

# Keetoowah News

December 2007

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## Assistant Chief Locust Re-elected to NCAI Board

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma's Assistant Chief Charles Locust will serve the next two years as the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate. Mr. Locust was re-elected by acclamation by members of the Eastern Oklahoma area caucus during the 64th Annual Convention of the NCAI in Denver, CO.

The National Congress for the American Indian is the largest organization of American Indian tribes with over 250 tribes represented. The organization monitors and lobbies for legislation affecting Indian tribes across the nation. Since 1944, the National Congress of American Indian has

been working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Mr. Locust duties as NCAI Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate, will be working along with the Eastern Oklahoma vice president Joe Grayson, attending meetings with NCAI Board of Directors, working with assigned committees, projects and issues.

Mr. Locust brings experience and qualifications in performing his duties of a NCAI board member. In addition to serving as Assistant Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, he has served as Eastern Oklahoma area vice president for the

past two years as well as other tribal positions. Locust has served as Executive Director for Tribal Operations, Executive Director for Housing Authority, Director of Gaming, Program Accountant, and Gaming Commission Chairman with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and in the private sector as President of the Gaming Division for Rocket Gaming. Locust holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Science, with an emphasis in Business Administration and has completed coursework toward a Masters' in Business Administration.

The prior two years as Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate, Mr. Locust has attended quarterly,

annual and mid year NCAI executive board meetings. "These meetings give board members an overview of what will be discussed in regards to issues that will affect the tribes during their annual NCAI convention. Responses to education, legal issues, court issues, Indian Child Welfare, Housing, etc." stated Locust. "As for changes, NCAI has grown to the point where they are actually more involved in assimilating information to the tribes, where before information was not reaching tribes, NCAI was just an organization. Today NCAI is actually administering workshops and providing legal documents for tribes."

Mr. Locust's goals for the next two years



United Keetoowah Band Assistant Chief Charles Locust

as Eastern Oklahoma area vice president alternate are to provide awareness in regards to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. *Continued on page 3*

## Bunch Elected Vice-Chairman of Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association



Joe Bunch

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma's Gaming Commission Chairman, Joe Bunch, was recently elected Vice-Chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA). Mr. Bunch has 24 years experience in tribal service and understands both sides of the pendulum; profitable and regulated gaming as well as meeting the needs of the tribe.

Working for the United Keetoowah Band, Bunch has served as an Assistant Operations Manager for Keetoowah Cherokee Casino (formerly Keetoowah Bingo) and currently serves as Chairman of the Gaming Commission. Twenty-eight of the thirty-three tribes in Oklahoma are gaming tribes, and OIGA elects officers from these tribes.

"As Vice-Chairman my duties will be to act in the absence of the Chairman, to carry out the day to day functions of business. Another duty is to oversee the statewide trade shows. The trade shows provide training and seminars and I will be able to direct the types of training and seminars that will be provided. Today we are second to none when it comes to state trade shows. We've grown in the last ten years when only three to four hundred people came to the trade shows; today there are over 3,000 people attending," stated Bunch.

Navigating the political and regulation arena, Bunch's experience from corporate and gaming entities has provided him a unique understanding of the direction, nature and future of tribal gaming as a catalyst for tribal services and economic development.

Mr. Bunch has led and been a member of panel discussions for Buss Productions (Market Place Productions), Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association and National Indian Gaming conferences. He is a member of the Blue Star Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Bunch has earned his Masters' Degree from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., with an emphasis in Industrial Management; his Bachelor's Degree from Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas; and an Associate's Degree from Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kansas. In addition, Bunch has earned a three phase certification from the National Indian Gaming Association and has completed level two of the three phases of the Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association Certification.

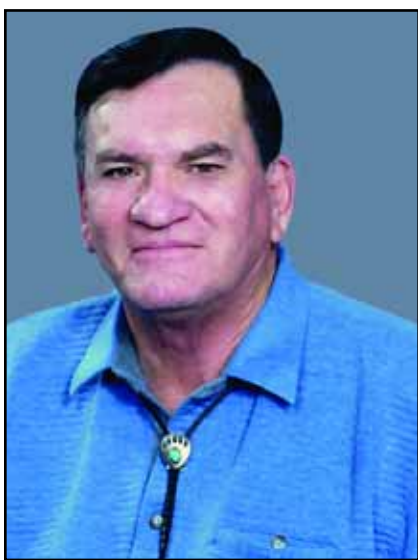
"It is an honor to represent the Oklahoma tribes as Vice Chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association," said Bunch. "It will provide the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma the opportunity to assist smaller tribes that do not have the opportunities to get out and visit with various leaders that make these types of decisions."

