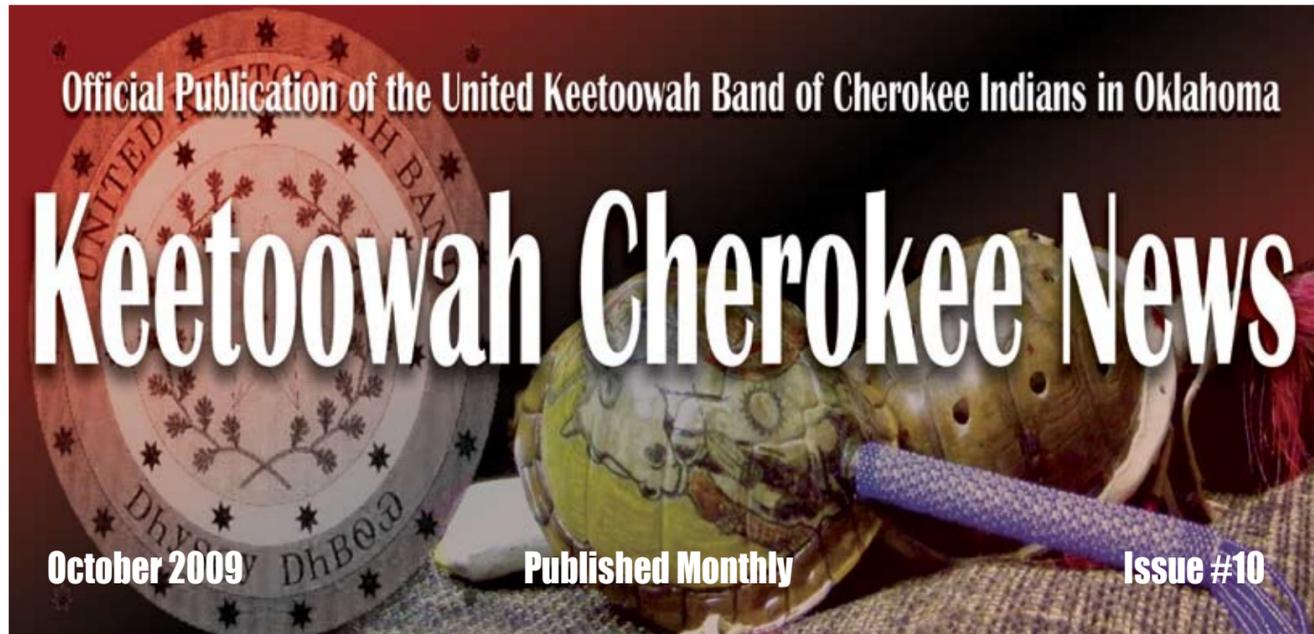


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Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Impacts Community

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma celebrated their 59th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration, "Still the Sacred Fire Burns", commemorating the signing of the UKB Constitution. A crowd of over 15,000 people attended the successful event. As one of the main fall events in and around the city of Tahlequah, the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration brings over a million dollar economic impact to the city of Tahlequah and surrounding communities.

The weekend began on Friday with a packed house gospel singing that was said to have been the most successful to date. Later that evening, a stomp dance was held. The stomp dance was hosted by the Redbird Smith Ceremonial Grounds members and others participating included representatives from four Cherokee grounds, six Creek grounds, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Shawnees, Choctaws, Seminoles, Senecas, many Keetoowahs and more.

The Keetoowah Cherokee Run kicked things off at 7 a.m. Saturday morning as runners were met with a chilly morning, but the weather warmed as the day went on. Close to 100 children accompanied by their parents attended the kids fishing derby. Fifty one entries in the parade included three marching bands; NSU, Oktaha and Stilwell, along with dignitaries, floats, the Bedouin Shriners, community groups, and cub scouts. In the float contest, first place went to the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino, second place went to the Title VI Nutrition Program, and third place went to South Wing, a group made up several UKB departments including grants, Information Technology, Roads, and the Meld program. In the walking group category, first place went to the Tahlequah High School Native American Heritage Club, second place went to the Oklahoma Production Center, and third place went to the Cub Scout Pack 764.

The smell of hog fry filled the air as 30 cooks from the Redbird Smith Ceremonial Grounds, along other Keetoowah Cherokee cooks worked to cook 1,400 pounds of hog meat, 300 pounds of



GEORGE WICKLIFFE, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians proudly speaks of the accomplishments and future endeavors for the tribe as he addresses the audience attending the State of the Nation event during the 59th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration. Photo by Will Chavez

potatoes, 250 pounds of beans and 200 pounds of flour to make fry bread.

Chief George Wickliffe's State of the Nation address was well received as a record crowd listened as he gave his speech, followed by a performance of the Keetoowah Cherokee Youth Choir.

Sounds of children running around, playing and laughing could be heard among the clink of horseshoes, cheers for volleyball players and the beat of the Pow Wow drummers. Elders sat comfortably at tables and chairs on the newly poured concrete floor under the pavilion and at tables with a tent for elders only.

Children were well entertained as they ar-

rived at the grounds with bags of candy and toys they were given at the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration parade, they quickly signed up for the turtle races, which sported a brand new track, ate free snow cones and played on inflatables such as the

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UKB Natural Resources Department Works to Preserve Air and Water Quality

In January 2009 a devastating ice storm hit northeast Oklahoma damaging trees, homes, businesses and roadways. The United Keetoowah Band was not excluded from this crippling storm. One of the hardest hit areas was the Natural Resources Office just off of Highway 10. The office was a total loss, it wasn't until September before a new office unit could be moved into the old location and normal operation would be in place.

The devastating storm might have temporarily damaged the office area, but did not damage the spirit of the Natural Resources staff. They temporarily moved their offices into the Housing area (formerly the old Echota House) and continued their daily operations.

Now with the new office unit in place and the staff comfortably back in their offices, daily operations can continue as normal.

The tribe's Natural Resources department ensures proper environmental management for their lands and tribal members in the outlying communities. The staff works diligently testing surface and ground waters and conducting private well monitoring studies. They also provide environmental education and outreach programs for schools, communities and interested organizations. The department provides assessments for tribal construction projects and research. Under the agriculture program, the department manages the tribal cattle operations.

Brandi Ross, Natural Resources and Agricultural Director for the United Keetoowah Band, has done an excellent job moving the tribe in a positive direction in environmental protection in the communities. She is a graduate from Northeastern State University receiving her Bachelor's and Masters' of Science degrees and her Associate's of Science from Connors State College. Ross has been employed for

over seven years with the tribe. She is assisted by Summer King, Environmental Technician, who has been employed with the tribe for over five years and is also a graduate of Northeastern State University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Management and Master's degree in Industrial Management with Environmental emphasis.

"The tribe is moving in a positive direction with environmental protection. The Keetoowahs have been an active force in our communities and our region for years on environmental issues and stewardship. I am proud to be apart of that." stated Ross.

Both Ross and King serve or have served as advisor or co-chair on several environmental management committees. Ross serves as an advisor on the County Farm Service Agency committee representing the UKB, a form of looking at environmen-

tal protection relating to agriculture industry. She is also an active member in regional planning committee sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and involved with the Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma. King is the Co-chair of the Communications Workgroup, and is a member of the Policy Oversight Group and Technical Steering Committee for the Central Regional Air Planning Association.

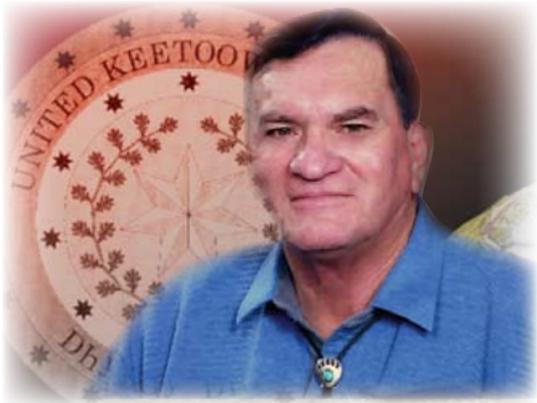
"I love working for the tribe, getting involved in the communities, making sure the water is safe for the public to drink and that the air is safe to breathe. That is extremely important for our tribal members in our community. This is the reason I came into this field." said King.

You can contact the United Keetoowah Band Natural Resource department by calling (918) 453-2823 and asking for Brandi Ross or Summer King.



THE UKB Natural Resource department received their new Office unit in September replacing their old office that was damaged by the 2009 ice storm. The new office unit is now fully operational and the Natural Resource staff have moved into their new offices.

A Letter to the UKB People From Chief George Wickliffe



Dear Tribal Members,

I am re-printing an article that was written by the Tahlequah Daily Press regarding our recent Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration and my State of the Nation Address. Please pay particular attention to the part about the upcoming special election. It is a very important election and I encourage you to vote yes in the election.

George Wickliffe

Celebrating heritage

The UKB tribe makes plans during the annual holiday based on a decision about trust land

The 76 acres his listeners were sitting on soon will become tribal trust land for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Chief George Wickliffe promised Saturday.

This summer the UKB declared victory after a court decision in a long-standing battle over whether the Keetoowahs could hold land in trust. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, which does have numerous parcels of land in tribal trust, has opposed the UKB's effort to achieve trust land status.

