



The official newspaper of the Cherokee Nation

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Cherokee Advocate



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TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA

MAY 1994

President Clinton to meet with Indian leaders

President Clinton has announced that he and top cabinet officials will hold two separate meetings with American Indian leaders as part of an ongoing effort to work with tribal nations in developing a sound and responsive domestic policy.

The President will host 545 federally recognized tribes, including Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, in Washington on April 29 at a first of its kind meeting.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for tribal leaders to hear directly from the President about his administration's overall commitment to ensuring American Indian sovereignty and about how this domestic agenda impacts American Indians.

The White House meeting will be followed by the National American Indian Listening Conference on May 5-6 in Albuquerque, N.M.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for tribal leaders to speak on select issues involving the Departments of Justice and Interior. Attorney General Janet Reno and Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt will convene this historic two day conference as an important step in the development of both the Clinton Administration's American Indian policy and laws administered by the two departments.

Never in the history of American Indian/federal relations has the United States Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior joined in a partnership committed to listening to American Indian concerns on issues in their Departments.

"Our goal at the Listening Conference is to listen so that we hear the independent thinking of tribal leaders on crucial issues facing American Indians today," Attorney General Reno said. "We also hope to affirm our commitment to strengthening the Nation-to-Nation relationship we have with tribal governments."

Representatives from the federal

SEE REPRESENTATIVES PAGE 20

Mankiller says she won't seek third term in '95

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller said April 4, that she will not seek a third term to the post she has held since 1985.

Mankiller made her decision public in a meeting of tribal employees, after meeting with tribal administrators, Deputy Chief John Ketcher and the Tribal Council earlier in the day. She said she wanted to personally reassure employees of the tribe's stability and to thank them again for their work. She also briefed them on several current tribal issues. "I've always said that our employees are my mainstay," she said. "It's employees who make things work, not political leaders who come and go."

Wilma Mankiller first made history in 1983 when she was elected deputy chief of her tribe, the first woman to hold that position. But she made international headlines and focused widespread attention on the Cherokee Nation in 1985 when she moved into the principal chief's slot, becoming the first woman to lead a major Indian tribe. In 1987 she defeated two male opponents to win a full four-year term of her own and in 1991 clearly outdistanced opposition with a record 83 percent of the vote.

The surprise announcement comes one year before filing period opens for the 1995 general tribal election. With the tribal election 14 months away, she urged employees "to get involved and work to maintain honest, professional government."

Mankiller said she feels the timing of her announcement is in the "long-term best interest of the tribe."

"This will provide the opportunity for leadership to emerge for the '95 election," Mankiller said. "This is a major transition. I hope the coming months will give employees and tribal members a chance to be comfortable with my decision. I trust the Cherokee voters to elect good, stable leadership to carry on the progress we've made."

"People don't own these positions. I've always said that a good leader will use ideas and programs and then pass the baton onto someone else."

Mankiller began her career at the Cherokee Nation in 1977 as a grant writer and is responsible for securing funding for many programs operating today. She founded the community development department in 1981 and launched the Bell Project, a community self-help project that became a model for community



development nationwide. In 1983 Principal Chief Ross Swimmer asked her to run as his deputy chief.

"This has been an incredible, positive experience. When I walked through the door of the Stilwell clinic to ask for a job 17 years ago, I had no idea I'd ever be in this position or have had the honor to lead this great tribe. People forget that I didn't wake up one day and say 'I'm going to be Chief of the Cherokee Nation.' I was recruited for deputy chief and it was similar for principal chief in '87. Once it happened I was enthusiastic and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I have been lucky to have a job I love so much."

"I've been here 17 years. I've grown up here and become a grandmother. I've met with three U.S. Presidents, lobbied Congress for everything from Job Corps to Head Start and been given more awards and honors than any person deserves. But the thing I have appreciated most is when a group of male Cherokee elders still tells me they respect me and asks me to sit and talk with them."

A near-fatal car wreck, a bout with myasthenia gravis and a kidney transplant in 1990 have added another dimension to her life. Her health, however, didn't enter into the decision not to run, she said. "I'm actually in good health now and I want to keep it that way. I'm not slowing down, but I will welcome some time for rest and reflection, though."

Mankiller's plans for beyond 1995 aren't definite, although "one thing I'm not going to do is run for another elective office," she said. "I've been involved in

tribal issues and public service with native people for a long, long time. I'm not going to change that. I have several attractive options to consider."

Her decision, she said, is final. "I made a firm decision more than a year ago and I haven't veered from it. If I thought there was a remote possibility I'd change my mind, I wouldn't make this announcement today."

"I've always had a fairly good sense of timing. That sense tells me now that it's time for a change, for me and for the Cherokee Nation. That doesn't mean it won't be hard, sad and tough, but it's the right thing to do."

"I'm not worried about the future of the Cherokee Nation. When it comes down to balloting, Cherokee people vote for responsible leadership and I trust they will do that in 1995."

She said a poll showed that the majority of tribal members responding are satisfied with their tribal government. "You're doing a good job," she told employees, "and don't let anyone tell you differently. Keep the political rhetoric in perspective."

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(Editor's Note: The Cherokee Advocate welcomes letters to the editor. All letters submitted for publication must be signed and include the writer's complete address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for space and possible libelous content. Names will not be withheld by request. Letters requesting pen pals and genealogy information will be published as space permits. The Cherokee Advocate staff urges caution and discretion when writing to strangers and will not be responsible for responses and outcome to such letters.)

Editor, Cherokee Advocate and Tribal Council Members:

I am writing this letter to thank the Cherokee Nation Emergency funding program which assists with medical needs which people cannot afford. This one-time payment to Cox Drug has helped my 6-year old son who has Cystic Fibrosis with a new drug just approved by the FDA which costs approximately \$1,000.00 that I did not have.

You have a wonderful program and I'd like to see it stay funded for these emergencies. I'd like to also mention the lady who made time to listen, her name is Kathy Gann. She is a very nice lady and I won't forget her. She helped me out in every way she could.

Thank you again for your assistance in purchasing this drug for Billy. You're really appreciated by me and my family. We live in Cherokee County.

Jane Davis
Welling, Okla. 74471

Editor, Cherokee Advocate:
We are trying to find Robert

W. Bush, a Viet Nam Veteran from 1967-68 in the 9th Division, Mekong Delta.

We are putting together a reunion and he is still on our missing list. Everyone I've asked has said we have to find him before the reunion, he was everyone's friend.

If anyone out there could give us any information, we would really appreciate it, we have been looking for Bob since July of last year. He served with my husband who was called "Wally" in the service and Tommy Booth who we just found. Also if anyone else reading this served with the 3rd or 4th of the 47th of the 9th Division in 1967-68 or supporting units, please call or write, we are probably looking for you too, and don't know it yet.

We have a lot of names that I have no clue what the home states are at this time. Thanks very much for any help you can give us in our search. We appreciate it very much.

We really want to find him before the reunion in the hopes that he can attend.

Thank you very much for any help you can give us.

The reunion will be held June 24-26, 1994, in Las Vegas at the Sands Hotel.

Judy Wallace
Rt.1, Box 10-B-1
Eastsound, WA 98245
206-376-4294

Pen pal Letters

Editor, Cherokee Advocate:
I am a 36 year old housewife and have been married since 1988.

I am interested in music, reading, handicrafts and writing

letters to people all over the world. And I want to know more about the Indian people.

So, I would very much like to become a pen pal with a Native American.

My address is Happenberg 11, 37691 Boffzen, West Germany.

Ulrike Knop

Genealogy Letters

Editor, Cherokee Advocate:

I would like to hear from anyone having information on the following: Rebecca Davis - #727 on the Dawes-Guion Miller Roll of 1909, or Rebecca Davis - #1737 on the Churchill Roll of 1908.

I would also appreciate knowing the husbands' name of the above as that information could possibly tie her in with my ancestor. I believe one of the above Rebecca Davises may be the Native American I am looking for in the genealogical search of my family tree.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

My address is 6541 S.E. 111 Place, Belleview, Fla. 34420.

Obie Thurman

Editor, Cherokee Advocate:

I am looking for my real mother. I was told she was from Oklahoma, possibly Nowata or Stillwater. I have been to Stillwater and could not locate her.

Any information on a baby girl born in Joplin, Mo. on Dec. 28, 1967, in the old St. Johns Hospital, would be greatly appreciated. I would very much like to find her. My address is P.O. Box 221, Seligman, Mo. 65745.

CB

Editor, Cherokee Advocate:

I would like to hear from any Taylor, Whitaker, Welch, Foreman, or relative of same who would be willing to share with me information.

I would especially like information on the parentage and vital statistics, of David Taylor, born Dec. 16, 1791; John Welch, husband of Elizabeth Blythe Welch; Emily, wife of Edward Welch; Zed Cromwell, first husband of Lydia Emaline Whitaker

Cromwell Wakefield and Anthony Foreman, who married Susie and Elizabeth.

I am a daughter of Edward C. Taylor who moved from Chelsea, Okla. to Rocky Ford, Colo. about 1930.

Any help will be appreciated. My address is 565 NW 2nd Street, Cedaredge, Colo. 81413, phone (303) 856-7198.

Marcella Dalton

Tribes to begin farmers' market program

The Cherokee Nation Food and Nutrition Department will soon be offering a farmers' market program which will provide fresh fruits and vegetables to eligible members of the tribe's Womens, Infants and Children program (WIC).

According to Brenda Kirk, director of the food and nutrition department, the Cherokee Nation is the only American Indian tribe in the United States which is currently administering a farmers' market program.

"The national goal of the farmers' market program is to promote the concept of a direct farmers' market so growers can sell more product locally and to enhance the WIC food program by offering fresh fruits and vegetables during season," Kirk said.

The clients with the greatest financial need who are currently using the tribe's WIC program will be asked to participate, Kirk said. Pregnant and breastfeeding women and children up to five years may be eligible depending on their income but WIC guidelines recommend infants up to the age of 1 be fed with breastmilk or formula.

In addition to meeting the income guidelines, WIC clients must reside in Cherokee, Adair, or Delaware Counties to be considered eligible, Kirk said.

Each eligible person who wishes to participate will receive two \$5 coupons each growing season which can be exchanged for fresh fruit and vegetables with participating local farmers, Kirk said.

The coupons can be redeemed for apples, blackberries, cantaloupe, watermelon, carrots, onions, peas and several other locally grown fruits and vegetables, Kirk said.

"We hope to have coupons ready to issue by May 1," Kirk said. "They will be available at the WIC sites at Jay and Stilwell, the food outlet at the Cherokee Nation Annex (Grover's Corner) and the Cherokee County WIC site."

Kirk said she plans to have the coupons available in time for clients to redeem them at the Stilwell Strawberry Festival in May.

Produce growers in the areas of Cherokee, Adair, and Delaware Counties who want to become vendors for the farmers' market program are urged to contact Brenda Carter, assistant associate director of food and nutrition, at 456-0671, Ext. 291.

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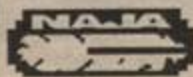
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ON APRIL 7, several Talking Leaves Job Corps students received incentive awards for the length of time they have been at the center. Pictured are four of the students who have been involved with the facility from 365 to 539 days. They are Willie Flanagan, Dustin, Okla.; Albert Espinoza, Houston, Texas; Jason Smith, Vidor, Texas; and Christopher Tucker, Giddings, Texas.

Council passes new gaming legislation

An act amending the Cherokee Nation Tribal Gaming Act to comply with new National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) regulations was passed during the April 11 meeting of Cherokee Nation Tribal Council at the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex.

According to David Mullon, executive director of the tribe's law and justice division, the most significant change brought by the act deals with conducting mandatory background checks before hiring key employees or management officials to work in bingo enterprises.

"The tribe performed extensive background checks previously as a matter of practice," Mullon said. "However, the new NIGC regulations state that tribes must require a background check and that this requirement be put in the form of a tribal ordinance. This new ordinance meets NIGC's exact specifications concerning background checks."

The act passed with a roll-call vote of 11-0 with four council members absent. Not present were Councilmembers James Garland Eagle, Dist. 2, Adair County; Melvina Shotpouch, Dist. 5, Delaware and Ottawa Counties; Sam Ed Bush, Dist. 3, Sequoyah County; and Troy Poteete, Dist. 4, Muskogee and McIntosh Counties.

Also during the meeting, Jackie Bob Martin was unanimously approved by the council as the fifth and final member of the tribe's election commission. Martin, a tribal member and Stilwell resident, was nominated by the four commission members initially selected by the council and Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller. Martin works in a managerial position at Starr Motor Co. in Stilwell.

According to Council President John A. Ketcher, this will allow the commission to proceed with the establishment of policy to govern the 1995 Cherokee

Nation election.

In other business, George Bearpaw, executive director of tribal operations, was unanimously approved as a member of the board of commissioners of the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation. His nomination was presented via written letter by Chief Mankiller.

Other resolutions passed during the council meeting dealt with:

- * authorizing an application for funding to the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth for a program to identify children who are at risk of developing delinquent behaviors;

- * authorizing an application to the Department of Education for continued funding of the EvenStart adult literacy program;

- * authorizing the submission of a comprehensive plan to the Department of Labor for continued funding of the Employment and Vocational Training Jobs

SEE RESOLUTION PAGE 4

Council profile

Mitchell likes having ability to help people

According to Cherokee Nation Councilwoman Barbara Mitchell, Dist. 5, Delaware and Ottawa Counties, the most important part of being a member of the tribal council is having the ability to assist people.

"This position allows me to represent my tribe, my district and my friends," Mitchell said. "As a tribal councilmember, you are in a better position to help people."

Mitchell said she has always had a strong interest in helping people. This is reflected in her years of service at the Cherokee Nation as a family advocate and an Indian Child Welfare (ICW) worker.

Her work with the Oklahoma State Health Department (DHS) Eldercare program and her current position at DHS as a social worker assisting people through the Medicaid program, demonstrates her desire to assist those around her.

Some of Mitchell's special initiatives include the Johnson-O'Malley program, which she has been involved with for several years, her upcoming work regarding the Kenwood Community Project, and extensive involvement in the construction of the Charlie Tucker Memorial Park in Oaks, which is scheduled



BARBARA MITCHELL

to break ground in May.

"I am involved in a lot of community projects," Mitchell said. "The services which provide direct support and assistance to community people are among my top priorities."

In keeping with her emphasis of direct services, Mitchell said she strongly supports all of the tribe's social services programs.

According to Mitchell, there are people who are in need of these services but cannot meet specific program eligibility requirements. She said there is a need to create programs which can help the people who "fall between the cracks" of the system.

"The Cherokee Nation has a variety of services for our people but we need additional programs and funding to meet the needs of our constantly expanding population," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said in order for people to be independent, they must have jobs, and she sees this as an essential need among citizens of the Cherokee Nation.

"I would like to see more businesses like Cherokee Nation Industries brought into the rural areas," Mitchell said. "I support Chief Mankiller's recruitment of businesses to locate within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation. We should continue our economic development efforts because if even one business locates within the Cherokee Nation it will mean additional employment for tribal members."

Mitchell said having lived in Kansas, Okla., nearly all her life and working at the Oklahoma State DHS office in Jay gives her a resident's insight into the needs of rural communities.

She lives in Kansas with her husband Norman, her daughters Brianna, 12, and Kimberly, 8, and her stepson Derek, 7. Mitchell is the daughter of Mary Jane Fields-Conness, a full-blood Cherokee, and the late Eugene Conness.

Efforts continue toward construction of SHS Chapel

Cherokee Nation Council President John A. Ketcher delivered the state of the nation address in the absence of Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller during the April 11 meeting of the tribal council.

According to Ketcher, the state of the nation was positive. The following are some of the items which Ketcher addressed.

In an effort to promote the construction of a student chapel at Sequoyah High School, architect James Childers has agreed to do the design and specification work free of charge and FlintCo Construction will perform estimates and bid packaging at no cost to the tribe. Ground will be broken for the chapel this spring.

The construction of the new Talking Leaves Job Corps center is doing well and completion is tentatively scheduled for July, 1994.

The new health care clinic in Salina has been postponed since the land which was to be used as a construction site has been withdrawn from the market. Options for a new site will come before the council for purchase approval.

Site work for the Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center in Stilwell is approximately 80 percent complete and steel work is approximately 60 percent complete. The facility is scheduled to open in October.

Tribal representatives continue to meet with members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians to discuss a possible separation from the Cherokee Nation. Many legal matters must be resolved before separation can occur.

Tribal home health agency staff made 1,403 visits during the month of March. The agency was subject to an annual survey conducted by health care staff administrators. No deficiencies were found and the staff was complimented on the quality of care which they provide and the organization of their home health system.

The vocational education classes are underway and should be fully implemented by May 1. The business classes and construction technology programs will be housed in the former location of Cherokee Gardens. An open house will be held at a later date.

The tribe's fiscal year 1993 annual financial audit report was completed by the accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand. The was presented to tribal administration earlier.

In health service news, the community health representative program served 1,016 clients during March and the food distribution program served more than 9,000 people during February. In addition, the tribe's rural health care clinics saw a number of patients during March. There were 994 patients seen at the Nowata Clinic, 1,900 patients seen at the Redbird Smith Health Care Center, and 1,047 patients were seen at Salina Community Clinic.

At the end of March, there were 156,326 registered members of the Cherokee Nation and the tribe's registration department continues to enroll approximately 1,000 new members each month.

The first meeting to organize the tuberculosis task force committee at W.W. Hastings Hospital was held this month. Tribal public health nurses are part of this committee which will meet quarterly to develop TB policies and programs to deal with the recent resurgence of TB cases.

Plans for the 1994 Summer Youth Fitness Camp are underway. The camp will be held at Camp Lutheroma June 4-10. Recruitment is now taking place in all 14 counties of the Cherokee Nation.

Arrangements have been made for the upgrade of the telephone system at the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex during April. This upgrade will comply with the North American numbering plan of the Federal Communications Commission which will take place in 1995. It also will provide for better telephone system performance and future expansion of the communications system.

The summer youth employment program began in April, with youth counselors contacting schools.

There were 20 Cherokee Firedancers sent to the Ozarks and Wichita forests to battle blazes.

The tribe's early childhood and Head Start programs had a "Playtime is Science" video crew on site during March. The crew interviewed parents involved with the project. This promotional video will be distributed in September, 1994.