Mr. Bunch is an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma. Joe and his wife of 33 years, Karen, have two children and reside on his grandmother's original allotment in the Wauhullau community near Stilwell, Oklahoma.

## Christmas Gift Cards Available in December

In the spirit of the holiday season, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma will once again be distributing \$25 Christmas Gift Cards from Wal-Mart to all UKB tribal youth from babies to 18 years of age. To be eligible, children must be enrolled UKB tribal members. UKB Council District Representatives will distribute the cards at their district meetings this month unless otherwise specified (dates listed below). For tribal members unable to attend the meeting, they may pick up the gift card from their district representative through January 4. For more information, contact your UKB district representative. *Continued on page 3*

Our Children's Hands join in wishing you a happy holiday!  
 Artwork by children of Henry Lee Doublehead Child Care Center  
 United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma  
 2007



## A Letter to the UKB People

From Chief George Wickliffe

As Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, I am submitting the following information to clarify the importance and relevant issues of H.R. 2824. Despite

what the Cherokee Nation is trying to say about House Bill 2824, at no point does this bill mention "termination". If the word termination was mentioned it would have devastating effect on all tribes and could not be supported.

The United Keetoowah Band (UKB) is a federally-recognized tribe, receiving such status under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (OIWA) by Congressional Act August 10, 1949 (60 Stat. 976). Our tribal membership consists of Cherokees ¼ degree blood or more, of whom 98% reside in our 14-county service area. This service area is consistent with the boundaries set out by the Treaty of 1833, with modifications by subsequent treaties. For tribal government and service purposes, this 14-county area is divided up into 9 districts, which were part of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma prior to its termination in 1906.

The information backing the Status of the Freedmen is well-documented through the Treaty of 1866, subsequent amendments to the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Constitution, and tribal Allotment. In addition, it is specifically stated in Bureau of Indian Affairs' policy that one of the stipulations presented in the Bellmon Act (commonly known as the Principal Chief's Act) is that the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's voter qualifications 'must be broad enough to include the enrolled freedman citizens of the respective nations, together with the descendants of such enrollees.' Due to the extensive clarity and documentation of these Federal Government agreements and policies, they will not be further dwelt upon in this information.

The other issues listed in the House Bill are far more unfamiliar to those unattached from the issue, and are very complex. For that reason, this concise supporting information is made available.

In a December 19, 2006 ruling in Vann v Kempthorne, the United States District Court of Columbia denied the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's Motion to Dismiss. Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma used its own 'Supreme Court' to overturn this outcome. This was accomplished by

the Supreme Court justices ruling in a 3-2 decision that the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma could hold a vote on the tribal status of the Cherokee Freedmen. The subsequent vote was held in March, 2007 and less than 4% of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma voters ratified the decision that tribal citizens must be of Indian descent.

It should be noted here that the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's "Supreme Court" is a new entity, authorized by the 1999/2003 Cherokee Nation Constitution, which has not been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has removed its request for approval. That will be covered later in this information.

The above "Supreme Court" decision, therefore, was mandated by a Court which only exists under authority of a Constitution which has not been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and is therefore, illegal. In addition, the election (vote) deciding the tribal status of the Cherokee Freedmen was also held under an unapproved, illegal Constitution, as well as denied the vote of the Cherokee Freedmen, mandated by the policy supporting the Principal Chief's Act.

The language of the Bill does not elaborate on the so-called 're-instatement' of the Cherokee Freedmen for purposes of voting in the June, 2007 election. In this quasi-re-instatement, not only are the Freedmen's rights severely restricted, but the injunction allowing them this right specifies "temporarily." Therefore, even though the move appears to be beneficial and positive for the Cherokee Freedmen, the issue is clearly not resolved.

Another issue is of grave concern. While the recent (June 23, 2007) election held two days after the introduction of H.R. 2824 is clearly illegal based on it being held under an illegal and unapproved Constitution, the election ballot contained a referendum 'affirming a Constitutional amendment.' The question on the ballot read, "Shall the Cherokee people affirm the removal of the requirement of federal approval for the Constitution of amendments to the Constitution, by enactment of the following: "A Constitution of amendment shall not require approval of the United States of America ?" Campaign and promotional material proclaimed the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma "voluntarily" placed this approval process on its 1975 Constitution, and called it 'self-imposed.' Historic information begs to differ.