Wickliffe discussed the issue, and plans for future UKB expansion, during his annual state of the nation address, delivered during the 59th annual UKB Celebration. Activities also included

a parade, stomp dance, powwow, traditional meal, and a variety of exhibits and cultural displays. This year's theme was "Still the sacred fire burns."

In his decision, issued June 24, Larry Echo Hawk, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs, reversed a ruling by the Muskogee area BIA superintendent, denying trust rights to the UKB. Echo Hawk declared the original Cherokee Nation, as it existed in 1934, is no longer a distinct political entity and the UKB, formed in 1950, and Cherokee Nation, formed in 1975, are successors in interest to the old Cherokee Nation.

"It's been three months and 10 days since the decision was made. There have been a lot of lies," Wickliffe said. "We didn't believe that there would be anything out there that would reverse the decision for the Keetoowah people."

And nothing has, the chief said.

"This land here - he [Echo Hawk] makes provisions for it to be put in trust. I understand that it will happen any day now. This land that we're out here sitting on now will be trust land," Wickliffe said.

The effort to place land in tribal trust won't stop there, he said.

"We have the same equal rights to the old land in the Cherokee Nation to use," he said. "People, we have the right, we do not mean to turn back."

The tribe could open convenience stores or other revenue-producing enterprises on land in tribal trust, he said.

"Our elders said one of those days it's going to come. There will be a day we regain what was lost, and that day has come," Wickliffe said.

The chief, assisted by Miss Keetoowah Victoria Proctor and Junior Miss Keetoowah Alyssia Jones, presented blankets to four attorneys who have been instrumental in the UKB's efforts, including Dianne Barker Harrold of Cherokee County.

Then, it was time for Wickliffe to turn to other tribal accomplishments recorded in recent years, and to his aspirations for the UKB.

"Let's go into some progress we have made. You can look all around," he said.

He pointed to the elder care and child care centers, and the civil defense building to be completed soon.

"We have plans for a museum also, and we've got some plans in mind for an administra-

tion building for the UKB. We're working on that right now," he said. "We have 40 acres we purchased about six months ago. We're getting ready to build an education center and a training facility."

Wickliffe then smiled, and said, "We may also have room for a softball field."

He said 170 UKB citizens are enrolled at Northeastern State University, assisted by tribal scholarships, and other students are attending a variety of educational institutions with tribal help. One of his goals is to provide additional money for education and job training. The UKB will build training centers in several communities around the counties which have a high enrollment.

"This is really an opportunity for people to take advantage of," he said.

Tribal enrollment has grown from between 7,500 and 8,000 just a few years ago.

"We have topped 14,000 now," Wickliffe said. "Of course, we have not changed the qualifications to become a member and we have no plans to change that."

Unlike the Cherokee Nation, UKB requires its citizens to have at least one-quarter Cherokee blood.

The chief said last year the UKB had a \$96 million economic impact on this area.

"We have not gathered all the numbers yet, but we know we are going to improve next year," he said.

The tribe also plans to develop housing, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Our main aim is still the same - elderly, children, jobs, education," Wickliffe said.

The next issue facing UKB members is an election to determine whether the tribe can bypass the Muskogee area BIA office in making decisions on tribal trust land. Wickliffe told his listeners it will be important to read the mail they receive from the BIA and to cast ballots approving that change.

"Let's get it done," he said.

No other by-laws changes could be made

continued on page 4

Celebration Impacts Community

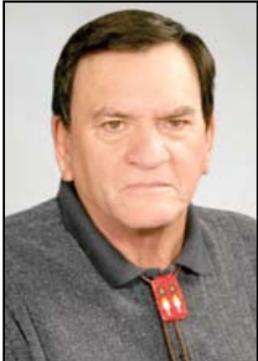
continued from page 1

pirate ship, obstacle course and rock wall. Scores of children came through the cultural demonstrations and grouped together making crafts including baskets, corn husk dolls, weavings and key chains.

Traditional games competitions were held including the cornstalk shoot, blowgun competition, marbles and stickball game. The horseshoes and volleyball competitions went on into the early evening. The pavilion was packed for the free bingo games with both cash and prizes, and in addition there were cash drawings for a total of \$8000 given away. The Intertribal Keetoowah Cherokee Pow Wow drew 150 dancers from across the nation, and many spectators as well.

Executive Director of Tribal Operations, Tim Good Voice said, "When I started working for the tribe less than ten years ago, the celebration was held on what is now the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino parking lot and a crowd of about 50 people attended. The past decade has seen so much growth and progress, not only with the Celebration, but with tribal membership and operations as well. I'm looking forward to what the next ten years will bring," said Good Voice.

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Chief **Assistant Chief**

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

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Barry Dotson Woodrow Proctor Charles Smoke
Joyce Fourkiller-Hawk Eddie Sacks Cliff Wofford

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Sam L. Still, Editor

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A letter from my Grandfather

By Joe Sequichie Morris

April 14, 1938

Legends are becoming more and more extinct among the young Indians of today. But they do not realize their own loss. They are too busy trying to keep up with their white neighbors while their own secrets and understandings of nature are put aside until they will completely be forgotten. They even forget their understandings and feelings towards each other. We scoff at the queer remedies made of herbs. We will not listen to the stories told by our own forefathers who were experienced in the hardships and heartaches caused by their white neighbors.

With the help of my mother I will translate an old letter written by my grandfather. It is a story handed down from generation to generation.

The White People That Came Across

This letter is to let you know of the first white people who came across the great water to set their foot on this country unwelcomed. The red people became hostile in seeing these strange people on their soil. They attacked them and filled the branches with the blood of these strange foes. The white people came again and same thing hap-

pened. It seems as though some would escape every time. The third time they brought jewels, ornaments and various colored articles in which the red people were conquered. The Indians were already to make friends and they begin to grant lands. The white settlements began to grow and the Indians began to lose out in their privileges. The whites began to have meetings to discuss just what to do about the Indians. They even mentioned about burning the Indians' homes so they could have more land in which to make their settlements (Part of this letter is torn and lost).

The first white man on the big sip that came across were seen by the Indians in 1492. In the year of 1620 a kind and sympathetic white man came to this country. The Indians greeted him with gifts of indian corn. It was William Penn. He talked to them in shade of an elm tree on the bank of a big river. He made treaties with the Indians and started the settlements under treaties in 1682 (Part of the third page is missing, I have to skip some important facts due to the letters which have faded. Joe Morris).

At this very moment you can see the curse that is put on the Indians in their wrong doing of the past. When the white people began to make the government the Indians did not like the idea until the white people told them that they would teach them how to make more modern things to

use. The chief of all tribes appointed seven wise men to study this idea. The wide men did not think that it was wise and they prophesied that in years to come the Indians would almost be slaves and be driven about their own country. The red people would head for destruction. The older and more experienced men began to worry and dreamed of what was going to be their fate. They sat up all night long smoking their pipes telling each other of their dreams. The are the prophecies of the old men:

"The young Indian children will not be obedient. They will not know the remedies made of herbs. They will be conceited. They will not know their own kin and there will be marriages in their own families. They will not know their clan. They will not grow normally. They will not believe the stories told about their own forefathers. Their mothers will cheated with their knowledge. All this will be leading to destruction of the Indian race. Because they not listen and believe the wiser and experienced forefathers. They will be driven to the west until they reach the great waters and they will be put aboard a ship that be made to sink."

(I have tried to translate this old letter for the benefit of the young Indians....Joe Morris)

The Meaning of the Keetoowah Cherokee Seal

The seal of the United Keetoowah Band is not only beautiful but full of meaning and history.

The seal is composed of 30 seven pointed "fires" which depict the 30 original Keetoowah towns in the old country of the Southeast. These fires have burned out and are illustrated by the black coloring.

The center is a fire which represents the only fire which continues to burn. The seven points of the fire portray the seven clans. The four stars outside the circle of colorful rings portray the four cardinal directions.

Symbolizing peace is the white background. The colors within the circle are representative of the colorful history of the Keetoowah people.

Strength of the Keetoowah People is illus-

trated by the Oak leaves in the center of the seal surrounding the last burning fire.

The seal was designed in 1968 and revised in 1991.



UKB October '09 Calendar of Council, District & Special Meetings

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 8 | Illinois District Meeting , 6:30 p.m.
Vian UKB Satellite Office |
| October 8 | Sequoyah District Meeting , 5:30 p.m.
Sallisaw UKB Satellite Office |
| October 10 | UKB Regular Council Meeting , 10 a.m.
Jim Proctor Elder Center, Tahlequah |
| October 16 | Tahlequah District Meeting , 6 p.m.
Keener Church |
| October 19 | Saline District Meeting , 7 p.m.
Kenwood Community Center |
| October 22 | Cooweescoowee District Meeting , 6 p.m.
1st Christian Church, Pryor |

Keetoowah Cherokees to be Honored at Veteran's Appreciation Luncheon

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma will pay tribute to their veterans on Friday, November 6 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the UKB Jim Proctor Elder Care Facility in Tahlequah. Keetoowah Cherokee veterans will be honored at a Veterans' Appreciation Luncheon and Program.

Members of the American Legion Post 15 from Muskogee, Oklahoma, will play Taps and fire a 3 Volley Salute for fallen comrades. For more information, call Brenda Locust or Hominy Littledave at (918) 431-1818.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma pays tribute to their veterans every November for all Keetoowah Cherokee men and women veterans. Every Keetoowah Cherokee Veteran attending is honored with a luncheon and a small token of appreciation from the UKB tribe.