Cherokee Nation Tribal Council meeting minutes listed for March

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Cherokee Advocate is required by council law to publish monthly the approved minutes of each council meeting as recorded by the legislative aide.)

CALL TO ORDER: President Ketcher called the March council meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Tribal Council Chambers, W.W. Keeler Complex.

INVOCATION: Invocation was given by Councilman Byrd.

ROLL CALL: Roll call was given by Gina Blackfox, legislative aide. The following members were present: Maudie Bazille; Sam Ed Bush; Joe Byrd; Mary Cooksey; Don Crittenden; Harold DeMoss; Mige Glory; Paula Holder; Barbara Mitchell; Harold Phillips; Greg Pitcher; Troy Poteete; Melvina Shotpouch; and William Smoke.

A quorum was established with fourteen members present. Councilman Eagle arrived shortly after roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilman Crittenden motioned to approve the Feb. 14 minutes. Councilman Byrd seconded the motion. Minutes adopted.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS: Chief Mankiller announced that she and former Council member Robert McSpadden will co-host a fundraiser for Greg and Todd Pitcher. The date and time will be announced at a later time.

Chief Mankiller sent letters to the OSBI and Greg Coombes requesting they investigate Donald Beartrack's death as a hate crime and add the charge of kidnapping to the murder charge. Donald Beartrack, 17, was shot and killed in Adair County two weeks ago. George Hummingbird, spokesperson for the Beartrack family, stated that evidence is pointing very strongly to a hate crime. A letter has been sent to Governor Walters for special attention on this case.

Councilman Byrd made a motion supporting the letters sent by Chief Mankiller and Councilman Poteete seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Mankiller reported the Catoosa gaming facility is doing well. The attendance and income continues to increase substantially. The Self-Governance Project recently underwent reviews. The results will be included in a report to Congress.

Currently, the tribal enrollment count is 155,000 and the number of Cherokee Nation employees continues to increase. She announced the Catoosa gaming facility employs 190 and Roland provides employment for 124 people. The West Siloam Springs is expected to employ 75 people. The plans are to open this facility in April.

Funds have been received for the Salina Clinic, the design and location have been finalized with construction to begin soon. Mayes and Delaware Counties have long been interested in having dialysis services in the county. Discussions earlier was to attach this type of service to the clinics but the medical community feel the dialysis must be next to a hospital or trauma center. For this reason, the center for the Salina Clinic will be located in Pryor, and in Delaware County, Grove is being considered. The patients charts at the clinics continue to increase. Chief Mankiller reported that effective Feb. 10, the Food Distribution Program can provide service to minor children residing in an income eligible household. Prior to this ruling minor children with a CDIB could only participate if an adult member of the household also had a CDIB. This change will effect approximately 300-500 children within the Cherokee Nation who could not participate prior to the decision.

The Business & Economic Development Department is sponsoring a workshop in Tulsa on business opportunities available in franchising. A meeting was recently held with the Centers of Disease Control to discuss a number of new health care prevention programs including a program to prevent cervical and breast cancer and the general area of health care prevention.

Chief Mankiller announced a conference will be held in Albuquerque, May 4-6. The conference will provide an opportunity for selected tribal representatives to address specific issues. She encouraged the Tribal Council to attend. Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, and Attorney General, Janet Reno, will be attending. The Job Corps Center continues to progress and the new facility is expected to open as scheduled. The Community Development have proposed the idea to have individuals on waiting lists for home improvements attend a meeting to learn about other services provided which they may be eligible to receive assistance. There are certain criteria an individual must meet to receive funds within the programs.

Chief Mankiller and Alan Harder, Director of Business & Economic Development, have scheduled a visit to southern California in mid-April to meet with the Cherokees and with the Social Venture Network, which is a group of business people who are pre-selected to meet with them. Chief Mankiller will present proposals about Cherokee Nation and the financing available and the labor pool. The Delaware membership have requested a meeting to be held in late March to address the separation issue. A notice of date and time will be provided when available. A briefing session will also be held with the Tribal Council to discuss

the Delaware separation and the Arkansas Riverbed proposed settlement. Cherokee Nation has also scheduled an all employee meeting on April 4, to inform the employees of these issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: No special reports were presented at this time.

ACTION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None pending.

NEW BUSINESS: Fourteen Councilmembers were in attendance during the presentation of business items. Councilman Glory had to leave at 6:30 to attend another local event.

1) Authorizing the Community Development Department to Submit a Proposal to the Farmers Home Administration for a Housing Preservation Grant/R#19-94

Ron Qualls stated the Cherokee Nation has been funded for this program in the past. A request has been made in the amount of \$150,000 to assist very low income Indian families with home repairs.

Councilmember Mitchell made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Cooksey seconded. Resolution adopted.

2) Authorizing the Tribal Services Department to Prepare and Submit a Three (3) Year Plan to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for a Continuing Operation of the Indian Child Welfare Program/R#20-94 Diane Kelley, executive director, stated the resolution authorizes application for non-competitive funds through the Bureau of Indian Funds for a Indian Child Welfare Grant. In previous years, this grant was funded on competitive basis. A funding formula based on overall population will be used to allocate program monies.

Councilman Bush moved for the adoption and Councilman Phillips seconded the motion. Resolution adopted.

3) Authorization of Grant Application for Expansion of the Head Start Program/R#21-94

Jim Quetone, education director, stated the resolution is an authorization to submit an application for expansion of the Head Start Program. Verna Thompson, Head Start manager, stated this resolution is submitted on an annual basis. A proposal to expand four existing sites to full-year, full-day has been included in the request. Tentatively, the sites for expansion are Pryor, Tahlequah, Jay and Lost City.

Councilman Eagle moved for the adoption and Councilman Bush seconded. Resolution adopted.

4) Authorizing a Grant Application to the National Park Service for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act/R#22-94

Richard Allen, program analyst, stated the resolution authorizes the Research and Analysis Department to apply to the National Park Service for a grant relevant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. The grant through the National Park Service will assist the Cherokee Nation with identification of the remains, and provide for training and travel costs.

Councilman Byrd motioned to approve the resolution and Councilman Pitcher seconded. Resolution adopted.

5) Authorizing the Submission of an Application for Rural Health Outreach Demonstration Grant/R#

This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting, the Division Staff are continuing to develop a plan for enhancement of emergency medical services. This resolution will be presented at a later time.

6) Proclamation Declaring March as "National Professional Social Work

Month"/R#23-94

Greer McSpadden, clinician site manager, stated the resolution is requesting that March be proclaimed as National Professional Social Worker Month. The President of the United States has deemed the month of March as Professional Social Work Month. The theme for this year is "Stop Violence..With Justice For All". The Social Workers recognized were Sandie Moten, Margaret Tyner, Darlene Walker, Tami Haley, Pat Davis, Theresa Rider, Joan Goard, Marsha Lamb, Barbara Conness Mitchell, Mary Ross, Victoria Street, Greer McSpadden, Linda Goodrich, Malcolm Montgomery, Judy Parris, Ramona McLemore, David Vann, James McIntosh, Kaye Smith, Robert Guy, and Rhonda Cochran. A reception honoring these workers was held in the lobby foyer following the meeting.

Councilman Bush motioned to approve the proclamation and Council member Mitchell seconded the motion. Resolution adopted.

HOUSING AUTHORITY: JOEL THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joel reported he attended a training conference in Washington called "HUD Consultation 1994." They are anticipating changing and altering and streamlining the government bureaucracy as it effects housing. Housing Authority has received a formula allocation notification of an additional \$4.3 million for this fiscal year. They anticipate doing rehabilitation work on the existing units.

BIA/CHEROKEE NATION: DENNIS WICKLIFFE, SELF GOVERNANCE SPECIALIST

Dennis announced the Spring Self-Governance Conference will be held on April 4-6 in San Diego. Issues such as permanent legislation will be discussed during the conference. How tribes can gain more into their budgets from IHS and BIA will be addressed. Efforts to consolidate the two Oklahoma area offices have ceased, the Bureau has now come forth with a proposal to cut funding in the FY'95 budget. The cuts will not be as drastic as what would have been included in the consolidation effort. The BIA Task Force on Reorganization have requested a meeting with the Assistant Secretary to address the tribal leadership of Oklahoma. Issues such as the consolidation proposed cuts and the future of BIA in Oklahoma are on the agenda. This meeting will take place on March 21, in Oklahoma City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilman Byrd stated the American Diabetes Association local chapter announced during the February Health Committee meeting that a Walkfest will be held on April 9. Byrd was named as honorary chairman of the activity. He encouraged individuals from the Cherokee Nation, Housing Authority, Claremore and Hastings Service Units to participate in this event. He announced that Miss Indian Oklahoma, Lisa Trice, was selected as Miss Indian USA. A reception will be held honoring Miss Indian USA on Friday, March 18, in the complex foyer. Sammy Claphan, who is a Stilwell High School graduate, will be inducted in the National Indian Hall of Fame in Albuquerque on April 28. While attending the University of Oklahoma, he received all American honors and participated in the National Championship team and also played nine years with the San Diego Chargers.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business presented, Councilman Byrd motioned for adjournment at 7 p.m.

Resolution passed for Head Start centers to become pilot sites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Partnership Act Title IV Employment and Training Program;

* authorizing the submission of a summer plan to the Department of Labor for continued funding of the summer youth employment program;

* authorizing the submission of an application for the American Indian Parent Training Project. This child management program, known as "Confident Parenting," would be culturally adapted to meet the needs of American Indian parents of Head Start students;

* authorizing the submission of an application for the tribe's Head Start centers to become pilot sites for a substance abuse initiative program. The program would educate Head Start staff and parents about the risks of substance use and abuse and strategies for abuse prevention and intervention;

* authorizing an application for a Title V, Subpart C Formula Grant for Sequoyah High School for the establishment and operation of a cultural enrichment and competitive speech program at Sequoyah High School, as authorized by Subpart 1 of the Indian Education Act of 1988;

* supporting a discretionary grant for library services to provide funds for operational support for continuation of services to the general Cherokee Nation population by the Tsa-La-Gi Library;

* authorizing and supporting the continuation of the farmers' market nutrition program within the Cherokee Nation for fiscal year 1995. Funding agency is the Department of Agriculture;

* authorizing the continuation of the tribe's

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program through the Claremore and Tahlequah Indian Health Service service units;

* authorizing the tribe to enter into a contractual agreement for the continuation of the WIC program;

* authorizing the tribe's WIC program to enter into an agreement with the Indian Health Care Resource Center to continue the cooperative provision of WIC services in the Tulsa city limits;

* authorizing and supporting the continued operation of the food distribution program within the nine counties of the Cherokee Nation;

* supporting the submission of a funding proposal to the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation for a partnership project between the Cherokee Nation and Native Americans for a Clean Environment (NACE). NACE received a \$12,000 grant to organize training to provide community based, long-term solutions for economic renewal in Sequoyah County. The partnership project would continue those efforts;

* authorizing the submission of an application to the State of Oklahoma District Attorney's Council for continuation of the Victims of Crime Act Program. This program assists Cherokee children who are victims of crime, especially sexually abuse, and their families to break old patterns of abuse and exploitation and learn more appropriate family functioning methods; and

* declaring April 11 as Child Abuse Prevention Day throughout the Cherokee Nation.

Cherokee Nation Industries, Inc. featured in Muskogee Phoenix

Cherokee Nation Industries, a wholly-owned manufacturer of the Cherokee Nation, was recently featured in a special edition of the Muskogee Phoenix and Times Democrat.

The article, which appeared in March, highlighted the fact that CNI, who primarily deals with defense contracts, has despite major cuts in defense spending been able to maintain steady revenues.

Building electronic systems that will be used in the U.S. space station, the Cherokee Nation has gone from their own relocation in the 1830s to carrying U.S. astronauts into space in the 1990s.

According to the article, while other tribes have turned to gaming to generate revenue for services, the Cherokee Nation has turned high tech. Not only has CNI provided several millions of dollars in dividends during the last 25 years, it has also provided training and jobs.

The company, located in Stilwell, manufactures wiring sys-



ROSS SWIMMER

tems, electronic controls and printed circuit boards for such defense and space industry giants as General Dynamics, Boeing, General Electric, Martin Marietta, Stewart and Stevenson and Rocketdyne, a division of Rockwell International.

"Business has been good," said Ross Swimmer, chief executive officer for CNI. "Our company generally, over the last 15 years, has done about \$15 million per year. And, we have a substantial backlog of work."

Swimmer said recent moves in Congress to cut defense spending and appropriations to NASA doesn't worry him. Many of the company's defense

contracts are for several years, he said. Likewise, the contract for the space station components, awarded by Rocketdyne, will run for four years.

"We anticipate that employment will stay about the same or it may grow a little bit," he said.

The cuts only mean that the company will have to work harder to remain competitive in the bidding process, he said.

"We're very aggressive in the marketplace."

Swimmer said there are only a few tribes that operate manufacturing facilities. Many have tried, he said, but few have been successful.

"It certainly is a way the tribes should look. A manufacturing business will help people acquire skills. Tribes can create jobs by creating profit-making businesses.

"It's been a good investment. It pays as well as most of the bingo halls do."



PAUL MEIROSE, center, McDonnell Douglas Corp. senior buyer, presented Ross O. Swimmer, right, President of Cherokee Nation Distributors, a division of Cherokee Nation Industries in Stilwell, with the "Preferred Supplier" certification. Also pictured is Clark Hurrell, left, CND general manager.

Gaming, an issue among Indian people

The following is reprinted from the Norman Transcript on Indian Gaming. It is an editorial based upon comments from Ross Swimmer, former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Ross Swimmer of Tahlequah has been chief of the Cherokee Nation and Assistant Secretary of the Interior. He is now chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Industries. When he speaks of matters affecting Indian tribes, people should listen.

He continues to warn tribal leaders to make the best use they can of revenue from gambling sources while the money is still coming in.

Swimmer and Gary Stopp, an executive of a Minnesota casino, agree that competition from non-tribal gambling could drastically reduce revenue from Indian games. Swimmer says casino gambling will spread to at least 48 states.

There's a good lesson for the tribes in the history of the oil industry in Indian Country, Swimmer said. Most of the profits went not to the land owners but to oil companies.

"If we had developed the energy companies that extracted those resources ourselves," he said, "we wouldn't have the poverty we have today."

Good point.

Cherokee Nation Distributors recognized by McDonnell Douglas

Cherokee Nation Distributors Inc. (CND) was recently awarded preferred supplier certification status by McDonnell Douglas Aerospace (MDA). This places the Cherokee Nation Industries subsidiary in the top 160 of the 3,000 active suppliers to MDA.

As part of the ranking process involved with the Preferred Supplier Certification Status, CND attained the bronze levels in the business processes and quality categories, and the silver level in the delivery performance category, said William Slowers, vice president of supplier management and procurement at McDonnell Douglas.

According to Slowers, preferred supplier certification status is determined by the levels achieved in the performance and assessment of business processes.

Congratulations
to
Cerokee
Nation
Industries

Boeing Defense & Space Group, CNI team up for success

Aerospace giant Boeing Defense & Space Group recently selected Cherokee Nation Industries, Inc. (CNI), a small disadvantaged business, to provide several cable assemblies, racks, trays and displays associated with upgrading the Boeing Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to include electronic support measure (ESM) capability.

According to Bruce Dearden, buyer for the E-3 AWACS program, "The key factors in Boeing's selection were CNI's track record, price and the ability to produce an excellent product. Boeing's success in the aerospace industry relies on support from highly competent small disadvantaged businesses, such as CNI."

CNI has received from Boeing two purchase contracts for electronics under the NATO ESM production and NATO ESM spares efforts. The two contracts are worth \$1.9 million.

A Memorandum of Agreement between Boeing and CNI for electronics under the U.S. effort has been signed, and a contract worth \$3.99 million is expected later this year from Boeing. Ross O. Swimmer, President and CEO of CNI, says, "In today's shrinking defense industry, CNI

considers the contract award a compliment and a show of confidence in CNI's ability to satisfy Boeing's expectations."

It was in 1969 that W.W. Keeler, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, had a vision of self-sufficiency for the Cherokee people.

One of the obstacles to overcome was the staggering unemployment rate among the Cherokee in northeastern Oklahoma. His solution was to form a business enterprise called Cherokee Nation Industries, Inc., located at the foothills of the Ozark Mountains in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

CNI initially competed in the commercial market during the 1970s. In the 1980s, however, management shifted gears and began seeking subcontractor's work in the defense industry. That decision proved wise.

By 1985, all of CNI's business came from the defense industry, and in 1986, the Cherokee-owned company topped \$24 million in sales.

CNI now averages \$15 million in annual sales. The original 1,200 square-foot shop Chief Keeler opened 25 years ago has been replaced by a 77,000 square-foot facility. CNI's work force, most of

whom are Cherokee, grew from eight people in 1969 to a work force that exceeds 300 today.

CNI's award-winning resume includes building products such as cable assemblies, wiring harnesses, electrical control units and printed circuit assemblies for a variety of defense contractors.

In addition to the excellent relationship established with Boeing, CNI has earned the respect and confidence of, among others, Loral, General Dynamics, Martin-Marietta, General Electric, Stewart & Stevenson, Rockwell International (Rocketdyne Division), FMC (United Defense) and governmental agencies. That aggressive emphasis on military subcontracting business remains today.

But plans to again tap into the commercial market are underway.

Ross Swimmer states, "We believe CNI's history illustrates our great tradition of quality work and unbending philosophy of pleasing our customers. We are focused on success - now and in the future. Teaming with giants such as Boeing enhances our competitive edge and helps fulfill our mission of providing employment for the Cherokee Nation!"

Reactions to chief's announcement

Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller announced that she will not seek re-election in the next year's general tribal election during an all-employee meeting held April 4. The tribe's public affairs department solicited reactions from community/tribal members about the announcement. They were asked this question: **What was your reaction to Chief Mankiller's announcement that she will not seek re-election after having been in office for 10 years?**

John A. Ketcher, deputy principal chief of the Cherokee Nation:

The leadership of Chief Mankiller will be missed. Her steady hand on the helm has brought credibility and confidence to the Cherokee Nation. The national attention she has brought to the Cherokees has caused good things to happen to our Nation. It is a privilege to have served as deputy to the first lady chief of the Cherokees. She will be favorably recorded in history as a great leader, not only by the Cherokees, but also nationally.