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma government was terminated in the years immediately preceding Oklahoma Statehood. The final Act, (March 1, 1901, Fifty-sixth Congress, Session II, Chap 675, "An Act to Ratify and Confirm an Agreement with

the Cherokee Tribe of Indians and for other purposes") states in Item 75 "No act, ordinance, or resolution of the Cherokee national council in any manner affecting the lands of the tribe, or of individuals after allotment, or the moneys or other property of the tribe, or of the citizens thereof, except appropriations for the necessary incidental and salaried expenses of the Cherokee government as herein limited, shall be of any validity until approved by the President of the United States."

This provision has not been changed by Congress subsequently.

The question on the ballot also does not specify whether the Constitution they intend to amend is the 1975 version, or the illegal 1999/2003 version which they are currently operating under, so was therefore, confusing to voters, and unclear for legal and recording purposes.

It has been held that a Treaty cannot be changed except through another Treaty, or an Act of Congress. Therefore, since the United States no longer treats with Indian \_\_\_\_\_

Continued on page 8

## UKB Children's Christmas Gift Card Distribution

### UKB December '07 Calendar of Council, District and Special Meetings

**Dec. 1 UKB Regular Council Meeting,** 10 a.m., UKB Community Services Building, Tahlequah

**Dec. 6 Saline District Meeting,** 6 p.m., Kenwood Community Center

**Dec. 7 Tahlequah District Meeting,** 6 p.m. Keener Church, Lost City

\* Gift Card Distribution Dec. 8 & 15, Noon to 4 p.m. UKB Community Services Building Dining Room

**Dec. 11 Cooweescoowee District Meeting** 6:00 p.m., First Christian Church in Pryor, Ok.

**Dec. 13 Sequoyah District Meeting,** 5:30 p.m., Old Gaming Office in Sallisaw

**Dec. 13 Illinois District Meeting,** 6:30 p.m., Vian UKB Satellite Office

**Dec. 13 Goingsnake District Meeting,** 6 p.m., Stilwell Sub Office

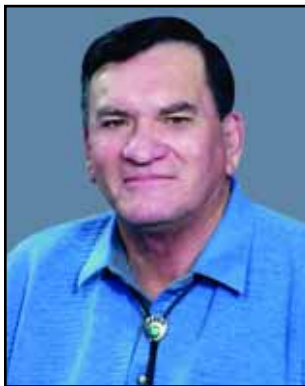
**Dec. 15 Canadian District Meeting,** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bacone College Campus, Lower Level

**Dec. 15 Flint District Meeting,** 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., Stilwell Sub Office

**Dec. 17 Delaware District Meeting,** 5:30 p.m., Jay Community Center

\*Gift Card Distribution 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## UKB Council



**Chief**  
**George G. Wickliffe**  
Office: 918-431-1818  
Cell: 918-207-2991



**Tribal Treasurer**  
**Shelbi Wofford**  
Office: 918-456-5491



**District Representatives:**  
**Canadian Dist. Rep**  
**Eddie Sacks**  
Cell: 918-822-1957



**Assistant Chief**  
**Charles Locust**  
Office: 918-431-1818  
Cell: 918-207-9798



**Cooweescoowee Dist. Rep.**  
**Cliff Wofford**  
Home: 918-825-1682



**Tribal Secretary**  
**Liz Littledave**  
Office: 918-456-5126  
Cell: 822-3803



**Delaware Dist. Rep.**  
**Jerry Hansen**  
Cell: 918-822-3804



**Flint Dist. Rep.**  
**Woodrow Proctor**  
Cell: 918-822-3811



**Goingsnake Dist. Rep.**  
**Joyce Fourkiller**  
Cell: 918- 822-3809



**Illinois Dist. Rep.**  
**Barbara Girty**  
Cell: 918- 457-7067



**Saline Dist. Rep.**  
**Charles Smoke**  
Cell: 918-457-7071



**Sequoyah Dist. Rep.**  
**Barry Dotson**  
Home: 918-775-2746  
Cell: 918-207-2990



**Tahlequah Dist. Rep.**  
**Albert Shade**  
Home: 918-458-5339  
Cell: 918- 822-3805



## United Keetoowah Band Receives Diabetes Prevention Grant

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma received a \$1,000 Diabetes Prevention Grant for the elders from the Association of American Indian Physicians. Funds from the grant will go towards providing health care programs for the prevention of diabetes among the elderly native members.

