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GIDUWA CHEROKEE NEWS

YSG GWY A&P Official News Publication of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma October 2024



UKB Chief Joe Bunch gives remarks at the National Museum of American Indian. Courtesy Photo.

UKB Administration attends displaying of the Treaty of 1828 at Smithsonian

According to the Smithsonian Institute the Treaty of 1828, also known as the Treaty with the Western Cherokee, was a crucial step in the creation of a western territory for Native nations. The treaty promised the Western Cherokee 7 million acres of land in exchange for their lands in Arkansas.

By: Troy Littledeer | @troylittledeer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Chief Joe Bunch visited the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian with the officers — UKB Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche, UKB Secretary Joyce Hawk and UKB Treasurer Sonja Gourd — of the UKB Tribal Council on September 29. They were joined by the Deputy Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Bryan Warner, for a preview of the museum's display of the historic Cherokee Treaty of 1828. The treaty is being featured in the "Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations" exhibit. It was installed at the museum on Oct. 1 and will be on view at the Smithsonian's NMAI until April 2025.

The historical significance of the treaty began as early as the 1790s, when a small group of Cherokees that tried to avoid conflict in the southeast migrated to what is now

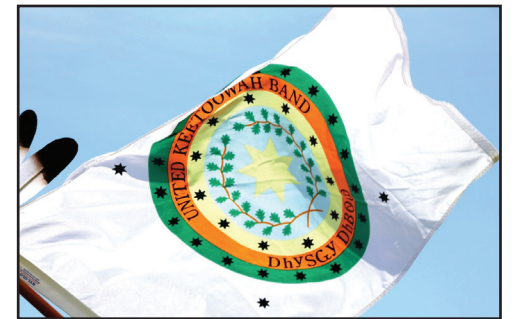
known as Arkansas from their homes in the Southwestern United States. Those Cherokees became collectively known as the Old Settlers or the "Western Cherokee."

Eventually the number of Cherokees in the area had grown to approximately 6,000 by 1828. The Governor of Arkansas and the United States government submitted to the colonists' demands for more land by negotiating a treaty that would remove the Old Settlers further west into what would become Indian Territory, or present-day Oklahoma. The Treaty of 1828 promised the Western Cherokee 7-million-acres in exchange for their lands in Arkansas. This treaty was a crucial step in the creation of a western territory for eastern Native nations who would be forced from their ancestral lands only a few years later. Within a decade, thousands of Cherokees in the Southeast were forcibly removed to Indian Territory.

See SMITHSONIAN, Page 3

PRESS RELEASE

Statement from the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma on the Fictional and Misleading Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma "Chief Chat" Published Oct. 18, 2024, by CNO Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.



It is important that we address the recent "Chief Chat" from Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

The statements in this article are not based in fact, are not the truth and attempts to create a fictional narrative in hopes of creating division between Cherokees.

The article serves a political agenda, benefiting the leadership of the CNO and ignoring the reality that our tribal members live and work together, and share a rich history. The imaginary and inflammatory narrative pushed in this piece attempts to rewrite history and facts to erode the UKB's rightful standing as a federally recognized tribe and a successor in interest to the Cherokee treaties.

It's disappointing that the CNO leadership would rather attempt to create division than work towards unity. The UKB stands for truth and a future where both the UKB and CNO work together with mutual respect. We cannot allow inaccurate and misleading statements to continue unchecked, nor can we accept the erasure of our history.

While we categorically disagree with the premise, spirit and specifics of Hoskin's "Chief Chat," we are compelled to correct the record and directly dispel the many outlandish claims in his writing.

Claim & Fact

Hoskin's Claim: "Cherokee Nation existed before the founding of the United States. For every "Cherokee" treaty with the United States, the Cherokee Nation was the exclusive tribal nation involved."

The Facts:

False. As Chief Hoskin well knows but fears to admit, the historic Cherokee Nation today is represented equally by three federally recognized Cherokee tribes (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Eastern

Band of Cherokee Indians (located in North Carolina), and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma (which now, unhelpfully and undoubtedly to sow confusion, calls itself the Cherokee Nation).

Plus, the history of Cherokee treaties is much richer than the CNO Chief fails to ever mention, mostly because it does not support his self-serving "version" of history. For instance, there was a faction of Cherokees that voluntarily moved west prior to the trail of tears, comprising the fullbloods who were known as the Western Cherokee, predecessors to what became the United Keetoowah Band. The treaty of New Echota (the removal treaty) was signed by a group of Cherokee that lacked authority to negotiate a treaty on behalf of the whole of the Cherokee people. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma routinely overlooks the historical defects caused by one faction of the Cherokee who held themselves out as acting with authority on behalf of the whole of the Cherokee people. Chief Hoskin repeats this sin daily, as evidenced by his October 18 statements and comments since.

Hoskin's Claim: "All of our treaty rights – including our final and binding Treaty of 1866 – as well as every other inherent, judicially, or congressionally recognized attribute of "Cherokee Nation" sovereignty belongs solely to the Cherokee Nation."

The Facts:

False. As noted above and as Chief Hoskin is aware, there are three federally recognized Cherokee Tribes: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

See PRESS RELEASE, Page 2

Opinion: New health funding for UKB expands, improves care for all Indigenous people

Chief Joe Bunch United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Oct 10, 2024

Ensuring the health and well-being of our 14,000 members is one of my top priorities as chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. In my eight years serving as chief, one of the greatest honors and points of pride was the signing of a historic agreement on Aug. 26 with the Indian Health Service, which funds the establishment of the UKB Tribal Health System.

This brings UKB-led health care to our tribal members for the first time.

The agreement will add the Purchased and Referred Care Program, better known as Contract Health, to the tribe's self-determination contract and annual funding agreement. This builds upon the success of our behavioral health and substance abuse programs, which we have operated under our existing IHS contract for years.

