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United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma host prominent leaders from Washington

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma hosted prominent leaders from Washington last month when Keetoowah Cherokee Chief George Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Charles Locust met with former Oklahoma Congressman J. C. Watts, now President of J. C. Watts Companies based in Washington, D.C. and U. S. Senator Tom Coburn's Legislation Assistant Brian Treat, as they each visited Tahlequah and the Keetoowah Cherokee's tribal complex.

J.C. Watts, Jr., served four terms in the United States House of Representatives before forming and becoming chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies. Using his extensive leadership and communications background and experience, J.C. Watts has created consulting and public affairs companies that provide comprehensive public opinion research, image and brand marketing, issue advocacy, diversity consulting, U.S. and international business development and communications crisis management. The company has over 20 other clients including Wells Fargo, NASCAR, and John Deere.

The J.C. Watts Companies began working with the Keetoowah Cherokees in the spring of 2005 in the areas of economic development and issue advocacy. In Watts' tenure with the House of Representatives, he was one of the few members of Congress who got up everyday to help underdeveloped countries with their issues and economic development. At a press conference in 2005, Watts was quoted as saying "I'm delighted I'll be able to play some small role in assisting the tribe with accomplishing some of their goals," said Watts. "The J.C. Watts Companies will be the United Keetoowah Band's eyes, ears and voice in Washington," said Watts.

U.S. Senator Tom Coburn has also been an advocate and friend to the United Keetoowah Band. He recently held a meeting in Northeastern Oklahoma addressing concerns about the effectiveness of the Indian Health Care system. Although Coburn had a prior commitment, he sent his Legislation Assistant, Brian Treat to visit the tribe. Coburn was elected to the U. S. Senate on November 2, 2004. He is a member of the Indian Affairs Committee. Prior to his election to the Senate, Dr. Coburn represented Oklahoma's Second Congressional District in the House of Representatives from 1995 through 2001.

CHIEF WICKLIFFE gives a tour of the Celebration grounds to former Oklahoma Congressman J. C. Watts during Watts' visit to UKB Tribal Complex.

Watts and Treat were given a first hand tour of the 76 acres of land in regards to the trust application. The tour of the Keetoowah Cherokee Tribal Complex included a stop at the new Elderly Care Center, Wellness Center, the Celebration grounds as well as a stop at the Henry Lee Doublehead Child Care Center. Before the tour, Chief and Assistant Chief visited with Watts and Treat reviewing the master plan of development for the 76 acres in question.

"J. C. Watts came down personally and toured or UKB facilities, we showed Mr. Watts how the earmark funding and grants were being used. He was very impressed and he discussed to us some of the history he has learned about the UKB just by working with us for over two years and how he has sized up the United Keetoowah Band and Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma," stated Chief Wickliffe.

Mr. Watts and Mr. Treat were both very impressed with the constructions and developments on the 76 acres and both commented on how beautiful and well kept the grounds and facilities were. "It was very informative for the both of them, they wanted to see our 76 acres, and view our facilities. They were very receptive and praised the Tribal Administration and Council for managing our resources and were impressed with the direction the tribe has been taking," added Assistant Chief Locust.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR Tim Good Voice, left, reviews the master plan of development for the 76 acres to U. S. Senator Tom Coburn's Legislation Assistant Brian Treat as UKB Chief George Wickliffe, Assistant Chief Charles Locust and Senator Coburn's Field Representative Connie L. Person looks on.

UKB Begins Pursuit of Their Own Health Care System

Tribal officials, council members, administrators, and employees from the Keetoowah Drug Treatment facility will come together to review a draft of by-laws proposed for the UKB Health Care Authority. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 10 from 8 am to 5 pm at the UKB Wellness Center, located at the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma tribal complex in Tahlequah.

DON ADE, Executive Director of Economic Development Authority, addresses the crowd at the Saline District meeting regarding health care.

The meeting, coordinated by the UKB's Economic Development Executive Director Don Ade, will be a training and planning session. Ade drafted the by-laws for the proposed Health Care Authority. "We are entitled to our own monies and to provide health care for our own people," said Ade.

The training session will be conducted by Lindsay Naas, an attorney from Chandler, Arizona. She was formerly a member of the Indian Health Services General Counsel staff. Ms. Naas is considered one of the top legal authorities in the country on Indian Self-Determination, Contracting, and Compacting Laws.

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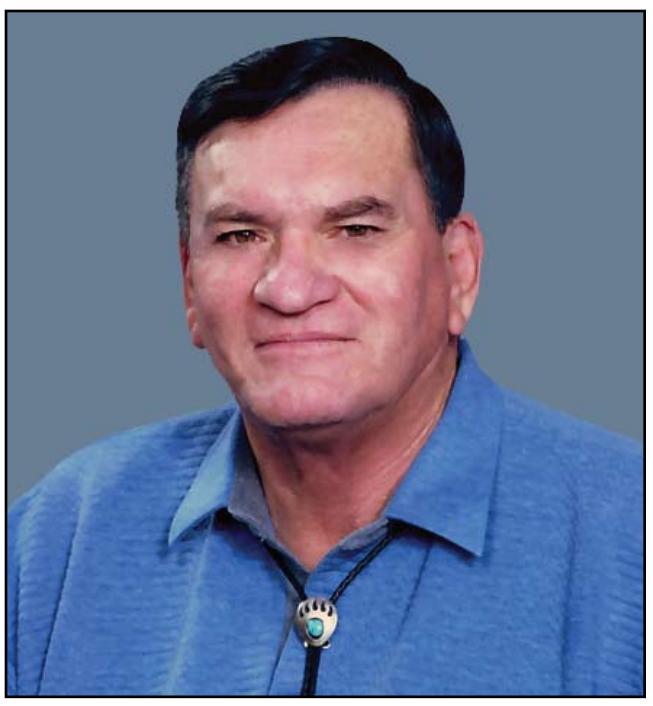
A Letter to the UKB People
From Chief George Wickliffe



Dear Tribal Members,
The dispute over the legal status of the Cherokee Freedmen will be heard by a federal appeals court in May amid efforts by Congress to resolve the controversy. I am including the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of which the principal purpose was to make former slaves citizens of both the U.S. and the state in which they reside.
The Civil War was fought to free the slaves, and two years before the end of the Civil War in 1863, Abraham Lincoln authored The Emancipation Proclamation. By 1865, the civil war ended, and in June of 1866 the 14th Amendment was passed by an approval of 2/3 of the states. This freed the slaves all over the United States. Since the Cherokees and the other of the Five Civilized Tribes were from the South, they were very much subject to this amendment.

14th Amendment
Sect. 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
The principal purpose of this amendment was to make former slaves citizens of both the United States and the state in which they lived. The amendment also forbids the states to deny equal rights to any person. The terms of the amendment clarify how citizenship is acquired. State citizenship is a by-product of national citizenship. By living in a state, every U.S. citizen automatically becomes a citizen of that state as well. All persons naturalized (granted citizenship) according to law are U.S. citizens. Anyone born in the United States is also a citizen regardless of the nationality of his parents, unless they are diplomatic representatives of another country or enemies during a wartime occupation. Such cases are exceptions because the parents are not "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States. The amendment does not grant citizenship to Indians on reservations, but Congress passed a law that did so.
The phrase "due process of law" forbids the states to violate most rights protected by the Bill of Rights. The statement that a state cannot deny anyone "equal protection of the laws" has provided the basis for many Supreme Court rulings on civil rights. For example, the court has outlawed segregation in public schools. The judges declared that "equal protection" means a state must make sure all children, regardless of race, have an equal opportunity for education.
Sect. 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, (excluding Indians not taxed.) But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.
This section proposes a penalty for states which refuse to give the vote in federal elections to all adult male citizens. States which restrict voting can have their representation in Congress cut down. This penalty has never been used. The section has been set aside by the 19th and 26th amendments.
After the end of war, the government wanted to make sure the tribes lived up to the Emancipation Proclamation, and so they came back with the Treaty of 1866, which didn't just cover the freedmen, it covered all people living in Indian Territory in 1866.

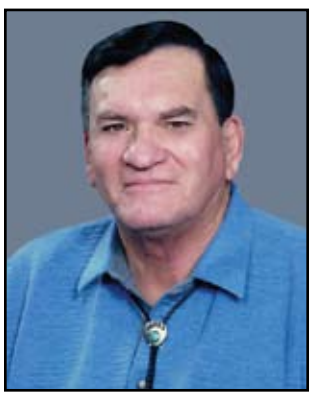
Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties
Chapter 1211
Oct. 19, 1888 / 25 Stat., 608
An act to secure to the Cherokee freedmen and others their proportion of certain proceeds of lands, under the act of March third, eighteen hundred and eighty three.
Whereas it is provided in the ninth article of the treaty of July nineteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, between the United States and the Cherokee Nation of Indians, that freedmen who have been liberated by voluntary act of their former owners, or by law, as well as all free colored persons who were in the (Cherokee) country at the commencement of the rebellion, and were then residents therein, or who might return within six months, and their descendents, shall have all the rights of native Cherokees; and.
Whereas by the fifteenth article of the aforesaid treaty certain terms were provided under which friendly Indians might be settled upon unoccupied lands in the Cherokee country east of the ninety-sixth degree of west longitude; and the Indians thus settled were, upon full compliance with the provisions of said article, to be incorporated into and ever after remain a part of the Cherokee Nation, on equal terms in every respect with native citizens.