A schedule of health care activities will include Tuesdays at 1 p.m. exercise at the Keetoowah Cherokee Wellness Center; Thursdays at 1 p.m., arts and crafts at the Keetoowah Cherokee Community Services Building. Traditional recipes for a Keetoowah Cherokee Cookbook are also being accepted by Title VI at the Community Services Building or email them to jleichy@unitedkeetoowahband.org

**George G. Wickliffe** Chief  
**Charles D. Locust** Assistant Chief

**Liz Littledave** Secretary  
**Shelbi Wofford** Treasurer

### District Representatives

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

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United Keetoowah Band Headquarters  
Sam L. Still, Editor

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## UKB Elder Assistance Checks for November Applicants Ready on December 5th

UKB Elder Assistance checks for November applicants will be issued on Wednesday, December 5th between 3 and 5 p.m. at the UKB Wellness Center located on West Willis Road South of Tahlequah.

The tribe will host a mini health fair with blood pressure and blood sugar screenings offered free of charge to elders who wish to participate. There will also be cooking demonstrations for diabetic recipes, and food samples. The UKB Grants Department will be taking Elder Surveys to determine the needs of tribal elders. The health fest will run from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Assistance checks for December applicants will be issued on December 12 and 19 between 3 and 5 p.m. at the UKB Accounting Office at 2450 S. Muskogee Avenue in Tahlequah. The last day to apply for Winter 07 Elder Assistance checks is by noon on Friday, December 14. The last day of check disbursement this winter will be December 19, 2007. For more information, call (918) 453-9375.

## UKB Sub-office locations, days open, and phone numbers

**Little Kansas, OK**  
 Open: Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 100 North Hwy 10  
 Contact: Lucy Wolf (918) 868-3502

Corner of Section Line Rd. and Young Ave  
 Stilwell, OK 74960  
 Contact: Lucy Wolf (918) 696-7672

**Vian, OK**  
 Open: First Friday of each Month  
 Corner of Hwy. 64 and Schley  
 Vian, OK 74962  
 Contact: Lucy Wolf  
 Info: (918) 456-9200

**Fort Smith, AR**  
 Open: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Thursdays by appointment only  
 Fridays- Community Outreach Field Day  
 26 North 6th Street  
 Contact: Cheryl Sequichie (479) 783-9912

**Stilwell, OK**  
 Open: Mondays and Tuesdays 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Check us out online at [unitedkeetoowahband.org](http://unitedkeetoowahband.org)

## UKB Holiday Office Closings

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma tribal offices will be closed December 24 through 26 for the Christmas Holidays. Offices will re-open on Thursday, December 27 at 8:30 a.m.

Tribal Offices will also be closed December 31 and January 1 for the New Year's Holiday. Offices will re-open on Wednesday, January 2 at 8:30 a.m.

## UKB Education Higher Education Scholarship Apps Due Jan. 10th

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma college or vocational students need to turn in their Higher Education Scholarship Applications by January 10 at 5 p.m. Students enrolled during the fall semester must bring in an official transcript and their spring schedule. Students just beginning Higher Education Classes:

Must complete a UKB Education Application each academic year.

Shall make application for admittance to an accredited university or college.

Must apply for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA application) through the university or college's financial aid office. Student must provide documentation.

Apply for BIA funds through Cherokee Nation (CNO currently receives funds for our members). Student must provide documentation beginning with school year 2006-07.

Shall submit a copy of their CDIB; UKB tribal membership card; and, their Social Security Card.

Shall submit an official transcript AND, a copy of their new class schedule.

## Assistant Chief Locust Re-elected to NCAI Board

Continued from page 1

Indians in Oklahoma. To ensure smaller tribes have a voice in NCAI and throughout Indian Country. "I think that's one thing that is lacking, the voice of the small tribes who are dominated by tribes with enormous amount of resources, legally, legislatively or financially. They cannot compete with the larger tribes in those areas so they have to seek other alternatives to support their views such as NCAI. Many of the larger tribes who have the resources feel they have no need for NCAI and bypass the organization. I think we should keep a level playing field for all tribes, prevent larger tribes from dominating all tribes. Many times the larger tribes will sign agreements with agencies without the knowledge of smaller tribes, and in some cases have been drastically affected by that decision. The smaller tribe doesn't have the opportunity to see how that decision evolved."