"If you're Native American, you're going to fight harder. That's the kind of track record the Keetoowah Cherokee veterans have," said UKB Chief George Wickliffe. "They fought harder because this is our country, and people should never forget how hard our Native Americans fight in wars. What we must do is support our soldiers that defend our country. We've had good soldiers; we've had brave soldiers because of who they are. They are Native Americans and we appreciate them, we appreciate all of them. We appreciate all the soldiers regardless of where they come from. I want to say to the Keetoowah Veterans that the Keetoowah Cherokee people appreciate you, and we honor you. I say thank you."

"The Chief is right, whenever we fight, the Native Americans are the ones who fight the hardest, they fight because this is their country, this is their home. This is where we started from and our ancestors are buried here, this is why we protect it. As veterans, they have done a great job; we appreciate it and honor them. It's an honor just to talk to a veteran. I feel I don't have the prestige that they have and the honor that they deserve. I don't know if we can ever bestow enough honor on them, because I think as veterans, they are truly great people for serving your country," stated UKB Assistant Chief Charles Locust.

Are you a Keetoowah Cherokee with traditional skills??

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

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



OBITUARIES

Lawton Ray Buzzard

Services for Lawton Ray Buzzard were held at 2 p.m., on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at the Abundant Life Fellowship Church, with Pastor Jay Jones and Pastor Dale Wilson officiating. Interment was followed at the New Hope Cemetery near Shady Grove.

Services were entrusted to the care of the Hart Funeral Home of Tahlequah. Serving as Lawton's pallbearers are Seth Richardson, Aaron Garrett, Bobby Dady, Adam Turner, Michael Blevins, and Kaleb Adams. Honorary pallbearers include Garrett Walker, Brayden Phillips, Coy Dreadfulwater, Noah Clemons, the Suns Basketball Team, the kids of Abundant Life Children's Church, and the kids at the Shiloh Christian School.

Lawton R. Buzzard was born the son of Paula Buzzard and Jeffery Collins on Nov. 18, 1997, in Tahlequah. In 2003, his family moved to Hulbert from Kansas City, Mo. He attended school at Shady Grove, and more recently at Shiloh Christian School and was in the sixth grade. When he wasn't attending school, Lawton, or "Choogie" as his family and friends knew him, enjoyed playing basketball and video games. He loved attending church at Abundant Life, and wanted to be a missionary in Africa when he grew up. He was talented with acting and had the gift of making his friends laugh. Choogie was intelligent, kind, and always had an encouraging word for others. But most of all, Choogie loved the time he spent with his family. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

On Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, the Lord took Choogie by hand and took him to his eternal home. He was 11 years old. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Johnny Collins and Cecelia (Adair) Collins, and Uncle Lawton Collins. Those left to cherish Choogie's memory include his mother, Paula Buzzard of the home in Hulbert; his father, Jeffery Collins of Tennessee; and his two sisters, Censee Buzzard and Jeremee Collins, both of the home. He is also survived by his grandparents, Richard and Sylvia Wilson of Tahlequah; his Aunt Loretta Adams and husband Kaleb and little cousin Jakob Adams, his Uncle Richard Wilson Jr. and wife Stephanie, and Aunt Rose Wilson, all of Tahlequah, Aunt Carla Collins and fiancé Michael Adams of Tuscon, Ariz., Aunt Melissa Collins and cousin Bobby Dady II of Tahlequah, and Aunt Cathy Crowe of Tahlequah, as well as many friends and loved ones.

Those wishing to express their sympathy are asked to consider the Lawton's Children's Church Fund, 1301 N. Cedar Ave., Tahlequah, Okla., 74464. Hart Funeral Home, 1506 N. Grand, 456-8823.



Lawton Ray "Choogie" Buzzard

59th Annual Keetoowah



BIG COVE Representative from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Perry Shell, carries the Eastern Band Cherokee flag along with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Color Guard during the grand entry at the 4th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Powwow. Photo by Will Chavez



CHIEF GEORGE Wickliffe, Assistant Chief Charles Locust and United Keetoowah Band Tribal Council members wave to the crowd as they participate in the annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration parade. Photo by Will Chavez



ALYSSIA JONES, 2009-2010 Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee greets dignitaries at the UKB Dignitaries Breakfast held at the NSU Branscum Alumni Center. Pictured are left to right, Kenneth Corn, State Senator, Poteau, OK; Dianne Barker Harrold, UKB In-House Counsel; Mike Brown, State House Representative; Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Jones; Bill John Baker, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Tahlequah District Representative; and Jim Wilson, State Senator. Photo by Sammy Still



CROWDS LINE down main street of Tahlequah anxiously waiting for the start of the annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration parade. Photo by Sammy Still

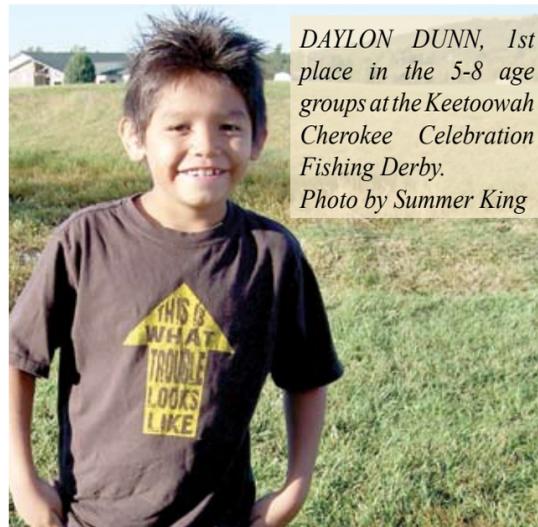


2008-2009 MISS EASTERN Band of Cherokee Indians Amanda Wolfe. Photo by Sammy Still

CHILDREN'S UKB 5K winners were, left to right, David Smith, 2nd with a time of 28 min 32 sec; and Dustin Johnson, 1st with a time of 27 min 11 sec. Photo by Will Chavez



CROWDS GATHER for the free feed as members of the United Keetoowah Band council help serve traditional meal at the UKB 2009 Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration. Photo by JoKay Dowell



DAYLON DUNN, 1st place in the 5-8 age groups at the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Fishing Derby. Photo by Summer King



A HUGE blow up Pirate Ship kept the children entertained during the afternoon of the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration at the Children's Activity corner. Photo by JoKay Dowell



"HE MIGHT not be the fastest turtle, but he's the best looking turtle," is what this young Cherokee girl seems to be thinking as she prepares him for the UKB Turtle Race. Photo by JoKay Dowell

ATTENDEES to the 59th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration had the opportunity to weave baskets, make corn husk dolls, and beaded key chains at the Arts and Crafts Make and Take event during the celebration. Photo by Will Chavez



n Cherokee Celebration



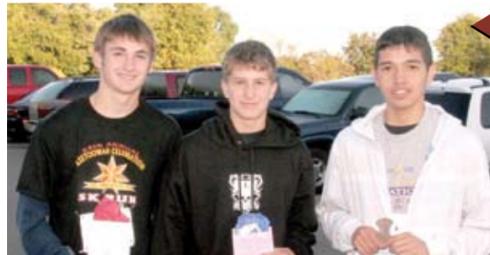
MISS EASTERN Band of Cherokee Indians, Amanda Wolfe, Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, Alyssia Jones and Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, Victoria Proctor line up as they prepare for grand entry during the 4 Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Powwow. Photo by JoKay Dowell



JERRY MOORE, District 27 Attorney, poses with Isabel Baker, Dama Still and United Keetoowah Band Tribal Secretary Liz Littledave during the Keetoowah Cherokee Dignitaries Breakfast held at the NSU Branscum Alumni Center. Photo by Sammy Still



NORTHEASTERN STATE University Marching Band participates in the Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration parade downtown Tahlequah. Photo by Will Chavez



YOUTH UKB 5K winners were, left to right, J. R. Vance, 2nd with a time of 19 min 04 sec; Kristian Smith, 3rd with a time of 21 min 58 sec; and Robert Ketcher, 1st with a time of 18 min 13 sec. Photo by Will Chavez

WOMEN'S UKB 5K winners were, left to right, Shana Killer, 2nd with a time of 25 min 18 sec; Lindsay McCarter, 1st with a time of 23 min 55 sec; and Michelle McGrew (not pictured), 3rd with a time of 25 min 52 sec. Photo by Will Chavez



TRISTYN PHIPPS, 2nd place; and Cody Wheeler, 1st and 3rd place in the 1-4 age group at the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Fishing Derby. Photo by Summer King



TEAMS VIE for First Place honors as they compete in the annual UKB Volleyball Tournament held on the UKB Celebration grounds south of Tahlequah. Photo by Will Chavez

MEN'S UKB 5K winners were, left to right, Shaun West, 3rd place with a time of 21 min 59 sec; Adrian England, 1st with a time of 19 min 27 sec; and Anthony Cornell, 2nd with a time of 21 min 59 sec. Photo by Will Chavez



IKE MERCHANT, Frank Teehee, Jr. and Richard Bailey cooked hog meat for the crowd attending the 59th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration traditional free feed. Photo by JoKay Dowell



JIM McMILLIN, Oklahoma City Attorney, is presented a Pendleton Blanket, from United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Chief George Wickliffe during a special presentation at the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Dignitaries' Breakfast. Photo by Sammy Still