This is a monumental win for the entire Cherokee Reservation and all



Left to right, HIS' Lindsay King looks on as Chief Bunch signs IHS Agreement on August 26, 2024, Photo by Troy Littledeer

tribes residing in the 14 counties.

The benefits of the UKB Health System are numerous: expanded access to care, improved quality of services, increased overall health funding in the region, and the creation of dozens of meaningful employment opportunities.

The establishment of the UKB Health System complements existing tribal health care options and, more

importantly, provides additional access points for UKB members in need. This funding is a great benefit to the whole of the Cherokee Reservation, benefiting all tribal members, not just members of the UKB.

If UKB did not receive this funding, nearly \$6 million would be lost from coming to the Oklahoma Cherokee Reservation.

Fortunately, a system for patient

referrals is already in place that allows any eligible tribal member from any federally recognized tribe to utilize any IHS-funded clinic, including the future UKB Health System.

For example, if a patient lives within the Muscogee Nation and presents at a Cherokee Nation IHS health clinic, and the patient is referred out for care, the Cherokee Nation forwards the referral to the Muscogee Nation.

Just the same, if a UKB member residing within the Oklahoma Cherokee Reservation presents at a Cherokee Nation, Muscogee Nation, or any other health system for care and is referred out, that referral is to be forwarded to UKB. This model for referral is in place, understood by Indians, and ready for the UKB to use.

This historic funding agreement underscores UKB sovereignty and our rightful place in administering health care to our people. The Cherokee Nation claims to operate its programs on behalf of all tribes, including UKB, within the Tahlequah Service Unit.

See FUNDING, Page 3



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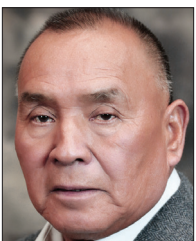
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By: UKB Chief Joe Bunch
October 18, 2024

Gi do wa go whl la

The year is quickly moving forward with fall just around the corner! Our nights have already started being cooler, and days getting shorter.

On October 4-5, 2024, we held our 74th annual Keetoowah Celebration. It was a pleasure seeing everyone and the festivities. This year's celebration theme was "Guardians of our Culture." That is precisely what we do. We preserve our Keetoowah Cherokee language, preserve our cultural activities, cornstalk shoots, horseshoes, stick ball, stomp-dance, and foods. This year's activities would not be possible without saying thank you, to our employees, celebration staff, and our sponsors who provided all. This year, my two man team finished last in the Irish stick ball (golf) two man scramble. I thank the tribal members for attending. I understand paper bingo was a big hit this year. Hopefully we can continue that tradition.

We are blessed! We recently opened a new ICW Building and Court Building, also on the east side of our grounds we will open a smoke



Chief's Corner

JOE BUNCH
Principal Chief
jbunch@ukb-nsn.gov

shop soon. Last month, UKB Housing department opened their warehouse. Keetoowah Tag is preparing to build their new building.

This past month I had the honor of signing a IHS 93-638 contract for purchased and referred care (contract service) with Indian Health Service. We are currently negotiating for property to house these health services and eventually turn into a full blown clinic for general medicine, pharmacy, x-rays.

On October 5th, we passed out 250 food boxes to tribal members. I'm still sore from putting boxes in tribal members' cars and trucks. The principal purpose of the local food purchase program is to aid local famers, ranchers and producers, the funding comes from the United States Department of Agriculture, to aid disadvantaged farmers and producers. The By-product is then given to the Tribal members. The program is not over and

is intended to reach at least 10,000 tribal members.

We have outside influences undermining our sovereignty every day. Prior to our signing of the 93-638 Health contract, a chief of another tribe stood before the congressional appropriations committee and told congress would better serve the tax payers by not funding the Keetoowahs Health service. That chief is wrong! We will use tax payers dollars to serve Indian people with these health services and not discriminating against other tribes.

In my state of the tribe address, I mentioned the we recently viewed the 1828 Western Cherokee Treaty. The Smithsonian is showing this treaty at the National Museum of the American Indian until the spring of 2025. I encourage every one research the Treaty of 1828 and to read it. You will read that the treaty allowed our eastern brothers east of the Mississippi to come and be reunited with us. In section 3 of the treaty, you will read that the Federal government gave us 7 million acres of land and the Cherokee outlet. You will also read that we are possession of the Federal Government.

Wa do, ni ga da, do da go hv i
Chief Joe Bunch

PRESS RELEASE

Cherokees who removed to Indian Territory at the time of the treaty of New Echota outnumbered the traditional Western Cherokee, who were already in present day Oklahoma by a ratio of four to one. The majority enacted the Cherokee Act of Union which consolidated the governments of the Western Cherokee and the removed Cherokee but by 1846 the federal government soon realized that a new treaty was necessary, and that treaty expressly recognized the rights of both the Western Cherokee and the removed Cherokee to ownership of the Cherokee Indian Reservation. Hoskin picks and chooses his historical facts, and he often does so unchallenged. He counts on CNO's money and power to keep people from asking questions, the UKB counts on the historical facts alone.

Hoskin's Claim: "Two bands were recognized after Cherokee removal – and after our hard-fought and enduring path to unity."

The Facts:

History cherrypicked by Chief Hoskin proves him wrong, again. For the 1785 and 1791 Cherokee treaties, the whole of the Cherokee people was one body politic. The traditional fullblood Cherokees that would become the Western Cherokee, the precursor to the United Keetoowah Band, signed a treaty in 1817 independent of the larger Cherokee body politic. At the time of the 1835 Cherokee treaty purportedly signed on behalf of the whole of the Cherokee people, the Western Cherokee were identifiable for their adherence to traditional Cherokee beliefs and practices, but were an integral part of the Cherokee body politic. The 1846 treaty recognized the ownership rights of both the Western Cherokees and the removed Cherokees in the Oklahoma Cherokee reservation.