Ross Swimmer, president of Cherokee Nation Industries and former Principal Chief:

I am disappointed in Wilma's decision, however, I am extremely pleased with the job she has done in the past 10-years as well as during my administration. I feel she has made a significant contribution to the well-being of the Cherokee Nation and we all have to decide when the time is to leave a position. I certainly respect Wilma's wishes in this regard, but we will miss her.



Doris Hinds, Tahlequah community leader and business-owner:

My feelings are ambivalent of sadness and joy. I'm sad to see her go because I think she's been an outstanding chief, a wonderful leader for her people, and she's done monumental things for not only Tahlequah, but also the whole state of Oklahoma with her honors, her graciousness and intelligence and her sincerity. I admire her so much as a friend that I'm delighted that she's going to have some free time with her family and to do social things or be involved in things that she hasn't had the time to do in the past.



Sally Ross, Tahlequah mayor:

She has been fabulous as a leader and a friend. We certainly admire her for her leadership and for the role she has played with women and I'm very disappointed, but I feel like she is just changing her role of leadership and she will be involved in other things.



Dr. Neil Morton, director of Northeastern State University's Center for Tribal Studies and mayor of Stilwell:

Wilma's administration and leadership style prepares people to continue on, therefore her accomplishments will not even be interrupted and this is just the beginning of her story. Naturally we'll miss her at the Center for Tribal Studies as well as in her future leadership endeavors.



Mankiller years marked by growth, self-determination, innovative programs

In 1987, Wilma Mankiller made two promises during her campaign for chief: to help prepare the Cherokee people to enter the 21st Century on their own terms and to run an honest, professional tribal government. She focused on improving programs in the areas of health and education. Services for children and youth also were a major concern, as was continuing work to develop "whole, healthy, happy Cherokee communities."

The 1970s had been a decade of revitalization. Tribal government was beginning to reshape itself. Congress passed the Self-Determination Act, a new Cherokee Constitution was ratified and the first tribal elections since statehood were held. Programs and services were added to help provide a better quality of life for Cherokee people.

Although the 1987 election was Mankiller's first to a full four-year term as principal chief, her career with the Cherokee Nation started in the late 1970s, first as a volunteer, then as a grant writer and later director of the new community development department. She was elected deputy chief in 1983 and by 1987 already had served two years as chief after Ross Swimmer resigned in 1985 to take a position in Washington, D.C. Mankiller was re-elected to a second term as chief in 1991 with an impressive 83 percent of the votes.

If the 1970s were a period of rebuilding, the '80s and '90s have been marked by phenomenal growth and continued self-determination for the Cherokee Nation. Wilma Mankiller came to public office with a reputation in community development and as a successful program developer. Building on the groundwork of the '70s, she translated that experience into new services for the Cherokee people and a national reputation of innovation and excellence for Cherokee Nation tribal government.

Accomplishments during the Mankiller administration have been many. There is little that hasn't been stamped with her leadership, although she quickly gives credit to the hard work and dedication of Cherokee Nation employees and the cooperation and support of the Tribal Council.

Growth Figures

Managing growth is a challenge for any leader. In 1992, Chief Mankiller instituted strategic planning sessions with Tribal Council members and key administrative employees to help guide this growth into the next century.

The remarkable growth of the Cherokee Nation during the 1980s and 90s is most evident in membership figures, employment and revenue.

| | 1986 | 1994 | % increase |
|------------|---------------|------------------|------------|
| Membership | 55,300 | 155,828 | 182% |
| Employment | 655 | 1,271 | 94% |
| Payroll | \$9.5 million | \$22.5 million | 136% |
| Revenues | \$44 million | \$86,058 million | 195% |

During this time, the tribe's registration process has been streamlined. A backlog of over 8,000 CDIBs was eliminated, all records have been computerized and the waiting period for tribal membership has been reduced from 18-24 months to less than two weeks. Today, 1,100 applications are processed monthly.

Trends in finances show a steady increase in operating revenue. In 1986, tribal revenues were equally split between federal and state contracts and enterprise or other funds. From 1988 - 1989, other sources were greater than program funds. Since 1990, contract funds have been slightly higher than enterprise/other sources. This is due to additional monies realized from self-governance compacts, from new construction money for clinics and Job Corps and new services for Cherokee people.

Of today's nearly 1,300 employees, 85 percent are Cherokee; 13 percent are other tribes and 2 percent are non-Indian. Indian preference in hiring continues to be the practice. In 1986, the tribe employed 80 percent Cherokee; 13 percent other Indian and 7 percent non-Indian.

Health

Wilma Mankiller has been part of the development of a comprehensive health system from the beginning. She wrote the tribe's first grants for the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) and the first grant for visitation to elderly Cherokees, which later evolved into the Cherokee Home Health Agency.

As the population of the Cherokee Nation has grown, the tribe's health services has expanded to better meet the needs of an increased consumer population. In 1992, Chief Mankiller elevated the health department to division status, making it the largest of the five administrative areas of the executive branch. This restructuring helps provide for peak efficiency and response.

Health Centers

From only two health clinics in 1984, the tribe now operates five rural health centers in key locations throughout the Cherokee Nation. The bankrupt Jay hospital was purchased in 1991 and renovated as the Sam Hider Community Clinic and for sub-office operations in Delaware County. The Nowata clinic was

A retrospective glance at the Mankiller Administration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

added in 1989 and is due for expansion soon. The Redbird Smith Health Center in Sallisaw was dedicated in 1992 and the Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center in Stilwell will open in the fall of 1994 to provide increased services in those communities. Construction plans are underway for a new facility to replace the current Salina clinic. Because of no other available resources in the communities, the Jay and Salina clinics also provide primary care for non-Indians on a fee basis. In 1984, the Indian Health Services operated two of the four clinics for Cherokees; today the tribe operates all five.

Self-Governance

In 1993 Chief Mankiller signed a self-governance compact with the Indian Health Service to allow the tribe greater flexibility in designing health programs specifically for Cherokee people. The Cherokee Rural Health Network was established in 1993. The network will integrate all the health programs into a more effective unit using improved networking and telecommunications techniques.

Changing needs

Other health services are provided to adapt to the changing needs of the Cherokee population. A strong emphasis is now put on preventive medicine. Health education programs began in 1986 with health promotion and disease prevention programs added in 1991. In 1984, the emergency medical services provided only safety training; today it is an award-winning program of First Responder and EMT training and operates an ambulance service for Cherokee County and nearby communities. A mobile eye unit was added in 1990 to provide optometric care in rural communities.

Food distribution

The tribe's food distribution program began in 1984 with a warehouse site in Tahlequah and deliveries to three outlying communities. Today, more than 12,000 families are served through deliveries in 25 communities. The Cherokee Nation became the distribution center for all tribal food programs in the state. A food outlet store has opened in Tahlequah for more convenient distribution to clients.

Children and Youth

In 1988, Chief Mankiller appointed the Cherokee Children's Commission, a 13-member task force. Although the Cherokee Nation always has offered programmatic services for children and young people, it wasn't until this comprehensive study that major initiatives regarding their needs began to take shape. New services and expanded programs have been the result.

Head Start

Since she wrote some of the early grants for the tribe's Head Start, Mankiller has seen this important program thrive. From 256 stu-



dents, 56 staff members and a \$850,000 budget 10 years ago, it now has 600 children enrolled with 128 staff and a \$2.5 million budget. Today 10 counties have Cherokee Nation Head Start centers, doubled over the past two terms, and nearly all staff, including cooks and aides, have Child Development Associates credentials.

Children's Village

The tribe's Children's Village, Circle of Friends, is a unique conglomeration of services located at the Sequoyah High School campus. The Children's Village brings the tribe's Child Development Center, Serving Teens through Pregnancy Prevention (STEPP), Head Start and Even Start adult literacy program together in a central location. The combination of these programs offered is referred to as a "wrap-around" service, one which deals with education on a holistic basis.

Indian Child Welfare

The tribe's early efforts under the Indian Child Welfare program pale in comparison to today's aggressive approach to ensure that Cherokee children are placed in Cherokee or Indian homes. A professional staff of social workers and child advocates works on par with the State Department of Human Services to see that the rights and needs of approximately 1,000 children are met. Tribal legislation was passed to help close loopholes in the law governing placement of Indian children.

Foster care services added in 1992 see 200 children placed annually in appropriate homes. Adoption services begun in 1993 have placed 100 children with new families.

New Programs

- *Jack Brown Treatment Center, 1988;
- *Youth Fitness Summer Camp, 1989;
- *Tribal Youth Council, 1990;
- *Juvenile Justice Program, 1991;
- *Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, 1991;
- *John A. Ketcher Youth Services Center, 1992;
- *Eagleheart Gifted and Talented Summer Camp, 1992;
- *Child Care Subsidy Program, 1992;
- *Child Development Center, 1993

Education

Talking Leaves Job Corps: In 1987 the Cherokee Nation was in danger of losing Talking Leaves Job Corps. Programmatic problems had developed. In addition, the center's lease for space was not renewed and a temporary home was needed until a new facilities could be built. Chief Mankiller restructured the program and battled to keep the facility open, thus saving 88 jobs, \$1 million for tribal government, and education and job training to over 250 students each year.

The reward is an improved curriculum and training program and a new \$13 state-of-the-art vocational facility. Talking Leaves has the honor of being the first job corps in the U.S. to be selected for new construction.

SEE CHIEF PAGE 8

Chief Mankiller initiates efforts for decentralizing services

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Sequoyah High School: In 1985, the first year SHS was operated by the Cherokee Nation, beginning enrollment was 207. The school has a current enrollment of 364. In 1993, the school graduated its largest class, enrollment had increased 75 percent. In 1988 Sequoyah received accreditation from the North Central Accreditation Association. New curriculum has been added and residential living activities enhanced. Tribal administrators worked with Congressional leaders to obtain funding to upgrade SHS facilities, including the gymnasium and a new cafeteria. In 1993, Chief Mankiller launched a fundraising drive to construct a campus chapel for the SHS students. Construction is expected to begin later this year.



Decentralized Services

When she was elected deputy chief in 1983, Wilma Mankiller initiated weekly field visits to outlying Cherokee communities, the first step in taking tribal government to the Cherokee people. This began a 10-year focus on decentralization -- making more services available to people near their home communities.

Field Offices

Under Mankiller's leadership the tribe has gone from only five field office locations to today's 12 field offices throughout the 14-county service area of the tribe. Each office is staffed with personnel who can assist tribal members with information about any of the more than 100 programs and services offered by the tribe.

Government Infrastructure

In 1988 Wilma Mankiller initiated adoption of an ethics clause for elected tribal officials and employees. The tribal council passed the Ethics in Government Act in April, 1989 which establishes standards of fairness and integrity when conducting tribal business. During the Mankiller administration, tribal government has continued its tradition of honesty and progressive thinking.

Revitalizing the courts

The year 1990 saw the Cherokee Nation move dramatically closer to full self-determination with the re-establishment of the court system. The tribal court is a fully functional court, dealing with cases which occur on Indian Country. In addition, the 1990 resolution laid the foundation for the tribe's Marshal Service. The resolution also made cooperative law enforcement agreements possible. In 1991, the council authorized cross-deputization agreements between the Marshal Service and state and local authorities.

Taxation

The Cherokee Nation led the way in negotiations between the Five Civilized Tribes and the State of Oklahoma for a compact which allowed tribally-licensed smokeshops to operate free of interference from the state.



Self-governance

In 1990, the council authorized a self-governance agreement which allows the tribe to receive direct funding from Congress. The Cherokee Nation was one of five tribes in the country to enter into this demonstration project. Only those tribes which already had contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs were eligible to participate. The Indian Self-Determination Act Amendments of 1988 allowed Indian tribes to manage and administer services previously provided by the BIA. Chief Mankiller is currently leading the push for permanent self-governance legislation.

Land

A vital part of the tribe's control of its future is the direct control of its land. In 1984, the tribe owned 41,451 acres of land. Today, the tribe owns 61,336 acres.

Under Chief Mankiller's leadership, the struggle for compensation for the Arkansas Riverbed lands has continued as stridently as ever. In addition, the Arkansas Riverbed Authority was reactivated, with Mankiller as its chairman, and the Cherokee Nation took the lead in management of the riverbed property. Trespassors have been identified, leases negotiated and the federal government successfully sued to perform a long-overdue survey of lands in and along the tribe's claim. Currently, a legislative settlement is being sought to finally compensate the tribe for damages resulting from the unfair taking of tribal property.

Gaming

After much deliberation, the council voted to legalize high stakes bingo within the Cherokee Nation during 1989. This opened the door for the tribe's Bingo Outposts, major moneymaking enterprises for the tribe. The Outposts are located in Roland, Catoosa and West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma. Bingo Outpost Inc. has budgeted \$1.35 million to be appropriated by the council for fiscal year 1994. The facilities currently employ approximately 430 people.

Support Services

The accounting department has received nine consecutive Certificates of Achievement for Financial Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada since 1984. Since then, the accounts currently overseen by the department have grown from 105 to nearly 200.

Purchase Agreement

A purchase agreement was signed between tribal administrators and members of the Tahlequah Public Works Authority in 1993. A \$540,000 check was presented for the transfer of the ownership of the Cherokee Nation Electrical Distribution System.

Addition to complex

Employees moved into the new 149 office, 27,800-square-foot addition to the W.W.

SEE MANKILLER PAGE 9

Mankiller leads Cherokee Nation toward 21st Century

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Keeler Tribal Complex in 1993. The expansion was funded through issuing revenue bonds by the tribe, a first for an American Indian tribe.

Innovations

The past 10 years have revealed the Mankiller administration to be innovative while showing a strong concern for Cherokee traditions and culture.

The administrations' groundbreaking ideology is apparent in the tribe's involvement in self-governance projects with the BIA and IHS. Also, the Cherokee Nation was the first American Indian tribe to ever issue revenue bonds as a means of raising funds. The \$2.9 million-plus which resulted from the bond issuance was put toward the construction of an office addition for personnel at the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex.

An interest in culture is shown in the tribe's recently-begun Cherokee language program. Also, teen pregnancy prevention courses and AIDS education classes teach traditional values as well as common sense.

Serving Teenagers through Education on Pregnancy Prevention

The STEPP program was begun in 1988 to prevent pregnancy among teenagers. Studies at the time revealed that eight out of every 10 girls who drop out of school never return to receive any type of schooling and that the daughters of teenage girls tend to have children while in their teens. STEPP serves both male and female teenagers who are expecting a child or already parenting to insure they have the knowledge and skills required to be good parents.

AIDS Advisory Committee

In order to better prevent and educate people concerning the deadly AIDS virus as well as to provide treatment, the Cherokee Nation began an AIDS Advisory Committee in early 1994. The group is composed of tribal personnel from all administrative divisions in order to include all the resources of the tribe in this prevention/education effort.

IHS self-governance compact

The tribe entered into a self-governance compact with IHS in 1993 in order to assume further control over the health care services provided to its members. The compact allows the Cherokee Nation to receive funding directly from Congress for the budgets of programs already administered by the tribe as well as reducing paperwork.

Cherokee language program

As of the 1992-93 school year, the Cherokee Nation has offered Cherokee language classes at community schools in locations such as Fort Gibson, Stilwell and Kansas. The first grade-level course is a part of the tribe's effort to maintain the use of the Cherokee language, a vital part of Cherokee culture. The tribe also provides specialized instructors who teach the reading and writing of Cherokee. The Cherokee syllabary, invented by Sequoyah, is the only written language created independently by an American Indian tribe.

Planning and Development Program

Land owned by the Cherokees is sometimes thought of as the second most important tribal resource, following the Cherokee people themselves. The planning and development program was officially created in 1993 for demographic study of the Cherokee people and mapping of land owned by the tribe as well as private individuals. The program's new geographic information system is capable of automated mapping of tribal lands and facilities, part of a process of creating a massive database of the status and location of tribal land.

Employee Assistance Program

This program began in 1990 to provide wellness and counseling services to tribal employees.

Disabilities Services program

This program began in 1991 to provide supportive living services for former residents of the Hissom Memorial Center in Tulsa, a facility for disabled individuals forced to close under court order.

Self-help for Tribal Members

The success of the self-help waterline and home rehab projects in Bell in the early 1980s have led to an expansion of the self-help concept. Elements of self-help have been integrated into all tribal housing programs, the Serve America youth leadership program, the elderly program, waterline installation programs, community revitalization programs and the Employment Assistance Readiness Network micro-enterprise program. The Cherokee Nation is currently working with some 30 communities in various self-help community-controlled projects. Some of the communities assisted by self-help are Burnt Cabin, Cave Springs, Henderson, Bunch, Briggs and Spavinaw.

Cherokee Nation Industries, Inc.

CNI, the tribe's largest enterprise rode the crest of super defense spending in the 1980s but the new climate of the 90s called for rethinking the company's mission. Today, with new leadership and a concentrated effort toward diversification, CNI is weathering the defense cutbacks and continues to employ 315 people and provides approximately \$400,00 in dividends to the tribe each year.





The completion date of the new \$10.5 million Talking Leaves Job Corps facility has been tentatively scheduled for July, 1994, said Larry Ketcher, TLJC center director.

Construction has undergone many delays due to an excessive number of rainy days, Ketcher said.

"The substantial completion date is now July 10," Ketcher said. "There will be at least a three-week period following that

New Talking Leaves Job Corps facility to open soon

when representatives from the Department of Labor will do their final inspections and they may ask for some things to be reworked. I estimate mid to late July before it will be completed and we are given the okay to start moving."

Once the facility is finished, it will greatly expand the on-site capabilities of the TLJC students and staff. They are currently located in the Lodge of the Cherokees approximately four miles south of Tahlequah.

The construction site is located on 20-acres of land, approximately four miles south of Tahlequah, which was deeded to the Department of Labor by the Cherokee Nation, Ketcher said.

The Department of Labor, the Department of the Interior and the Cherokee Nation signed an agreement clearing the

way for the campus' construction in 1991.

Ketcher said Talking Leaves will be the first Job Corps facility to have been constructed specifically for the needs of Job Corps students and staff. All other programs are housed in pre-existing buildings.

According to Ketcher, the new campus will have eight buildings that will have a total of 113,000-square-feet which include two dormitories, a classroom and vocational training building, a dining hall, administrative and medical areas, recreational facilities, and a maintenance building.