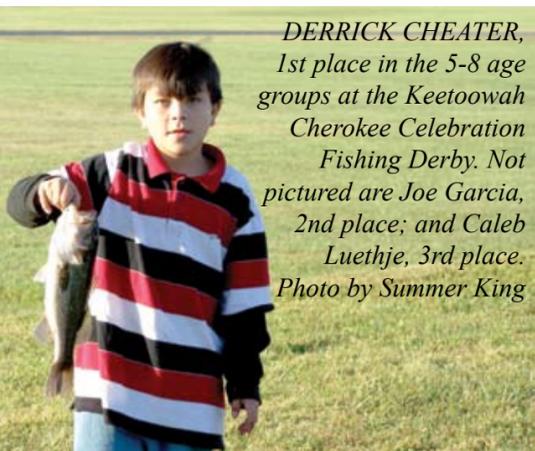
RUSTY TUTTLE, participates in the Men's division of the Blow Gun competition during the 2009 Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration. Photo by Will Chavez



MANY VENDORS were set up on the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration grounds displaying and selling their wares. This lady displays her hand weaved baskets. Photo by JoKay Dowell



THE KEETOOWAH Cherokee Youth Choir performed for the attending audience during the 59th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration State of the Nation event. Photo by JoKay Dowell



DERRICK CHEATER, 1st place in the 5-8 age groups at the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Fishing Derby. Not pictured are Joe Garcia, 2nd place; and Caleb Luethje, 3rd place. Photo by Summer King



RANCE STOPP, 2nd and 3rd place in the 5-8 age groups at the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Fishing Derby. Photo by Summer King



ROBERT BARK, from Colcord, OK, placed 1st in the Men's Horseshoe competition at the 2009 Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration. Photo by Will Chavez

UKB Tribal Enrollment Department Still Taking Address Changes

The UKB Tribal Enrollment Department will continue to take address changes in preparation for an upcoming special election to amend the UKB Tribal Constitution. It is important to have current addresses for all UKB members, and all members are encouraged to contact the enrollment office as soon as possible.

If your mailing address has changed in the last six (6) months, please come to the UKB Enrollment Office and update your mailing address so you will receive a ballot for voting in a special election.

This will be a Federal Election completely conducted by the United States Government using their election guidelines. All eligible UKB Voters including those who are 18 years of age or older or will be 18 on/by the date of this election, will be allowed to vote.

Voting will be by absentee ballot. Your current address is necessary in order for you to receive a ballot from the B.I.A. Along with your ballot you will receive a self-addressed stamped envelop for mailing your vote to the B.I.A. The date of this election is unknown at this time. For more information, contact the UKB Enrollment Office at (918) 453-9375.

Celebrating heritage

continued from page 2

without a vote of tribal members, he said.

Continuing the long-term jousting with the Cherokee Nation, Wickliffe noted that the Cherokee Nation has many members who are fullblood or nearly so, who are friends and neighbors of UKB citizens. They live next to each other, go fishing together.

"We get along with their members. We have a problem with their leaders," he said.

Wickliffe said the UKB has plenty to look forward to in the future.

"There are going to be many things happen. You will see buildings going up. There will be jobs associated with them," he said. "Let's all work together and let's believe. Let's believe in the great creator.

"We said a long time ago we will prevail, and we have."

Article written by Betty Ridge

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Guidelines to apply for a United Keetoowah Band Membership and Temporary CDIB Card

- A Child age 3 to 18 years of age is eligible to apply
- One or both Parent(s) must be an exclusive member of the United Keetoowah Band
- Provide a Birth Certificate for the child that shows the Keetoowah parent (s) name on it (MUST BE STATE ISSUED)
- All Keetoowah-Cherokee and CNO Cherokee Blood degree will be calculated on the child's CDIB card.
(For Example: If one parent is Keetoowah and shows 4/4 degree and the other parent is not Keetoowah and shows 1/2; that would make the child's degree 3/4.)
- The child's blood degree must equal ¼
- A parent that is not Keetoowah Cherokee must have an 8 ½ X 11 CDIB from Cherokee Nation to determine child's full blood quantum.
- The BLOOD QUANTUM of the absent parent NOT ON the child's birth certificate cannot be calculated for the child.
- Must provide letter stating the child is a NON-MEMBER with the Cherokee Nation
- Must provide documentation of the completed BIA's CDIB application submitted from Cherokee Nation's Registration Office.

Application must be completed and presented with all required documentation to the UKB Enrollment Department at 2386 S. Muskogee Tahlequah, OK. 74464. Telephone # 918-456-5126.

This Keetoowah CDIB will be solely to provide immediate membership for a child that has not yet received a CDIB from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office located at the Cherokee Nation Complex's Registration Department.

When you receive a BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS CDIB card in the mail, you will be required to turn in the B.I.A. 8 ½ x 11 letter size CDIB to our office for your records.



THE UNITED KEETOOWAH Band Lighthouse officers check out one of four new patrol units purchased by the tribe. The new units will replace older units updating their fleet of vehicles. The new units consist of two 2009 Chevrolet Impalas and two half-ton GMC Crew Cabs. With the added vehicles a second FLIR unit has been added to their fleet. A FLIR unit is a thermo graphic and infrared light device, a infrared camera located on a unit to detect body heat for searching missing children and suspects of crime. New decals and phone number have been added for better visibility and members can contact Lighthouse officers more easily. "With the addition of the new vehicles, it will increase our visibility in the communities. We now have three four-wheel drive units, two with FLIR devices, and two new Impalas, this will increase our response time in the communities and with two FLIR units we can be dispatched to two different locations at the same time," said David McCarter, Director of UKB Lighthouse.



TRADITIONAL DANCERS prepare for Grand Entry during the 4th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Powwow. Photo by JoKay Dowell

United Keetoowah Title VI Nutrition Menu October 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1 Brown Beans Spinach Cornbread Salad & Dessert	2 Brunch Served from 10:30-12:00
5 Closed For Holiday	6 Baked Fish Rice Pilaf Cole Slaw Hushpuppies	7 Mac-n-Cheese W/Smokies Green Beans Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	8 Tortilla Soup Spanish Rice Hominy Salad & Dessert	9 Brunch Served from 10:30-12:00
12 Closed For Holiday	13 Goulash Broccoli Breadstick Salad & Dessert	14 Marinated Chicken Grilled veggies Wild Rice Texas Toast	15 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Crackers Salad & Dessert	16 Brunch Served from 10:30-12:00
19 White Beans w/Ham Turnip Greens Cornbread Salad & Dessert	20 BLT Sandwich w/fixins Chips Salad & Dessert	21 Chicken Strips French Fries Texas Toast Salad & Dessert	22 Frito Chili Pie W/Fixins Salad & Dessert	23 Brunch Served from 10:30-12:00
26 Pork Chops Mashed Potato Broccoli Breadsticks Salad & Dessert	27 BBQ Bologna Baked Beans Corn Cole Slaw Texas Toast	28 Baked Potato w/Fixins Salad & Dessert	29 Halloween Party & Pot Luck	30 Closed for Cleaning

Attention Tribal Members

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

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



NOTICE

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



From the Editor...

I have a close friend who writes for a tribal newspaper, he recently wrote an article about Wild Onions. How he walked into a Cherokee elders' home and smelled the aroma of wild onions cooking on a stove. In his article he wrote how the scent brought back memories of the past as he was growing up. Reading his article triggered my thoughts as well.

Being Native American and having to cope with what our elders instilled in me, that we are a people that have to live in two different worlds, the white world and the Indian world. As a Keetoowah Cherokee it has been a struggle to compete in a white society. My first language is and always will be Keetoowah Cherokee. Learning English has always been a great effort for me to learn, from the time I began school and had to learn this second language.

I've attended public schools, received my education from higher learning institutions, earning a degree in graphic arts. I've worked in print shops, worked with local publications and have enjoyed it. But it wasn't until I began working for this one particular employer who didn't look at the color of my skin or tribal affiliation, but in my ability and skills as a graphic artist. For this, I will never forget him, but this isn't a story reflecting on myself, it is about where my skills led me.

This employer left the publication business and became the editor and manager for a tribal newspaper. I later followed, working with him again only this time for our tribal people, the Cherokees. This time I took a different position, I became a photographer, I became fascinated with photography, learning how to photograph, develop and print photos. This position offered me the opportunity to travel many places, meet influential people and make many friends. This was an opportunity of a lifetime, I came to love and enjoy. What intrigued me more and I didn't realize it until I left this position to enter into our tribal culture and language program, was that I had used photography as a vehicle to return to my culture and traditional ways as a Keetoowah Cherokee.

As I had mentioned, being in the field of photography, I had the opportunity to travel and meet many people along the way, but the most interesting travels was into the rural Cherokee communities. Travels where I once again learned my Cherokee traditions and culture and of course returning to my first language. My photo assignments would take me into the rural Cherokee communities photographing tribal homes, community events and tribal elders.

I remember traveling to one particular tribal elder's home to take a photograph and get an interview of this elder Cherokee gentleman who was a recipient of tribal home health care for an article in our tribal newspaper. He lived alone, had no television, no family around to visit or talk to, he was virtually alone. I introduced myself to him, told him my intentions and asked if he would let me photograph and interview him. He cautiously agreed, I then proceeded to place my camera on his coffee table and took out my pen and writing pad preparing for our interview. As we sat there I began asking him some questions, but I noticed how uncomfortable he was in talking with me. He was unsure of who I was and why I was in his home invading his privacy. I realized his discomfort in talking with me so I put down my pen put away my writing pad and put my camera into my camera bag and began talking to him as if we had known each other for awhile. I could tell that he appreciated my knowledge of his discomfort and he began to speak more freely.