George Wickliffe
Chief

NOTICE: MAY COUNCIL MEETING IN LOST CITY

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Tribal Council will hold the May Regular Council Meeting at Lost City School. The meeting is set for Saturday, May 3 at 10 a.m. For more information, call Tribal Secretary Liz Littledave at (918) 456-5126.

UKB Council



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Cliff Wofford
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Charles Smoke
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Barry Dotson
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Cell: 918-207-2990

Tahlequah Dist. Rep.
Albert Shade
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Cell: 918- 822-3805

Illinois District meeting date changed

Illinois District Meeting dates have changed to the second Saturday of each month from 12 – 1:30 p.m. in order to implement a Math and Science Training Camp. Each month, in conjunction with the Illinois district meeting, students and parents can learn fun ways to help increase math and science skills through self teaching manipulative and learning styles. Camp begins April 12 – July 12, 2008 and will be held at the Keetoowah Satellite office in Vian. Parents can drop off students at 10 a.m. and pick them up at 3 p.m. Lunch and all materials needed will be provided. Day Camp is available to Keetoowah Cherokee students from all districts and all ages. Parents are welcome to attend with student. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information, contact Illinois District Representative Barbara Girty at 918-457-7067.

George G. Wickliffe — **Chief**
Charles D. Locust — **Assistant Chief**
Liz Littledave — **Secretary**
Shelbi Wofford — **Treasurer**

District Representatives
Barbara Girty, Barry Dotson, Joyce Fourkiller, Jerry Hansen, Woodrow Proctor, Eddie Sacks, Albert Shade, Charles Smoke, Cliff Wofford

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Notes from UKB March Council Meeting

During the March Council meeting, United Keetoowah Band Chief George Wickliffe informed the council that the recent trip made to Washington, D.C. had very positive outlook for the Keetoowah Cherokee tribe. They met with the Oklahoma Delegation and learned that negotiations were still moving in the right direction in regards to the Arkansas Riverbed settlement. The negotiation should be completed on time and we should get word in the next few weeks. Also while visiting with the Oklahoma Delegation "ear mark" funding to the UKB was also discussed. $1.5 million, which was the result of the work done by Senator Dan Boren, is "ear marked" for three departments within the tribe; Lighthorse Security, Tribal Victims Assistance and Roads and Construction.

Chief Wickliffe also announced that this November is the Keetoowah election for all council and officers seats. "We need to be grateful to the Election Board for their work on revising the Election Ordinance. Much hard work has gone into these revisions. There will be some problems in any election but revisions are made to help to eliminate as many problems as possible," stated Wickliffe. Non-exclusive UKB members have been identified and these people will not be able to vote or run as candidates for the upcoming UKB election unless their files are updated with the required documents. With some UKB members preparing to run for tribal offices, there appears to be some campaigning in the casino by employees and potential candidates. These members need to be reminded to refrain from campaigning while at their work sites. Non-employees also must refrain from campaigning at any UKB work sites as well. All eligible and potential candidates for any elected position will be given the opportunity to do so at a certain time.

The UKB delegation also met with Congresswoman Diane Watson, Representative from California who represents the Black Coalition. "We apologized to Ms. Watson, we told her, the real Cherokee people would not have acted as Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has acted in this matter, and how CNO's actions have brought embarrassment to the Cherokees. The Keetoowah Cherokees wish to get along with everyone, but will fight through our attorneys if treated wrongfully," said Chief Wickliffe.

The United Keetoowah Band tribal council meetings are generally held on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the UKB Community Services Building conference room.

The Ancestor's Voice

From an Interview with George Shakingbush, Short, OK, Born 1869 on Little Lee's Creek, Near present day Nicut, OK

"Church houses, also other houses, were of log construction without any nails at all . The logs would be notched to stay in place in the construction; therefore they could build a house without nails. The fireplace were made of wood coated very heavily with mud to keep it from catching fire; but the bottom part of it , where the fire was placed was of flat rock.
Church, church in summer time was in the woods under a large tree . Sometines Arbors would be built . Logs were used for seats but most of the time the people just made themselves comfortable on the ground. Of course in winter time they held the meetings in a log building."

From an interview with George Shakingbush, Short, OK, Born 1869 on Little Lee's Creek, near present day Nicut, OK

Social affairs: Ball games were played very differently. One kind of game they played then, took twenty-four players, twelve on the side. They were two pegs driven into the ground to mark goals forty feet a part. The two pegs were four feet a-part. The field was 50 X 30 feet . The placers -kicked the ball . The team that kicked the ball through the two pegs the most or more times, won the game. They would bet on-the game. The side that got defeated would have to hunt and fish and keep up the food for one week until the next game. They would play only on Sunday. This was called Old "Indian ball game."
All the Indians loved to hunt and. fish . For hunting, they would use their bows and arrows. For fishing they used lines of twisted horsehair.
There was little farming done. The chief product was corn." It was raised chiefly for bread, and corn meal. There were few water mills.' The ' closest mill to Mr. Shakingbush's was at a creek near the Arkansas. And they had to walk ten to twenty miles to get to it . In w inter time if it was too cold to go to mill, they would soak the corn in boiling water for half an hour and then grit it • They had grits made out of buckets or tin with lots of holes in it . Sometimes they would crush it by rocks."

It's Wild Onion Time Again!

Cleaned, cut and ready to cook. One gallon zip lock bag, fresh or frozen $25 per gallon. The onions are picked by Keetoowah Cherokee members from the Illinois District. To place your order or to set up a delivery place and time, contact UKB Illinois District Representative Barbara Girty at 918-457-7067.

UKB Elder Committee Meets

Mr. Jackson Barnett, Muscogee Nation Senior Services representative, was invited to speak to the United Keetoowah Band Elder Committee at their monthly meeting recently. Mr. Jackson is a member of the Creek Nation and has been employed with the tribe for over four years. He works with Creek citizens 55 years and older providing them with information regarding social security, elderly nutrition programs and working with grandparents who care for their grandchildren. "The Chief and council members saw a need to have a program for our Creek elder citizens. This is why the Muscogee Nation Senior Services was created by our tribe," stated Barnett.

The Creek senior citizens are also encouraged to participate in cultural, education and recreational activities. Mr. Barnett schedules trips for the senior citizens for their tribe. "I'm happy to receive your invitation to come here and very happy to be here," said Barnett in his native Muscogee language as he greeted the committee.

The UKB Elder Committee was recently formed as an advisory committee to the Chief. The committee consists of seven members and one alternate, two of whom are members of the tribal council representatives. The seven member committee discusses issues that pertain to the needs of the UKB elders advising the Chief of any issues that come before the committee during their meetings. "Our goal now is to become an Elder Board so that we can interact directly with the elders," said Barbara Girty, Illinois District representative and committee secretary. The UKB Elder Committee meets every third Thursday of each month in the Community Services conference room located at the Keetoowah Circle, just south of Tahlequah. Meetings began at 1 p.m. everyone is invited to attend especially the elders. For more information please contact Barbara Girty at 918-457-7067.

ELDER COMMITTEE Chairman John Goodrich, Vice-Chairman John Hair and Committee member Frank Mink listen intently to guest speaker Jackson Barnett, Muscogee Creek member, as he speaks to the group regarding elder care programs. (above)

JACKSON BARNETT, Muscogee Nation Senior Services Representative, speaks to the UKB Elder Committee at their recent monthly meeting. (right)

Saline District Meeting Notes

Members of the United Keetoowah Band braved the inclement weather to attend the Saline District monthly meeting in Kenwood. Both speaking in their Cherokee language, UKB Chief George Wickliffe, along with former Chief John Hair addressed the audience by sharing the history of the Keetoowahs. Don Ade, UKB Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority, spoke about the recent rumors of Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma takeover of Hastings Hospital, economic development and the construction of a cell tower in Kenwood. Mr. Ade also informed members of the many positive changes for the Keetoowah Cherokees in regards to health care.

It was reported that 70% of the Gaming revenue goes directly or indirectly back into the tribe to help aid tribal members.

Delaware District Representative Jerry Hansen was acknowledged at the meeting and Mr. Hansen invited everyone to attend the Keetoowah Spring Break Cultural mini-camp being held at the Oak Hill Community Center near Jay. As part of the agenda for the district meeting Saline District Representative Charles Smoke and Chief Wickliffe presented tribal member Deidre Sapp, with a deed to her home.

"As councilman for the Saline District, I would like to say, since I became so involved in the tribe, I have seen a lot of changes for the better," said Smoke. "The members have benefited with the Emergency Assistance Program, the elder's have expressed their gratitude about the elder assistance and the tribal youth have received aid through our Education department."

Councilman Smoke takes pride in being a member of the United Keetoowah Band and thanks the Administration for doing a great job. "I would like to thank all tribal members for the attentiveness they gave Chief Wickliffe as he spoke, this shows me the respect they have for the Chief," added Smoke. He also thanks the women and men who prepared the meal, which consisted of hog meat, potatoes, beans, fry bread and wild onions along with some tasty desserts.

UKB CHIEF George Wickliffe, right, and Saline District Representative Charles Smoke, left, present Deidre Sapp, center, with a deed to her home, during the recent Saline District meeting in Kenwood.

Kids Flock to Tribal Easter Egg Hunt

Despite the cold, cloudy weather 300 children plus parents and grandparents attended the Annual UKB Easter Egg Hunt. Chief George Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Charles Locust welcomed everyone during the March 15 event, at the UKB Celebration grounds, south of Tahlequah. Over three thousand plastic eggs filled with goodies covered the grounds waiting for young hands to place the eggs into their colorful Easter baskets.