A small security building will be constructed at a later date as part of the students vocational training, Ketcher said.

The additional space will allow stu-

dent health occupation vocational training to be taught at the center instead of at Indian Capital Vo-Tech in Muskogee where it is currently taught, Ketcher said. Current on-site vocational training courses focus on culinary arts, business/clerical skills, and building and department maintenance skills.

Other off-center courses are auto and diesel mechanics, auto body repair, electrical wiring skills, carpentry, welding and cosmetology, Ketcher said.

The extra space also will mean extra students. The center can add an additional 25 students for a total of 250 youth, almost all of which reside at the center.

Studies show that for every \$1 spent training a Job Corps student, that student will return \$1.46 to the nation's economy.

Tribe co-sponsors JOM Conference

The Cherokee Nation Johnson-O'Malley program recently co-sponsored the 10th Annual JOM Joint Tribal Conference, held March 14-17 in Tulsa. Other sponsors of the conference were the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole Tribes as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Oklahoma Area Education Office.

The purpose of the conference was to address issues facing Indian education in the areas of substance abuse, parent training and involvement, cultural activities, gangs and child protection. Workshops and a panel on higher education were also featured.

More than 700 individuals participated in the annual event with the majority of attendance representing the five civilized tribes.

Guest speakers included Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, Jim Baker, education program administrator

of the BIA, Phil Baird, president of the National Congress of the National Indian Education Association, Wallace Coffee, chairman of the Comanche Tribe, and motivational speakers Steve Saffron and Charmaine Shutive.

During the conference, special recognition awards were presented by the

BIA to JOM programs in their region for outstanding merit. The programs receiving recognition were Vian Public Schools, Oologah Public Schools, Eagle Pass, Texas, Ft. Towson, Okla., and Duncan Public Schools.

Not only did the conference benefit parents, educators and administrators but also the students.

A poster contest to select the artwork for the conference, held in advance, was won by Rebecca Jo Grass, a senior at Vian High School. Grass received a cash award.



TRADITIONAL MARBLE maker and player Hasting Shade gave a presentation on making marbles out of stone and a demonstration on the game to the Cherokee Nation Head Start teachers, March 18, at the Children's Village. This gave the Head Start teachers a better understanding of the game and can relate the experience to their students. Pictured is Hasting Shade, center, explaining the marble game to Head Start teachers as Lena HorseChief prepares to toss a marble.



PHIL BAIRD, right, president of the National Indian Education Association, met with Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, March 16, during a visit to the W. W. Keeler Tribal Complex. Pictured is also Diane Kelley, acting director of social services.

Plans underway for SHS Alumni reunion

Plans are underway for the Sequoyah High School Annual Alumni Reunion scheduled to be held Saturday, May 7 at the SHS campus located approximately four miles south of Tahlequah on Hwy. 62.

No reservations are necessary, however registration will begin at 6 p.m., with the banquet immediately following. All former students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

An alumni golf tournament also is

scheduled. Sign-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., May 7. The format will be a three-man scramble. The entry fee is \$10.

For more information about the golf tournament, contact J.C. (Butch) Wilson at (918) 456-1838 or write to him at Box 332, Tahlequah, OK 74465.

For more information about the banquet, contact Winnie Watson, president of the alumni association, at (417) 451-4430 or write to her at 1106 Bond, Neosho, MO. 64850.

SHS students compete in speech, debate finals

Sequoyah High School seniors Tammy Lowe and Carrie Haney became the first SHS students to compete in the Oklahoma State Speech and Debate Tournament held April 7-9 at Oklahoma State University.

Lowe and Haney competed with 16 other state finalists in events such as the Lincoln-Douglas debate, foreign extemporation, dramatic interpretation and domestic extemporation, said Margaret James, SHS speech and debate teacher.

Both students had won numerous awards at regional and local competitions prior to competing in the state finals. The entire SHS speech/debate team also performed admirably during the year, carrying seven events in the regional competition, James said.

Lowe, a Cherokee from Anderson, Mo., is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Lowe. Haney, a Cherokee-Seminole from Tahlequah, is the daughter of Lou Haney.

Student Corner



Trent Tatman, freshman at Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville, Kan. and the son of Tom and Melinda Tatman, is an honor roll student and is on the high school golf team.

He plays trumpet in the school music program, is on the marching band and the stage band, is in the American Indian Club, is on the yearbook staff, is a student council representative and is in the show choir.

Trent likes fishing, golfing, biking, hiking, swimming and also likes to go to powwows with his grandfather, Glenn Scott.

Jerry Shepherd, seventh grader at Catoosa Junior High and the son of Leanna Shepherd, has maintained a B-average this school year.

He played on the special kick team in football, wrestled at the 82 lb. level on the junior high wrestling team and also pole vaults on the track team.

Other activities Jerry participates in are hunting, fishing and bike riding.

James Louis Patrick, kindergartner at Catoosa Lower Elementary School, was chosen student of the month for January of his class.

He is able to read on the second grade level.

James won a first place trophy in summer T-ball. Along with T-ball, he likes to go fishing.

R. Amanda White, sophomore at Catoosa High School and the daughter of Raymond L. and Pattie V. White, has been maintaining a 2.5 grade point average this year while participating in all her sports activities.

Her fall soccer team was undefeated in both indoor and outdoor leagues. They took first in their league and first in two

tournaments, Jenks and Broken Arrow. She is the main defensive player.

During this past year, R. Amanda participated in softball, basketball, track, soccer and golf. This was her first year in softball and was a great hitter and played much junior varsity. In basketball she was a starter for the varsity team about one-half the year and was fourth in scoring and led in steals. So far in track she is doing the shot put and improving in every meet. She won a bronze and silver medal in the last meet in the 400 and 800 relays.

Kyle Steven Randell, kindergartner at Catoosa Lower Elementary School and the son of Larry V. and Diane F. Randell, was chosen Student of the Month for January in his class.

He received a trophy this past year for participating in T-ball.

Jonathan Shepherd, freshman at Catoosa High School and the son of Leanna Shepherd, has a 4.0 grade point average thus far this school year.

He is on the superintendent's honor roll and was nominated three months in a row for Student of the Month.

Jonathan participates in football, wrestling and track. In football he is the right guard and defensive end. He wrestles in 125 for high school and 125-135 in junior high. His record is 6-10, junior, 125--4-0; and junior, 135--5-1. In track he runs for the junior and senior high in the one and two mile and the 800, mile and two-mile relays.

Other activities Jonathan enjoys is hunting and fishing.

Rachel Hopkins, freshman at Catoosa High School and the daughter of Robin Anderson and Harold Hopkins, has been on the Principal's Honor Roll the last two semesters and is in science and english honors classes and also was chosen Student of the Month for February.

She won first, second and third place relay medals in the Catoosa track meet and also in the Pittsburgh, Kan. track meet. She has been in track and has won a

total of 35 medals and numerous ribbons since the fourth grade. She also participates in basketball.

Rachel enjoys art. She entered in Indian art displays last year. She also likes painting and crafts. She likes fishing and camping.

Ryan Duke Small Haight, freshman at Catoosa High School and the son of Byron and Tyra Haight, received honorable mention in the Oklahoma Heritage Association Essay Contest co-sponsored by The American Institute of Architects, Central Oklahoma Chapter.

He is on the Principal's Honor Roll and is enrolled in honor classes.

Ryan participates in basketball and soccer. Also he participates in street hockey.

Daniel Richard Godsey, kindergartner at Catoosa Lower Elementary School and the son of Howard and Kimberley Godsey, was chosen Student of the Month for December, 1993, in his class.

Ryan A. Focht, seventh grader at Catoosa Junior High School and the son of Kim and Adam Focht, is the Regional and State Wrestling Champion.

He participates in football, wrestling and track.

Ryan has a great love for all animals. He likes roping and working his cow dog. He also enjoys riding his 4-wheeler.

Robert D. Kesterson, senior at Catoosa High School and the son of Denzel and Nancy Kesterson, earned valedictorian honors at his school.

He is listed on the Who's Who Among American High School Students, and is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Robert participates in football, track and power-lifting. He was all-district and all-metro honorable mention in football.

Jennifer Lynn Torkelson, senior at Catoosa High School and the daughter of Robin and David Torkelson, is on the

Principal's Honor Roll and is listed on Who's Who Among American High School Students.

She is the treasurer of her senior class and treasurer of the Spanish Club. She also is a member of the AFS Club and a member of FCA.

Jennifer participates in basketball, softball, track and is the soccer manager.

Brittany Crawford, freshman at Adair School and the daughter of Ronnie and Sheri Crawford, won an award from the army and NASA on a science fair project. By winning the award, Brittany will get to visit NASA.

She has been on the honor roll for four years and was chosen Student of the Month during those four years. She is active in FHA.

Information sought on Indian students

The Cherokee Advocate is seeking help from school personnel and parents to recognize the many good things Native American students are doing. This information may be from the classroom, as well as extracurricular activities.

Pictures will be accepted and printed and will be returned only if there is a return address. Black and white are preferred, but we will accept a colored photograph.

Student information may be sent to the Cherokee Advocate office at P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465.

Like Father, Like Son

CHOOSE TRADITION NOT ADDICTION

Know the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse

A message from DWY and the National Institute on Drug Abuse

Subscribe to the Cherokee Advocate for news about Indian students

Health Announcement MEASLES (Rubeola) ALERT

The Cherokee Nation Health Services Division reports a surveillance is in effect for all rash-related illnesses in the tribe's service area.

Any person experiencing a cough, a runny nose, fever of 100 degrees or more and red eyes sensitive to light with or without a rash should be seen by a doctor as soon as possible.

Such a person should be isolated from contact with the public (including a doctor's waiting area) until they are seen by a physician.

1. Any person or family member experiencing a cough, respiratory infection (cold) and a fever of 100 degrees or more with or without a rash, should call the county health department or go to a clinic or hospital for further analysis. They should not report to work or school with a rash or the above symptoms during this period of a measles outbreak. They should tell the clinic they suspect measles before entering the building.

2. Any pregnant person who has not previously been vaccinated should contact a physician immediately and should not expose herself to extensive public contact during this measles outbreak because of the potential effects the disease can have on the unborn child.

3. All persons who have received the measles vaccine (MMR) in the past at 15 months of age or older should have received immunity to the disease, with two exceptions:

A. Anyone who was born after Jan. 1, 1957 and who received a measles vaccine before 1968 and has not yet been re-vaccinated should get re-vaccinated.

The vaccine used during these years was found to be ineffective. Most of those who were vaccinated as children during these years have been re-vaccinated through the school system in the late 1970s and early 1980s. People should review their personal immunization records and the immunization records of their family members to make sure they have been properly vaccinated. If they have not been vaccinated, they should be encouraged to do so immediately at any clinic or hospital.

B. It is now recommended that school-aged children have a measles vaccine booster shot.

4. If you come into contact with a person who has measles, contact your physician immediately. Children who have never had a measles shot will need one if exposed to measles.

Youth fitness camp scheduled for June

Cherokee youth need to know proper nutrition and physical fitness can be fun and exciting as well as healthy. This will be the message presented at the Cherokee Nation Youth Fitness Camp '94.

The camp, scheduled to be held June 4-10 at Camp Lutherhoma east of Tahlequah, combines elements of traditional Cherokee culture with modern games and exercises to help show that it is fun to live a healthy lifestyle.

According to Shawn Terry, tribal health education specialist and camp co-coordinator, one of the greatest honors in traditional Cherokee culture is to serve one's community.

The camp's philosophy is that this can be done best when at the peak of health.

Some of the new activities available at the camp this year will include the high elements of a ropes course, guest speakers making presentations concerning healthy careers, create-your-own-exercise dance courses, and, tentatively, martial arts classes, said Mary Peters, tribal health education program manager and 1994 camp director.

This will be added to activities such as stickball, bicycling, rappelling, volleyball, softball, swimming, walking, running, aerobics, and various other fun forms of exercise, said Bonnie Griffin, tribal community health graduate assistant.

In addition, there will be classes and seminars regarding drug and alcohol abuse prevention and seminars addressing the prevention of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases will be presented to the campers, Peters said. The camp policy endorses abstinence.

Presentations regarding proper nutrition and how it relates to diabetes, heart disease and cancer will be among the camp's activities.

In keeping with the emphasis on nutrition, there will be no junk food or sugary snacks allowed on the camp grounds, Terry said. A licensed dietician will plan nutritious meals as well as provide healthy snacks.

To be eligible, youth must have a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood card, must be enter-

ing the sixth or seventh grade next school year or between the ages of 11-14, must have a family history of heart disease, diabetes, hypertension or obesity, and must be able and willing to participate in physical activities.

According to Griffin, 32 campers can be accepted before the May 13 enrollment deadline.

Youth between the ages of 15-17 are welcome to apply as camp service staff, Peters said. Service staff candidates must be positive role models with healthy lifestyles.

Applications can be obtained at the Cherokee Nation Community Health Office.

For more information, contact Peters, 456-0671, Ext. 474; Terry, Ext. 470; or Griffin, Ext. 440 or toll free at 1-800-256-0671.

Tribe's case manager assists American Indians with HIV

The deadly threat of AIDS is a universal, constantly expanding problem which affects all ages and ethnic groups.

According to statistics gathered by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, 6 percent of all people who tested HIV positive from July 1988 to December 1993 were American Indian.

In order to assist American Indians who have been diagnosed as having HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, the Cherokee Nation has recently established the position of HIV case manager.

The person to fill this position is Phyllis Jewett, L.P.N., HIV counselor and AIDS educator.

According to Jewett, a Tahlequah resident, she provides a holistic selection of services for clients by putting them in contact with tribal and non-tribal agencies.

Jewett assists with expediting medical services, providing transportation, acquiring food supplements, and putting HIV positive individuals and their families in contact with mental and spiritual support groups.

Also, the families of AIDS victims which no longer have a source of income can be placed in contact with financial assistance sources, Jewett said. All information given to the case manager is confidential and the



PHYLLIS JEWETT

clients' privacy will be maintained.

Jewett has received specialized American Red Cross training focusing on the needs of American Indians in the areas of HIV counseling/AIDS education. The American Indian component of the training was created in part by Ellen Wolfe, a Cherokee Nation public health nurse and HIV case manager stationed at Claremore Indian Hospital.

The case management program can accept 10-15 additional clients, Jewett said.

Applicants do not have to be Cherokee but they must have a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood card or similar tribal identification and reside in the Cherokee Nation's 14-county service area.

For more information, contact Jewett at 458-3238.

Tribe signs agreement to establish dialysis center in Pryor

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller recently signed a statement of intent with Community Dialysis Centers to establish an outpatient dialysis center in Pryor designed to meet the needs of Cherokee patients.

According to Dixie Stuart, director of nursing at the Cherokee Nation, the center is scheduled to begin providing services

in the fall of 1994.

Although the facility will initially be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, office hours will be expanded as the number of clients grows, Stuart said.

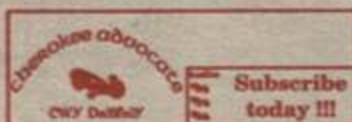
The Pryor dialysis center will be available for Cherokee patients who have been diagnosed as needing end stage renal dialysis and have been processed by the contract health offices at W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah or the Claremore Indian Hospital, Stuart said.

"This fills a major service gap in the Mayes County area. Patients in the tribe's 14-county service area who need dialysis will have another option instead of having to go to Tulsa or other urban areas to receive treatment," Stuart said. "Community Dialysis Centers, the second-leading provider of out-patient dialysis in the country, is funding the

facility themselves and we are providing staff who are culturally sensitive to the needs of Cherokee patients."

According to Pamela E. Iron, executive director of tribal health services, the dialysis center will provide employment opportunities for American Indians in the Pryor area since Community Dialysis Centers has agreed to use American Indian preference when hiring. There will be approximately 10 staff at the Pryor facility once it is open six days a week.

Cherokee Nation employees who will provide services at the facility include public health nurses, community health representatives, medical staff and social workers, Stuart said. Stuart said the dialysis center will be in close proximity to Grand Valley Hospital in Pryor, which will act as a resource in case of medical complications.



Subscribe
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about the
Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation opens new WIC clinics

As part of its ongoing expansion, the Cherokee Nation Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) has recently opened new clinics in Pryor and Catoosa.

In Catoosa, the clinic is located in the Stand Watie Housing Addition Community Building. Services are available on the first Tuesday of each month.

In Pryor, the WIC clinic is on 8 South Elliot. Services are provided on the first Monday of each month.

For more information regarding either of the clinics, contact the Claremore Indian Hospital at 342-6370.

Cherokee Nation WIC provides nutrition education and vouchers for supplemental foods to pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to five years of age.

Eligibility for the program requires that an individual meet the income guidelines and be determined to be at nutritional risk.

Cherokee Nation operates WIC clinics at the following locations: Claremore Indian Hospital, 342-6370; W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah,

458-3180; Redbird Smith Community Health Center in Sallisaw, 775-7822; Tulsa WIC Clinic, 583-0196 or 583-0197; Nowata Primary Care Clinic, 273-0192; Muskogee WIC Clinic, 682-1398; Oaks WIC Clinic, 868-2010; and Stilwell Clinic, 696-6911.

For information concerning the WIC clinics in Bell and Westville, call the Stilwell Clinic. For information concerning Warner, call the Muskogee WIC Clinic. Women, infants and children who are homeless or residing in temporary shelters, and handicapped women, infants and children who need additional assistance with filling out applications for WIC services should contact the Cherokee Nation WIC office at 456-0671 or 1-800-256-0671, Ext. 275.

Standards for participation in this program are the same for everyone regardless of age, race, sex, color, national origin or handicaps.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S. Department of Agriculture-related activity should write to Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Va. 2203.



THE CHEROKEE NATION Disabilities Services Program held a public hearing March 28 at the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex. Approximately 25 people attended to learn more about services available for people with disabilities. The speakers were Jorja Calico, director of the disabilities services program; Steve Novik, executive director of the Oklahoma Disability Law Center; and Genell Stopp, a counselor with Ability Resources Inc. Pictured is Calico, right, speaking with Novik.

Disabilities services in top 10 percent of state audit

The Cherokee Nation Disabilities Services Program ranked in the top 10 percent of all state disabilities service agencies in a comprehensive audit conducted March 8-10 by the Oklahoma Accreditation Council on Services for People with Developmental Disabilities.