He knew that I was Cherokee and asked me if I spoke the language, I told him I spoke some Cherokee, and understood it fluently. He began speaking to me in our language and I enjoyed it, I let him talk about anything he wanted to talk about. He spoke of how his garden was coming along, talked about his grandchildren, how proud he was of them and we even laughed and told a few jokes. He became comfortable with me. I had gained his trust. He offered me coffee and one of his cold biscuits that he made that morning for breakfast, and I accepted without hesitation. We drank coffee and ate a cold biscuit together and talked the afternoon away. I really enjoyed it and he did as well, I left with a good feeling in my heart, knowing that I had made his day by passing the day with him. He later on even let me interview him and take a photo.

As my assignments grew, I began traveling more into the rural Cherokee communities within our tribal jurisdiction, meeting other elders. I loved visiting them and taking the time to talk with them, and they enjoyed my visits as well. My assignments were becoming not assignments but as a welcome visit to my Cherokee people. The elders would talk to me about their family experiences, their visits to their doctors or even just their ventures to town. We would laugh and cry together and share our stories of our experiences growing up. The elders would share stories that were told to them from their parents and grandparents, they would talk about what their grandparents experienced as they traveled the "Trail of Tears", shedding tears as they told their stories. Then they would share funny experiences as they traveled to town or to see a friend and we would crack up laughing, filling their empty homes with laughter. Sometimes the elders would be cooking brown beans and wild onions or polk and would tell me to stay and eat before I would leave, making sure I left on a full stomach. I very much appreciated them so much.

As I continued visiting the elders they began teaching me culture and traditions, how their fathers fixed medicine for their family ailments or they would share their knowledge of basket weaving or Indian bow making. I would take photos of the quilts sewn by the elder Cherokee ladies and handmade crafts created by the elder Cherokee men. The elders would share teachings of the old ways, knowing that they could trust in me to pass along our traditions and customs. I was so honored in the trust they had placed in me. These Cherokee elders in these rural Cherokee communities were no longer my elders, they became my family; they became my grandparents. I loved them all and still love them within my heart. I was known to them as the boy who carried a black bag. I was always seen carrying my black camera bag on my shoulder wherever I traveled into the communi-

ties. They would wave at me and yell Osiyo as I passed through the dirt roads by their homes. Many have gone to a better place now, I miss them dearly. I hold their memories and their smiles deep within my heart.

So you see, I received my education, became employed and used my skills I've learned, but as I look back today, I know that the Lord had provided me with tools not only as survival tools for today's society, but also tools that I needed to return to my culture.

Many times our Cherokee elders are left out and forgotten and when they seek help, people mistake them as asking for some form of handout. In reality, the elders are not asking for a handout, all they seek is for someone to take the time to just sit and talk with them. I have since left my position as a photographer, I still run into several elder Cherokees along the way and they always ask me, "Where is your black bag? We miss your visits, come and see us." I need to dust off my black bag and travel down those long dirt roads again into the rural Cherokee communities and visit my grandparents once again.

Next time you see an elder, give them your time, sit down and visit with them, you can learn many things if you listen to them. Listen to their stories. Maybe one day you will be welcomed into their home and smell the cooking of wild onions as did my friend and old memories will return.

~ Sammy Still

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



UKB Employee

Joe Proctor

Enjoys working for the tribe

Joe Proctor United Keetoowah Band Complex Grounds Maintenance.

Visitors to the United Keetoowah Band Complex have commented on how well the grounds are well kept, the opened atmosphere, the beautiful floral designs lining along the outside complex buildings and the finely cut grass. All credit goes to the United Keetoowah Band maintenance department who perform daily tasks to ensure the tribal grounds are maintained and office areas are in excellent working conditions.

One such maintenance employee is Joe Proctor, who takes care of the grounds along with fellow employees. Proctor has been employed with the tribe for over 10 years, maintaining the grounds, grass cutting, painting and various other maintenance needs. "I enjoy working for the tribe and with my fellow employees," said Proctor.

Proctor remembers when he first began working for the United Keetoowah Band, the main complex and offices were located in what was a former lumber company purchased by the tribe in Tahlequah on South Muskogee Ave. There weren't any satellite offices, no 76 acres land south of Tahlequah and very few employees.

"I remember the first Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration I attended, it was located on what is now the paved parking area of the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino. At that time it was a gravel area with an old lumber barn in the middle. One tent was set up right in front of the Keetoowah Cherokee Tag Office right behind the old barn," stated Proctor. Today the Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration has grown not only in popularity but in attendance as well. It is now known as one of the major fall events in the Tahlequah area. "The Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration is getting bigger every year and we are seeing larger crowds attending the annual event," added Proctor.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians now locate their Administrative offices on the original site adjacent to the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino. The 76 acre complex is located just south of Tahlequah which houses the UKB Community Services Building, Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center, Jim Proctor Elderly Community Center, Wellness Center and soon to be dedicated tribal Civil Defense Center.

The UKB has grown in numbers of employees now employed by the tribe. Membership within the United Keetoowah Band has grown to over 14,000 tribal members. Programs have expanded to aide tribal members in Education, human services and elder programs.

Joe has been involved with the United Keetoowah Band even as a youth, being the son of the late Jim Proctor, former Keetoowah Cherokee tribal council member, he remembers driving his father to tribal meetings. "When I was younger I used to drive my dad to meetings. I remember driving Henry Lee Doublehead, Dave McLemore, George Cochran, Levi Ross along with my dad to meetings in Muskogee with B.I.A. and to our tribal meetings," said Proctor.

Joe and his wife, Mary, have three children and three grandchildren and they reside in Stilwell, OK.

Next time you visit the United Keetoowah Band grounds, remember to give thanks to Proctor and his fellow maintenance employees for their hard work and dedication.

9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Golf Tournament



FIRST PLACE team members for the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament were, Ben Coffee, Gary Duck, Paul Daugherty and Lee Springwater.



SECOND PLACE team members for the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament were, Bret Baker, Danny Keith, Joe Grasshopper and Watie Choate.



THIRD PLACE team members for the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament were, David Ballard, Jr., Delbert Duck, Jefferson Adair, and Steven Gonzales.



ROCKY LOCUST/Longest Drive winner was Kendall Whaler. Pictured with Whaler are Rocky Locust, Sage Locust, Jordan Jumper, Elias Bluebird, and Rochelle Locust. Photo by Norman "Hominy" Littledave



UNITED KEETOOWAH Band Assistant Chief, Charles Locust, Chief George Wickliffe and Executive Director of Tribal Operations Tim Good Voice welcome golfers to the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament at Cherry Springs Golf Course.



J. C. WILSON, Henry Sam, and Chris Stopp, check out the golf scores at Cherry Springs during the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament.



ROD FOURKILLER, and Craig Carey, explains the rules for the golf tournament to the 144 golfers during the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament.



MEMBERS OF the UKB 2009 Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament committee and Keetoowah Cherokee Casino staff were, left to right, Rod Fourkiller, General Manager; Cody Quetone, Accts. Payable Specialist; Melinda Cookson, Casino Marketing Coordinator; Jabree Wood, Purchasing Agent; Charles Dreadfulwater, Casino Chief of Security; and Tracy Christie, IT Specialist.



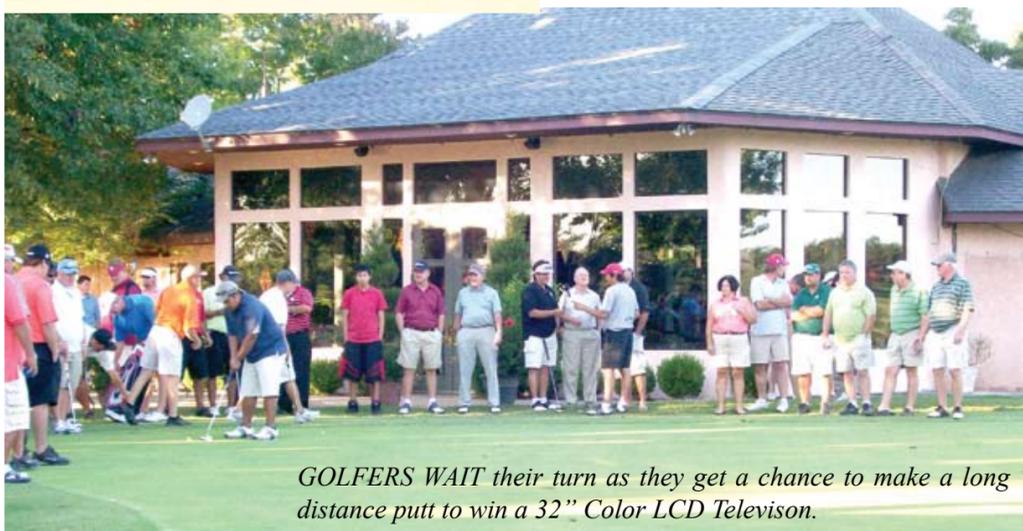
NORMAN "HOMINY" Littledave lines up a putt as Joe Reese watches during the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament.



GOLFER ROBERT Whitekiller visits with UKB Chief George Wickliffe at Cherry Springs Golf Course during the 9th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament.