The crowd was entertained with gospel music provided by Jim Ratcliff and Friends along with a couple of songs by five-year-old Derrick Glass, son of Roger Glass, and from the United Methodist Church Choir with members from Anadarko, Ponca City, Tulsa and from Choctaw Country. After teenage participants finished the water balloon toss, a fried chicken picnic lunch was served.

The steering committee for the 8th Annual UKB Easter Egg Hunt would like to thank all of the volunteers for their hard work and dedication in making this year's event successful. Volunteers for the event included Brenda Locust, Hominy Littledave, Melinda Hackworth, Joe Reese, Denise Rooster, Polly Ann Makaraka, Pat Reece, Becky Whiterock, Georgia Dick, Deb Pritchett, Norma Jimerson, Dama Still, Herman Jimerson, Tiffany Still, Thomas Jordan, Jim Nelso, Sammy Still, Jana Leighty, Cindy Hair, Sam Adamson, Jim White, Jarred Foreman, Adam Chuculate, Randy Clinton, Mary Ballou and Sandy Houston.

The committee also appreciates the District Representatives who participated in the annual event, Barbara Girty from the Illinois District; Eddie Sacks from the Canadian District; and our Tribal Secretary Mrs. Liz Littledave from the Tahlequah District and Keetoowah Lighthorse.

THREE HUNDRED plus Keetoowah Cherokee youth braved the cool weather Saturday for the Annual UKB Easter Egg Hunt at the Keetoowah Celebration grounds.

LUNCH WAS provided for all who participated in the UKB Easter egg event. Various UKB staff members volunteered as they served the meals to the youth and adults attending.

THE UNITED METHODIST Indian Conference Choir performed during the Annual UKB Easter Egg Hunt. The group has members from Anadarko, Ponca City, Tulsa and from Choctaw Country that sing in the choir.

Congratulations goes to UKB Tahlequah District Tribal member Suzanna Fine. She was named to the President's Honor Roll at Rose State College. She is pursuing an Associate's Degree in Library Science.

EASTER EGG winners in the age group 1 – 3 year-old: Kierra Bolin, Tahlequah District, Chief's Egg; Emily Russell, Tahlequah District, Assistant Chief's Egg. Pictured with the winners are left to right, Tara Comingdeer, Ms. Bolin, Miss Keetoowah Pawnee Crabtree, Junior Miss Keetoowah Rozlyn Locust and Mrs. Tonya Russell.

EASTER EGG winners in the age group 4 – 7 year-old: Duckie Holyan, Tahlequah District, Chief's Egg; Trevor Ballou, Goingsnake District, Assistant Chief's Egg. Pictured with the winners are left to right, Miss Keetoowah Pawnee Crabtree, Tara Comingdeer and Junior Miss Keetoowah Rozlyn Locust.

EASTER EGG winners in the age group 8 – 12 year-old Dakota James, Tahlequah District, Chief's Egg; Bo Leija, Tahlequah District, Assistant Chief's Egg. Pictured with the winners are left to right, Jana Leichty, Vista/ Title VI; Miss Keetoowah Pawnee Crabtree, Junior Miss Keetoowah Rozlyn Locust and Tara Comingdeer.

BALLOON TOSS winners, first place, Laura Neal and Kiyana Bond; second place, Jodi Lynn Hooper and Matthew Hooper.

AETN Films UKB Spring Break Mini Culture Camp

Oak Hill Community - A film crew from Arkansas Educational Television Network came to the UKB Spring Break Mini Culture Camp in March to gather information they will put together for the popular PBS Series, "The American Experience." The American Experience is a Public Broadcasting System Series about individuals and the events of American History.

As television's longest running, most watched history series, the American Experience brings to life the incredible characters and epic stories that helped form the nation. Now in its 18th season, the series has produced over 220 programs and has garnered every major broadcast award.

The Philadelphia Inquirer said, "The American Experience is one of the high spots of the PBS schedule, bringing long-forgotten episodes of the nation's history into the light, refreshing our memories of familiar stores, reacquainting us with revered heroes."

"We are shooting a documentary about the language, history, and culture of the Native American Tribes that have connections to Arkansas," said Stephanie Lewis, General Producer for AETN.

The UKB Spring Break Mini Culture Camp had approximately 80 children and adults in attendance. The kids were treated to storytelling by Sequoyah Guess and Sammy Still, a couple of basket weaving classes taught by Cindy Hair, a Hog Fry meal with George Stopp and Jimmy Snell cooking the meat and beans, a class to make corn husk dolls taught by Mary Ballou, a marbles making class by Hastings Shade, and beaded key chains by Cindy Hair. "I would like to thank Delaware District Councilman Jerry Hansen for all his help and support, Harrold Feathers for letting us use the community building, all the instructors, and the volunteers who helped us cook and clean up after the event. The kids had a great time, and I think the adults did, too, " said Cindy Hair, Cultural Camp Coordinator.

FORMER CHIEF John Hair, prepares for a interview by Stephanie Lewis, Education Producer for the Arkansas Education Television Network.

KEETOOWAH CHEROKEE youth enjoy a game of Ring Toss during the Spring Break Culture Mini-Camp at Oak Hill Community Center near Jay.

STEPHANIE LEWIS, right, Education Producer for the Arkansas Educational Television Network, visits with Sequoyah Guess, center, Keetoowah Cherokee Language Instructor and Story Teller, and Former UKB Chief John Hair, left, during a break at the UKB Spring Break culture camp.

PICTURED ARE baskets, cornhusk dolls and beaded jewelry made by the youth attending the Spring Break Culture camp.

GEORGE STOPP, Keetoowah Cherokee Language Instructor, prepares for a traditional meal during the UKB Spring Break culture camp at Oak Hill Community Center near Jay, OK.

SPRING BREAKERS enjoyed a two-day culture camp hosted by the United Keetoowah Band Language, History and Culture department by learning Keetoowah Cherokee history and traditions.

AETN FILM Crew filmed cultural events at the UKB Spring Break Culture camp at Oak Hill Community Center near Jay.

Tribe to host "Laying of the Wreath" ceremony

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma is inviting all Veterans and their family to attend the "Laying of the Wreath" ceremony on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. in front of the flag poles near the UKB Community Service Building on west Willis Road, just south of Tahlequah at Keetoowah Circle. The Veterans American Legion Riders, Post 115, of Muskogee, OK will honor all veterans with the laying of the wreath ceremony. A speech will be given by the UKB Chief George Wickliffe followed with a light lunch after the ceremony.

"It is an honor for the UKB to have Mr. Carl Jordan of Post 115 of Muskogee ask us if they could come down and lay a wreath at our memorial. I told him we don't have a memorial or a monument, he said the three flag poles would serve as a memorial, he noticed that we fly the Prisoners of War (P.O.W.) flag and I told him we fly it with honors," said Norman "Hominy" Littledave. Mr. Littledave is a United States Air Force veteran who served in 1966-1968.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, war-time veteran's organization, and devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is a not-for-profit community-service organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members, men and women, in nearly 15,000 American Legion posts worldwide.

Lost City School to Close Despite Tribe's Efforts

The State Board of Education unanimously voted for mandatory annexation of Lost City Public School. The decision was based on the school's loss of accreditation and lack of finances for operation.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma provided funding to Lost City School in hopes of keeping the school operational. "The tribe already had given tens of thousands of dollars to the financially troubled school district and was prepared to give more to help the district to recover," said Chief George Wickliffe.

There were several people that made pleas to keep the school open, including Chief Wickliffe. State School's Superintendent Sandy Garrett said, "We appreciate the generosity of the tribes, but by public law, we are not allowed to run schools solely on donations." An attorney general's 1968 opinion states an unaccredited school district cannot operate, even if it has enough money to do so, without receiving state aid.

A previous Lost City superintendent is under federal investigation over alleged fraud or misuse of federal education funds. "Things had happened with lack of compliance and suspected record keeping that made it an impossibility to overcome. The problems with accreditation made it impossible to save the school. If there is any other way that can be found to still achieve keeping the school at Lost City, the UKB will remain available," said Chief Wickliffe.

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICIAN Willie Christie conducts water quality monitoring in the Tahlequah Town Branch. The United Keetoowah Band Natural Resources Department is conducting a year long study on the Tahlequah Town Branch, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Couple gives a"Helping Hand" to United Keetoowah Cherokee children

JUDY AND LEE THOMAS

In 1987 Judy and Lee Thomas, residing in Mecosta, MI, contacted the Christian Children's Fund (CCF). Lee was 1/8th Cherokee and had always cherished the fact of his Native American heritage. His mother was born in Grants Pass, Oregon and picked crops as a youth with her four sisters and one brother while their father traveled around in his covered wagon selling elixirs. Their mother died shortly after the birth of her last child.

On contacting CCF, Lee asked for a Native American child and preferably one of Cherokee heritage. Shortly after, information for Jessie Smoke of Salina, OK was forwarded to Judy and Lee. It didn't take long for Lee to track down and contact Betty and Charles Smoke. A visit was arranged for their first trip to Oklahoma.

In learning about the Smoke family and the needs of many of their extended family, Lee decided to do more than just send a monthly check to CCF. Being an educator for many years, Lee took an active part in supplying books and other educational materials for Jessie and Wickliffe school.

Judy and Lee also saw the need for clothing for the families in the area and the first trip of clothes, mainly collected from fellow teacher and friends was on its way to Salina. It was not unusual for them to bring 30 to 40 boxes of clothes at a time in his pickup truck with its side rails. The delivery of clothing has continued to this day with an average of 25 bags of clothing in their motor home on each trip, which they made two to three times per year.