Concerns were also brought

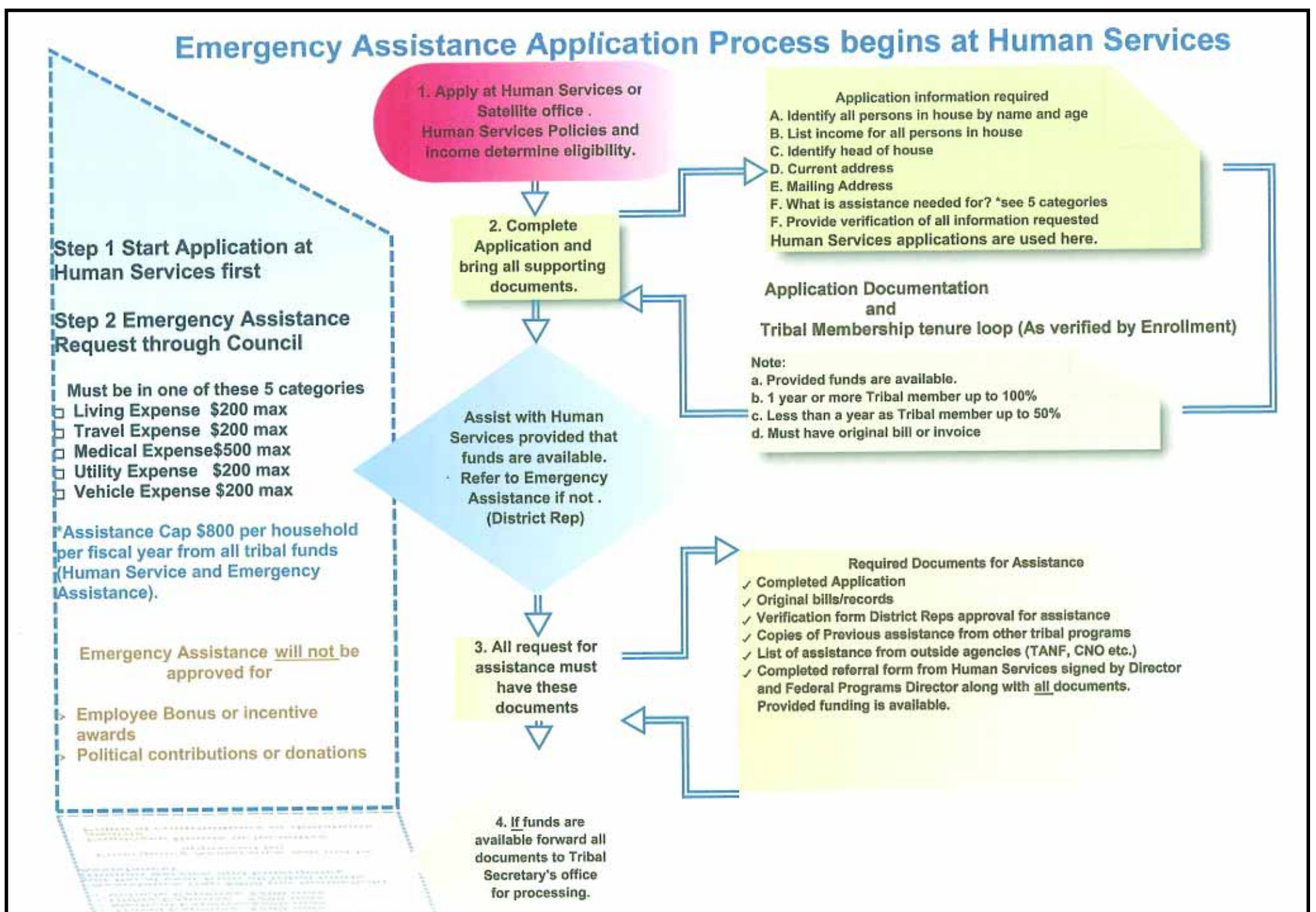
to attention during the Eastern Oklahoma Area election in Denver at the NCAI Convention. The question was brought up as to how the Delaware Tribe was allowed to vote for the Eastern Oklahoma Area vice-president. "It was my understanding that you had to be a state or federally recognized tribe to vote as a tribe. At this point the Delaware Tribe is neither, the tribe is not state or federally recognized, how did they carry 180 votes?" stated Locust. "I received a list from NCAI at the executive board meeting on Saturday, Nov. 17 where it showed only four tribes paid in our district, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Cherokee Nation. The Delaware Tribe attended the Eastern Oklahoma election meeting and the Eastern Region Chairman from Cherokee Nation allowed the Delaware Tribe to vote. I stated that the Delaware Tribe shouldn't be allowed to vote and