STEPHANIE WICKLIFFE, Keetoowah Cherokee Casino Director of Administration, walks to the green as she prepares to putt her golf ball in for a birdie at Cherry Springs Golf Course.



GOLFERS WAIT their turn as they get a chance to make a long distance putt to win a 32" Color LCD Television.



BURL BERRY, left and Bill Murphy, right listen closely to Joe Bunch, UKB Gaming Commission Chairman, center, as he lays out strategies about the game of golf during the 2009 Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration Golf Tournament.

Raven Springwater Named Miss Indian Exposition Princess

Tribal Member Raven DeAnn Springwater was recently named Miss Indian Exposition Princess. She competed in the American Indian Exposition in Anadarko, Oklahoma along with 12 other tribal princesses including Apache, Ft. Sill Apache, Comanche, Caddo, Delaware, Kiowa, Otoe, Osage, Pawnee, Cheyenne and Arapaho. They were judged on various activities that were set forth by the princess committee. These events included public speaking, a fashion show, a talent, being on time, attitude, participation, and dance, just to mention a few. The event was a requirement as the 2008-2009 Ponca Tribal Princess.



Springwater, 19, is of the Ponca, Navajo and Keetoowah tribes. She is a 2008 Sequoyah High School graduate, where she played volleyball for four years and managed the boy's basketball team and football team.

"Our past and future Ponca Princesses need support as they represent our tribe in this capacity. It was a pleasure and an honor to serve

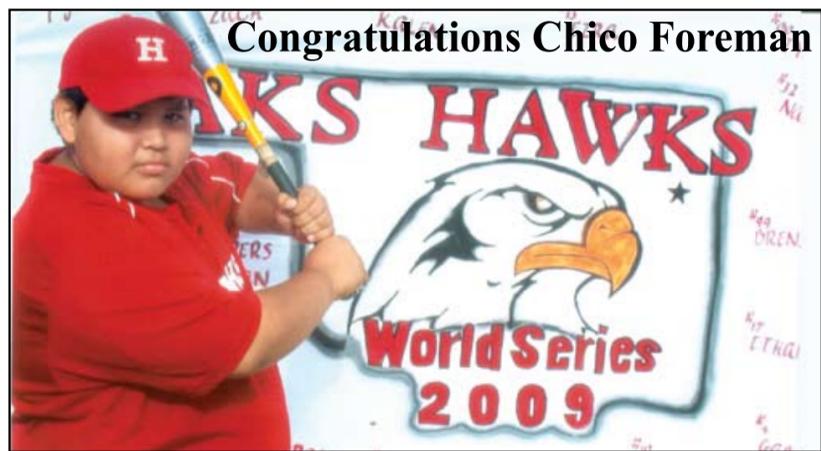
and represent our Ponca People in this way," said Raven.

Tribal member completes bootcamp



PFC Sean Taylor Williams graduated bootcamp on August 21, 2009 at Fort Jackson, SC. He is currently in AIT for telecommunication at Fort Gordon, GA.

Sean is Keetoowah, Pawnee and Otoe and a 2009 Sequoyah High School Graduate from Tahlequah, OK. He is the 18 year old son of Eddie Williams and Tonya Moore-Williams. He is pictured here with his father.



Congratulations Chico Foreman

The parents of Chico Foreman, Sandra and Sonny Foreman, sister Katreena, and brother Derek would like to congratulate him for two outstanding years playing baseball for the Oaks Hawks and want him to know how much it meant to them to go watch him play. Way to go, Chico!



SMOKY THE Bear visits the youth children from the United Keetoowah Band Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center during the 2nd Annual Health and Safety Fair held at the UKB Wellness Center.



THE TAHLEQUAH Fire Department participated in the 2nd Annual Health and Safety Fair held at the UKB Wellness Center sponsored by the United Keetoowah Band Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center. Pictured is a Tahlequah Fireman as he shakes the hands of the young children of the HLD Child Development Center.



TAHLEQUAH POLICE Officer and Teddy, K-9 officer, greets the UKB Henry Lee Doublehead Child Development Center children during the 2nd Annual Health and Safety Fair at the UKB Wellness Center.

Hailey Marie Aguilar Avila



Alex and Jacqueline Aguilar Avila are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Marie Aguilar Avila. Hailey was born September 3 at Grove Hospital at 7:48 a.m. weighting 8 lbs 9 oz and 20.3 inches long.

Hailey was welcomed home by brother, Hunter Sapp and sisters, Khaila Charquend, Seidy Aguilar Avila and Angelina Aguilar Avila. Grandparents are Annie Wolf of Jay, Oklahoma and Willis Sapp of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Lela and Mario Aguilar Avila of Guatemala.

2009 UKB Graduates

Randall Hendricks

Congratulations go to Randall Hendricks, from Jay, Oklahoma who graduated from North-eastern State University with a Bachelor's of Business Administration Degree in Financial Planning with a 3.0 grade point average.

Randall is the son of Ray and Anna Hendricks. He plans to serve his community through financial planning then move to investment banking.



Maria Martinez

Maria Guadalupe Martinez from Stilwell, Oklahoma graduated from Kindergarten at Bell Elementary School. Maria recently participated in the Bell Pow Wow Jr. Division for Princess. She attends Salem Baptist Church. She is the daughter of Jamie Martinez. Her two brothers are Francisco and Tavian. Her grandparents are Garland and Abbie Eagle of Stilwell and Carmelo and Nora Hilda Martinez of Vera Cruz, Mexico.



NFL's Indians were rich in Oklahomans

Editor's Note...

Tulsa World Sports Writer, Jimmie Tramel, recently wrote an article in the Sunday, September 13 issue of the Tulsa World in correlation to the opening the NFL 2009 season. The story focused on the 1923 Oorang Indian Pro Football Team featuring Emmett McLemore, a member of the Native American Team.



Emmett McLemore

Emmett McLemore was a United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians tribal member from Adair County. His great granddaughter, Melinda Cookson, is employed with the Keetoowah Cherokee Casino as the Promotion Coordinator.

"I was two when my great grandfather, Emmett McLemore, passed away. I remember my parents speaking of him as an educator. Then I read Mr. Tramel's article about the Oorang Indian Pro Football Team and about my great grandfather. I have two sons who play football for two local area schools, one for the Woodall Wildcats and the other for Sequoyah High School Indians. Reading this article has given me a great opportunity to share the story with my two sons about their great-great grandfather, his accomplishments and with the team he played for. It gave my sons and me a better perspective of our Native heritage as well as giving us a sense of pride and admiration for their great-great grandfather," stated Cookson.

With permission from The Tulsa World, we are re-printing this article written by Mr. Tramel, in its entirety in our Keetoowah Cherokee News for our reader's enjoyment.

The first Sunday of another NFL season has arrived.

If you live in Oklahoma and care anything about state pride and Native American heritage, here's who your favorite NFL team should be" the Oorang Indians.

Never heard of them? You've got a valid excuse since the Oorang Indians haven't played a game since Dec. 9, 1923.

On that day, Emmett McLemore sloshed through ankle-deep mud at the Kentucky State Fairgrounds, caught the last touchdown pass in franchise history and helped lift the Indians to a 19-0 victory over the Louisville Brecks.

McLemore, who died in 1973, hailed from this neck of the woods. He was born in the Adair County community of Lyons Switch when Oklahoma was still Indian Territory.

McLemore wrecked a knee while playing pro football, but loved the game and became an educator and coach at Stilwell (where the junior high gym bears his name) and Bacone College. He also proudly served his country in the military and urged Bacone players to do likewise.

But McLemore isn't the only reason you should jump on the Oorang Indians' bandwagon.

The franchise, though based in tiny LaRue,

Ohio, probably had a higher percentage of Oklahomans on its roster than any NFL squad before or since.

In the 1920s, NFL teams suited up only about 20 players each. Among the Oorang Indians were McLemore, Peter Blackbear (born in Indian Territory, died in Salina), Al Jolley (played at the University of Tulsa), Bill Newashe (born in Shawnee) and the most famous of all Oklahoma-born athletes, Jim Thorpe, plus his brother, Jack.

Maybe there were other Oklahomans on the roster, too, but verifying roots can be tricky when researching men born in the 19th century.

All of them deserve to be recognized because they played for arguably the most interesting franchise in NFL history - and certainly the most truth-in-advertising team in league history. Every player on the Indians' roster was a Native American.

Owner Walter Lingo started the team with the ulterior motive of promoting his real business, Oorang dog kennels. Lingo and his hunting buddy, Thorpe, put together an all-Indian team as a marketing gimmick.

Thorpe, a member of the Sac and Fox tribe, served as a player-coach and many of his players went by aliases. McLemore, a 5-foot-8 speedster whose nickname was called "Red Fox" while with the Oorang Indians.

Fans bought tickets not only to watch Thorpe an Olympic hero and multi-sport star, but also to see the Oorang Indians don Native American apparel and participate in wild west-type halftime shows, complete with stunts by Lingo's trained dogs.

In hindsight, doesn't that seem very politically incorrect? Maybe the joke was on the spectators.

"They thought we were all wild men, even though almost all of us had been to college and were generally more civilized than they were," former Indians player Leon Boutwell once said.

"Well it was a dandy excuse to raise hell and get away with it when the mood struck us.

Since we were Indians, we could get away with things the white men couldn't. Don't think we didn't take advantage of it."