As Jessie got older, a home computer was provided to help all the Smoke children with their educational needs. After Jessie graduate from high school, Judy and Lee have continued in helping Peter Smoke and have continued to bring clothing out on each trip.

In 2006, the Thomas couple, through their United Church, began sponsoring Manay McCarter, Jessie's step daughter. A home computer and educational and reading books are now being supplied for the use of all the McCarter girls by Lee and Judy.

The Thomas and Smoke families have become very close and consider each other family.

How to Tell the Weather

"To tell the weather, go to your back door and look for the dog.
If the dog is at the door and his is wet, it's probably raining.
But if the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it is probably raining really hard.
If the dog's fur looks like it's been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy.
If the dog has snow on his back, it's probably snowing.

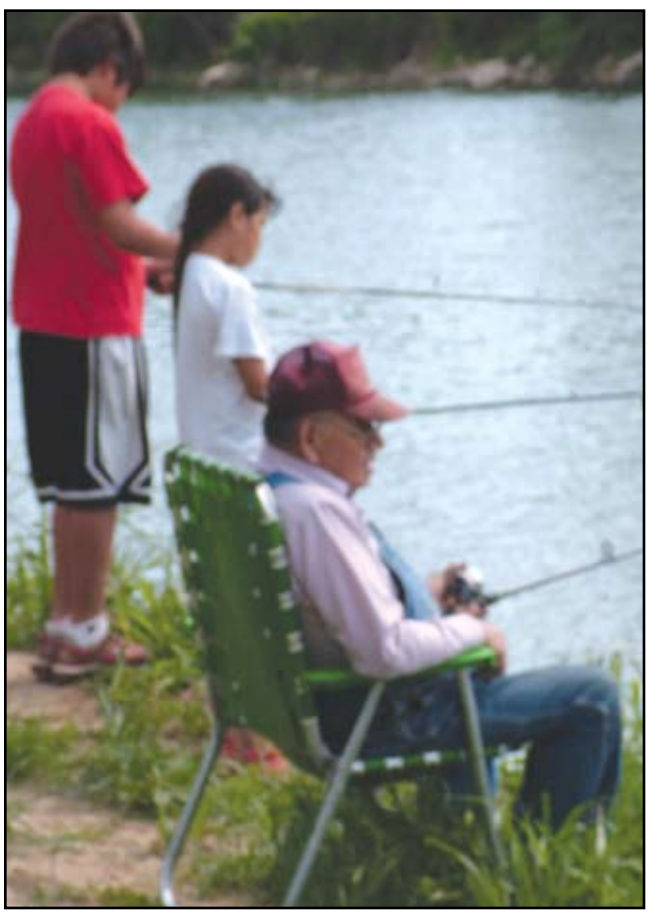
Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside at all times, especially if you expect bad weather.

United Keetoowah Title VI Nutrition Menu April 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Fried Possum Tails Mountain Oysters Toasted Corn Husks Pickled Owl Eggs Sea Weed	*2 Baked Chicken Mashed Potato Green Beans Salad Dessert*	*3 Lasagna Asparagus Garlic Toast Salad Dessert*	*4 Breakfast Served At 10:30*
7 Chicken Corn Chowder Mixed Greens Corn Muffins Salad Dessert	*8 Beef Tips in Gravy Egg Noodles Brussels Sprouts Breadsticks Salad Dessert*	*9 Hot Ham n Cheese Potato Chips Salad Dessert*	*10 Catfish Beans Hushpuppies Cole Slaw Dessert*	*11 Breakfast Served At 10:30*
14 Brown Beans and Ham Mixed Greens Jalapeño Cornbread Salad Dessert	*15 Grilled Chicken Wild Rice Sautéed Vegetables Breadsticks Salad Dessert*	*16 Corned Beef Cabbage Carrots Hot Rolls Salad Dessert*	*17 Liver and Onions Scalloped Potatoes Lima Beans Texas Toast Salad Dessert*	*18 Fishing Day And Hotdog Roast At the River park*
21 Taco Salad Refried Beans Tortilla Chips Dessert	*22 Smothered Chops White Rice Blackeyed Peas Breadsticks Salad Dessert*	*23 Baked Fish Wild Rice Brussels Sprouts Hushpuppies Salad Dessert*	*24 Cultural Foods Day*	*25 Closed for Cleaning*
28 BBQ Chicken Baked Beans Hot Rolls Salad Dessert	*29 Miss Amanda's Casserole Spanish Rice Breadsticks Salad*	*30 Cal-Zone Caesar Salad Tomato-Zucchini Dessert*		

Title VI Fishing Day Planned

The UKB Title VI Nutrition Program will be hosting a fishing day and hot dog roast at the Tahlequah Riverside Park on Friday, April 18.



Woman Seeks to Preserve Caney's History; Caney School Reunion Set for May 18

Leona Ferrell is on a mission to preserve a piece of the past that otherwise might very well seem to disappear. Ferrell's mission is to implement the formation of a Tahlequah District Indian Territory Historical Association. An immediate goal is to preserve the history of the Caney, old Wauhillau, and the Sugar Mountain areas before it is lost forever. That could very likely happen since the nickname of the community has become the contemporary community's name – Tail Holt. The community is located where the Flint, Goingsnake and Tahlequah Districts converge at a creek. The post office there was referred to as the Wahillau Post Office, and was open from 1875-1939.

According to a self published book written by Marsha Coles, entitled *Echoes of the Past: History of the Caney/Tail Holt Community,* the community got the name Caney after Western Cherokees (the old Settlers) and those who came on the Trail of Tears were looking for river cane to make blow guns and baskets and found a good stand of cane in a creek southeast of Tahlequah. It was called Canebrake Creek originally; then shortened to Caney Creek. A school was established in 1842 near Caney Creek. The school, which was eventually moved to three different buildings, was known as Caney School and the community was referred to as the Caney Community. The Caney School was open for 124 years, from 1842 to 1966 for 1st through 8th grade. After 1966, Caney School was consolidated with Tenkiller School.

The origin of the name Tail Holt is as varied as the names used to describe the area. One story said that family members in Arizona asked the man who owned the store how they were doing with their business. He replied, "We are just barely hanging on – we have a tail holt." Another story about the origin of the name includes, "Somewhere between the mid 1920s and early 1930s, a picture or postcard displayed in the Caney Store with a picture of a man who had hold of a horse's or mule's tail made reference to having a 'tail holt'. Either way, people apparently liked the catchy name and started calling the store, the Tail Holt Store. At this time the community, cemetery and school were still named Caney. But as the old timers started to pass on, the community became known by more and more people as Tail Holt. "It's important to preserve this area's history for the people who came before us," said Ferrell. "If you look up Tail Holt, there is no history, and no documentation," she said. "We once were, have been and still are the Caney Community."

The public is invited to attend the Caney School Reunion, to be held on Sunday, May 18 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Caney Community Center. Participants are invited to bring their family photos and /or displays for the Historic Preservation and History Exhibit. Lunch will be provided and there will be drawings for door prizes. For more information, contact Leona Farrell at (918) 453-1073.

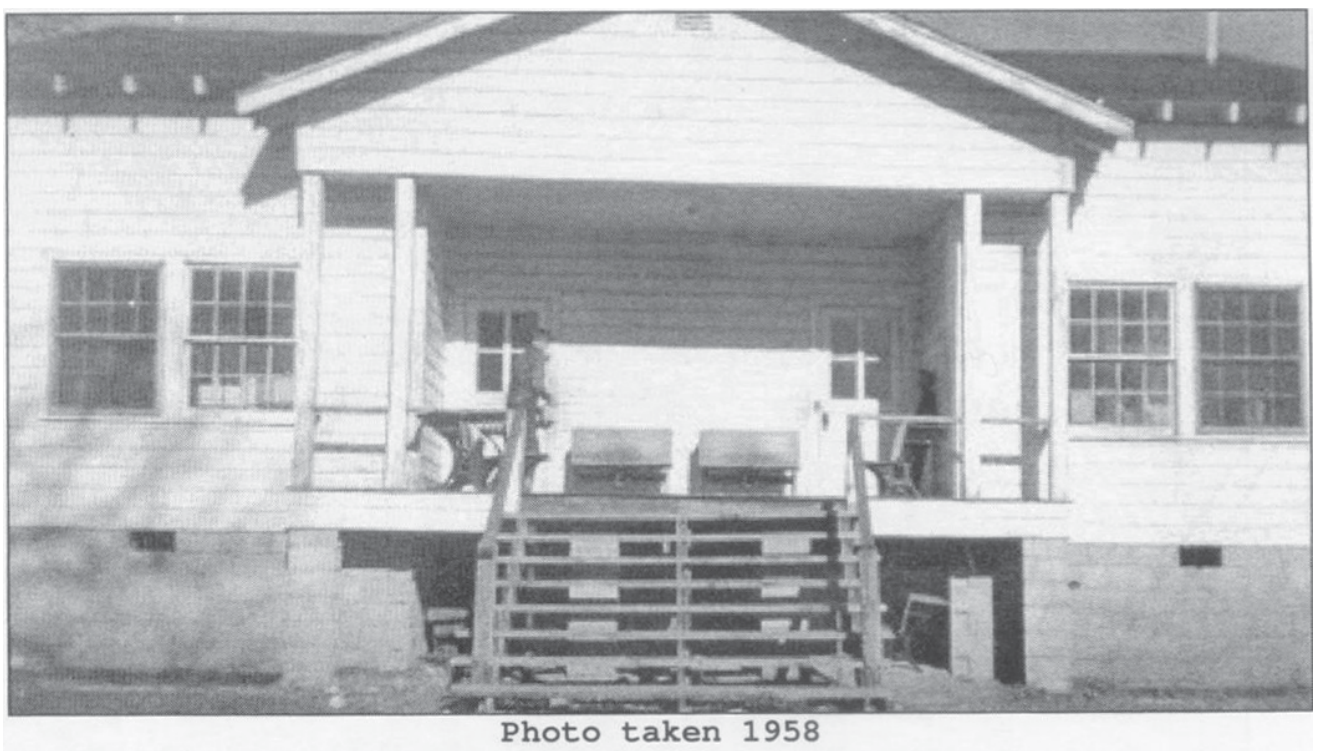


Photo taken 1958

Jacob Hawley Raising Money to attend the Diamond Head Football Classic

Keetoowah Cherokee youth Jacob Hawley is one of 30 athletes in the states of Oklahoma and Texas who has been invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Diamond Head Football Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii. Jacob is a member of the Jay Bulldogs Football team and plays Offensive and Left Tackle and is the son of Cara Hawley. He will be competing against athletes from all across the country and will get to experience a once-in-a-lifetime cultural and educational opportunity.