"A 70 or 80 percent score from this audit is respectable but

our score of 92 percent places us in the top 10 percent of all the disabilities service agencies in the state," said Jorja Calico, tribal disabilities services director.

According to Calico, there are more than 60 disabilities service agencies in Oklahoma, all of which must be audited by the Oklahoma Accreditation Council on Services for People with

Developmental Disabilities.

The tribe's disabilities services program provides vocational rehabilitation assistance to American Indian persons with disabilities throughout the Cherokee Nation's 14-county service area, Calico said. Supported living and supported employment services also are available for individuals in selected counties.

New system replaces Hastings waiting list

People who wish to obtain regular medical care at W.W. Hastings Hospital no longer have to add their name to a waiting list of more than 900 people.

A new system has been started at Hastings which will replace the old waiting list, said Anna Randall, D.O., Cherokee Nation medical director.

Randall is working with Gayle Harris, M.D., Hastings clinical director, to provide people who were on the waiting list with a viable alternative to a prolonged waiting time to see a doctor at Hastings.

During January, Randall and Harris sent surveys to the 908 individuals on the list asking questions pertaining to their medical history and background in order to determine if their medical needs could be met at one of the tribe's five out-patient clinics.

According to Randall, this would cut down on time spent waiting to get an appointment at Hastings and, in many cases, give people more convenient medical services closer to their homes.

There have been more than 200 responses received so far, Randall said. She and Harris have sent letters suggesting a place of medical treatment based on the individual survey responses.

Randall said individuals should not feel they have to receive medical care at a clinic and are free to continue to receive services at Hastings if they desire.

Health Matters

by

Dr. Anna Randall, Cherokee Nation Medical Director

Tuberculosis has been a problem for the American Indian population for at least the past 150 years. Until recently, the numbers were on the decline. We are now seeing a gradual increase in the number of new cases. In addition, the newer cases often are resistant to the drugs used in treatment.

Populations such as American Indians, African Americans and Hispanics and diabetics are at an increased risk to contract TB, also known as consumption.

It is a disease affecting primarily the lungs. Once the infection starts the bacteria can spread throughout the body via the blood stream. Often organs such as the bladder, kidneys and stomach may be affected.

TB is caused by a bacteria (germ) known as Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The bacteria are spread through the air from person to person by coughing, sneezing, speaking or singing. Close personal contact and poor ventilation also aid in transmission. As the disease progresses, the person may experience weight loss. Sometimes the disease is dormant, waiting for years to become active in later adulthood.

Symptoms include fatigue, muscle aches, loss of appetite, weight loss and fever. The fever is accompanied by night sweats and coughing. As the disease advances, coughing becomes noticeable with production of large amounts of phlegm or sputum. The patient may cough up blood.

TB is treated with at least two drugs in combination. Some of these drugs can cause liver damage but they are the only drugs that will kill the bacteria. These drugs must be taken for at least six months.

People should be tested for this potentially fatal disease once a year. A skin test can detect TB and medication can then be administered which will cure the disease.

American Indians with Certificate Degree of Indian Blood cards who are members of federally recognized tribes can be tested for TB at any tribal or Indian Health Service health care facility. Non-tribal members should contact their county health department for testing information.

Tribe hires new associate director of behavioral health

Rhonda Cochran has recently been hired as the Cherokee Nation's new associate director of the behavioral health services department.

A tribal member of the Cherokee Nation, Cochran said she has worked with American Indian health care programs for several years and has been involved in social services since 1978.

She began work with the Cherokee Nation in May, 1993 as a behavioral health clinician at Claremore Indian Hospital.

Previous positions include behavioral health clinician and manager of social services with the Creek Nation, director of substance abuse services at the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa, and alcohol and substance abuse counselor with the Tulsa Indian Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

In addition, Cochran has a



RHONDA COCHRAN

master's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma and is a licensed clinical social worker, a national certified alcohol and drug counselor and a nationally certified drug and alcohol counselor supervisor.

She currently resides with her husband and two sons in Tulsa.

Bell clean up project completed

Ceremonies to mark the completion of the Bell community clean-up project were held March 18 in Bell. The project began in October, 1993.

There was approximately 314,000 pounds of trash and white goods, such as old refrigerators and washers, disposed of during the project, said Fan Robinson, project coordinator and environmental health technician at the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Health.

An additional 27,000 pounds of white goods was picked up at roadside dumps and various locations by community volunteers. The Bell Youth Group also assisted in clean up.

There were 53 home dumping sites buried and an additional 11 dumping sites were cleaned up, Robinson said. About 40 percent of the families whose dumping sites were buried are now using rural trash services or the Cherokee Nation Landfill.

The project was sponsored through an Indian Health Service community clean up grant which was administered by the Cherokee Nation.

Long-term care coordinator to plan elderly health center



DEBORAH HUGGINS

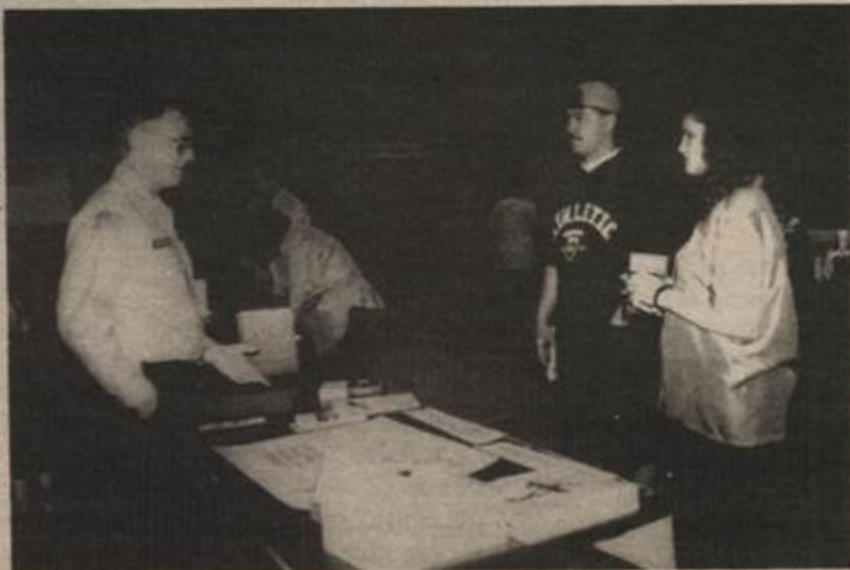
Deborah Huggins, a tribal member and Wagoner resident, was recently hired as the Cherokee Nation's long-term care coordinator for the tribe's elderly day health centers which are anticipated to be operational in the Sequoyah County area by September.

Huggins said she will use her 10 years of experience in working with the elderly to create the support network and organizational structure necessary for the day health centers to provide the optimum care possible.

Her credentials include a master of social work degree from the University of Oklahoma and years spent with the elderly in social work capacities. Huggins said she was employed at a private hospice in Oklahoma City prior to coming to work at the tribe.

Two elderly day health centers will act as alternatives to the institutionalization of the frail elderly. The centers will have the capacity to serve approximately 60 elders.

MORE THAN 200 visitors and job seekers attended the 1994 Adair County Job Fair, March 22, at the Stilwell High School gymnasium. Various businesses and organizations were on display along with training and vocational schools. Pictured are, left, Ron Vause, president of the American Security Training Institute (ASTI), in Tulsa, as he explains how to apply for ASTI to Shawn and Helen Sanders, both from Stilwell.



Cherokee Nation is first tribe to reduce radon levels

Due to the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Services' (OES) early involvement in radon detection and education, the Cherokee Nation has become the first tribe in Oklahoma to begin reducing high levels of radon, a cancer-causing gas, detected on tribal land, said Shaun West, tribal environmental scientist.

According to West, the Cherokee Nation was the first tribe in the state to adopt a radon testing program when OES received a radon education/testing grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency approximately three years ago.

As part of a week-long training seminar, members of OES as well as employees from tribal construction and housing programs, were given a first-hand look at how to reduce radon levels, a procedure known as mitigation.

The mitigation process can involve the installation of ventilation fans and pipes, polymer plastic above the ceiling and other modifications to raise the indoor air pressure to keep radon out, said Kenneth Wiggers, Ph.D., president of American Radon Services, Limited.

Wiggers also conducted the mitigation, which took place at two of the Cherokee Nation Head Start buildings in the Children's Circle in Tahlequah.

The buildings were among those screened for radon by the Office of Environmental Services, which only recently completed comprehensive, long-term tests to indicate a higher-than-average concentration of radon gas, a clear, odorless naturally occurring carcinogen, in the structures. While this posed no immediate threat to the students or teachers in the building, long-term exposure could be harmful, West said.

Wiggers estimates that only 3 percent of people and businesses nationwide have had their buildings tested for radon. He described the Cherokee Nation as a leading organization in the area of radon testing and awareness in Oklahoma.

Tribe opposes proposed IHS budget cuts

The Cherokee Nation is one of many American Indian tribes across the nation pushing for changes in the Indian Health Service (IHS) portion of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services budget recently submitted to Congress by the Clinton administration.

If the IHS budget for fiscal year 1995 passes in its current form, it will mean a 12.7 percent decrease in IHS funding, said Pamela Iron, executive

director of the Cherokee Nation Health Services Division.

The cut would take \$800,000 from the \$11.8 million which the Cherokee Nation receives to provide direct medical and health services for tribal members.

According to Iron, the actual loss would be far greater since the proposed budget overestimates the

funds service providers receive through private insurance and other third-party payers.

"I think it is ironic that President Clinton is pushing for universal health care coverage for all citizens and his executive order to reduce the federal budget would affect health services for Indian people," Iron said. "We are working hard to let him know his executive order has backfired."

In order to make Congress aware of the proposed budget's insufficiencies, Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller has submitted testimony to the House of Representatives Appropriations Sub-Committee on Internal Affairs. She and tribal administrators continue to meet with congressional representatives to make American Indian needs known.

According to Iron, House and Senate leaders will hear testimony from several tribal representatives and concerned individuals before reaching a final decision regarding the funding amounts listed in the proposed budget. Their decision will be made in June or July of this year.

Iron asks that concerned citizens contact their congressmen and the president to let their feelings be known.

Individuals can write to Bill Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500 or call (202) 456-1414; or write to The U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20510 or call (202) 224-3121.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS training courses for tribal employees were held March 7-11 at the Children's Village Child Development Center and the Bull Hollow Community Building. The First Responder and First Responder Plus courses stressed the best ways to respond to emergency situations involving hazardous materials. Pictured from left is Thomas Stopp, tribal warehouse purchasing employee, and class instructors William Stanley and Larry Garcia examining course material.

Ketcher featured in local paper's 'Most Intriguing People' section

Cherokee Nation Deputy Principal Chief John A. Ketcher was recently featured in the Tahlequah Daily Press' special section "Tahlequah's Most Intriguing People."

If there's a twinkle in John Ketcher's eye, it might be because he likes you. Maybe a grandchild is in the vicinity, or maybe he's just exchanging stories with an elderly member of his tribe. Or it could be that he's on his way to the golf course.

He's the unassuming type but, when need be, he can assume his leadership role. And he's particularly successful as an ambassador for the Cherokee Nation.

He'll always listen to other people's ideas -- even on the green.

Weaving his way to deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation, John Ketcher has not only served in the U.S. Navy, but has taught many people a valuable skill.

Ketcher joined the Navy in January of 1943, while attending Sequoyah High School, because he wanted to choose which branch of the service to enter rather than being drafted.

Upon entering the Navy, Ketcher was sent to San Diego, Calif., for basic training, then boarded a troop train to Bremerton, Wash., where he was assigned to a peculiar ship at the Bremerton Naval Base.

"I was assigned to a ship which previously had its nose blown off in battle," said Ketcher. "The navy just ran it into dry dock and attached a new nosepiece. I was then shipped off to Hawaii for target training around the island."

Ketcher was part of a task force that raided Wake Island, which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. After the raid, Ketcher's ship returned to and operated out of Pearl Harbor.

From there, Ketcher's ship participated in other raids on various Japanese occupied islands, with the enemy now demonstrating a dangerous form of warfare against the U.S. ships.

"The Japanese introduced their Kamikaze planes," said Ketcher. "During the daytime, our ships never really sustained

A man of many talents and colorful experiences, Cherokee Nation Deputy Principal Chief John A. Ketcher hopes to get back into a favorite hobby of weaving when he retires if he retires, that is.

much damage from the Kamikaze attacks and they weren't to successful at night because the pilots couldn't see."

While making their way to Japan, Ketcher's ship was involved in many battles and, after the U.S. reclaimed the Philippines near the war's end, Japan made one last-ditch effort to try to gain strategic position on American's naval fleet.

"We chased and sank three of their destroyers and one of the aircraft carriers," said Ketcher. "After the U.S. dropped the atom bomb, our ship was ordered to the Yellow Sea, where our captain accepted the Japanese surrender."

After the war, Ketcher's ship was used to bring U.S. troops back to San Francisco.

Ketcher served in the Navy for three years and was born in Southeast Mayes County. He attended Sequoyah High School, which was then called Sequoyah Indian Training School, where students would stay in the campus dormitories for nine months and then return to their homes during the summer.

When Ketcher got out of the Navy, he worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs until he retired in 1979. He then purchased a travel trailer and with his wife Mildred, logged some miles on various U.S. highways, enjoying the sights along the way.

Ketcher has been associated with the Cherokee in an official capacity since 1983. The previous year, he and his wife had discussed the possibility of his becoming involved in tribal politics.

Then the Ketchers learned that



JOHN A. KETCHER
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CHIEF

Mildred had cancer. Though he considered dropping out the race for a tribal council slot, Mildred urged him to pursue it.

Mildred was unable to share in his proud moment of victory, because she died just before the election.

"I thought again about getting out, but I didn't. I knew she wanted me to stick with it," he recalled.

The next year was a tough one for Ketcher,

although he kept his chin up and immersed himself in tribal operations. His three sons, John Jr., Gary and Rick, helped pull him through the trying times.

In the fall of '84, Ketcher married Colleen. He describes the past 9 1/2 years as very happy ones.

About a year later, Ketcher unexpectedly moved up the ladder of tribal politics. In December of 1985, then Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Ross Swimmer, was

sent to Washington to serve as undersecretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Deputy Chief Wilma Mankiller was made principal chief. After a balloting session hours long, his fellow council members named Ketcher the new deputy chief.

Ketcher has successfully been re-elected to two terms. Another tribal election is set for next year.

Ketcher admits he is pondering retirement, and not for the first time. He considered it in 1991, but friends and family members urged him to run again. Colleen, like Mildred before her, supports him completely--and she believes he's doing something worthwhile for their tribe!

With the election still a year away, Ketcher says he's "not positively sure" when his retirement will take place.

"I've been thinking about it," he said. "If I did, I would remain in Tahlequah, but I would spend more time visiting my children, who are scattered all over."

If Ketcher found himself with free time on his hands, he would like to renew an old hobby.

"When I worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I taught weaving to community groups so they could raise money by selling what they weaved," said Ketcher. "I still do weaving as a hobby and, when the day comes that I retire, I am going to put my loom back into commission."

Tribe co-hosts franchising workshops

The Cherokee Nation in conjunction with the Oklahoma Indian Business Development Center through a contract with the Minority Business Development Agency and Women in Franchising, Inc. recently hosted a series of workshops entitled "Franchising Opportunities" March 21-23 at Tulsa, Grove and Tahlequah.

According to Freda Robison, assistant director of the Cherokee Nation's Economic Development Department, the information presented at the workshops included franchising opportunities, financing and an understanding of the risks, rewards and requirements involved in becoming a franchisee.

The workshops were held in an effort to begin dialogue with the Cherokee Nation and individual entrepreneurs and franchise companies regarding the development of business opportunities available within the Cherokee Nation, Robison said.

Professional staff from the Women in Franchising, Inc were on hand as were various franchise owners to discuss the risks involved in franchising, said Robison. More than 200 individuals attended the seminars.



THE CHEROKEE Nation in conjunction with the Oklahoma Indian Business Development Center through a contract with the Minority Business Development Agency and Women in Franchising, Inc. of Chicago, sponsored a series of workshops in March to offer information regarding franchising opportunities within the Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area. Panel discussions were held in Tulsa, Grove and Tahlequah. Pictured left is Susan Kezios, Women in Franchising, Inc.; Sylvia Raye, Norrell Temporary Services of Atlanta; and Bob Appell, Screen Printing USA, Plymouth, Penn.



MEMBERS OF the Cherokee Nation firefighter team were transported to Ft. Smith, Ark. and then to the Ozark and Quachita forests to battle out of control fires, March 17. The firefighters are always ready and quick to respond when their services are needed to battle a blaze anywhere in the United States. Firefighters Dennis Gourd, foreground, and Simeon Gibson, background, both of Tahlequah, pack their gear preparing for transport.

Chief Mankiller receives 1994 Humanitarian Award

Three individuals, including Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, recently received 1994 Humanitarian Awards from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Joining Mankiller in receiving the awards, presented during a dinner March 31 at the First National Center in Oklahoma City, were Molly Shi Boren and Ann Simmons Alspaugh.

"I cannot think of three more deserving examples of humanitarianism," said Robert Henry, president of the Oklahoma City regional board.

"Chief Mankiller is internationally recognized for her efforts on behalf of indigenous peoples and her advocacy for all minorities.

"Molly Boren has donated countless hours to all sorts of causes, from the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, to education programs for Oklahoma's youth, to the Oklahoma Arts Institute, as well as other countless charities.

"Ann Simmons Alspaugh has been a generous benefactor to Oklahoma, contributing her time and energy to a variety of worthy causes.

"These outstanding women from our state serve as the finest role models we can offer," Henry said.

Mankiller, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation since 1985, is widely recognized as a civil rights activist and an author.

She grew up in rural Oklahoma and metropolitan California and, as an Indian activist in the 1960s and 1970s, she gained skills in community organization, program development, health care and other areas. Her autobiography, *Mankiller: A chief and her people*, was published in 1993.

Boren is a matron of the arts, conservationist and former judge. She is a 1974 graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Law. After establishing a private practice in Ada, she was appointed special district judge for Pontotoc County, becoming one of the youngest women judges in Oklahoma history.