asked for a protest, no action was taken by the Eastern Oklahoma committee so the United Keetoowah Band has decided to write an official letter to the Executive Board announcing our protest."

Another concern was the timing and change of date for the Eastern Oklahoma Area election. Questions were brought up as to why the change of date for the election. It was felt that one tribe was trying to dominate the election. Because of the change other tribes may not have had the opportunity to properly register their credentials for the voting process or have the time or resources to reschedule their attendance at the NCAI convention causing some tribes to miss the election. "In the future, meetings should have a quorum before decisions such as these types of changes are made! This just demonstrates how the smaller tribes can be dominated, when allowed too," stated Locust.

## Wheelchair Ramp Assistance Program

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Tax Commission will be providing wheelchair ramps for tribal members who qualify. Applicants must submit an Application for Wheelchair Assistance Program. Application must include all requested attachments to be considered. Application attachments are as follows: written documentation from a physician stating that applicant is permanently disabled / handicapped; proof of home ownership (i.e. copy of deed) or written permission from landlord; and an estimate from Keetoowah Construction, Inc. (to be provided by Federal Programs Director). For more information, contact Bryan Shade at (918) 456-8698.



# United Keetoowah Tribal Veterans



UKB CHIEF George Wickliffe addressing Keetoowah Cherokee Veterans and families during the November 8 Veterans' reception at the UKB Wellness Center.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma held a Veterans' luncheon for all Keetoowah Cherokee men and women Veterans' at the UKB Wellness Center. Every Keetoowah Cherokee Veteran attending were honored with a luncheon and a small token of appreciation from the UKB tribe. The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by the United Keetoowah Band Lighthorse Color Guard. United Keetoowah Band Chief George Wickliffe, along with Assistant Chief Charles Locust welcomed the veterans. Entertainment was provided by Irene Fixin and Rosie Ross as they sang three Keetoowah Cherokee songs in their native tongue.

Many of the attending veterans visited and reminiscence about their tour of duty. As the veterans greeted each other and renewed old friendships, one could hear those sharing stories of their missions as soldiers during their tour. One veteran was heard saying, "I hated when I was called to take the point during recognizance missions," while another shared his distaste of c-rations, but this day there were no c-rations as the veterans were served a special meal of turkey and dressing with cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

"If you're Native American, you're going to fight harder. That's the kind of track record the Keetoowah Cherokee veterans have," said UKB Chief Wickliffe. "You fought harder because this is your country, and people should never forget how hard our Native Americans fight in wars. What we must do is support our soldiers that defend our country. We've had good soldiers; we've had brave soldiers because of who they are."



VENOIA WRIGHT, Veteran of the Army Air Corps, 1943 – 1945, was honored by Chief Wickliffe as the oldest attending Veteran at the Reception. The gift was donated by J. C. Wilson.



**We Honor  
Our  
Veterans**



Levi Roach



Marquana Chewey



Joe Reese



Kevin Backwater



Larry Pritchett, Jr.



Mose Carey



John Tanner



Johnny Ross



Durbin Feeling



Mose Killer



Aaron Isham



Charley Welch



Daniel Houston, Jr.



Raymond Wickson



Benny Bush



Clarence Smith



Danny Cornsilk



Spade Welch

# ah Band Honors /eterans

They are Native Americans and we appreciate you, we appreciate all of you. We appreciate all the soldiers regardless of where they come from. I want to say to the Keetoowah Veterans that the Keetoowah Cherokee people appreciate you, and we honor you. I say thank you."

After the luncheon, each Keetoowah Cherokee Veteran was individually recognized by their names, their branch of service and the dates of their duty and as a small token of appreciation, each Keetoowah Cherokee was presented with a red hooded jacket embroidered with the Keetoowah Seal and the words Keetoowah Cherokee Veteran. Non-Keetoowah Veterans attending were also honored and given a gift of appreciation.