The Diamond Head Football Classic will be held June 10 through 17. Jacob will depart from Tulsa in the early morning on Tuesday, June 10 and will arrive in Honolulu in the late afternoon. After checking in, the players will be treated to a welcoming reception and then have the opportunity to explore Waikiki Beach area before having dinner with the coach and teammates. But the young athletes won't be able to wander too far off the beaten path, as they have a curfew at 11 pm.

Wednesday, June 11 is labeled "Tourist Day". Tours will be offered to Pearl Harbor and to tour the USS Arizona Memorial. The young men will also visit the World's Largest Flea Market at Aloha Stadium before touring the Dole Pineapple Plantation. Then the group will go to the World's famous North Shore, whose reputation is built on great surfing and beaches.

Team practices will begin on Thursday, June 12th with a two hour morning practice and opening ceremonies. That evening the group will be treated to an authentic Hawaiian Luau. Friday the young men will again have morning practices, followed by a Polynesian Picnic. The evening will conclude with a Pizza Party.

On Saturday and Sunday, the competition begins. Saturday, the group will have the opportunity to climb Diamond Head. Sunday, after the game, participants will choose between parasailing or surfing. After dinner on their own, there will be a "Cinema on the Beach". The awards ceremony will be held on Sunday.

JACOB HAWLEY

Monday morning the day will begin with snorkeling at Hanauma Bay and some sunny relaxation, before participants depart for the airport and their flight home. All participants will be back at home on Tuesday after a week of cherished memories and an experience they will remember for a lifetime.

Jacob and his family will be holding fund raisers to help pay the expenses. Donations may be sent to Jacob Hawley, c/o Competitive Sports International, PO Box 3520, Broken Arrow, OK 74013.

UKB Tribal Member Maudeen Vann Proud of her Cherokee Heritage

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Tribal member Maudeen Vann is proud to be Keetoowah Cherokee. Born in Sallisaw, to Houston and Louella Tehee, Maudeen is the youngest of a large family which includes four brothers and two sisters. Her parents lived between Gore and Vian, and she graduated from Gore High School. "I love Sallisaw," she said.

She attained an Associate's Degree at Connors State College in Warner and a Bachelor's Degree from NSU. She has two children, Derrick and Suzette Vann; as well as two grandchildren, Mashyia Vann, 7 and JordanVann, 6. months

Raised in a traditional Cherokee family, both Vann and her daughter are members of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Family is important to Maudeen. "I'm so lucky to have my Mom and Dad and the support of my brothers and sisters. She attends the Blount Baptist Church of Sallisaw.

Maudeen began her professional career working through the Summer Youth Program in the Sequoyah County District Attorney's office. She must have been a great youth worker because she secured a full time position in that office. She worked in the court clerk's office while attending college to complete her degree. "I really appreciate my tribe and their support in assisting me with scholarships. If it were not for the UKB, I may have never been able to complete my degree," said Vann. "It is really wonderful the way the UKB supports its members, from children to elders," she stated.

They want to help their people and they do their best to help. There is not the red tape you have to go through in other places. You don't get lost in the system. I really appreciate UKB Sequoyah District Representative Barry Dotson. He has kept us informed and updated on the tribes programs and progress", said Vann.

Ms. Vann was employed at the Redbird Smith Clinic in medical records for the next 5 years. In 1989, Vann returned to the Sequoyah County Court Clerk's office as a Deputy Court Clerk where she served as Collection Administrator. Her dedication and hard work in this area paid off when Oklahoma started a pilot program to aid in collections. Sequoyah County was one of the top counties in collections in the state.

In January of 2007, upon recommendation of Sequoyah County Clerk Bernell Edwards's, Vann was appointed to finish out her term upon her retirement. In this position, she supervises nine employees who process payments and deposits from both the civil and criminal courts with the County Treasurer's office daily. If one of the employees is out, Vann pinch hits in that position. "I have truly enjoyed becoming a part of Sequoyah County History and serving the community," said Vann.

The Keetoowah News wants YOU!

If your son or daughter, niece, nephew, or extended family members are students either attending K-12, vo-tech, college or a university, and are doing exceedingly well or showing strong leadership abilities or talents through their academic performance, sports, art, music, chorus and/or in other areas of interest, please contact the media department at (918) 456-6533. We would like to feature your student in an upcoming Keetoowah News Article!

Kasandra Leigh Sultzer 2008 MCHS Wrestling Matwarming Queen

Kasandra Leigh Sultzer, a.k.a. Kassie, age 18, of McDonald County High School was chosen as the 2008 MCHS Wrestling Matwarming Queen on January 24, 2008. Kassie was voted on unanimously from all wrestlers from freshman through seniors for Matwarming Queen because she takes very good care of her wrestlers in keeping their stats and being there for the guys to aid them in whatever they need done while they are wrestling.

Kassie is the daughter of Leroy Sulstzer and Kandy Sultzer of Anderson, Missouri, members of the Delaware District of the UKB. Kassie has one older brother, Blake Seltzer, who attends Missouri southern State University.

Kassie played softball from the age of 5 years old until her junior year of high school. She was a varsity level player; however, do to a pacemaker implant at the age of six, she is now unable to play softball; however Kassie continues to strive. She went to Missouri Girl's State last summer where she earned two college credits. She is Art Club president and Science Club Secretary. She is involved with Agricultural Communication and is the chair of the Parliamentary team. Kassie is a well-rounded student who is excited about going to college this fall where she will go into nursing or law.

Her grandparents are Riley and Edna Sultzer of Jay, Oklahoma and Edmond and Julia Hines of Anderson, Missouri.

Blake Sultzer Thanks UKB Department of Education and Tribe

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have received my check for higher education assistance. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. I will know by March 1, 2008, if I am accepted into the Radiology Program at Missouri Southern State University. At the close of the year 2009, I plan to have my Bachelor's of Health Science.

It is my intention and plan to work with IHS when I graduate so I can provide services to our Native American family of Keetoowah Indians. I hope to be a positive role model for other students in staying in school and obtaining a degree. I want to use the education I receive to care for others and particularly, I want to provide medical services in my specialty of radiology to assist my native people's needs.

Again, I wanted to express by sincerest gratitude for your support. It has certainly made a difference in furthering my education.

Wa-do,
Blake E. Sultzer

The United Keetoowah Band Natural Resources Department spoke with the children of the HLDCDC about the importance of trees, and celebrated Arbor Day by planting 20 trees around the Community Services Complex.

Check out our website
www.unitedkeetoowahband.org

The Benefits of Exercise

Reprinted by permission from the American Diabetes Assoc.

Exercise is also known as physical activity and includes anything that gets you moving, such as walking, dancing, or working in the yard. You can earn the benefits of being physically active without going to a gym, playing sports, or using fancy equipment. When you're physically fit, you have the strength, flexibility, and endurance needed for your daily activities. Being physically active helps you feel better physically and mentally.

Physical activity can lower your blood glucose (sugar), blood pressure, and cholesterol. It also reduces your risk for heart disease and stroke, relieves stress, and strengthens your heart, muscles, and bones. In addition, regular activity helps insulin work better, improves your blood circulation, and keeps your joints flexible. If you're trying to lose weight, a combination of physical activity and wise food choices can help you reach your target weight and maintain it. All of these benefits can be yours even if you haven't been very active before.

How do I get past the barriers to being physically active?

If you're not active, it's likely that you have at least one reason why. Perhaps you've never been very active. Maybe you're afraid you'll get low blood glucose. Think about what's keeping you from being active and then look into ways to overcome the barriers.

Barriers & *Solutions*

I don't have time to exercise for 30 minutes a day.
Do as much as you can. Every step counts. If you're just starting out, start with 10 minutes a day and add more little by little. Work up to 10 minutes at a time, three times a day.

I'm too tired after work.
Plan to do something active before work or during the day.

I don't have the right clothes.
Wear anything that's comfortable as long as you have shoes that fit well and socks that don't irritate your skin.

I'm too shy to exercise in a group.
Choose an activity you can do on your own, such as following along with an aerobics class on TV or going for a walk.

I don't want to have sore muscles.
Exercise shouldn't hurt if you go slowly at first. Choose something you can do without getting sore. Learn how to warm up and stretch before you do something active and how to cool down afterward.

I'm afraid I'll get low blood glucose.
If you're taking a medication that could cause low blood glucose, talk to your health care provider about ways to exercise safely.