Here's the absolute best thing that could be said about the Oorang Indians: They were responsible for attracting thousands of curious fans to games when pro football was far less established than the national pastime.

"I personally think that the Oorang Indians, the Canton Bulldogs and the Massillon tigers were three teams that probably introduced people to pro football," author Robert Whitman once said.

So, there you go. Guys from Stilwell, Salina and Shawnee contributed to the evolution of a juggernaut.

The Oorang Indians didn't win many games and they were gone in a relative blink (the franchise lasted only two years), but the team was immortalized in a 1984 Whitman-penned book titled "Jim Thorpe and the Oorang Indians: The NFL's Most Colorful Franchise."

If McLemore was still alive, his 110th birthday would have been Saturday. McLemore's son, Jack, lives in the Stilwell area. Because dad was Thorpe's teammate, Jack used to own a few snapshots of Thorpe, but the photos vanished over the years.

Memories? Jack still has those. Jack said his dad made \$25 a game and had to take other jobs to make ends meet. His dad used to tell a story about dropping a ball during a game. Thorpe told McLemore not to worry about it because "people came to watch me play."

Thorpe is one of two Oorang Indians in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The other is Joe Guyon, who threw the last touchdown pass in franchise history - the one that Emmet McLemore caught.

"I always looked up to him as my hero," said Jack McLemore of his father.

Maybe the Oorang Indians should be our heroes, too. Anyone know where to find a throw-back jersey?

By Jimmie Tramel
email: jimmie.tramel@TulsaWorld.com, 918-581-8389.



1923 Oorang Indians Pro Football Team

Mr. Softball Still Going Strong

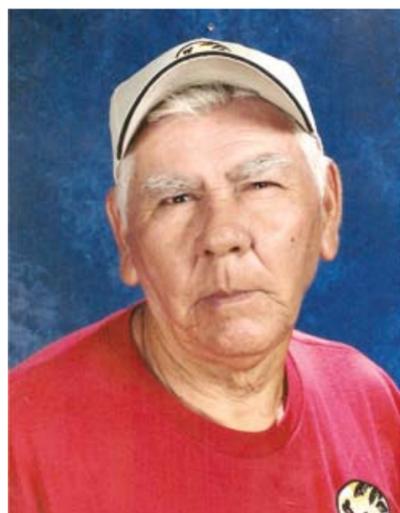
Softball is one of the most popular sports played by Indian people and it does not have an age limit. One of the best known pitchers in Northeast Oklahoma is Phillip Bluebird. Phillip still continues to pitch wherever there is a fast pitch tournament, which is usually every other weekend beginning in March and continuing through October.

Bluebird continues to throw his junk known as a "drop ball" and "change up". Players who have battled against him say his pitches have great movement. Bluebird is 62 years old and has been pitching since he was 13 years of age. He has 49 years of pitching, and plans to continue pitching as long as he can. He attended school at Mesena grade school and Tahlequah High School.

In addition to pitching in Oklahoma, he has also pitched in tournaments held in Hollywood, Florida and Cherokee, North Carolina. One of the highlights in his career was when he pitched eight games at the Oklahoma Indian Fast

Pitch Tournament held in Oklahoma City at Wheeler Park. The tournament has since been moved to Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Phillip is married to the former Peggy Grasshopper. They have four children and six grandchildren and reside in the Shady Grove Community. Philip is the son of Elias "Jim" Bluebird and Nancy Belt. He is an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band.



Deceiving Eyes

There's this story of a man who walks down this lonely dark rural road from his church to his house every Wednesday evening, he has never seen anything or heard anything when he walked during those nights. But a friend of his stops and visits him one evening and at one point asked this person if he has encountered or heard anything unusual when walking late at night on this rural road, he says no I never have. So one night he begins to think of what his friend had mentioned one evening in regards of seeing anything unusual while walking home at night. He begins to hear something behind him as he walks home in the dark night, he turns and see what appears to be something round and white coming down the road, he begins to walk a little faster, but it seems this thing is getting closer and approaching faster. Now as he looks back it seems this thing has grown long arms and he feels as though this thing is chasing him, he begins to run and he hears this groaning noise as well. He slips and falls on the loose gravel and he thinks to himself that this monster is going to get him. But as he looks up to see what this is, it's a young boy in a white tee-shirt riding his bicycle and breathing hard. All this time this man had made his mind up that he was seeing a big bad monster that was after him.

Check out our website at:

www.ukb-nsn.gov or

www.unitedkeetoowahband.org

UKB Regular August Council Meeting Minutes

UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting
At the Jim Proctor Elder Care Center
August 01, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe (10:07 AM)

II. Invocation: Cliff Wofford

III. Roll Call: 10 + Chief answered Roll Call (Sacks & Hansen absent)

IV. Chief's Address (10:08 – 10:52 AM)

- Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Larry EchoHawk decided there are two Successors-in-Interest and they are Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

- CNO "wiped themselves out" under the Curtis Act when Oklahoma became a state.

- The original Cherokee Nation was "lost" under the Curtis Act. There is no argument that would change termination of the original Cherokee Nation.

- CNO filed a motion for "reconsideration" with Larry EchoHawk, in reference to his decision regarding the UKB. UKB lawyers responded to CNO's motion. Last Thursday EchoHawk denied CNO's motion to reconsider.

- There will be rumors about the good things which are happening to the UKB because of the EchoHawk decision.

- The UKB has only told who we are and who we have always been. The UKB have many friends in Washington that we had not been aware of. The UKB did not make deals we only told the truth.

- We will continue to live by our personality. When we say anything, we always are truthful and have proof of what we say. We continue to follow the advice of our lawyers.

- The mail out to eligible voters, in preparation for the Special/Secretarial Election, only requests the voter respond with their correct address. Those who respond will be voters in this

(10:15 AM Hansen arrived)

- **Special Election.** This election has nothing to do with UKB Election laws. This election is conducted by the Federal Government and this allows 18, 19 and 20 year olds and older to vote. If a member becomes 18 on the actual date of this Special Election they will be eligible to vote.

The need for this Special Election is to remove the B.I.A. Regional Director in order that decisions by Council on things such as "taking land into trust" do not require approval by a B.I.A. Regional Director. Such director has always blocked UKB requests particularly "taking land into Trust." The Regional Director has been directed by a previous immediate supervisor to "take UKB land into Trust," but that supervisor was defied. That same directive has been given to the Regional Director by the current Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

There is no reason why any Keetoowah would not take the opportunity to "weed out" people like the area B.I.A. Director.

The UKB needs to take control of our own government. Currently the B.I.A. Regional Director is controlling UKB government.

EchoHawk has discretionary power. Courts or judges are not known to challenge such a discretionary decision.

CNO states how the UKB Chief, EchoHawk and President Obama needs a lesson in civics, CNO is trying to continue a "lie."

We/UKB should enjoy being "on top." We cannot keep being "kicked around."

We must keep moving forward and carry on the philosophy of our traditional people. We must continue taking care of our elders and our children.

We must educate and train our children because they will be our future leaders. We plan for building a facility for job training and will also continue to support all areas of education.

We have sent Governor Henry our current information/decision and have requested a conference with him in keeping him abreast of situations involving the UKB.

The UKB has taken on programs which were at one time covered by the J.O.M. and other education programs. Such programs covered the purchase of class rings and provided for caps & gowns, etc. Such provisions are no longer provided through such programs.

In the past the senior class sponsored fund raising events for cost relating to events at the end of the school year. Graduations from Kindergarten through High School can have fund raisers. Athletic programs also have fund raisers. However, there are some school funds that can be used for such school events. It appears the UKB has allowed in their Education budget those type of provisions which was at one time provided in other programs.

The UKB gives a financial incentive for High School Graduates. Currently a scholarship

presented cannot be called a scholarship when the money is sent directly to the student. When money is sent in this way the money becomes an incentive and there is no guarantee the student will apply the money toward education cost. We need to make sure money allowed a student by the UKB is used toward education. We need to keep track of students who are receiving financial assistance from the UKB. Education counselors are needed for our UKB students.

Education budget needs to be looked at. There is much spending on things that were at one time covered by programs such as J.O.M. and other programs but Council has final say about UKB budgets.

The UKB believes in the Great Creator, who is God. He is the one who has gotten us where we are.

V. Approval of the minutes for the month of July 2009

1. MOTION by Charles Locust to approve the Council minutes of July 2009; SECONDED by Ella Mae Worley; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. (Sacks absent)

VI. Presentations -

1. Betty Holcomb: RE: Emergency Disaster Plan. Stated Mickey Spears was unable to attend today's meeting. Then she asked the Council to allow her to step-down from the position of co-chair of the Emergency Disaster Committee and that she be replaced by someone who would be more knowledgeable on this topic.

• DISCUSSION:

• Betty Holcomb's request to step-down from the Disaster Plan committee was approved by Council by affirmation.

• Charles Locust: nominated Mickey Spears and David McCarter to co-chair the Emergency Disaster Committee because these two people seem to be a natural choice because they are the two who would initially be receiving emergency calls.

• If Mickey and David agree to this nomination the Council would be informed at the September Council meeting and names of suggested committee members would be presented for Council approval.

MOTION by Woodrow Proctor to table action on Emergency Disaster Plan until September Council Meeting; SECONDED by Jerry Hansen; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Sacks absent).

VII. Reports to Council

1. Enrollment Report: Liz LittleDave

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to accept and approve 18 new applicants for UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Sacks absent).

