jessica Deere, UKB member

BY LANI HANSEN
Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – UKB tribal member Jessica Deere recently completed a XR Terra class where she studied how to create objects within a virtual reality gaming world, and turned it into a language learning tool. Deere who currently works for American Indian Resource Center as the media specialist, wanted to take what she learned from this class to the children in Native Aces, which is an after-school program at the rural schools the center serves. A former contractor wanted to introduce VR to these schools. “We learned that many of the schools love STEM, so we wanted to create way to involve that into classrooms,” Deere said. “We had to train the teachers on how to use virtual reality headsets.” In order to do what she created in the virtual reality game; Deere went through an eight-week course which during the first four weeks she went through

a developer bootcamp. She learned the language of coding, how to move a cube around, opening a script and building miniature games. Then she went through the designer course, where she learned how to build the world inside the game. “I was excited for this course,” Deere said. “I made a little mushroom village for my class. They paired up two designers and two developers where us designers made the world look pretty.” Deere wanted to make the VR games more cultural related, since they are taking it to the schools. The Cherokee language makes up a big portion of representation for the schools, and Deere thought of an idea on how to include it within the VR games. “We use a program called ENGAGED, it’s a virtual classroom,” she said. “We had to create free accounts for the schools, and I already use it, I created a classroom of my own.” In her virtual classroom, Deere brought in a chicken with the Cherokee phonetics and syllabary.

“The whole premise of this activity is to bring in an object and see if the kids know Cherokee. If not it will teach them how to say the object in Cherokee. Inside the game, they will be able to write the syllabary of the word too,” Deere said. Another project she is working to add in the virtual classroom is mushroom hunting and how to hunt for them. Deere said this activity is language mixed with science. She hopes to create more cultural activities in these gaming worlds, adding on a storytelling section which is a big project. About AIRC, it is to develop culturally appropriate resources to meet the needs of American Indian communities. It provides professional expertise to and on behalf of American Indian tribes, organizations and schools and other interested agencies. AIRC currently operates the following programs: Educational Talent Search, Four Directions Project and NETSTAR. For more information, call AIRC at 918-456-5581.



Keetoowah Museum Director Ernestine Berry, front left and Assistant Museum Director Barbara Girty Foster, front center, along with other Oklahoma Rural Museum staff who attended the Standards of Excellence workshop. MARILYN CRAIG/UKB MUSEUM

UKB Museum leaders complete state’s ‘Standards for Excellence’ training program in Oklahoma City

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

OKLAHOMA CITY - Keetoowah Museum Director Ernestine Berry and Assistant Museum Director Barbara Girty-Foster attended a training session offered by the Oklahoma Museums Association and presented by the Oklahoma Center for nonprofits. This program was made possible by a Carolyn Watson Rural Oklahoma Community Grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA), located in Oklahoma City, assists Oklahoma’s 500 museums with their efforts to educate, inform and entertain. OMA is a one-stop shop where teachers can learn about all Oklahoma museums and what they have to offer. OMA is the primary provider of professional training and technical information to staff and volunteers of Oklahoma’s 500 museums, historic sites, tribal cultural centers, and historical societies. The two-day “Standards for Excellence” program was held Jan. 9-10 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Sessions included museum best practices information on mission, strategy, and evaluation; leadership, staff, and volunteers; finance and operations,

and public awareness, engagement, and advocacy. Other museums’ staff participating included the Chickasaw Museum in Sulphur, Blues Hall of Fame in Rentiesville and the Forest Heritage Center in Idabel. “‘Standards of Excellence’ was an intensive workshop. Much of it addressed legal issues that nonprofits encounter,” said Berry. “It also made me aware of some areas in our museum that we can improve. We will complete an update of the Museum Disaster Plan soon. Disaster recovery from a tornado or earthquake can be extremely expensive. I was pleased to learn that the Oklahoma Museum Association has a disaster response team that is ready to help with disaster recovery efforts for member museums.” Girty-Foster also said the training was beneficial. “As one of Oklahoma’s top 10 Model Native Cultural Center & Museums, it is our duty to be accessible and responsive to the public,” she said. “We want to be accountable to our community and will practice the ‘Standards of Excellence’ in all our museum operations.” The Keetoowah Museum and store are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, by appointment. For more information, call 918-871-2866.