Walking hurts my knees.
Try chair exercises or swimming.

It's too hot outside.
If it's too hot, too cold, or too humid, walk inside a school or a shopping center.

It's not safe to walk in my neighborhood.
Find an indoor activity, such as an exercise class at a community center.

I'm afraid I'll make my condition worse.
Get a checkup before planning your fitness routine. Learn what's safe for you to do.

I can't afford to join a fitness center or buy equipment.
Do something that doesn't require fancy equipment, such as walking or using cans of food for weights.

Exercise is boring
Find something you enjoy doing. Try different activities on different days.

Aerobic exercise increases your heart rate, works your muscles, and raises your breathing rate. For most people, it's best to aim for a total of about 30 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week. If you haven't been very active recently, you can start out with 5 or 10 minutes a day and work up to more time each week. Or split up your activity for the day -- try a brisk 10-minute walk after each meal. If you're trying to lose weight, you may want to exercise more than 30 minutes a day. Here are some examples of aerobic exercise:

- Take a brisk walk (outside or inside on a treadmill)
- Go dancing • Take a low-impact aerobics class
- Swim or do water aerobic exercises • Try ice-skating or roller-skating
- Play tennis • Stationary bicycle indoors

Strength Training

Strength training, done several times a week, helps build strong bones and muscles and makes everyday chores like carrying groceries easier for you. With more muscle, you burn more calories, even at rest. Here are some ways to do it:

- Join a class to do strength training with weights, elastic bands, or plastic tubes • Lift light weights at home

Flexibility Exercises

Flexibility exercises, also called stretching, help keep your joints flexible and reduce your chances of injury during other activities. Gentle stretching for 5 to 10 minutes helps your body warm up and get ready for aerobic activities such as walking or swimming. Your health care team can provide information on how to stretch.

Being Active Throughout The Day

In addition to formal exercise, there are many opportunities to be active throughout the day. Being active helps burns calories. The more you move around, the more energy you'll have. These strategies can help you increase your activity level:

• Walk instead of drive whenever possible • Take the stairs instead of the elevator • Work in the garden, rake leaves, or do some housecleaning every day • Park at the far end of the shopping center lot and walk to the store

United Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir to release their first CD

The United Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir will be releasing their first CD this fall. The CD will feature ten Cherokee hymns sung in their native language. The 19 member Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir is directed by Janice Ballou. Mrs. Ballou has been the Music and Science teacher for the Kenwood School District for over 17 years. "The Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir has been a great reflection of our tribal organization and it's constituents," stated Assistant Chief Charles Locust. The choir began with five members in 2006 and has grown to a 19 member group, ages 11 to 17 years of age. "From the time I first heard the choir, they have improved tremendously," said Norman "Hominy" Littledave, UKB Tribal Community Coordinator. "I have been involved in music and gospel singing most of my life, listening to the choir you can clearly hear their natural Keetoowah Cherokee dialect."

In September 2007 the Youth Choir performed as a featured act at the Mt. Juliet Powwow Benefit Concert in Nashville, Tennessee. The choir has traveled throughout the country performing at various events and celebrations. "Hominy and I have been around the choir since its beginning, their songs are sung so beautifully. Janice works well with the kids and is a great choir director. We have traveled with the choir as they have performed throughout the country and they are a great group of kids to be around." stated Brenda Locust, Tribal Community Coordinator.

The United Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir has performed at many tribal events and during the UKB Annual Keetoowah Celebration. They have recently been invited to perform at this year's Creek Nation Celebration. "Keep the choir and director in your prayers so that hearts may be touched through their songs," added Littledave.

For more information or to request their appearance please contact the UKB Tribal Community department at 918-431-1818, and ask for Brenda Locust or Norman "Hominy" Littledave.

Daniell Budds

Destiny Hogshooter

Emily Stapleton

Estella Proctor

Skylar Proctor

Faith O' Field

Fannie Bendabout

Jemie Budds

Jordan Proctor

Rozlyn Locust

Jordan Wadon

Joseph Wolf

Kyla Sanders

Leah Martin

Sierra Proctor

Tamika Leach

Taylor Budds

Tyler Proctor

Tyler Sanders

SEQUOYAH GUESS,
Video Technician

NORMAN "HOMINY" LITTLEDAVE,
Audio Engineer

United Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir

UKB Regular February Council Meeting Minutes

UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting At the UKB Community Services Building February 02, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe

II. Invocation: Liz Littledave

III. Roll Call: 9 + Chief answered Roll Call. Quorum declared.
- Hansen, Sacks and Smoke absent at Roll Call.

IV. Chief's Address

(Smoke arrived at 10:04 AM)

- Reminded November was Keetoowah Election for all Council seats.
- Everything associated with Keetoowah Government goes back to the Chief. The Chief is the Executive Officer and Chairman of the Council.
- Executive Orders by the Chief are not always popular in all districts.
- The Keetoowahs have made much progress
- Assistant Interior Secretary, Carl Artman visited the Keetoowah. Washington knows the Keetoowah now. We have come too far to go backwards. We don't need controversy.
- Our people wrote the Constitution so that the Keetoowah would carry on what was planned for the UKB.
- Currently Emergency Assistance guidelines are written, the Chief makes the final decision because everything comes to the Chief and he never denies an extreme emergency.

(Sacks arrived at 10:06 AM)

- An Executive Order must stand. It is not acceptable that one district spends money in any other district. Money issued to one district is intended for the people who reside in that district. Some districts believe the Executive Order is good. People are not being denied/turned down. Those responsible for monthly allocation and who have spent all such allocation, are still okay, you can spend over your monthly amount and there are some who have over-spent but there will not be an alliance from him (Chief Wickliffe) because of the Executive Order if you spend over your allocation, unless the Council or the Budget and Finance Committee authorizes additional money be released.

(Hansen arrived at 10:11 AM)

- The list of names published in the Keetoowah News means; if you wish to be allowed to vote and, be eligible for services you must be "exclusive" in membership. If you do not respond to your listed name, you will be recorded as "inactive/non-exclusive." Non-exclusive people will not be removed from the membership roll. Non-exclusive people will not be allowed to vote. Their name will not be listed on the Voter's List.
- A non-exclusive person can later decide to become "exclusive" in Keetoowah Membership, but such must be before May 1, 2008 in order to be eligible to vote.
- There are other people where it has been discovered they have returned to CNO but are still active as UKB members. Some have done such more than once. When this is learned, he (Chief) believes the Secretary has every right to drop those people from the membership roll. These people are receiving benefits from both the UKB and CNO or other tribes.
- We wish to give every Keetoowah-Cherokee the opportunity to belong to the United Keetoowah Band.
- Any person who is a dual member will not be dropped from UKB membership rolls, they will be listed as "non-exclusive" with no rights to vote or receive services.
- Some people go to vote at the wrong voting place and this caused the use of affidavits in the last election. Affidavits did not work well. This problem was caused because people did not notify the Election Board of their change in residence site into a different district. It's difficult to clean up all election problems but we're trying.
- He (Chief) has not received any calls from people asking why their names appeared in the UKB newspaper. It is the decision of each individual named on the list to decide what they want to do about their membership.
- The list will help us identify those "non-exclusive" UKB Tribal Members.
- It's only fair to allow only "exclusive" members the right to vote. This is how we can be fair with everyone.
- We want to do everything we can to make our next election where if there is a protest the answer will be in our Election Ordinance and if the answer is not accepted, the protest can be taken to our court system and that's where such action should go.
- We have a court system that can be activated anytime we need to. Any dispute should not go to the Council.
- If an employee thinks they have been wronged and they have exhausted their policy process and they are not satisfied, they can take their issue to our court.
- It is difficult to understand when an employee presents a voluntary employment resignation and then I (Chief) learn this person wants due process.
- Due to the need for lengthy and in-depth discussions relating to today's agenda items IX, 1 and X,I, it is suggested a Special Meeting of Council be scheduled.
- DISCUSSION: RE: Special Council Meeting, Date of Special Meeting is February 21, 2008.
- A.G. Ken Bellmard will prepare an agenda.
- Special Meeting Agenda to include; Election Ordinance, EDA Codes, and any other kind of Ordinance or Codes which may need to be updated. Jim McMillin and Steve Pruitt will be in attendance to speak to the Council for clarification of issues.
- Chief stressed plans for UKB when Trust Land Status is obtained. He stated UKB will work with surrounding counties in law enforcement and will work to take care of our people in many areas.
- Chief encouraged everyone to pray for a favorable decision on Trust Land being approved for the UKB.
- UKB has put in the bid for contracting IHS Hospital. UKB can do a better job than CNO in serving people. UKB does not intend for people to lose their jobs if UKB gets the contract for IHS. The UKB just needs to make sure the people who carry on the daily duties of the hospital continue. Hospital personnel do not need to be placed on UKB payroll or any other tribal payroll; they need to stay on IHS payroll.
- Through-out past years IHS has been trying to get rid of their responsibilities and to transfer these responsibilities to some tribe. If you analyze history; CNO should not be eligible to be applying for taking over the hospital services. There is no record of that CNO is federally recognized as of 1906. Let's hope CNO does not get authority over IHS and if UKB does not get that authority let's hope IHS keeps running the hospital. The government is capable of continued financing IHS but if tribes are out of money there cannot be financing. The federal government can print more money for IHS but tribes cannot.
- The Keetoowahs must be proud of our accomplishments. Our elders have prepared our way. Let us keep up what our elders started for us.