MOTION by Cliff Wofford to acknowledge and honor 2 membership relinquishments from UKB tribal enrollment; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Sacks absent).

QUESTION/DISCUSSION:

- Issuance of C.D.I.B. cards to children over the age of 3 years (see supplement attached)

VIII. Public Forum

1. Robert Whitekiller: RE: Emergency Disaster Plan suggested gathering information about process/procedure from other agencies who already have plan in place.

2. Barry Dotson: RE: Marble City Community Nutrition Program whereas; UKB assistance is requested in the form of food, utilities, etc. Charles Locust will follow-up with the Gaming Board on Marble City Program needs.

Charles Smoke: Inquired if Marble City program would cause a problem for UKB getting involved because of CNO owning land, building, etc. The same concerns should be with the Kenwood Nutrition program because CNO might claim land and building, etc. even though the workers in the Kenwood program are UKB. Charles Locust will follow-up on the Kenwood situation.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Marble City Nutrition Program

Woodrow Proctor invited Barry Dotson to the next scheduled Budget and Finance meeting for presentation in reference to Marble City program.

Charles Smoke: CNO's promises to assist their program or projects in Kenwood area are not being kept.

Jerry Hansen: expressed appreciation to the UKB Council from Tiyo Church for donation toward cost relating to attendance of Falls Creek church retreat. The pastor of Tiyo Church sees how UKB Gaming money is helping people.

Jerry Hansen: inquired of when UKB could benefit from equipment and services located in Bull Hollow and asked if recent decision from Assistant Secretary of the Interior made it possible to secure these services for UKB members.

DISCUSSION:

Plans to secure any/all contracts usually not available to UKB.

Negotiations on contracts should be before next budget year.

UKB should administer our own program and CNO should not administer programs to us.

Jerry Hansen: RE: Individuals knowledge of their land status is being asked by individuals; can UKB assist in paying for survey of their land? Maybe this is something we need to look at.

Chief Wickliffe: there are often more than one survey needed because of probate due to heirs to a plot of land.

Jerry Hansen: when CNO first built homes known as MH Homes, people were told restrictions had to be lifted but when the house was paid off, the restrictions would be put back on the land but this did not happen, the restrictions were not put back on the land. CNO welcomes all lands be put in Trust with CNO. Why can't land be put in Trust with UKB since UKB is successor-in-interest?

IX. Unfinished Business - NONE

X. New Business

Discussion: (NOTE: \$1,000,000.00 High Priority Grant was applied for and received for the UKB Roads Project)

There was only 18 such grants offered nationally. UKB received one of those 18.

Tim Good Voice attended a NAHASDA Conference in Oklahoma City last week. An attorney from up north was in charge of the conference/training. He spoke of the decision for the Keetoowahs by EchoHawk. Many different tribes from all over the United States were in attendance. This attorney said EchoHawk made a good decision. He spoke of how the UKB had always been slammed. He said the decision was justification for the UKB. He said it was about time, because the UKB are the real Cherokees. All tribes in attendance were in agreement with this attorney's statements.

Woodrow Proctor: reported contact by an Eastern Band Cherokee member inquiring of the EchoHawk decision. The Eastern Band knows what is happening to the UKB and are asking what they can do in support of the UKB. Woodrow said, never forget all the prayers that got us where we are today.

Chief Wickliffe will contact the Eastern Band and inquire of a meeting, either they come here or we will go there. Elizabeth Bird is working on such a meeting. Finalization of plans is forthcoming.

Woodrow Proctor: RE: questions by his constituents asking about the upcoming Special Election.

Joyce Fourkiller: Sample ballot is very helpful in causing a better understanding for the people as to explaining the importance of passing the question at the special election.

1. MOTION by Charles Locust to approve the construction and completion of West Willis Road, B.I.A. Road # 0952; funding sources are Discretionary Earmarked Funds and High Priority Funds of \$1,000,000.00; SECONDED by Ella Mae Worley; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Sacks absent).

NOTE: Woodrow Proctor gave special thanks to Larry Howard, Felicia Hadley, Bryan Shade and Tim Good Voice for their work in preparing the High Priority Grant.

Charles Locust: UKB is working with the City of Tahlequah on this Road Project. Tahlequah School will utilize the road for their school buses. Tahlequah has plans to build a school in the near surrounding area of Road # 0952.

2. MOTION by Woodrow Proctor to reschedule September Council meeting to September 12th, because the regular meeting date would be during Labor Day Weekend; SECONDED by Barbara Girty; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Sacks absent).

3. MOTION by Woodrow Proctor to reschedule October Council meeting to October 10th, because the regular meeting date would be during Keetoowah Celebration Weekend; SECONDED by Barbara Girty; VOTE: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions (Sacks absent).

XI. Announcements

XII. Benediction: Jerry Hansen

XIII. Adjourn:

MOTION by Charles Locust; SECONDED by Charles Smoke; Approved by affirmation.
Time - 12:28 PM

Victoria Proctor is Miss Keetoowah Cherokee; Alyssia Jones is Junior Miss Keetoowah

Victoria Proctor, 19, of Tahlequah was crowned Miss Keetoowah Cherokee 2009-2010 at the Miss Keetoowah Cherokee pageant Friday, September 18. Miss Proctor is from Tahlequah and attends Northeastern State University. She is a sophomore majoring in Mass Communications and Public Relations. Victoria is a member of the President's Leadership Class; Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority; Riverhawk Ambassador, Northeastern Activities Board; NSU Heart Association; and a Peer Instructor. She was also chosen as one of the Top 10 Outstanding Freshmen. Victoria is of the Long Hair Clan; her parents are Perry and Vickie Proctor.

Alyssia Jones, 14, was crowned Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee. Miss Jones is from Stilwell, Oklahoma and is in the ninth grade at Sequoyah High School. She is of the Deer Clan and is the daughter of Amanda Jones and David Scott. Reba Vann is her guardian. Amanda has six brothers and sisters; her favorite subject is Algebra I and she likes to run cross country. Her future goal is to go to college and work toward becoming a veterinarian and an artist.

The event officially kicked off the 59th Annual Keetoowah Cherokee Celebration, which will be held Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3 in Tahlequah. The celebration theme is "Keetoowah Cherokee Traditions – 1859-2009 – And Still the Sacred Fire Burns".

The contestants were required to perform in the categories to exhibit their qualifications. Categories included the introduction and traditional dress, a platform presentation that will be the focus of the candidates reign, a talent performance, a question and answer portion dealing with Keetoowah Cherokee culture, language, and an impromptu question.



VICTORIA PROCTOR, left, of Tahlequah was crowned as the 2009-2010 Miss Keetoowah Cherokee, and Alyssia Jones, right, of Stilwell, was crowned as the 2009-2010 Junior Miss Keetoowah, during the 2009 Miss/Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Pageant held at the Tahlequah Amory Municipal Center, Sept. 18.

Miss Proctor's platform presentation was on Special Education/Special Olympics and for her talent she played "Für Elise" by Beethoven on the piano keyboard. Miss Jones' essay was titled "My Grandma – Our Traditions are Still Alive and for her talent she sang a hymn in her native language, "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be".

Miss Angeleah Vann of Stilwell, Oklahoma was voted Miss Congeniality by Miss and Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee Contestants. Former royalty includes the former Junior Miss Keetoowah

Cherokee 2005 Jordan Barr, 2006 Kayeha Hooper, 2007 Rozlyn Locust and 2008 Kristy Feather Daugherty; and former Miss Keetoowah Cherokee 2006 Felicia Jones, 2007 Pawnee Crabtree, and 2008 Samantha Keen.

The role of Miss and Jr. Miss Keetoowah Cherokee is to serve as good will ambassadors for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and to serve as a messenger to promote the culture, traditions and heritage of the Keetoowah Cherokee people.



KEETOOWAH CHEROKEE Chief George Wickliffe and Assistant Chief Charles Locust greeted the 2009-2010 Miss Keetoowah Cherokee contestants and 2008-2009 Junior Miss and Miss Keetoowah Cherokees during the 2009 Junior Miss and Miss Keetoowah Cherokee camp held in the UKB Wellness Center Sept. 12.



PAT REESE, Mary Kay Cosmetics representative, demonstrates to the 2009-2010 Junior Miss and Miss Keetoowah Cherokee contestants the art of facial makeup during the 2009 Junior Miss and Miss Keetoowah Cherokee camp Sept. 12.



ANGELEAH DAWN Vann, Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee contestant, demonstrates the art of clay bead making during the Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee pageant Sept. 18.



SASHEEN BROWN, Miss Keetoowah Cherokee contestant, performed a Stomp Dance exhibition for her talent portion of the competition during the Miss Keetoowah Pageant Sept. 18.



VICTORIA PROCTOR, daughter of Perry and Vickie Proctor of Tahlequah, was chosen as the 2009-2010 Miss Keetoowah Cherokee during the pageant held Sept. 18 at the Tahlequah Amory Municipal Center. Assisting Proctor with her sash is 2008-2009 Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee.



UNITED KEETOOWAH Band Assistant Chief Charles Locust placed a crown on Alyssia Jones. Jones was chosen as the 2009 - 2010 Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee during the pageant Sept. 18. Pictured with Jones and Assistant Chief is 2008-2009 Junior Miss Keetoowah Cherokee.

Check out our website at:
www.unitedkeetoowahband.org