Further, during the Civil War the removed Cherokees (mixed blood Indians from whom the CNO descends) sided with the Confederacy, in favor of slavery, and executed a treaty with the Confederacy to confirm their loyalty to the Confederacy. The traditional Western Cherokee, on the other hand, sided with President Lincoln, opposed slavery and enlisted and fought in the Union Army to protect the Union. At the end of the Civil War, the mixed blood majority, not including the Keetoowah, of course, executed the 1866 treaty on behalf of the whole of the Cherokee people to reestablish the government-to-gov-

ernment relationship with the surviving Union. In contrast, the Union presented to the Keetoowah a battle flag to express its gratitude for the Keetoowah's loyalty to the Union and its opposition to slavery. The flag is proudly displayed today in the United Keetoowah Band's museum in Tahlequah.

The bottom line is that pre-statehood Oklahoma Cherokee government exists today in Oklahoma in both the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the United Keetoowah Band. The CNO bully tactics cannot be allowed to rewrite history.

Hoskin's Claims: "Neither band has any jurisdictional authority over the Cherokee Nation Reservation", "... ill-defined administrative authority the UKB exercises at its government complex" and "Notably, UKB lacks any criminal jurisdiction over the 7,000-square-mile Cherokee Nation Reservation. None."

The Facts:

There is no evidence to prove this outlandish claim saying the UKB lacks jurisdiction other than things that CNO has created themselves saying so. Further, the UKB has 76-acres of land in trust with the United States over which it unambiguously exercises jurisdiction. Chief Hoskin's lack of understanding of the law aside, there is nothing ambiguous about the UKB's authority. There is nothing saying the UKB lacks criminal jurisdiction other than CNO saying so.

Hoskin's Claims: "Recently, a person passing through Tahlequah, and alleged to be driving under the influence, was arrested and charged with a DUI", "The employee of UKB, like all UKB Lighthorse "Police" staff, lacked the legal authority to pull over vehicles, much less detain anyone, which she did", and "The sole reason for this is that the UKB, posing as a police force, ruined a prosecution of an alleged drunk driver."

The Facts:

The UKB officer referred the matter to a state officer, who arrested the individual, following procedure. The matter has not been fully litigated but federal case law affirms that the UKB officer's actions were proper. Furthermore, UKB officers would have authority as CLEET certified officers under Oklahoma law and US v. Cooley allows for tribal officers to detain non-Indians without cross deputations agreements. Further, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has issued law enforcement commissions to UKB law enforcement officers

to enforce federal and tribal law. Agreements with local law enforcement would also be in place but for Chief Hoskin's practice of directing local law enforcement to withhold cooperation with the UKB, a shameful practice by Hoskin that compromises the safety of Oklahomans.

Hoskin's Claims: "...twisted priorities of the UKB leadership", "It means people can get hurt, lives can be lost, and justice cannot be served", and "The UKB, with its frivolous claims to our treaty rights, is an existential threat to the Cherokee Nation."

The Facts:

The sick priorities of the CNO leadership are to terminate the UKB. The UKB's goal is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens living within the Oklahoma Cherokee Reservation, even as the CNO fights to ensure its monopolistic empire, and nothing more.

The UKB has attempted for the two tribes to work together and show mutual respect for each other. Among the Oklahoma Cherokee people, there is no such division. It is only the leadership of the CNO who promote division. The Cherokee people in Oklahoma live together in the community, share homes and attend the same schools. We are family.

Chief Hoskin's dangerous and reckless comments regarding a bona fide law enforcement agency on the Oklahoma Cherokee Reservation, and legitimate actions by a law enforcement officer, constitutes the real to public safety in Northeastern Oklahoma.

The UKB is not a threat to the historic Cherokee Nation. In fact, we are the embodiment of the historic Cherokee Nation. Nor is the UKB a threat, existential or otherwise, to the CNO. Perhaps the CNO leadership should ask the people if they feel threatened by their traditional brothers and sisters at UKB.

We encourage everyone to dig into Cherokee history. Do not let the CNO spoon feed a selective version of history. Visit the UKB museum. Talk to your elders.

Chief Hoskin's efforts to pit Cherokee against Cherokee is despicable. It is beyond the time to move forward together and to heal as the Cherokee people.

SMITHSONIAN

“Some of our critics have indicated that it’s pretty much a dual reservation, but my belief is, from my reading of the Cherokee Treaty of 1828, that we have a [seven-million-acre reservation] and that we have a Cherokee outlet,” Chief Bunch said at the October 5 council meeting.

Today, the United Keetoowah Band is one of three federally recognized Cherokee tribes, along with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina. The Old Settlers are the ancestors of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (UKB), a federally recognized tribe with headquarters in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The display of the original 1828 treaty in the “Nation to Nation” exhibit is made possible by the National Archives and Records Administration, an exhibition partner.



UKB Treasurer Sonja Gourd, UKB Chief Joe Bunch and UKB Secretary Joyce Hawk viewing the original Treaty of 1828 at the Smithsonian. Courtesy Photo.



Bryan Shade, UKB AG Clint Cowan, UKB Treasurer Joyce Hawk, UKB Treasurer Sonja Gourd, and UKB Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche view the original Treaty of 1828. Courtesy Photo.

Winners of Celebration Events Recognized

LANI HANSEN, Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- As the time of the 74th Annual UKB Celebration has come to an end, this year’s festivities brought in huge numbers of attendance from the young to the elder with food, music, and fellowship.

The theme for this year was learning about healing and how it relates to culture. Chief Joe Bunch and Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche both stated in their addresses, how important culture is and to keep it alive.

This year the celebration hosted a variety of events. Following is the list of results from each competition at the 74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration.