She served on the bench until 1977, when she married then-Gov. David Boren. Since his election to the U.S. Senate, she has divided her time between Washington, D.C., and Seminole. Active in both civic and business affairs, she serves on numerous boards addressing the interests of causes such as the arts, education and the environment.

Alspaugh was born in Duncan and is a graduate of Oklahoma City University. She is a member of the board of directors of several family-owned entities.

She is noted for her extensive involvement with numerous humanitarian, artistic and educational causes. She recently was named a member of the International Founders Council of the Museum of the American Indians, Smithsonian Institution.



STUDENTS FROM Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., gave up their spring break to volunteer for community service at the Cherokee Nation Head Start. Each year the students at Washington University spend their spring break to volunteer their time to various Indian tribes in the United States. The program is coordinated by the University campus YMCA organization directed by Helen Davis. The students worked at the Lost City Head Start Center near Hulbert, providing their services wherever needed. Pictured working are left, Rachel Wing, North Ridgeville, Ohio, freshman; Joel Emery, Houston, Texas, freshman; Alex White, Jackson, Miss., sophomore; Jodi Seewald, Cleveland, Ohio, freshman; Michael Krajcer, Chicago, Ill., freshman; and Nathan Elliott, Memphis, Tenn., freshman.

Tribal executive director recovering from stroke

Jim Danielson, executive director for Cherokee Nation Social Programs, is recuperating after recently suffering a stroke and has been moved to a rehabilitation center in Rapid City, South Dakota to continue his recovery.

Danielson, 63, was moved March 28 to Rapid City, a site chosen because of the proximity to his son, Jim Jr., a physician there, according to Danielson's wife, Jane. Mrs. Danielson said her husband has improved and the family is very optimistic about his progress.

The Danielsons are residents of Tahlequah. S. Diane Kelley, deputy executive director for social programs, will continue in that capacity in the interim and be responsible for operation of the division.

Danielson has been executive director of social programs since 1986. His responsibilities at the Cherokee Nation have included departments of tribal services, community development, health, children's services, education, tribal employment rights, construction and Sequoyah High School and Talking Leaves Job Corps.

"Few people can equal Jim Danielson's vast experience in Indian programs," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller. "His experience and advice have been invaluable to me and he will be greatly missed during his absence. Our prayers and support are with Jim and his family during his recovery."



JIM DANIELSON

After a brief retirement from the Indian Health Service in 1986, Danielson was recruited later that year by Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller to oversee the tribe's social programs.

He has been responsible for the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of the tribe's largest division -- delivery of social services to the Cherokee people.

As an executive director he has been responsible for helping determine the overall direction and future goals of the Cherokee Nation.

A veteran of both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the IHS, Danielson spent his entire career helping Indian people. After a stint in the U.S. Navy, he was a teacher and later community services officer for the BIA. In 1967 he became the area tribal affairs officer with the Portland Area IHS office.

As executive officer of the IHS in its central office in Rockville, Maryland, he was responsible for formulation and implementation of IHS resources and administrative policies and procedures. Two years later he was selected associate director for IHS administration, a position he had until 1982 when named administrator of the IHS area office in Billings, Montana.

Persons wishing to send cards or acknowledgements may forward them to the following address: 4131 Park Ridge Place, Rapid City, S.D. 57702.

Proposed nuclear waste dump brings much opposition

A controversial proposal by the Tonkawa Tribe to turn tribal land into a federal nuclear waste dump has brought much opposition from not only Tonkawa tribal members, but also other tribes who may be affected by the site.

Tribal leaders have touted the plan to site the U.S. Energy Department's proposed Monitored Retrievable Storage facility as a way out of poverty.

Representatives of other tribes including the Cherokee Nation, Ponca and Kaw Tribes have expressed stern opposition to the proposal.

The plan would turn a Tonkawa-owned piece of land located near the former Chilocco Indian School into a holding station for spent nuclear fuel rods collected from around the nation. The fuel would be held in high-density concrete vaults for 40 years before being transferred to a not-yet built permanent site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

Four other tribes are

opposed to the \$500 million facility, scheduled to be operational by 1998, including the Fort McDermott Indian Reservation along the Nevada Oregon border, the Skull Valley Indian Reservation in Utah, and the Mescalero Apache Reservation in Ruidoso, N.M.

It is anticipated the facility would bring with it 520 jobs and an annual payroll of \$25 million.

Tonkawa tribal leaders, who say their tribe suffers from 28 percent unemployment, claims they are in the lead in winning the site due to location, rail access to the site, and an available work force that the other sites do not have.

However not all Tonkawas agree with their tribal administration's plans. It is estimated that more than half of the eligible voters have signed petitions opposing the tribe's interest in the nuclear project which may include a research facility which would use spent nuclear fuel to make other products, members say.

The Poncas and the Kaws have each passed resolutions declaring all land in the pro-

posed site to be nuclear-free zones.

According to Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, the Cherokees are adamantly opposed to the proposal. The Pawnee and Otoe-Missouria Tribes, who also own land in the area, have not taken any measures to date.

Drinking and Powwows Don't Mix



CHOOSE TRADITION NOT ADDICTION

Know the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse

A message from UNITY and the National Institute on Drug Abuse

Mankiller, Wallis receive Best Book Award from Oklahoma Historical Society

"Mankiller: A Chief and Her People" by Wilma P. Mankiller and Michael Wallis recently received the Best Book of 1993, an Oklahoma History Award from the Oklahoma Historical Society, according to Mary Ann Blochowiak, publications director.

The award was presented during the Oklahoma Historical Society Annual Meetings April 15 at Fountainhead Resort Hotel near Checotah.

To produce the "Mankiller" book, Wallis worked carefully with Wilma Mankiller, principal chief of the Cherokee

Nation. It's an autobiography of Mankiller interwoven with the incredible struggles of the Cherokee people, and it's crafted by Wallis in another of what he calls "social history."

The book, published by St. Martin's Press of New York, reached its third printing with more than 100,000 copies sold. It was acclaimed by critics in cities such as New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

In the book, Mankiller reflects the character of the Cherokees in rebounding from one setback after another, said Wallis, and she embodies the woman of the 1990s. She combines traditional motherhood, patience and self-sacrifice with outstanding leadership in politics and civil rights to seek balance for herself and her people.

Producing this book was "a great collaboration," said Wallis.

"We have known each other for more than 11 years," he said. "And we agreed from the beginning on how this book should be written. It needed to be a history of the Cherokee people and their rich heritage as well as the story of Wilma Mankiller."

Five other awards were presented at the meeting. They were

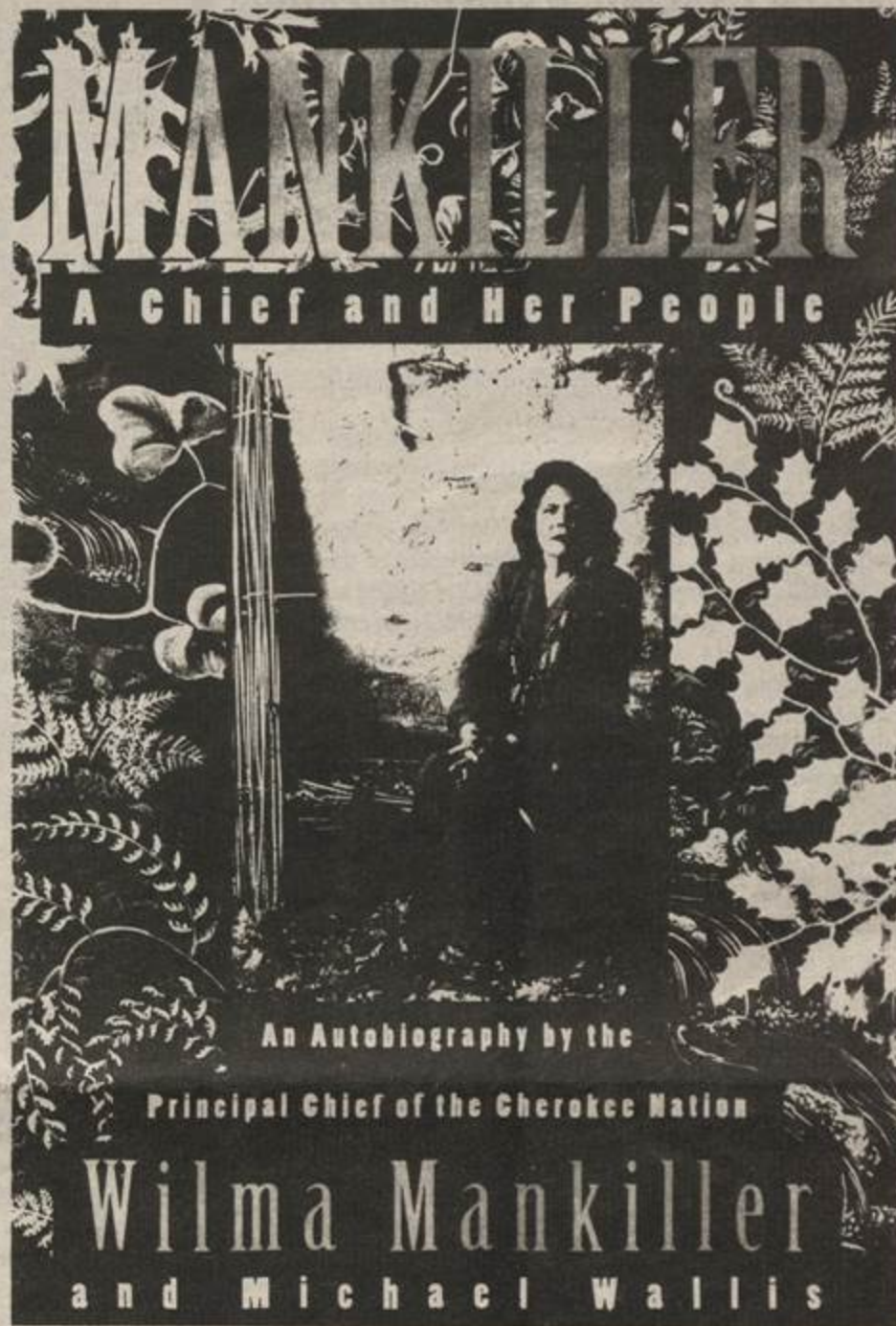
- * The Muriel H. Wright Award to Dr. Mary Jane Warde of Stillwater for the best article of 1993 in "The Chronicles of Oklahoma." Her article was entitled: "Now the Wolf Has Come: the Civilian Civil War in Indian Territory";

- * The Joseph B. Thoburn Award to Muskogee High School sophomore Becky Odom for outstanding achievement in history;

- * Outstanding Local Historical Society or Museum to the Carter County Historical Society;

- * Best 1993 Oklahoma Historical Society Support Group to the Oklahoma Genealogical Society; and

- * Best 1993 Thesis or Dissertation on Oklahoma History to Clyde Ellis, who wrote his Ph.D. dissertation for Oklahoma State University and is an



assistant professor of history at East Central State University in Ada. It was entitled: "To Change Them Forever: Schooling on the Kiowa Comanche Reservation, 1869-1920."

In addition to the awards ceremony, four individuals were inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. They were Robert E. Bell and posthumous honors to William P. Campbell, E.E. Dale and Angie Debo.

The Historical Society is a state-supported agency with more than 7,000 members.

Ford Foundation names chief to board of directors

Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller has been named as a trustee for the Ford Foundation. The announcement was recently made by Henry B. Schact, chairman of the board.

According to a spokesperson for the Ford Foundation, Chief Mankiller's appointment is an extension of the foundation's commitment to Native Americans. Members of the board of trustees, who hail from a variety of fields, determine policy and make fiscal decisions.

The Ford Foundation was established in 1936 by Henry and Edsel Ford and is headquartered in New York City. The foundation is a private, non-profit institution and committed to preserving peace and advancing human welfare.

A national and international philanthropic organization with an endowment of more than \$6 billion, the foundation has granted more than \$7 billion to some 9,000 institutions and 100,000 individuals worldwide. The foundation also has supported numerous American Indian projects.

More than \$2 million was awarded to the National Museum of the American Indian of the Smithsonian Institution and the First Nations Development Institute. Together, the two grants represent more than 20 percent of all foundation funding for American Indian interests this year.

"These grants focus on two important issues: deepening public understanding of the cultures of Native American people and promoting Indian economic self-sufficiency, according to Alison Bernstein, director of the Ford Foundation's education and culture program.

To increase the resources available for economic development on reservations, First Nations will use a \$1 million Ford Foundation grant to launch the Funders Collaborative for American Indian Development.

The collaborative plans to bring together some 20 foundations to raise \$12 million for development grants to tribal government, tribal colleges and other reservation-based organizations.

Registration field schedule for May

Monday, May 2, Jay, Indian/Community Clinic, 1015 Washbourne St., 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 253-4271.

Wednesday, May 4, Warner, Houston Johnson Heights, N.E. 6th St., 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 463-3694.

Thursday, May 5, Tulsa, Indian Health Resource Center, 915 South Cincinnati, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 582-7225.

Friday, May 6, Stilwell, Sub-Office, corner of 3rd & Oak, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 696-3124.

Monday, May 9, Pryor, Sub-Office, 8 South Elliott, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 825-2116.

Wednesday, May 11, Bartlesville, Keeler Heights, 1003 South-west Virginia, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 336-7830 or 336-0971.

Friday, May 13, Sallisaw, Sub-Office, 1621 West Ruth (South Hwy. 59), 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 775-6226.

Monday, May 16, Miami, Sub-Office, Ottawa County Courthouse Building, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 542-6863.

Wednesday, May 18, Vinita, Tom Buffington Heights, 900 W. McNelis Ave., Apt. #31-B, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 256-8595.

Friday, May 20, Salina, Indian Clinic, South of Salina on Hwy. 82, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 434-5397.

Monday, May 23, Westville, Bushyhead Heights, South-150 Goingsnake, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 723-3744.

Wednesday, May 25, Claremore, Indian Health Service Hospital, Will Rogers Boulevard., 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 341-8430.

Friday, May 27, Muldrow, City Hall, 100 South Main, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 427-3226.

Kingfisher reunion set for May 27-28

The 5th Annual Kingfisher Reunion will be held May 27-28, two miles north of Moody Store, three miles west on highway 82-C and quarter mile south. Look for signs.

Gospel singing will be held each night beginning at 7 p.m. All singers, friends and neighbors welcome. Bring your own lawn chair. Saturday's activities include volleyball, basketball and childrens activities. A hog fry will begin at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Jack Kingfisher at (918) 456-9688.

Office of Real Estate Services assists trust land owners

Many tribal members are not aware of the essential services provided by the Cherokee Nation Office of Real Estate Services.

The office administers and provides services related to the management of restricted land owned by individuals, trust property and additional tribal property.

These services include functions associated with leasing, permitting right-of-ways, acquisitions and disposals, trespasses, removal of restrictions, and probate inventories as well as providing general information regarding restricted and trust properties, said Annette Jenkins, real estate services director.

According to Jenkins, real estate services dealt with an average of 178 inquiries a month pertaining to restricted, trust or allotted properties during 1993.

The tribe gained the ability to provide these services through a self-governance compact with the Department of the Interior, Jenkins said. The compact gives the Cherokee Nation administrative jurisdiction over trust, restricted and tribal properties located within the tribe's 14 county service area.

In addition, office personnel manage approximately 65,000 acres of land owned by the Cherokee Nation, said Carol Crawford, realty specialist.

According to Crawford, 60,775 acres of the land is in the tribe's 14-county jurisdictional area. Another 4,230 acres is in Kay County in the Chilocco area.

The tribe also owns small acreages in Atoka, Choctaw, Pittsburg and Stephens Counties and approximately 634 acres in Texas.

The tribe's Arkansas Riverbed project includes approximately 14,715 acres, Crawford said. The riverbed property begins at the mouth of the Canadian River near Webbers Falls and extends southeast to the Arkansas state line.

Much of the tribe's property is grazing land which is leased to private individuals and businesses for agricultural purposes through a bidding process, Crawford said.

The income generated by the leasing of these properties is used for tribal land development.

Additional land is leased to businesses, community centers and other projects. Lessees include the Facet Quantex company located at the tribe's industrial park in Adair County, Hudson Farms near Kansas, Okla., and OK Fireworks at Chilocco in Kay County.

Other land is leased to various community projects for nominal fees, Jenkins said.

Chief discusses Jefferson at 1994 Symposium

Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller addressed Thomas Jefferson's impact on the Cherokee people in her March 21 opening dialogue at the Northeastern State University Muskogee Campus during the 22nd Annual Symposium on the American Indian.

According to Mankiller, Jefferson was a genius and one of the most brilliant people ever involved with the federal government. However, Jefferson was largely responsible for moving American Indians out of the southeast, supposedly for their own good.

"It was Jefferson and his benevolent paternalism that conceptualized the idea of removing Indians for their own good," Mankiller said. "Jackson carried it out and he gets all the blame but it was conceptualized during Jefferson's period of time and I think that is an important distinction to make."

Mankiller said that Jefferson would argue that the Cherokees lost the land by signing treaties. All of the Cherokees' land loss throughout history was done through purchase, agreement and treaty but this can be somewhat misleading.

"What Jefferson does not discuss is that some of these treaties were by fraud and bribery," Mankiller said. "If you take into consideration the amount of pressure people were under and the amount of fraud and bribery that occurred when we engaged in those treaties, I don't think you can take a lofty position and say 'Well, we purchased it.'"

Mankiller also spoke regarding Jefferson's 1809 address to a party of Cherokee delegates.

She said his speech to the delegates was basically a lecture concerning the importance of correctly codifying Cherokee law.

The tribe created a constitution in 1827 but had

many written laws before then.

"He pre-supposes, by addressing us about codifying our laws, that we did not have democracy or government before that and we did, as did most other tribes," Mankiller said. "All human beings, when they come together, form social organizations, systems of government and ways of living. It didn't look like the United States Constitution but we had our own government and our own constitution put together in our own particular way."

According to Mankiller, the idea of Jefferson lecturing the Cherokee delegates about establishing a government was interesting since the Cherokees had signed a treaty with Britain before they signed a treaty with any of the colonies. In the treaty, the British addressed the Cherokee people as an independent, sovereign nation.

The Cherokee will to maintain their independent government persisted through the Removal in the early 1800s, the land allotments at the turn of the century and the federal government's official dissolution of the Cherokee government in the early 1900s, Mankiller said.