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Film students work on editing film of Keetoowah language instructor and tribal member John Chewey taken during the week of the 2022 Keetoowah Celebration. From left are Olivia Briggs, Christopher Coursey, David Barnoski, Aubrey Mouse, Amadeus Thorne and Kelsey Nicolette Cooper. MARILYN CRAIG/UKB MUSEUM

Red Pony Film Academy produces films on Keetoowah people, culture

Film is a good medium to revitalize the culture.

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – UKB’s John Hair Cultural Center and Museum presented Part 2 of the UKB Red Pony Film Academy on Dec. 8-10 at the museum classroom.

Students took raw footage they captured during the first Film Academy Sept. 28 through Oct. 1 during the UKB Celebration and learned how to select frames and edit film.

The result will be a series of videos that UKB can use to inform people about the tribe and culture.

All the class participants were given a manual, written by instructor and UKB member Dr. Eddie Webb, titled “A Place of Belonging – Lesson Plans, Rubrics and Technological Designs – A Guide to Building Sustainable Tribal Nation New Media Labs in Higher Education.”

Paul Hickey and Keegan Choffat were contributing authors in the manual and illustrations were done by

Timoteo Ikoshy Montoya.

“When I presented the idea of producing a language documentary before my council of elders in Jay, Oklahoma, I was quickly corrected when I said we need to ‘preserve our language.’ I was told we need to revitalize our language,” said Webb. “It was explained to me that archaeologists preserve cultures by displaying them behind glass cases. What we are doing by producing essay documentaries that record elders speaking and teaching our language is breathing life into future generations of our people.”

“It was rewarding to see the students working so intently to find just the right segments that will be used in the final product,” said Barbara Girty-Foster, museum assistant director. “The students who are participating in this program are excited to learn about film making, and we have had calls from others who want to be involved next time. This is a wonderful way to revitalize the language and culture, while also providing tribal members with skills they can use to help us document projects in the future.”

For more information about the UKB Red Pony Film Academy, call the museum at 918-871-2866.

“When I presented the idea of producing a language documentary before my council of elders in Jay, Oklahoma, I was quickly corrected when I said we need to ‘preserve our language.’ I was told, “We need to revitalize our language.”

Dr. Eddie Webb, UKB language instructor

Pinch pot class offered during UKB Museum’s Lunch and Learn

The series offers learning opportunities for employees.

BY MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Museum Marketing Coordinator

TAHLEQUAH – The John Hair Cultural Center and Museum continued its monthly cultural series for UKB employees. Titled “Lunch and Learn,” this series is an opportunity for employees to do a make-and-take craft project during their lunch times.

All supplies are provided, as well as a light lunch. Most sessions last about an hour, from noon to 1 p.m. Due to limited space and supplies, participation is limited to 10 employees per class. Clay pinch pot was the topic of the class held on Jan. 18.

Keetoowah pottery was primarily designed for function. Most were made using the coil and pinch pot method. Keetoowah ancestors made pottery jugs, bowls, cooking pots, storage jars, and other types of dishes for storing and serving food.

During the January class, nine employees participated, including UKB Natural Resources Director Merinda Reamy.

“It was a great experience with what little time we had. I did some culture classes in high school but that was long ago. To be able to do it again brought me much joy. Learning about our culture is always a blessing,” said Reamy. “I would take a full-on class for pinch pots if the museum offered one and I look forward to doing other culture classes sponsored by the museum. I liked the hands-on experience we got in the class and being able to have some relax time with co-workers and fellowship with co-workers. All around it has been great.”