Multiple winners took home prizes from the car show and bike show this year.



This year the marbles tournament was added, here are the winners of the tournament.



Miss Keetoowah Grayci Spradlin and Miss Keetoowah Delia Smith, made an appearance at the Chief's Dignitary Dinner for the celebration.



The UKB Celebration Golf Tournament 4-man was the largest out of all previous years. Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche welcomes golfers.

Car Show

Modified Cars

1960-1973

1st Place: Caylan Godwin

2nd Place: Derek Godwin

1974-1999

1st Place: William Blossom

2nd Place: David Bluebird

2000-Present

1st Place: Kenneth Blossom

2nd Place: Kenneth Hawk

Original Car

1960-1973

2nd Place: Marcus Thompson

2000-Present

1st Place: Michael Hawk

2nd Place: Sharon Phillips

Modified Truck

1974-1999

1st Place: William Blossom

2000-Present

1st Place: Crystal Ashwood

Rez Car: Jaramillo

Chief's Choice/People's Choice:

Caylan Godwin

Best of Show: Charles Moncooyea

Princess Choice: William Blossom

Motorcycle Show

Best of Show: Raymond, 2017

Tri-glide Harley Davidson

Best Street: Marcus Thompson,

2005 Harley Davidson

Cornhole Tournament

1st Place: Matthew and Cameron

on

2nd Place: Josh and William

3rd Place: Carter and Austin

Horseshoes

Singles 1st Place: Mitchell Smith

Singles 2nd Place: Rick Daniels

Singles 3rd Place: Robert Livers

Doubles 1st Place: Mitchell

Smith and Robert Bark

Doubles 2nd Place: Bill Morgan

and Dylan Bluebird

Doubles 3rd Place: Craig Cum-

mings and Butch Shell

Volleyball

1st Place: Tribe

Stickball

1st Place: Tribal Town

Marbles

1st Place: Richard and Jerod

Fields

2nd Place: Carter Tucker and

Nate Nofire

3rd Place: Kevin and Jerry Dry

FUNDING

However, the Indian Self-Determination Act requires that, for Cherokee Nation to operate an IHS program on behalf of another tribe in the service unit, Cherokee Nation must have that tribe’s consent via council resolution.

UKB never passed such a resolution transferring UKB’s funding to Cherokee Nation. UKB is a federally recognized tribe eligible to administer its own health system. Federal law is clear, and IHS agrees.

Increased access is not only a positive step toward addressing gaps in care, but a necessity. There is a need for the UKB to expand access to care for our people. Our tribal members want to receive their health care in a UKB health care facility.

IHS's decision to award these funds to the UKB is the first step in righting a historical wrong.

We are grateful to the IHS for awarding this funding, which will allow UKB to care for our people and provide clinical services to any eligible IHS beneficiary. We welcome continued collaboration with IHS and other tribal partners to improve health care access for all.

Providing care for our members and expanding health care options for everyone within the Cherokee Reservation is our goal, and we will continue to work toward it in every way possible.

Joe Bunch is the elected Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, a sovereign federally recognized Oklahoma Cherokee Tribe comprised of 14,000 enrolled members.

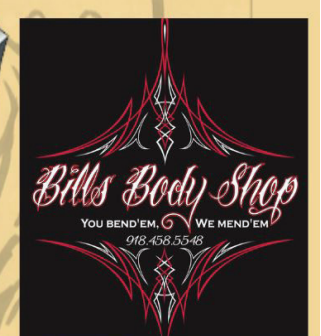
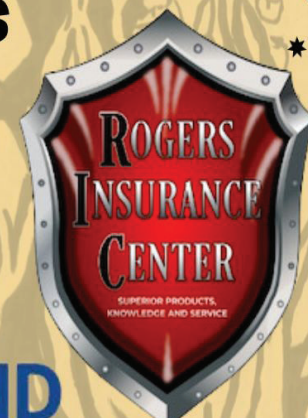
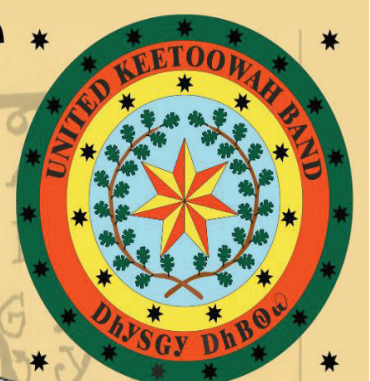


UKB Chief Joe Bunch makes his annual address to the 74th Celebration crowd.



The UKB Honor Guard are always called upon for special events.

Thank you to our
74th Annual UKB
Celebration Golf
Sponsors





The 74th Annual Keetoowah Celebration cornhole 1st place winners are Matthew and Cameron



The Horseshoe tournament consisted of singles and doubles, pictured are the winners of the doubles.



Tribal Town won the celebration stickball tournament this year.



UKB Council helped serve the traditional meal.

Keetoowah Transit adds to fleet

By: Troy Littledeer | @troylittledeer

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The latest addition to Keetoowah transit service, a 2023 Ford U4X, was unveiled this month. This latest bus makes the fleet total seven vehicles with six drivers.

The UKB Transit department says the newest bus cost approximately \$95,000 which was funded by ARPA funds. The new model will better serve current riders.

Keetoowah Transit is a Demand Response service and it's open to the public. It works in the same way a taxi service does. Anyone needing transportation would need to call into the dispatcher at 1-888-866-6705. Then, dispatch will send someone to pick up as soon as a driver is available.

The Tahlequah office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., with last call at 4 p.m. The Stilwell office is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. with last call at 4 p.m. Our service areas are only within the nine UKB districts and for destinations right outside of jurisdiction, such as Tulsa. It costs \$1 for rides within the Tahlequah city limits. Price is \$0.50 for within city limits in Stilwell. Price goes up outside of city limits, depending on location of destination. The dispatch can determine what the cost is upon request. Service is subject to availability.