"In 1971, Bill Keeler, Marty Hagerstrand, and many others started to rebuild the great Cherokee Nation at a storefront in Tahlequah," Mankiller said. "We didn't need all the big buildings we have now, we didn't need the almost \$80 million budget that we have now, we didn't need the hundreds of employees we have now, all we needed was the spirit of government, and a sense of ourselves as a people and the desire to stay together as a tribe. We have always had tribal government, despite what Thomas Jefferson was trying to tell us in 1809."

Minors with CDIBs allow families to receive food distribution services

Indian households which have been unable to receive services from the Cherokee Nation Food Distribution Program due to the lack of an adult family member having a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card may be eligible services if a minor in the household has a CDIB card. This has been made possible due to recent changes made by the Department of Agriculture.

"This is really a victory for families that, due to death or divorce, the adult having a CDIB is no longer in the home," said Brenda Kirk, director of the tribe's food and nutrition program. "As long as a family member has a CDIB and the household meets the program income requirements, all members of the household can receive commodities. It is a great way to celebrate the food distribution program's 10th anniversary at the tribe."

Kirk said the efforts of Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, the chiefs of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, and Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., are largely responsible for the new legislation.

According to Kirk, Oklahoma was the only state involved in the

food distribution program which could not give services to eligible families without adult CDIB-holders.

Families who believe that they are now eligible to receive commodities should contact the food distribution program at 1-800-865-4462, Kirk said.

Food distribution field schedule listed for May

Tuesday, May 3, Nowata, Fair Barn, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 4, Muldrow, Sequoyah County District Barn, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Locust Grove, community building, 1-3 p.m.
 Thursday, May 5, Ketchum, city hall, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Friday, May 6, Sallisaw, Extension Building, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Monday, May 9, Catoosa, Cherokee Village, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Spavinaw, City Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 10, Westville, Bushyhead Heights, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Salina, Veterans of Foreign Wars building, 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 11, Marble City, city hall, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Afton, American Legion building, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Thursday, May 12, Stilwell, community building, noon to 4 p.m.
 Friday, May 13, Jay, Fair Barn, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Monday, May 16, Collinsville, American Legion building, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 17, Nicut, Belfonte Community Building, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Pryor, Mayes County Fair Barn, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 18, White Oak, White Oak School, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Thursday, May 19, Vian, Fire Department building, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Kenwood, community building, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Friday, May 20, Oaks, city hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Porum, Wheeler Estates, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Monday, May 23, Bell, community building, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Webbers Falls, County Barn, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 24, Dewey, First Baptist Church, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sageeyah, Sageeyah Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Standards for participation in this program are the same regardless of age, race, sex, color, national origin or handicaps.
 Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S. Department of Agriculture-related activity should write Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22302.



CHEROKEE NATION Tribal Councilmember Joe Byrd, Dist. 1, Cherokee County, cut the ribbon to begin the five-mile walk during the American Diabetes Association Walkfest held April 9 near the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex in Tahlequah. Byrd also was the honorary event chairman. There was approximately \$3,300 raised to fight diabetes through the Walkfest. Also pictured is Pamela E. Iron, executive director of tribal health services; Mary Cooksey, tribal councilmember, Dist. 3, Sequoyah County; Kimberly Mitchell; Barbara Mitchell, tribal councilmember, Dist. 5, Delaware and Ottawa Counties; and Brianna Mitchell. Several tribal employees as well as local organizations also participated in the walk.

HUD establishes awards for innovative, creative design in Native American housing

Native American leaders moved a step closer to their goal of cancelling the federal trademark of Washington's professional football team. A lawsuit, filed by a coalition of prominent Native American leaders, is attempting to remove federal trademark protection of the name "Washington Redskins," making it economically difficult for the football team to keep it.

In March, the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (PTO) Trademark Trial and Appeal Board ruled in favor of the Native American coalition and against the Washington Redskins organization, with its announcement March 11, striking the affirmative defenses asserted by the Washington football organization. The Native American community has been awaiting the Board's decision for more than a year.

While the decision does not yet deprive the football team of its federal trademark registration for the REDSKINS team name, it disposes the legal affirmative defenses asserted by the football organization, paving the way for a decision on the action's merits, i.e., whether the term REDSKINS is offensive and inappropriate subject matter for the federal trademark register.

Now that the Board has addressed the legal sufficiency of the football organization's asserted defenses, the PTO will permit the Native American leaders to proceed with their action against the team.

Eventually, the PTO will hear oral arguments and determine whether to remove the federal government's protection of the name that is deeply offensive to Native Americans. That should happen by the end of the year.

The Native American leaders are sponsored in their action by The Morning Star Institute, a non-

profit American Indian advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. The coalition of leaders is represented on a pro bono basis by Dorsey & Whitney, a Minneapolis-based, international law firm.

Suzan Shown Harjo, one of the petitioners and president of The Morning Star Institute, commented, "Today's ruling means the federal government is a step closer to acknowledging that the term 'redskins' is offensive and intolerable. It's our hope that this legal action will convince the Washington football organization and others that terms like this are unacceptable and never would be tolerated if applied to other ethnic or racial groups, or to any other segment of American society."

The American Heritage Dictionary defines the term "redskin" as "Offensive slang. Used as a disparaging term for Native American." It defines the term "nigger" in the same way: "Offensive slang. Used as a disparaging term for a black person." Commenting on the announcement, Baird said, "We are pleased that the PTO has recognized the many deficiencies in the team's affirmative defenses."

"The Board's decision is particularly encouraging in light of the United States PTO's decision earlier this year to respond favorably to Native American leaders' Letter of Protest objecting to the registration of a new trademark application filed by NBA Properties. The organization had applied for a separate trademark containing the term 'redskin' to be used in clothing items with the name SHEYBOYGANREDSKINS."

Both sides will continue a process of legal discovery to be followed by submissions of evidence and arguments during the next nine months. Oral arguments are scheduled to be made at the end of 1994 in Washington, D.C.

HUD establishes Cultural Design Awards

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Henry G. Cisneros announced the establishment of HUD's Cultural Design Awards for innovative and creative designs for Native American housing across the nation.

The awards will be a formal recognition of outstanding Indian housing authorities and tribes that include cultural relevancy in the design of homes and facilities for Native Americans.

The awards will be presented in five categories:

1) The Cultural Design Award will be presented for the best design in newly developed HUD financed Indian housing which reflect the culturally relevant needs and desires of potential housing occupants, from the development program phase through construction.

2) The Cultural Design Tribal Facility Award will be presented for designs in HUD financed tribal facilities which reflect the culturally relevant needs and desires of tribal members.

3) The Cultural Design Modernization Award will be presented for designs in the modernization of existing Indian housing units which reflect the culturally relevant needs and desires of housing occupants.

4) The Cultural Design Prototype Award will be presented for culturally relevant design for any housing or community facility not tied specifically

to a funded project but which could be developed within HUD program cost limitations.

5) The Cultural Design Consultation Award will be presented to recognize outstanding efforts by an IHS in determining the needs of project users or occupants.

All submissions will be judged by a panel including executive directors of Indian housing authorities, representatives of nationally recognized Native American organizations, members of HUD Field Offices of Native American programs and HUD Headquarters Office of Native American programs.

Information regarding the awards nomination process may be obtained from any HUD Field Office of Native American Programs in Chicago, Denver, Oklahoma City, Seattle, Anchorage, or the Office of Native American Programs, HUD Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

The National Museum of the American Indian, located on Broadway at 155th Street, in New York is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. General admission is \$3.



U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.

New study helps IHS reduce fatal injuries

A new study on injuries among American Indians and Alaska Natives will help the Indian Health Service (IHS) reduce fatal injuries. The Injury Mortality Atlas of IHS Areas, 1979-1987, published in December 1993, by the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC), examines common causes of injury death among American Indians and Alaska Natives. Deaths resulting from various injuries in the 12 IHS Areas are tabulated into patterns, and intervention projects to reduce these patterns can be targeted by the IHS Injury Prevention Program. This study also highlights areas that need further study and investigation.

"We welcome the addition of CDC's National Center for Injury prevention and Control Atlas as another way that the IHS can work to reduce the burden of trauma that unfortunately is so high in Indian communities," said Mr. Richard J. Smith III, manager of the IHS Injury Prevention Program. "This document will be useful as a public awareness tool for tribes and as a reference document to assist tribes developing community-specific injury prevention programs."

The eight most common fatal injuries identified by this study include those related to firearms, falls, motor vehicles, homicide, suicide, drownings, poisoning, and deaths resulting from fires and burns. The deaths are categorized according to sex and age of the victim and compared to other U.S. races.

The IHS injury prevention initiative began in 1981, when injury was the number one cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Injury Prevention Fellowship, a training program in injury prevention for health care professionals, and the "None for the Road" campaign, a community-based project to reduce the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, are examples of the projects developed by the IHS Injury Prevention Program. These and more than 50 other IHS and tribal injury prevention projects in the last three years have contributed to substantial reduction in injury deaths among Indian people. Injury deaths are now the second leading cause of death among Indian people following diseases of the heart.

National Museum of the American Indian receives gift from The Chase Manhattan Bank

The National Campaign of the National Museum of the American Indian has received a gift of \$350,000 from The Chase Manhattan Bank for the museum's construction fund.

The gift will be permanently recognized in the Resource Center of the National Museum of the American Indian's George Gustav Heye Center, which will open to the public in New York City on Oct. 30.

"Given Chase's commitment to our communities, to cultural diversity, and to information technology, it was only natural that Chase should step up and help establish the George Gustav Heye Center and its Resource Center in lower Manhattan," said Tom Lynch, executive vice president of The Chase Manhattan Bank,

"where New Yorkers and tourists from all over the world will be able to share in the rich contributions of Native American culture."

"As we look forward to the opening of the Heye Center, we are delighted by Chase's commitment to the museum," said W. Richard West Jr., director of the National Museum of the American Indian. "We are confident that the generosity of The Chase Manhattan Bank will inspire other corporation and financial institutions in lower Manhattan to come forward in support of their newest neighbor--the National Museum of the American Indian."

For information about the National Museum of the American Indian, call (212) 283-2420.

Oklahoma Native American exhibit accepted for national tour

Moving the Fire: The Removal of Indian Nations to Oklahoma, a specially selected collection of photographs from Oklahoma archives and museums, has been accepted for nationwide tour by ExhibitsUSA, Betty Price, executive director, State Arts Council of Oklahoma, has announced.

The exhibit, which premiered to an enthusiastic audience in Washington, D.C., on the eve of the inauguration of President Bill Clinton, depicts the period of removal of Native Americans from their tribal lands to Oklahoma and the resulting impact on their cultures. It has received critical praise and favorable comments from viewers.

Development of the exhibit was sponsored by the State of Oklahoma and the State Arts Council of Oklahoma, with the assistance of corporate sponsors Phillips Petroleum Foundation, Inc., and the Kerr Foundation, Inc.

ExhibitsUSA is the national visual arts exhibits division of Mid-American Arts Alliance.

NANAD recruiting for membership

The National Association of the Native American Deaf (NANAD) is recruiting deaf Indians for membership within the organization. The first convention will be held in Oklahoma City June 8-10.

The organization has 51 of-

ficial members from 32 tribes and the members reside in 17 states including Washington, D.C.

For more information, write to Will Yaska, NANAD recruiter, P.O. box 33095, Seattle, Wash. 98133.

Claphan to be inducted into American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame April 30

Cherokee tribal member and a graduate of Stilwell High School, Jack "Sammy Jack" Claphan, will be inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame April 30, in Albuquerque, N.M.

Claphan's athletic career started when he was 14 years old and a freshman at Stilwell High School. At 6-1 and 190 pounds and the biggest student in school, he felt pressure to go out for the team. He had an affinity for the game, and by the middle of his senior year,

he was being recruited by the University of Oklahoma, although he never considered going anywhere else.

He became a starter for OU in 1977. A year later, when teammate Billy Simms won the Heisman Trophy, Claphan was named All-Big Eight. The following spring he was drafted by the Cleveland Browns, but after spending a year on the injured reserve, he was waived in 1980. Then the Raiders and Chargers contacted him and offered tryouts early in 1981. He felt more comfortable about a future with the Chargers.

Claphan retired from football in 1988. He is now a special education teacher and assistant coach at Carl Albert High School in Midwest City, Okla.

He is the son of Jack and Carolyn (Doublehead) Claphan of Stilwell. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, Amber, 11, and Eric, 1.

Also to be inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame are Jackson Sundown, Nez Perce, from Montana, for the sport of rodeo, and Moses J. Yellowhorse, Pawnee, from Pawnee, Okla., for the sport of baseball.



"SAMMY JACK" CLAPHAN

Tonya Still accepted as member of 1994 Spirit of America National Honor Band

Tonya Michele Still, daughter of Sammy and Dama Still of Tahlequah, has been accepted as a member of the 1994 Spirit of America National Honor Band Performing Tour of Europe. Only two students are selected from each state to be part of the 100-member band. Tonya will represent not only Tahlequah, but the entire State of Oklahoma in this elite group. These young musicians are among the most talented of American youth and will serve as the U. S. emissary to the people of Europe. Selection criteria include maturity, performance, and ability to represent a positive image on the young people of America.

Tonya, 16, is a member of the Tahlequah High School Marching Band, directed by Harvey Price. She has been an active band member for the past three years at Grandview School and has participated



TONYA STILL

and placed in district competitions. She maintains a 3.0 grade point average and is also active in other school activities.

Tonya will be raising a major portion of her expenses herself. Anyone interested in sponsoring or otherwise helping her may contact her band director at 456-4143 or Sammy and Dama Still, Route 4, Box 183-1, Tahlequah, 458-0903. An account has been estab-

lished at Bank IV in Tahlequah for anyone who would like to directly deposit a donation to her account.

The Spirit of America National Honor Band will tour and perform in Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Holland and Belgium. They will also perform for the diplomatic community as well as for thousands of people in Geneva, Switzerland on the Fourth of July at a celebration hosted by the American Club of Geneva. Tonya will join other selected students from across the United States, rehearse for five days, then fly to Europe for 16 days of touring and performing.

The Spirit of America National Honor Band is directed by George E. Naff, former conductor of the Duke University Wind Symphony and the East Carolina University Marching, Concert and Jazz Bands.

Synar shows support for American Indians

Oklahoma Congressman Mike Synar recently showed support for American Indians by attaching an amendment to the Clinton Administration's "three strikes" Crime Bill.

Rep. Synar's amendment which calls for exempting American Indians from the anti-crime legislation was unanimously passed by the House Judiciary Committee in March.

"I strongly believe that whatever federal laws apply to Americans, apply without discrimination," Synar said.

Pushed by President Clinton, the "three strikes" legislation would require life sentences for anyone convicted of three felonies.

It is gaining popularity across the nation as Americans become more and more concerned about crime, and politicians respond to that concern. In recent weeks, however, critics have warned that such a proposal on the federal level would discriminate against Indians.

A letter signed by a number of state corrections officials as well as groups like the American Civil Liberties Union stated such proposals would expose Indians and other minorities to much more severe penalties than whites guilty of similar offenses.

"The proposals ... go far beyond serious violent crimes by including offenses such as burglary and arson where no injury occurs or is attempted," the letter states.

Indian people, in particular, are extremely vulnerable to the proposed legislation due to the fact that an Indian guilty of three nonviolent crimes could face life imprisonment just because the crimes were committed on Indian land.

"I and many Oklahomans I have talked to, share the feeling that whatever laws the Congress passes should apply to each person fairly and equally," Synar said. "That is why the amendment

I offered which passed overwhelmingly, will allow those who are subject to criminal jurisdiction of an Indian tribal government to be exempted from the three strikes you're out provision, unless the governing body of the tribe elects to be covered by the provision.

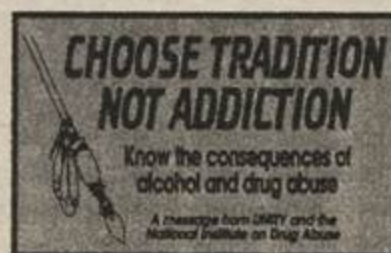
"This provision is necessary because federal jurisdiction over violent offenses is quite limited. Those violent crimes that are handled in federal court often involve offenses committed by Native Americans on Indian reservations," he continued. "This amendment is necessary because of the racially disparate impact that federal criminal violations have on Native Americans due to the fact that Indian reservations are subject to federal jurisdiction because they are on federal land."

Once out of the House committee, the crime bill, along with Synar's amendment, will go to the House floor for debate. A similar measure is making its way through the Senate.

Chilocco schedules reunion

The Chilocco Indian School classes of 1959-60 are seeking former classmates for the annual Chilocco Indian School Reunion to be held Jun 9-12, at the Radisson Inn in Oklahoma City.

For more information, contact Pauline Marshall Levi at 405-737-0174, or Betty J. Brown Jones at 405-392-5536. Call after 6 p.m.



Hager's acclaimed Cherokee detective returns

This spring, Oklahoma author Jean Hager's acclaimed Cherokee detective Molly Bearpaw returns to the scene of the crime twice -- with the paperback publication of the award-winning RAVENMOCKER in mass market paperback and the hardcover publication of her second Molly Bearpaw mystery, *The Redbird's Cry*.

When private passions and tribal politics collide at a week-long celebration of Cherokee arts and crafts, Molly Bearpaw, investigator for the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is on the case.

The annual exhibition, which takes place at the Heritage Center near Tahlequah, includes displays of traditional painting, basketry, and other arts, and it attracts hordes of tourists every year -- only this year, one of them is a killer.

Many of Molly Bearpaw's friends participate in the crafts show, among them Regina Shell, whose nationally famous woven baskets are expected to receive much attention, and Daye Hummingbird, an up-and-coming Cherokee painter.



JEAN HAGER

Molly visits the show to see their work; but when Daye's fiance, attorney and Cherokee storyteller, Tom Battle, suddenly collapses and dies, after being hit by a blow-gun dart, Molly's pleasurable afternoon turns to the business of crime-solving.

Some traditional Cherokees blame the murder on the exhibition of the ancient Cherokee wampums, which are said to have deadly power. As Molly sorts through the evidence provided by ancient beliefs and simmering grudges, the case becomes increasingly complex.