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

After the ceremony, veterans, along with family members, gathered outside the Wellness Center to participate in an emotional ceremony as the American Legion Post 15 from Muskogee, Oklahoma, fired a three Volley Salute and played Taps for fallen comrades to end the ceremony.



A MEMBER of the American Legion Post 15 from Muskogee, Oklahoma, played Taps for fallen comrades to end the Veterans' Reception ceremony.



John Goodrich



Terry K. Lee



Venoia Wright



Frank Arneecher



Thompson Bunch



Travis Foreman



Dennis Christie



Gary Wayne Bunch



Toney Pritchett



Turner Grimmert



John Hair



George Duvall



Jim Henson



Walter Holt



Eugene Dry



Grove James



Jesse William



Frank Swimmer



Henry Carey



James McIntosh



William Wickliff, Jr.



Gary Guthrie



J.C. Wilson



J.D. Easter



Willis Sapp

## Keetoowah Cherokee Casino December Staff Spotlight



Willa Dean Ketcher

The Keetoowah Cherokee Casino's December Spotlight Staff is Willa Dean Ketcher. Willa is the manager of the Keetoowah Cherokee Gift Shop located in downtown Tahlequah. She has been employed by the casino for over a year and has been instrumental in the opening, operating and relocation of the gift shop. The casino management team selected Willa because of her strong work ethic. She puts in long hours but always has a smile as she welcomes customers and co-workers to the gift shop. Willa has two sons, two daughters, one grandson and three granddaughters that keep her busy on her days off. One of her hobbies is collecting mallard ducks. Willa's advice to others is "Always be yourself".

## Don Ade Comes Full Circle



Don Ade

The first statement Don Ade made when he talked about his new position as Executive Director of the UKB Economic Development Authority (KEDA) was, "I have come full circle." He was referring to coming back to Cherokee County to be among the traditional Cherokee people. This is after working and living across the United States with many people of many different tribes for twenty-one years. Orphaned at an early age, Ade was raised by his full blood traditional grandparents, Ben and Agnes (Blossom, Salina, OK) Snell at Little Kansas.

Cherokee was his first language, in fact he ended up attending Oaks Mission School for two years for the purpose of learning to speak English. Then he returned to the public school system, but after flunking 9th grade because he would not attend school, he enrolled at Sequoyah High School. Don loved Sequoyah so dearly it became his second home.

Several things happened at Sequoyah that changed Don's life forever. "I had a flash of insight as I carried that hundred pound sack of potatoes up the stairs from the basement to the kitchen. I realized that I needed to pursue a formal education so I could earn a good living. That perspective was life changing, as well as the influence of my teacher, friend and mentor, Mr. Harold Jones. He held a Bachelor's and Master's Degree

in Speech and Hearing Pathology and he changed jobs to become a Speech and Hearing Pathology Professor at NSU. After I left Sequoyah, I attended NSU and followed in his footsteps and earned my degree in Speech and Hearing Therapy," said Ade.

Ade was involved in several landmark events early in his career. At age 22, Ade was primarily instrumental in establishing the first Muskogee County Schools Special Education Cooperative Program. This involved nine schools. He was also the youngest member of the Five Civilized Tribes Inter-tribal Council that went to Washington, D.C. in 1973 and held a series of meetings with President Nixon's Cabinet Secretaries along with Pat Nixon in the White House to move tribes toward self-determination. "We told the government that we had the right to make our own mistakes" said Ade. Two years later, most likely as a result of these meetings, Congress passed the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Don Ade is a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, having earned his Master Mason's degree in the Blue Lodge in Tahlequah, OK, and his 32<sup>nd</sup> degree in the McAlester Consistory Temple. He takes pride in his Masonic work. "All but three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. I like their philosophy of taking a good man and making a better man of him. It is a constant life long program of self improvement. It teaches leadership and enables one to establish valuable contacts," said Ade.

Mr. Ade has worked developing youth and youth programs, as a member of the Haskell Board of Regents, as a Speech and Hearing Therapist, as a Budget and Accounting Analyst, in Health Quality

Assurance, as a Civil Rights Officer, in Public Relations, assisting in planning and designing new hospitals and health centers, and many years as a Health Systems Administrator with Indian Health Service.