Soldier Shell



Soldier Shell, 80, from Jay, OK went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Soldier was born on October 3, 1943 to Charlie and Nellie (Seabolt) Shell in rural Adair County, Oklahoma.

Soldier received his GED and worked as a certified plumber for the Cherokee Nation Housing Authority and as an independent contractor. He was a devoted man of God and was a member of several gospel groups throughout his life, to include The Chieftains, The Gospel Echo's, and The Shell Family Singers. He was an original member of Chuculate Baptist Church and later became a member of Sycamore Springs Baptist Church in Jay, OK. Soldier was a fluent speaker of the Cherokee language, was a member of the Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and served as a council member for his tribe. Soldier loved to watch Oklahoma Sooner football, play marbles, pitch horseshoes, fishing, and enjoyed spending time with his friend and family; he will be dearly missed by all.

Soldier was preceded in death by his wife Katie Shell of Jay, OK; his parents Charlie & Nellie (Seabolt) Shell; his Sisters Pauline Laughter, Madilyn Reynolds, and Lorene Ross; and his brothers Richard Sanders & Freeman Shell. In-Laws Benny & Anna May Wright, and son Ben Proctor; Carl & Lorene Cloud of Pryor, OK and Debra (Sanders) Shell of Broken Arrow, OK.

He is survived by his Children Mindy Porter and husband Greg of Claremore, OK, Allison Conaway and husband Sean of Broken Arrow, OK, Kattrina Loy and husband Mike of Jay, OK, Polly Allen and husband Greg (Porkie) of Jay, OK, Adam Shell and wife Amanda of Broken Arrow, OK, George Proctor and wife Tammy of Jay, OK; Brothers and Sisters Stanley and Nadine Shell of Bunch, OK, Mary Lou Vann of Bunch, OK, Larry and Ruby Jackson of Stilwell, OK, Sam Shell of Bunch, OK, Joyce Green of Tahlequah, OK, Charlie and Doris Shell of Bunch, OK, Clifford and Nellie Queton of Crowley, TX; his sister-in-law Darlene Shell; 17 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family and friends.

Soldier's Wake Service will be held on Monday, 6:00pm, October 7, 2024 at Lawson's Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, 311 W. Gray St., Jay, OK 74346 followed by his family visitation to greet friends until 8:00pm.

Soldier's Celebration of Life Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, 11:00am, October 8, 2024 at Sycamore Springs Baptist Church, E. 425 Rd, Jay, OK 74346 with Pastor Duke Pickup and Pastor Charlie Shell officiating. Followed by Soldier's funeral procession to Jumper Cemetery, Jay, OK.

Rent out The UKB Venue

Purchased by UKB for gatherings of tribal and non-tribal members.

By: LANI HANSEN/Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla- Two years have gone by now, since the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians purchased the old T-Bones Steakhouse.

What is now known as The UKB Venue, which was purchased through the American Rescue Plan funding is available to rent out. It is under the management of Bud Vance. The tribe wanted to utilize this building for gather-

ings for tribal and non-tribal members.

In previous years, the tribe has hosted many events such as the 2022 Tri-Council meeting, 2023 Council Inauguration, Veteran's Day Lunch and gatherings for the employees.

The UKB Venue is available to rent for weddings, birthdays, family reunions, even proms and other events. Although the building has a kitchen, it is not available to renters. For any events taking place, tables and chairs are provided, which are set up and taken down

upon request by the manager.

It is \$50/hour with a 3-hour minimum rental for tribal members (UKB), and \$100/hour for non-tribal members. Also, alcohol is prohibited.

For questions or more information about The UKB Venue, contact Bud Vance at 918-871-1562.

The UKB Venue is located at 109 W. Willis Road in Tahlequah.



Backstage dressing room available for when there is a wedding.



The UKB Venue is located at 109 W. Willis Road in Tahlequah.



Serves as a great space for weddings, reunions and other events.

Ms Keetoowah

Ms. Keetoowah Delia Smith participated in the Indigenous Peoples Day parade festivities held in Tulsa on October 14. Smith was one of approximately 70 entries in the parade that ended at Tulsa's Dream Keepers Park.

Before the parade, Smith ran into Sterlin Harjo. Harjo is the creator of the show "Reservation Dogs" on Hulu.

Photo by Troy Littledeer.



Clifford Wofford



Ms. Keetoowah wasn't the only one representing the United Keetoowah Band at the Indigenous Peoples Day festivities in Tulsa on Monday. Cooweescoowee District Representative Clifford Wofford was also on hand at Dream Keepers Park representing the UKB Tribal Council!

Courtesy photos.

WWW.LCMANAGEMENTGROUP.COM

JAYDA COLEMAN

HEAVY HITTERS CAMP

NOVEMBER 16 | TAHLEQUAH, OK

UKB Housing Employee moonlights with some bigtime Hollywood names

Marcus Thompson serves the Keetoowah people by working in the UKB Housing department but striving to make a difference in the movie world.

By: Troy Littledeer | @troylittledeer

ATLANTA, GA — During his free time away from his duties at UKB Housing, Marcus Thompson, lives a completely different life... He's an actor.

Thompson's latest stint was working on season two of the Paramount+ series "Tulsa King" with Sylvester Stallone.

"I received an Email from Central Casting out of Atlanta Georgia looking for Native Americans for 'Tulsa King' season 2 background actors," Thompson said. "I answered the email, sent in my resume and pictures and was selected. I drove 12 hours up there and stayed in a motel and went to fitting and we shot the scenes on the Monday."

Thompson's first gig was a non-speaking role in a commercial for a diabetes program in 2013. It featured another Native actor, Academy Award recipient Wes Studie.