Acee Watt, who is the Section 106/NAGPRA coordinator, also enjoyed the class. “This was my first class hosted by the UKB. I enjoyed how calming the class was. It ended up being very good mental therapy as well as educational,” he said.

Watt expressed an interest in seeing other classes offered in the future such as cooking, medicinal plants, and carving either wood or stone.

Assistant Museum Director Barbara Girty-Foster, series coordinator, was also the presenter for this class. Some of the remaining classes from this Lunch and Learn series will include basket weaving, finger weaving, and stickball balls. The summer series will include traditional games and stone carving.

For more information about Keetoowah history, language, or culture, contact the Keetoowah museum at 918-871-2866.

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September 2022

UKB Solid Waste Program partners with Tahlequah City

Programs under the Office of Environmental Services will provide cleaner spaces.

BY LAM HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – In the past few months the USB Office of Environmental Services has been making progress of a partnership with the City of Tahlequah.

According to USB Solid Waste Officer Cheryl Kunkel, the solid waste team has been working on the side to side with the city. The side to side is a partnership with the city to help with the city's solid waste program.

The USB Solid Waste team has been working on the side to side with the city. The side to side is a partnership with the city to help with the city's solid waste program.

SEE PARTNER PAGE 3

SHINING DIAMOND

Lauren Turner

appears in class and multiple sports. ANI-GIDUWA, 9

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

September 2022

UKB Election Board releases the list of voting sites. Voters will find two additional ballot questions.

BY LAM HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – The USB Election Board has released the list of voting sites for the 2022 election. The board has released the list of voting sites for the 2022 election. The board has released the list of voting sites for the 2022 election.

SEE PARTNER PAGE 2

KEETOOWAH IN FILM

UKB member Marcus Thompson shares his experience on-set of Oklahoma-based movies and local films.

BY LAM HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – United Keetoowah Band member Marcus Thompson shares his experience on-set of Oklahoma-based movies and local films. Thompson has been on-set of several movies and local films. Thompson has been on-set of several movies and local films.

SEE PARTNER PAGE 3

TAHLEQUAH plans Indigenous People's Day events

Northeastern State University and the Indigenous People's Alliance of Oklahoma will orchestrate the annual IPD.

BY LAM HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – With the start of October, comes the celebration of Indigenous People's Day. The celebration is a day to honor the Indigenous People of the United States. The celebration is a day to honor the Indigenous People of the United States.

SEE PARTNER PAGE 3

Tribe Lighthorse finish another year of training

Recruitment training had officers watching a presentation, taking a tour of the tribe's facilities, and participating in a variety of activities.

BY LAM HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – Every year it is a tradition for the USB Lighthorse to have a recruitment training. The training is a day to honor the Indigenous People of the United States. The training is a day to honor the Indigenous People of the United States.

SEE PARTNER PAGE 3

KVNVTSI KNOWLEDGE

Environmental Services teaches students how to make knovns and knvtsi balls.

BY LAM HANSEN Reporter

TAHLEQUAH – KVNVTSI is a traditional food for the USB. The food is made from the USB's traditional ingredients. The food is made from the USB's traditional ingredients.

SEE PARTNER PAGE 3

SCHEDULE FOR 72ND ANNUAL KEETOOWAH CELEBRATION

Thursday, Sept. 29
8:30 a.m. Golf Tournament
9 a.m. Open House (Snacks Only)
Friday, Sept. 30
7 a.m. Chief's Address
8 a.m. Chief's Address
9 a.m. Chief's Address
10 a.m. Chief's Address
11 a.m. Chief's Address
12 p.m. Chief's Address
1 p.m. Chief's Address
2 p.m. Chief's Address
3 p.m. Chief's Address
4 p.m. Chief's Address
5 p.m. Chief's Address
6 p.m. Chief's Address
7 p.m. Chief's Address
8 p.m. Chief's Address
9 p.m. Chief's Address
10 p.m. Chief's Address
11 p.m. Chief's Address
12 a.m. Chief's Address

Will town Keetoowah rising in music scene

Blaine Bailey