Was Battle killed because of his political convictions, which

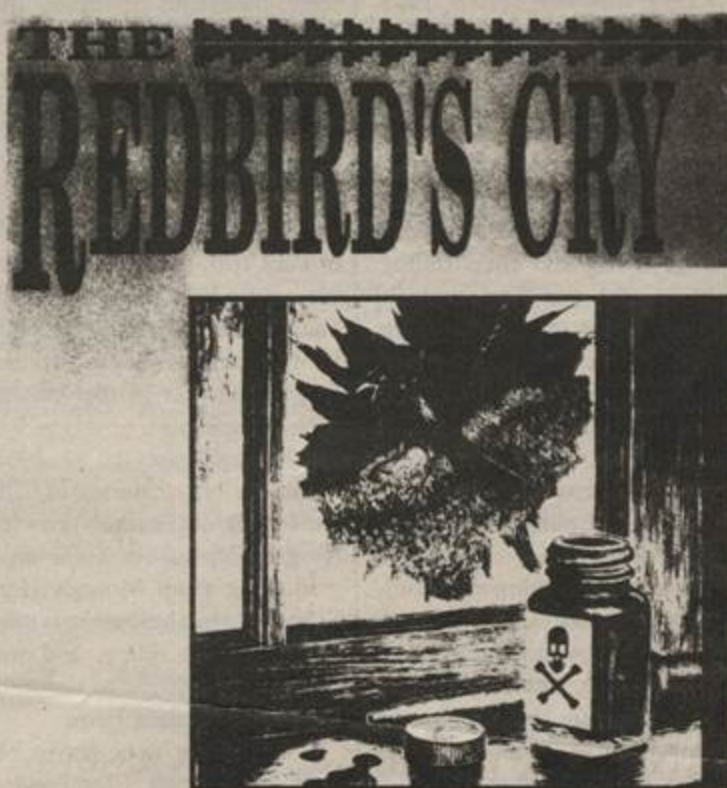
strongly opposed those of the conservative True Echota Band? Was he the victim of an accident, caused by two teenagers' meddling with the display of Native American weaponry? Or, is Molly's hunch that Daye Hummingbird's vindictive ex-husband is involved, correct?

In addition to providing the spine-tingling entertainment, *The Redbird's Cry* also offers an insightful portrait of modern Native American life and culture.

About the author:

A native of Oklahoma who is one-eighth Cherokee, Hager is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma and a five-time winner of the Oklahoma Writer's Federation Teepee Award. She was named Oklahoma Writer of the Year in 1982 by the University of Oklahoma. As an active member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America, Jean Hager often lectures at libraries and speaks on panels at writing conferences about mysteries and Cherokee culture. She resides in Tulsa.

A MOLLY BEARPAW MYSTERY



JEAN HAGER

American Indian Villages to open May 27

American Indian Villages located in Choctaw, Okla., will open for a series of special school programs April 25 through May 25.

Starting May 27, American Indian Villages will open to the public seven days a week, year-round.

The Indian Villages will represent five different regional tribal groups: teepees from the Plains Indians; bark lodges that house the Siouan (Osage) tribes; a Caddo grass house for the southeast tribes; an earth lodge for the mid-plains (Pawnee, Mandan) tribes; and a reed lodge characteristic of the Great Lakes Algonquin (Ojibway, Sac and Fox) Indians.

Additional villages will be added each year including Northwest Coast and Pueblo villages.

The villages will be staffed by Native Americans dressed in period clothing, making arrowheads and bows and arrows, cooking, tanning hides, making fires, putting up teepees and demonstrating other period activities.

The demonstrations and participatory activities make the villages unique in their presentations of Native American history and culture.

The American Indian Villages is now accepting applications for full and part-time employment in the educational living history villages from individuals who have a desire to

maintain and share varied cultures.

Several areas that will be open for hiring are:

The guest services duties include greeting the public, scheduling, handling of money, answering the phone to provide information. The cultural presenters will actively portray and demonstrate Native American cultures and lifestyles. The support services include villager security, repair and maintenance, first-aid and parking.

All employees of American Indian Villages will complete a comprehensive orientation and training program prior to start of employment.

American Indian Villages is a private corporation which is Indian-owned, Indian-built and Indian-managed.

For more information on American Indian Villages, Inc., call (405) 390-1000, or write P.O. Box 1659, 2001 N. Harper Rd., Choctaw, Okla. 73020.

Cherokees elected to American Indian Chamber of Commerce

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce recently announced that two Cherokees, Art Wilson and Madeline Teague, have been elected as treasurer and secretary, respectively, of the 1994 chamber board of directors.

Martial arts team travel to karate nationals



MEMBERS OF the Maryetta Martial Arts School recently participated in the 30th National Tae Kwon Do and Karate Tournament in Oklahoma City. Nakwsi Moss, left, placed third in the beginner's green belt and under forms division. He is pictured with his instructor Blue Hothouse. Both are residents of the Stilwell area.

JAMEY HOTHOUSE, left, Nakwsi Moss, middle, were among the Maryetta Martial Arts School students who recently traveled to the 30th National Tae Kwon Do and Karate Tournament in Oklahoma City. Hothouse took first place in the second degree black belt fighting division while Moss took third in the beginners green belt and under forms division. The two are pictured with their instructor, Blue Hothouse.



Members of the Maryetta Martial Arts School recently traveled to the National Tae Kwon Do and Karate Tournament in Oklahoma City, where three students placed in the Tae Kwon Do competition.

Under the instruction of Blue Hothouse, a third degree black belt, and his son, Jamey, a second degree black belt, the younger Hothouse as well as Nakwsi Moss and Justin Rich, all of Stilwell returned home with awards.

Hothouse placed first in the black belt fighting division, while Moss placed third in the beginner's green belt and under forms division and Rich placed fourth in the eight and under forms division.

The national tournament is in its 30th year and is the All American Open Tae Kwon Do and Karate Championships. It was presented by Grandmaster Jack Hwang and sanctioned by the International Martial Arts Federation. The tourney is one of the oldest, most prestigious and well-respected tournament promotions in the nation.

STARR, Jean, 59, died Jan. 18. She was born July 6, 1935, the daughter of LeDrue Strobel and Doris Gaines.

Jean grew up in south Florida, Louisville, Ky., and Indianapolis, Ind. Her activities in high school included horseback riding, track, basketball, swimming, diving and cheerleading. She painted, and won an award for her art at the Indiana State Fair. She later taught Red Cross swimming classes, and was also a Girl Scout.

While completing a double-major in journalism and history at Franklin College of Indiana, Jean worked as a janitor, police reporter and anything else available in her determination to pay her way. After graduating from Franklin, she went to work at Fort Benjamin Harrison in the Army Reserve Public Relations office. She married in 1960.

She taught in a tiny elementary school on the coast of Florida and started studying education and being active in the National Education Association. Fortunately, the same year in which a teachers' strike threw the school of Florida into a turmoil, she obtained an N.D.E.A. Scholarship to study English and Linguistics at the University of Nevada, Reno. With the insistence of a friend, Jean entered into an English Masters program. She received her M.A. in 1972, but not until she had been teaching in junior high and high school in Sacramento for several years. During the same year she met and married an Oklahoma Cherokee.

For many years she taught English and Ethnic Studies at American Legion High School in the Oak Park area. She worked as a teacher-administrator for the Indian Education program in the Sacramento City Unified School District for one year. She was active in the California Teachers Association, the N.E.A., Democratic politics and raising a daughter and a step-son.

She wrote poems, culminating in the books "Songs of Power" and "Tales from the Cherokee Hills." These attracted the attention of Indian literary authorities such as Joe Bruchac and Garry Hobson. With their encouragement, she was published in the several journals and anthologies. In 1992, she became a charter member of the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas.

Among those she leaves behind are her mother, Doris Strobel; her brother, Berkeley Strobel; her daughter, Elaine

Gregory; her husband, Winn Starr; thousands of former students; and her writing, which will live forever.

As requested, her ashes were scattered in the Great Smoky Mountains, her "Cherokee Hills."

FOWLER, Audie Dean, 37, of Park Hill, died March 7. Services were held March 12, at the Salem Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Lawrence Eagle officiating. Burial was in the Stilwell City Cemetery.

He was born Oct. 11, 1956, in Broken Arrow, the son of Clint and Josephine (Feathers) Fowler. He grew up in the Tulsa area, graduating from Mounds High School. He had held various jobs, including bull riding, and was presently employed at the Mid-Western Container Farm.

Among those he leaves behind are his father, Clint Fowler, of Evansville, Ark.; one daughter, Chloe Fowler of Stilwell; one son, William "Will" Fowler of Stilwell; two sisters, Jan Tyler of Coweta, and Latonna Mattox of Evansville, Ark.; and two brothers, Danny Fowler of Mounds, and Matt Fowler of Collinsville.

HANDLE, Jackson, 68, of Stilwell, died March 5, at the Stilwell Memorial Hospital. Services were held March 10, at the Echota Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Willie Pritchett and Richard Pickup officiating. Burial was in the Echota Cemetery.

He was born March 17, 1925, in Jay, Okla., the son of Tom and Bessie (Nix) Handle. He served in the National Guard and worked in CCC Camps. On July 27, 1972, he married Irene Adair at Stilwell. He had been a farm worker in nurseries, and had also worked for the railroad and various other jobs. He was a member of the Echota Indian Baptist Church.

Among those he leaves behind are his wife, Irene, of the home; one son, Eugene Handle of Stilwell; one step-daughter, Darlene Waters of Bunch; one brother, Landrum Handle of Jay; three sisters, Lula Mae Nix and Nancy O'Field, both of Jay, and Ailene Dude of Peridot, Ariz.; one aunt, Alva Kingfisher of Jay; one uncle, Robert Studie of Stilwell; three grandchildren, Jonathan and Gene Handle, and Kelly Waters, all of Stilwell; and seven nieces and nephews from Stilwell.

JORDAN, Ray (Blue), 77, of Tulsa, died Feb. 16. Services were held Feb. 18, at the Moore

South Lawn Chapel in Tulsa.

Mr. Jordan was born in Mansville, Ark. on May 20, 1916. He lived in Miami before moving to Tulsa. He worked for Square Deal Auto Supply, Reo Sales. He worked at Dowell in Tulsa before retiring in 1981, after 26 years with the company. He served in the Army Infantry as a sergeant. He played baseball in the service as well with the Miami Blues. He attended Seneca Indian School at Wyandotte, Okla. and the Chilocco Indian School.

Among those he leaves behind are his wife, Gerry Jordan, of the home; a daughter, Janna Jean Britton of Florida; two stepsons, Terry Yates and Dale Yates, both of Tulsa; two brothers, Lindsey Jordan of Miami and Obie Jordan of Springfield, Mo.; and a sister, Fay Beebe, Albuquerque, N.M.

VANCE, John Joseph, 78, of Park Hill, died March 9, at the Tahlequah City Hospital. Services were held March 14 at the Reed-Culver Chapel with Revs. Charles J. Swett and John King officiating. Burial was in the Park Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Vance was born Dec. 18, the son of William Goodman and Margaret (Ely) Vance. He grew up in Baltimore, where he attended St. Ambrose School. He moved south of Tahlequah in September 1977, and resided there until the time of his death. An avid golfer, he played several years in the public parks' golf tournaments. For nine years, he worked at the American Store in Baltimore.

A World War II veteran, he was a boatswain's mate first class in the United States Navy, stationed in Washington, D.C., where he met and married Lillie Kinney on Feb. 1, 1945. He served five years and three months in the U.S. Navy. He joined McCormick and Company, where he was a miller of dry mustard. After 31 years of service, he retired in September 1976.

Among those he leaves behind are his wife of 49 years, Lillie, of the home; one daughter, Barbara Lee Burke of Germantown, Md.; two grandsons, Douglas Charles Burke of Falling Water, W.V., and Dennis Allen Burke of Germantown, Md.; one sister, Rosalie Lorenzet of Resisterstown, Md.; a nephew, Dr. Arnold Vance of Ellicott City, Md.; a niece, Emily Myrich of Park Hill; and his 97-year-old mother-in-law, Ella Kinney of Park Hill.

SANDERS, Herbert Dwain, 49, of Cookson, died March 10, at the Muskogee Regional Medical Center. Services were held March 13, at St. Basil's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Donald L. Jackson and Rev. Bob Kanary officiating. Burial was in the Cookson-Proctor Cemetery.

Mr. Sanders was born Aug. 24, 1944, in West Plains, Mo., the son of Denver Franklin and Leota Louise (Shriver) Sanders. He grew up in Carthage, Mo., graduating from Carthage High School. He received his Associate of Arts Degree from Joplin Junior College and his degree in business administration from Pittsburg State University at Pittsburg, Kan.

For 17 years, he worked for the Levi Strauss Company in Denver, Colo. Since May of 1982, he has owned and operated Snake Creek Marina on Lake Tenkiller. He was an Army reservist, a member of the Cattleman's Association, national Rifleman's Association and a member of the Grace Episcopal Church in Carthage, Mo.

Among those he leaves behind are his mother, Leota Louise Sanders of Carthage, Mo.; four children, Brooke Sanders of Norman, Stone Butler Sanders and Blake Steelman Sanders, both of the home, and Hannah Kaprice Adeline Sanders of Springfield, Mo.; one brother, Dale Dean Sanders of Sarcoxie, Mo.; and two sisters, Carolyn Kay Sanders Lacy of Joplin, Mo., and Sheila Ann Sanders of Sarcoxie, Mo.

DAUGHERTY, Audrey Mabelle, died March 16, at W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah. Graveside services were held March 19, at the Chuculate Cemetery.

Audrey was the stillborn daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Gail (Still) Daugherty.

Among those she leaves behind are her parents; two sisters, Alyssia Dawn and Joden Faye Daugherty of the home; her maternal grandmother, Lucille Still of Bunch; her maternal grandfather, Frank Still of Stilwell; her paternal grandmother, Nellie Daugherty Green; her maternal great-grandmother, Lizzie Gonzales of Bunch; and her maternal great-great-grandmother, Eliza Gonzales of Bunch.

BUSSEY, Chief Downing, 72, of Tahlequah, died March 15, at his home. Services were held March 17, at the U.S. National Cemetery at Fort Gibson with Rev. Charles Duvall officiating.

Chief Bussey was born April 24, 1921, at Wild horse, Okla., the son of Hesakia and Martha (Downing) Bussey. His father was a U.S. Marshall in Indian Territory and died when he was two years old. His mother was the daughter of Mack Downing and Eliza Vann, and died when Chief was 12 years old. So her children would receive an education, Chief's mother placed he and his brothers and sisters in the Whittaker Orphanage. He attended Oaks Indian Mission School and Albuquerque Indian School.

During World War II, he served in the United States Navy, and was stationed in the south Pacific until he became disabled and was discharged in 1944. Following the war, he met and married Wilma Watkins in 1951 in Denver, Colo., and later moved to San Diego, Calif. He was a plumber, working on large construction projects. He worked on the first skyscraper built in San Diego, Calif.

Among those he leaves behind are his wife, Wilma, of the home; two daughters, Ruthie Lisa Petal of Lawton, Okla., and Susan and her husband Sergeant James O'Neal of Qahu, Hawaii; two sons, Kyle Bussey of the home, and Allen and his wife, Cyncia, of Tampa, Fla.; one brother, Woodrow Bussey of Bixby, Ariz.; two sisters, Wahilau Bussey of Bixby, Ariz. and Ruth Garcia of Albuquerque, N.M.; one grandson, Douglass Brooks of Norman, Okla.; and three granddaughters, Jenifer Petal of Lawton, and Kitty and Peggy O'Neal, both of Qahu, Hawaii.

HOLMES, Wilson, 71, died March 21, at the Muskogee Regional Medical Center. Services were held March 23, in the chapel of the Reed-Culver Funeral Home.

Mr. Holmes was born March 15, 1923, in Tahlequah, the son of Dave and Susie (Rogers) Holmes. He was reared and educated in Cherokee County. He had worked as a cross-country truck driver for many years before retiring. He married Narcie Hooper. He was of the Baptist faith and attended the Stokes Stomp Ground.

Among those he leaves behind are a daughter, Mary Holmes Whitekiller of Lost City; four sons, Jack Holmes of Ft. Gibson, Jim and J.B. Holmes of Tulsa, and Larry Holmes of Muskogee; one brother, Rufus Holmes of Vian; 12 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

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Cherokee Nation representatives to be on hand at both meetings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

government, relevant U.S. Attorneys, legal service providers, judges, state officials and State Attorney Generals will hear first-hand from tribes about particular issues such as crime, the environment, the tribal justice system, and other issues which are shared between the Departments of Justice and Interior.

In addition to gaming and jurisdictional issues, officials also want to hear tribal leaders' opinions on the management of tribal natural resources, tribal courts, law enforcement and religious freedom.

Representatives of the Cherokee Nation will be on hand for both meetings. At the Listening Conference, Principal Chief Mankiller has been invited to

participate in a panel discussion and Pamela E. Iron, executive director of the health services division will lead a forum on health issues.

According to Gerald Torres, general counsel to Attorney General Reno, "this is not a one-shot deal. This is an initiation of a process of...consultation, not by speaking as government usually does, but by listening."

Tribe works with Tulsa center to provide assistive technologies

Starting in May, the Cherokee Nation Disabilities Services Program will be working in conjunction with Ability Resources Inc. in Tulsa to provide assistive technologies to persons with disabilities, said Jorja Calico, tribal disabilities services director.

According to Calico, assistive technologies are devices which enable disabled persons to take more control of their own lives. This includes everything from wheelchairs to hearing aids to prosthetic limbs.

Ability Resources Inc. will provide the assistive technology through a grant which the organization recently received to make this technology available to minority populations, Calico said.

The assistive technologies representative will be available to meet with people interested in assistive technology at the disabilities services office during the first Friday of each month, Calico said.

Upon determining that individual independence could be enhanced by an assistive technology device, people with disabilities may use a device for up to six weeks to decide if it will benefit them, Calico said.

If the assistive technology does provide increased independence, they may purchase the device. Abilities Services can assist individuals with locating funds for purchase if additional funding is needed, Calico said.

Individuals may contact the tribe's disabilities services office to schedule an appointment with a counselor from Abilities Resources Inc.

Disabled persons do not have to be American Indian to be considered for assistive technologies, Calico said. People with disabilities who believe assistive technologies will help them become more independent should contact vocational rehabilitation program personnel at 458-4415.

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