Thompson is a housing inspector for the United Keetoowah Band's housing department. He's worked for the UKB for over 20 years.

"Me, myself, never really thought I would be doing any kind of acting, because back 15 years ago we didn't have camera crews running around like we do today," Thompson said. "Today, we have an opportunity to to show case ourselves as Native Americans, We get a chance to represent ourselves and show pride that we can do these roles, which wasn't available to us like today."

While on set of "Tulsa King," Thompson met fellow Native actor, Graham Greene along with Sylvester Stallone and Martin Starr. He's already worked on sets with a list of big names that don't just include Sly, but actors like Ron Perlman, Leonardo, Robert De Niro, and Lilly Gladstone.

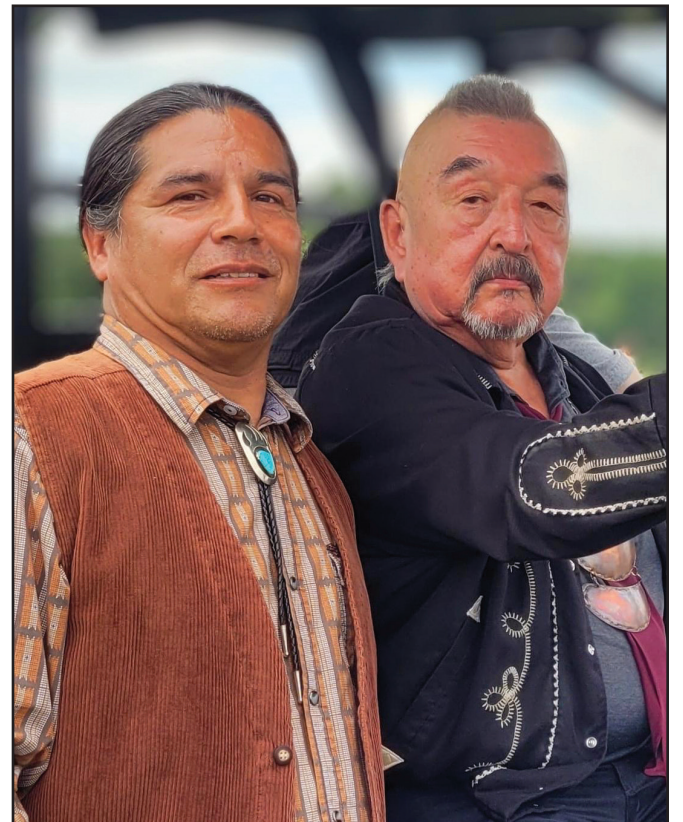
"While on break of filming Sylvester took the time to come and introduce himself to many of us Indigenous people who were on set for the day," Thompson said. "He also posted a video of him and us on his Instagram reels."

Thompson said Stallone also took pictures with many of background actors but added that the cast wasn't supposed to take photos of the stars.

"[Stallone] was one of several of the



UKB Housing Employee and Actor Marcus Thompson with 'TULSA KING' star, Sylvester Stallone. Courtesy Photo.



UKB Housing Employee and Actor Marcus Thompson with Graham Green. Courtesy Photo.

actors who allowed people to take pictures," Thompson said. "However, I waited for the series to play before I shared any of my photos to not break and rules such as a disclosure agreement, we all sign."

His worked with other Native actors in the past, like Academy Award recipient Wes Studie, proves that Thompson is no stranger to acting. This was the second time working on 'Tulsa King.' Thompson was excited to final meet Mr. Stallone and Graham Greene.

Along with the satisfaction of seeing his fellow Native actors gains parts, Thompson has enjoyed the opportunities he's gained from his own work. Now he's writing a few projects and presenting them to short film festivals and shows.

"We did some shorts films on our own and had my granddaughter act in a couple," Thompson said. "She has the acting bug too and wants to be in more movies."

Thompson is currently working on a project that is still in production called "Indian territory."

"I'm getting to help other in their auditioning as well," Thompson said. "We are making a difference in the movie world. My



UKB Housing Employee Marcus Thompson with Wes Studie. Courtesy Photo.

advice is keep on filming the opportunity is here."

The second season of "Tulsa King" premiered on September 15 and is currently streaming on Paramount+.



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WILLIE CHRISTIE (GOINGSNAKE) 918-822-3803
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The United Keetoowah Band and Echota Behavioral Health welcomes all our Keetoowah Elders to the Larry Adair Building (Adair Park) to enjoy a day of fellowship and community engagement.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

CORPORATE CHARTER
OF THE
UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF
CHEROKEE INDIANS, OKLAHOMA

RATIFIED OCTOBER 3, 1950

CORPORATE CHARTER OF THE UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA A FEDERAL CORPORATION CHARTERED UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 26, 1936 (49 STAT. 1967) AND THE ACT OF AUGUST 10, 1946 (60 STAT. 976)

Whereas, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma were recognized as a band of Indians residing in Oklahoma by the act of August 10, 1946 (60 Stat. 976), and seeks to organize under section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), by the adoption of a constitution and bylaws and a charter of incorporation approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

Whereas, the said Band, by resolution of the Provisional Committee of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, has requested that a charter of incorporation be issued to the said Band, subject to ratification by a vote of the members of the Band;

Now, therefore, I, William E. Warne, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of the authority conferred upon me by the said act of June 26, 1936, do hereby issue this Charter of Incorporation to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, to be effective from and after such time as it may be ratified by a majority vote of the adult members of the Band voting; *Provided, however,* That such election shall be void unless the total vote cast be at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote.

Corporate Purposes.

1. The corporate purposes of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma shall be:

- (a) To define and safeguard the rights and powers of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and its members;
- (b) To advance the standard of living of the Band through the development of its resources, the acquisition of land, the preservation of existing landholdings, the better utilization of land and the development of a credit program for the Band;
- (c) To promote in any other way the general welfare of the Indians of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

Name, Membership, and Organization.