V. Approval of the minutes for January 2008 (January 5th = Regular Meeting; January 11th = Special Meeting)

1. MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the minutes of January 05, 2008; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.
2. MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the minutes of Special Meeting on January 11, 2008; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

VI. Presentations

1. Ken Bellmard:
- Spoke of meetings with Attorney Jim McMillin relating to development of the agenda for the meeting on February 21, 2008
- Made certain each Council member was in possession of the Red Line version of the Election Ordinance and the EDA Codes.
- He verified a set time for this meeting on the 21st.
- Mr. Bellmard was informed a suggested time would be 10:00 AM until
- Sacks: asked if it would be appropriate to make a motion, to which he was assured such would be appropriate.

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to establish February 21, 2008 as the date for a scheduled Special Meeting of Council at the prescribed time of 10:00 AM until…; SECONDED by Charles Locust (Site: Log cabin building across from Keetoowah Casino); VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

2. Albert Shade:
- receiving calls from concerned citizenship over the hospital being taken over by CNO. They want to get involved. A suggestion was; to picket/protest at the hospital or some elders travel to Washington and show they do not want the hospital taken over by CNO. He stated to the Council to get their people together and show concerns and maybe get the newspapers involved to show this concern.
- Woodrow Proctor: said he wished to let people know the Keetoowahs are against the IHS being taken over by CNO. CNO cannot even run a landfill how can they run IHS? They cannot run the landfill or their enterprises. Their enterprises cannot even serve their people. If they cannot serve their people where is the money coming from to supplement the Indian Health Services Program when there is lack of funds? People will be coming to tribes for supplement. In the past Keetoowahs have been denied Indian Health Services. CNO cannot run Indian Health Services if they cannot run Cherokee Nation landfill.
- Chief Wickliffe: referred to Don Ade, RE: IHS
- Don Ade: The IHS contracting issue is generating a great deal of anxiety. IHS does not always do a perfect job in health care for Indian people. CNO will not do as good a job as IHS.

▪ The quality of patient care will be diluted and will suffer if CNO takes over this service unit, meaning all services within the Tahlequah service unit area.
▪ If CNO takes over hospital, they will automatically receive 6 million dollars "up front" for administration. This money comes out of the 60 million dollar budget that the hospital is currently receiving. This is a 10% cut in resources if CNO takes over the service unit. This is a 10% reduction in quality of services.
▪ There are professional career employees at Hastings Hospital and some will leave if CNO contracts the hospital. They came into IHS for long range purposes to establish a career with federal retirement, etc. When a tribe takes over a facility, career people will be looking elsewhere for employment.
▪ There are always consequences when a tribe takes over a hospital, clinic, etc.
▪ The goal of the UKB is to prevent CNO from contracting the service unit without Keetoowah involvement (Chief Wickliffe agreed). There is already insufficient involvement of the UKB in our service unit.
▪ Hastings hospital shows 238 UKB members in their medical records department. We know this is incorrect. The Claremore Hospital medical records show about 220 UKB members. We know there are more than 400 UKB members who utilize these two facilities. Currently we are addressing this issue with IHS.
▪ Based on UKB enrollment, we should have at least 5700 Keetoowahs registered in medical records at Claremore and Tahlequah hospital and that is only 50% of Keetoowah enrollment. 95% of those Keetoowahs live in the 14 county area.
▪ IHS is also guilty of this incorrect medical records count. They are using last years status study. They have never been challenged before. Now the Keetoowahs are challenging those numbers.
▪ Monday, Chief Wickliffe will sign a letter protesting those Keetoowah medical records numbers. This letter will be sent to John Daugherty, Area Director in Oklahoma City, with a copy sent to his boss, Bob McSwain in Rockwell, Maryland, Richard Church, Director of Statistical Empire he heads up at IHS, to Dr. Farris, Chief Medical Officer in Oklahoma City, Senator Tom Coburn, Representative Dan Boren, June Phillips, member of Mr. Ken Bellmard's legal staff in Oklahoma City.
▪ Mr. Ade stated we have the right for peaceful assembly and the protests, etc., previously spoken of by Albert Shade was an acceptable action. He said he did not know if Tahlequah had any parade requirement and there should be a follow up to verify any such requirements but people have a right to a peaceful assembly.

VII. Reports to Council

1. Enrollment Report: Liz Littledave
- The original intent of the publishing of dual member list was to clean up the voters list and to keep dual members from receiving benefits. We do not wish to remove people from Keetoowah membership. People who do not come in and clean up/update their files will be entered as "non-exclusive" and will not be entered on the Voter's List and will not be allowed to vote. It also means those individuals will not be eligible for benefits from Keetoowah programs. "Non-exclusive" status also means that person cannot be a candidate for Council Office.

2. 14 New member applications for Tribal Enrollment were reviewed by the Enrollment Committee and is presented for Council's approval. 2 CDIB cards for children ages 0-3 were processed and have been entered as tribal members. The Committee presented these 2 children for acknowledgement and to be honored by Council. 16 total new members.
MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve and/or acknowledge 16 new members to be entered into Tribal Membership; SECONDED by Albert Shade; VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

5 Requests for UKB Tribal Relinquishment were received and the Enrollment Committee recommends Council acknowledge and honor these requests.
MOTION by Eddie Sacks to acknowledge and honor 5 requests for relinquishment from UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Albert Shade; VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

3. Report RE: Membership status of Eva Marie Little
- Recommendation made to Council by Enrollment Committee
- Lengthy Discussion:
▪ Pros and Cons were presented
▪ Legal input was received

MOTION by Eddie Sacks that Eva Marie Little is ineligible at this time for UKB Tribal Membership and she receives no further special considerations relating to her membership status; SECONDED by Woodrow Proctor; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstentions (C. Wofford).

VIII. Public Forum - None

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Leroy Adair commented on the clear explanation given by the Chief relating to the items to be discussed at the Special Council Meeting on February 21, 2008. He stated the Election Board would be in attendance on the 21st. He then thanked the Enrollment Committee for meeting with the Election Board to work on revisions of the Election Ordinance. He was optimistic about clearing up the Election Ordinance. He stated that everything that is popular is not always right and everything that is right is not always popular either.
MOTION by Albert Shade to table discussion to approve/disapprove revised Election Ordinance until after discussion at the Special Council Meeting on February 21, 2008; SECONDED by Shelbi Wofford; VOTE: 11 Yes, 1 No (Proctor), 0 Abstentions.

2. Barry Dotson spoke on the Chief's Executive Order being issued on October 17, 2007 relating to Emergency Assistance Funds. Mr. Dotson clarified with Chief Wickliffe, the process for Emergency Assistance continued as described in Chief's Executive Order.
- Chief Wickliffe: responded, "Yes."

X. New Business

1. Council discussion to vote to approve/disapprove revision of EDA By-Laws.
MOTION by Shelbi Wofford to table agenda item X,1 until after discussion at Special Meeting on February 21, 2008; SECONDED by Charles Locust; VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

XI. Announcements

1. Barry Dotson informed of a UKB member in Sequoyah District who has just had a complete knee operation. The person is in need of a working refrigerator and the district's monthly allocation for assistance is used up. Chief Wickliffe: said to let him know the dollar amount needed for purchase of a refrigerator.

XII. Benediction: Jerry Hansen

XIII. Adjourn:

MOTION by Eddie Sacks; SECONDED by Shelbi Wofford; Approved by affirmation. Conclusion: 12:40 PM

UKB Special February Council Meeting Minutes

UKB Special Council Meeting
At the Tahlequah Motor Lodge Conference Room
February 21, 2008
10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome:
Chief George Wickliffe

1. Brief reminder of attention to be given to EDA By-Laws. Stated this edition is expected to be the final draft. He stressed the importance of preparing for 8A Status. He reminded there can be amendments in any Ordinance or By-Laws.

2. Chief Wickliffe also informed The Revised Election Ordinance would be presented for Councils attention today. He stated the importance of working to clear-up the membership roll. He referred to the names listed in the Keetoowah Newspaper, whereas; those people were lacking proper documents in their file which would allow Exclusive Membership status. He spoke of how those people who did not up-date their file would not be removed from the membership Roll but will not be eligible for program services or for voting until they become exclusive in membership.

II. Introduce of Guests:
Chief George Wickliffe

1. Attorney Jim McMillan and his Assistant, Tamara Pullin, Attorney Dianne Barker-Harold and AG Ken Bellmard. Chief Wickliffe informed Attorney/Lobbyist; Steve Pruitt from Washington is expected to arrive shortly. He has been delayed in travel.

III. Roll Call: 12 + Chief answered Roll Call. Quorum declared.

IV. Invocation: Councilman, Jerry Hansen

V. Litigation and Deadlines: Attorney McMillan (Update will be presented in Open Meeting but when talks are of strategies then will enter into Executive Session).

1. Casino Case: Indian Country

- Judge White did send the case back to NIGC to make another determination if the Casino is/is not on Indian Land .
- The NIGC sat on that case for almost 1 1/2 years close to 2 years while the State of Oklahoma was appealing the Judge's decision to the 10th Circuit Court of appeals.
- Six months ago the Court of Appeals upheld Judge White's decision and sent the case back to Judge White. He then sent it back to the NIGC. We are now before the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) for a determination, once again for a decision as to whether or not the Casino is on Indian Land . Briefs are due on this case March 15th. A response is not expected from NIGC before the fall of this year. Once a decision from NIGC is made in this case, there will most likely be an appeal and the case will go back to Judge White and back and forth. The next step will be in filing our Briefs.