2. The name of this corporation shall be the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the said Band. The membership, the officers, and the management of the incorporated Band shall be as provided in the said Constitution and Bylaws.

Corporate Powers.

3. The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, subject to any restrictions contained in the Constitution and laws of the United States or in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Band, and subject to the limitations of sections 4 and 5 of this Charter, shall have the following corporate powers as provided by section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967).

- (a) To have succession by its corporate name perpetually.
- (b) To sue and be sued; to complain and defend in any courts; *Provided, however,* that the grant or exercise of such power shall not be deemed a consent by the Band or by the United States to the levy of any judgment, lien or attachment upon the property of the Band other than income or chattels especially pledged or assigned.
- (c) To make and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure.
- (d) To appoint such subordinate officers and agents as the business of the Band may require, and to allow them suitable compensation.
- (e) To enter into any obligations or contracts essential to the transaction of its ordinary affairs or for the corporate purposes above set forth.
- (f) To borrow money from the Indian Credit Fund in accordance with the terms of section 10 of the act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and section 6 of the act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), from any other governmental agency, from any member or association of members of the Band, or from any other source.
- (g) To deposit corporate funds in a national bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or in the Postal Savings Bank or with a bonded disbursing officer of the United States.
- (h) To negotiate with the Federal, State, or local governments and to advise or consult with the representatives of the Interior Department on all

activities of the Department that may affect the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

- (i) To employ counsel for the protection and advancement of the rights of the Band and its members.
- (j) To prevent any disposition, lease or encumbrance of land belonging to the Band, interest in land, or other Band assets.
- (k) To advise the Secretary of the Interior with regard to appropriation estimates or Federal projects for the benefit of the Band prior to the submission of such estimates to the Bureau of the Budget and to Congress.
- (l) To make assignments of land belonging to the Band to members of the Band, and to regulate the use and disposition of such assignments.
- (m) To appropriate corporate funds for expenses of administering the affairs of the corporation and for other purposes of benefit to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.
- (n) To regulate the manner of holding Band elections.
- (o) To regulate the procedure of the officers and membership and all other Band committees and officers.
- (p) To protect and preserve the property, natural resources, crafts, and traditions of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.
- (q) To impose penalties on members of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma for violation of the corporate bylaws or ordinances, not exceeding in any case \$100 for any one offense, or in the alternative, expulsion from the Band or suspension of voting rights therein.
- (r) To purchase, take by gift, bequest, or otherwise own, hold, manage, operate, and dispose of property of every description, real or personal.
- (s) To issue bonds or other interests in corporate property in exchange for restricted Indian lands.
- (t) To protect any interest which the United Keetoowah Band or its members may have in treaties made with the Cherokee Nation.
- (u) To delegate to subordinate bodies, committees, or officers, or to any cooperative association which is open to all members of the Band, any of the foregoing powers, reserving the right to review any actions taken by virtue of such delegated powers.
- (v) To exercise such further powers as may in the future be delegated to the Band by the Secretary of the Interior or by any duly authorized officer or agency of government.

Limitation of Corporate Powers.

4. The foregoing corporate powers shall be subject to the following limitations:
- (a) No land belonging to the Band or interest in land shall ever be sold or mortgaged.
 - (b) No land or interest in land owned by the Band shall be leased for a longer period than ten years, except that oil, gas, or mineral leases may be made for longer periods when authorized by law.
 - (c) Any lease, grazing permit, or timber sale contract covering land owned by the Band shall provide that the person to whom such lease, permit, or contract is awarded, must conform with regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior under section 6 of the act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).
 - (d) No assignment of future income, other than assignments to the United States, shall be made for more than five years in advance.
 - (e) In any attorneys' contracts hereafter executed by the Band, the choice of attorneys and the fixing of fees shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.
 - (f) No distribution of corporate property among the members of the Band shall be made, except out of the net profit of corporate enterprises after all corporate debts then due have been paid.

Departmental Review of Corporate Acts.

5. Until ten years from the date of ratification of this Charter, or such other date as may be fixed pursuant to section 6, the following corporate acts or transactions shall be valid only after approval by the Secretary of the Interior or his duly authorized representatives:
- (a) Any contract involving a payment by the Band of more than \$5,000.00.
 - (b) Any transaction by which the Band borrows money where such borrowing brings the total indebtedness of the Band, aside from loans from the Indian Credit Fund, to a figure in excess of \$500.00.
 - (c) Any resolution or ordinance governing the making of land assignments to members of the Band, the acquisition of land from members of the Band, or the use by individuals of land owned by the Band.
 - (d) Any lease, grazing permit, or other contract affecting land owned by the Band, including minerals or other interest in land owned by the Band.
 - (e) Any per capita distribution of corporate income to members of the Band in excess of \$200.00 in any one year.

Extension and Termination of Supervisory Powers.

6. At any time within ten years after the ratification of this Charter any power of approval established by section 5 may be terminated by

the Secretary of the Interior with the consent of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. At or before the expiration of this ten-year period, the Secretary of the Interior may propose a further extension of this period. Such proposed extension shall be effective unless disapproved by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

Corporate Rights and Property.

7. Any rights and powers heretofore vested in the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, not expressly referred to in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Charter of the said Band, shall not be abridged, but may be exercised by the people of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, through the adoption of appropriate additions and amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, or Charter of said Band. No property rights or claims of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma existing prior to the ratification of this Charter shall be in any way impaired by anything contained in this Charter. The Band ownership of unallotted lands, whether or not occupied by particular individuals, is hereby expressly recognized. The individually owned property of members of the Band shall not be subject to any corporate debts or liabilities, without such owners' consent.

Amendments.