2. Land in Trust Litigation: (76 Ac.) B.I.A. declined this request but we have appealed that decision to the Bureau of Indian Appeals. This could be on appeal up two years. Assistant Secretary to the Department of Interior, Carl Artman, exercised his Administrative Authority to pull that case out of The Bureau of Indian Appeals and took it under his personal jurisdiction. Mr. Artman's decision was expected on February 14th, but it was stated some 6,000 additional documents were discovered and such needed to be looked at, thus; Mr. Artman and the Department of Interior asked for an extension of 45 days for a decision to be made. We now have a new deadline of March 31st. We expect a positive decision and once that decision is made it will be published and then we expect a response from Cherokee Nation. Two Law suits which have been filed are;

- One in the Court of Claims in Washington , D.C. (Deals with money issues)

- One in District Court in Oklahoma (Deals with land in trust)

Both of our claims against The Department of Interior is; for the last 100 somewhat years has mismanaged and failed to manage properly which should have been held in Trust for the United Keetoowah Band. These two cases turn somewhat on the question we are trying to get resolved in Washington that The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees in Oklahoma is at least one of if not the only proper successor to the Cherokee Nation as the Western Cherokees/The Old Settlers. It certainly appears we are the tribe that is the natural successors of the Cherokee Nation and in fact there is no Cherokee Nation that exists any longer; that political body was terminated as Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. It is simply improper to consider The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma as a Successor in Interest because CNO has never properly organized; it hasn't followed its own Constitution and consequently cannot be considered a natural successor of the Cherokee Nation. Once these two cases start, they will be complex, long and drawn –out. These Cases were filed initially before a deadline in order to protect out interests.

3 Trust Land Application in Arkansas Litigation

- If it was decided by The Department of Interior, the UKB was not a successor and interest to The Cherokee Nation by logical extension, the UKB last had a reservation in Arkansas prior to when the UKB gave up its land in Arkansas in order to take the land in Oklahoma. If the Department of Interior decides the UKB gave up land in Arkansas and move to Oklahoma which eliminated the rights for the UKB to have rights in the 9 district area, then logically we were left with our prior reservation in Arkansas . The theory was; this was our previous reservation and ought to be available to come into trust. New regulations on taking land in trust was issued by the Department of Interior a month or so ago, then two days later our application for taking Arkansas land into trust was denied. We will file a Law Suit against the Department of Interior in about 4-6 weeks. We will challenge the decision where we will be claiming this decision by the Department of Interior was an arbitrary and capricious decision and was not based on consideration of relevant facts.

4. Arkansas Riverbed Case Litigation:

- Several Discussions are on-going in Washington , D.C.
- Case is with Attorney: Michael Rossetti
- Issued is closely tied with the Issue of taking the 76 Ac. into Trust.
- Also closely tied with the issue of whether or not the Department of Interior will recognize the UKB as a natural successor and interest of the Old Cherokee Nation.

5. HUD Funding Litigation:
- Initially promise of funding to us was in the range of $800,000.00
- CNO filed a challenge on HUD funding of UKB housing which resulted in funding of only $25,000.00
- We have filed a Law Suit in Federal Court challenging that decision. Judge White found HUD had not acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner. We must now appeal that decision to the 10th Circuit Court. This initial notice of Appeal goes to the 10th Circuit March 10th.

Ken Bellmard: suggested the Council enter into executive session for discussion of strategy relating to Litigation Issues.

MOTION by Jerry Hansen to enter into Executive Session to include all Attorneys and Associates and Joe Byrd for detailed discussion on Litigation strategies (Items: V, VI, and VII), SECONDED by Charles Smoke. VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (C.Wofford not available at Vote)
(Time: 11:03AM)

VIII. Lunch Break:
Chief called recess for lunch break: 12:15PM (Note: Steve Pruitt arrived during lunch break).

Continued with Executive Session: 1:15PM

(2:00PM: Jerry Hansen left meeting for previous appointment. Attorney Jim McMillan and Tamara Pullin also left at this time.)

MOTION by Shelbi Wofford to Exit from Executive Session and return to Special Council Meeting Session. SECONDED by Charles Locust. VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Time: 2:03PM)

IX. HIS Issues: None

X. Tribal Codes: None

XI. Discussion of Election Ordinance Revisions

- AG Ken Bellmard stressed decision be made today whether or not the revision is approved or disapproved in part or in whole.

MOTION by Eddie Sacks to accept the Election Ordinance but to maintain the current system that #6 covers. SECONDED by Barbara Girty VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Hansen left earlier for previous appointment)

NOTE: #6 Covers; "Old Version" No person filing for office or District Representative shall hold a position as a Tribal Employee of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma . Said Employment must be relinquished at the time of filing.

Chief: Commented on how a precedence had already been set since the Council had forced an employee to be removed from employment in a past election.

Leroy Adair, Chairman of the Election Board

- Expressed "Thank you" to the Chief.
- Expressed disappointment in the conduct of some Council members.
- Stated the Chief should be treated with respect.
- Stated he was a Christian man and "The Word" says to respect people in authority and he respected Chief Wickliffe as well as the complete Council.
- Says, "What's in you heart comes out of your mouth."
- There was a time when the whole election Board wished to resign but this Board will tough-it-out.
- Said "Thanks" to the Council for listening to the Board.
- Stated the revised Election Ordinance is suggestions to the Council.

Littledave: Reminded of an earlier topic, whereas; Active armed Services people could vote by Absentee Ballots but there is no such allowance in this revised Election Ordinance.

Discussion:
RE: Active Military Duty

- Affilated with a District
- Voting is a constitutional Right
- There are Federal Regulations that govern this.
- Excluding such as individual could possibly cause a challenge.
- Allowance for mail-in Absentee voting causes problems.
- These individuals are defending our freedom.
- Specifically stipulate current active Duty Status would allow vote by absentee ballot.
- This allowance would create inconsistency regardless of wording.
- This would create a special group of voters.
- These people chose to go into the Military they are not incarcerated.
- There are people who are disabled who can't get to Polling Place .
- This would be an exception for one class of people.
- Current Ordinance does refer to the disabled once thy get to the Polling place.
- Our Soldiers should not be "picked on," We cannot deprive them of voting; they can't come to the voting place.
- We should be appreciative of our soldiers.
- There is most likely a Federal Ordinance that allows military people to vote and if that is the case the attorneys could check into this.

Ken Bellmard: If there is a federal law which says you cannot deny military service personnel the right to vote is there is a law which pre-empts our Election Ordinance; this law must be a part of the Ordinance. If there is such a Federal Law, no motion relating to such is necessary.

Steve Pruitt: Read; The Uniformed and Over-Seas Citizens Absentees Voting Act: "Covers the Voting rights of members of the uniformed services of the active duty. Members of the Merchant Marine and also included their eligible family members and citizens residing outside of the United States ."

Ken Bellmard: If it is discovered the Uniformed and Over-Seas Citizens Voting Act effects UKB Ordinance, provisions for Absentee Voting will be entered in the 2008 Election Ordinance.

XII. Suggested Amendments to the Economic Development Act.

- Chief gave briefing on:

1. Projected projects through EDA
2. EDA Current involvements
3. KCI project involvements
4. Potential for growth for employment

- Woodrow Proctor: Voiced concern for the percent of profits allowed to tribe compared with EDA. He also questioned the involvement of the Tax Commissioner in the EDA Board and how the EDA Board members should be scrutinize and not allow Keetoowah to lose control of the EDA Board.

Each expressed concern from Woodrow received detailed explanation from Attorneys Tim Brown and Ken Bellmard.
Lengthy Discussion:

MOTION by Woodrow Proctor to approve the Amendments of the Economic Development Act (EDA) as revised from the 2005 Version. SECONDED by Charles Smoke. VOTE:

continued on page 12

UKB Special February Council Meeting Minutes cont.

11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Jerry Hansen had left earlier for previous appointment).

NEW BUSINESS

XIII. Lost City School Issue

Chief Wickliffe:

- School had refused/voted against Annex to Hulbert (to Annex would allow Hulbert to own school and its land and Hulbert would recess state money on the school).
- School has problems because of mis-management of previous school officials.
- Approximately 80% of student enrollment is Native American but UKB is interested in all students and people in the area.
- $35,000.00 is needed to cover payroll for one month.
- School personnel was informed UKB assistance to help the school would come with no Conditions attached.
- School approached UKB and CNO requesting financial assistance but CNO refused stating such would set a precedence and all schools would be entitled to such assistance. Chief Wickliffe view is; this school is in trouble with the threat of closing and this is not the case with all other schools.
- The people are trying to keep the school open for at least the remainder of this current school year; then will be better prepared for next school year.
- The newspaper became aware of UKB's willingness to help and publish this information.
- CNO then offered to help if they were allowed management of the school. The school's Board declined saying the School Board is the Administers of the school.
- Assistance could be titled assistance or grant which would then allow finances to be utilized as needed. In this way the school will not be financially penalized by the state because of this assistance.
-

Albert Shade: Informed community people are ready and willing to volunteer help whenever they can. He then expressed appreciation to Chief Wickliffe and the Council for anything the Keetoowahs would do to help the school.

Woodrow Proctor: Supported Chief Wickliffe in doing whatever in helping Lost City School .

MOTION by Barry Dotson to assist Lost City School with any needs in keeping the school open. SECONDED by Shelbi Wofford. VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Jerry Hansen had left earlier for previous appointment).

XIV. DISMISSAL:
MOTION to Adjourn by Woodrow Proctor; SECONDED by Albert Shade; VOTE: Approved by affirmation. Conclusion: 4:12 PM