8. This Charter shall not be revoked or surrendered except by an act of Congress, but amendments may be proposed by a majority vote of the Council or by a petition signed by 30 percent of the adult members of the Band and filed with the Secretary. Such amendments, if approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be submitted to referendum vote of all members of the Band, and shall be effective if approved by a majority vote, provided that at least 30 percent of the eligible voters shall vote.

Ratification.

9. This Charter shall be effective from and after the date of its ratification by a majority vote of the adult members of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, provided that at least 30 percent of the eligible voters shall vote, and provided further that the Band has agreed to a Constitution and Bylaws approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The ratification of the Charter shall be formally certified by the General Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes Agency and by the Chief and the Secretary of the Band.

Submitted by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for ratification by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

WILLIAM E. WARNE,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1950.

I, William E. Warne, Assistant Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967) and the act of August 10, 1946 (60 Stat. 976), do hereby approve the attached Charter of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, subject to ratification by the Band in the manner therein provided.

Upon ratification of this Charter all rules and regulations heretofore promulgated by the Interior Department or by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, so far as they may be incompatible with any of the Provisions of the said Charter and the Constitution and Bylaws will be inapplicable to this Band from and after the date of their ratification thereof.

All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said Constitution and Bylaws, and the Charter, if and when ratified by the Band.

Approval recommended: May 8, 1950.

D. S. MYER,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WILLIAM E. WARNE,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1950.

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to section 3 of the act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), this Charter issued on May 8, 1950, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma was duly submitted for ratification to the adult members of the Band, and was on October 3, 1950, duly ratified by a vote of 1,414 for, and 1 against, in an election in which at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots.

REV. JIM PICKUP,

Chief, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Oklahoma.

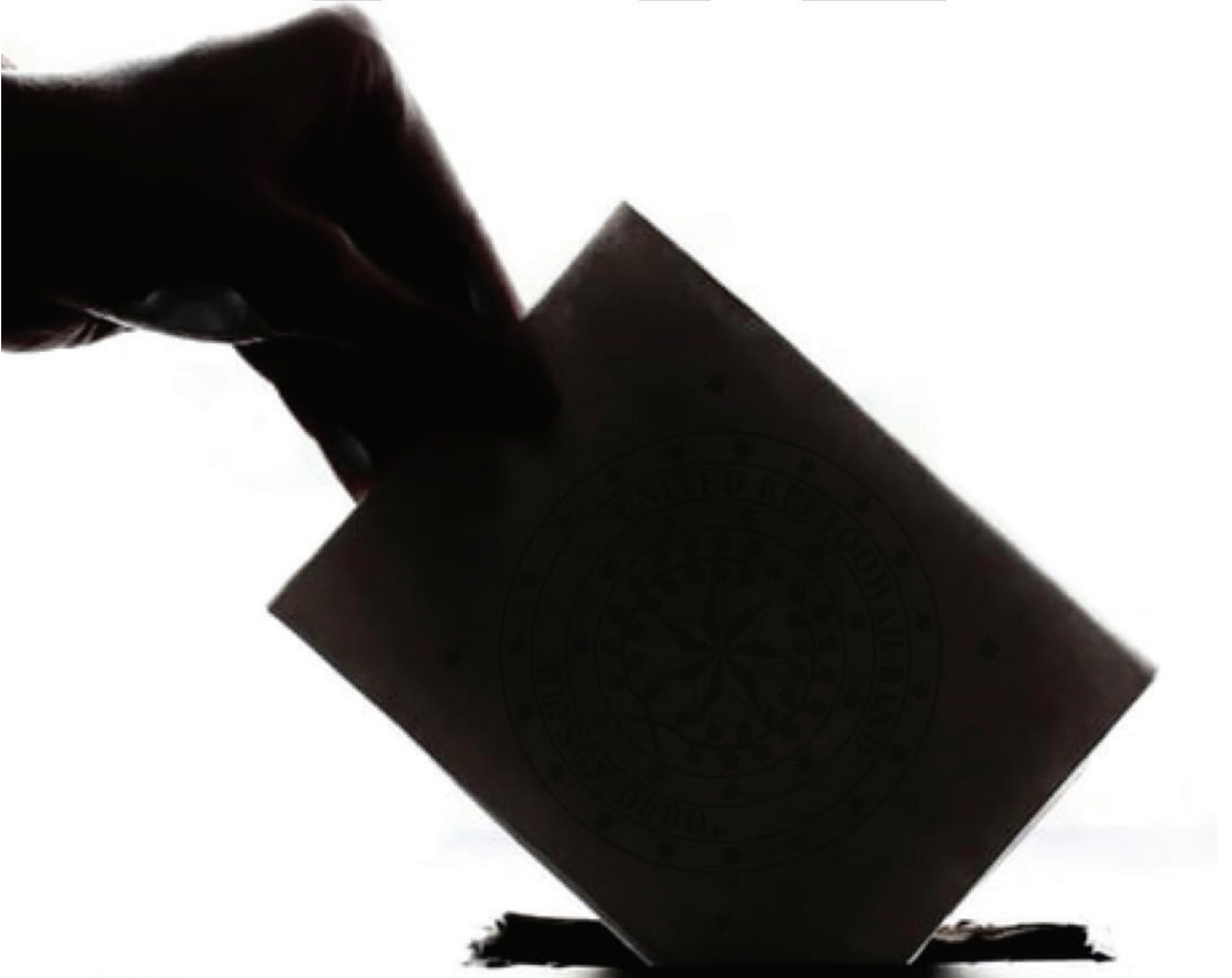
WHITE RUNABOUT,

Secretary, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Oklahoma.

W. O. ROBERTS,

*Area Director,
Muskogee Area Office.*

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! VOTE



Thank you to all our sponsors

















UKB Tribal Enrollment

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

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

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