Every experience he has had has prepared him for his current position as Executive Director of the Keetoowah Economic Development Authority (KEDA). "I am very passionate about my work. I have the drive and the determination. That is far more important than any college degrees and contacts one may have. After everything is said and done, the credentials that I earned in becoming a licensed and ordained minister have served to keep me spiritually balanced and keep things in perspective," said Ade.

One of Mr. Ade's first assignments as Executive Director of the KEDA was to write a Business Plan and 10 year Economic Development plan for the tribe. "My goal is to promote the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees as a legitimate Entrepreneur and Competitor in the Business World. I want to leave this legacy: Ensure that the UKBC takes backseat to no one in any social, economic, political or legal venue.

Another life changing event occurred when Don Ade met the love of his life at Sequoyah High School in a young lady named Shirlene Lewis. They have been married for 43 years. Shirlene is also a retired Federal employee (Dept. of Army) and a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. She was just re-elected for a third term, this time for a four year term on the Council. She is just as dedicated and devoted to her tribe as Don is to his.

## Delaware District Meeting Held in Gravette

Approximately 60 people attended the 2nd Annual Native Indian and White Man Thanksgiving dinner and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma Delaware District Meeting in Gravette, Arkansas recently. UKB Delaware District Representative, Jerry Hansen, was on hand at the Billy V. Hall Senior Activity Center to give the attending audience information regarding the progress in Delaware County and to answer any questions people had concerning programs within the UKB tribe. "I want to welcome each and everyone to today's event and to say thank you for this great meal," said tribal representative Hansen. Mr. Hansen addressed the crowd with a spiritual message on humanity. "What we need to do is to come to the aid of our fellow man, and in this time of year we should all be thankful for what we have and help others in need," said Hansen. "I ask you to search into your heart and into your soul to help somebody in some way. Sometimes it may take a small gesture, just lending a hand to help someone up, it could just be a good sound advice and sometimes it may take togetherness to help a person." Mr. Hansen thanked everyone for their attendance.

Former UKB Chief John Hair was also present for the Thanksgiving dinner and was given the opportunity to address the audience. Mr. Hair explained to the audience a little history of the United Keetoowah Band, how the Keetoowah Cherokees settled in the Arkansas area. Mr. Hair talked about the Curtis Act how tribes were terminated during this time and of the Indian Re-Organization Act of 1934. "This act was for reservation tribes, this act did not include Oklahoma tribes. In 1936 Congress came up with a similar law called the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. This took care of Oklahoma Indian tribes, the difference between our tribe and reservation tribes is that we are allotment act tribe, we were allotted individual lands, 160 acres to adults and 80 acres to minors. The acts of 1934 and 1936 gave us the rights to form Indian tribes. That's where the United Keetoowah Band tribe was recognized under the 1936 OIWA act. Today the UKB has become well established, growing. We as United Keetoowah Band tribe want to be good neighbors; whatever benefits we can bring into your community will benefit everyone. That's our goal and attitude that we practice everyday. Also I don't want to forget the veterans and our elders. I'm proud to be here, I'm among good people, thank you," said Former Chief Hair.

Entertainment was provided by Former Miss Indian Oklahoma, Tonya (Still) Russell. Mrs. Russell played the Indian flute and provided the audience with a traditional Cherokee story, "The Fox and Turtle Have a Race".

The events ended with door prize give a ways and Mary Kay Kelly, director of the Billy V. Hall Senior Activity Center, thanking everyone for attending and wishing them a happy Thanksgiving.

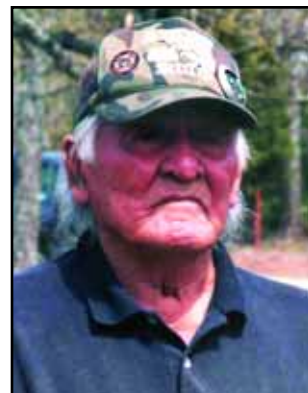


CITY OF GRAVETTE Mayor, Bill Howard, right, is pictured with Former UKB Chief John Hair, left and UKB Delaware District Representative, Jerry Hansen, center, during the 2nd Annual Native Indian and White Man Thanksgiving dinner in Gravette, Arkansas.



UKB DELAWARE DISTRICT Representative, Jerry Hansen, reports on the progress of the United Keetoowah Band tribe as he speaks to the crowd attending the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Billy V. Hall Senior Activity Center in Gravette, Arkansas.

## Obituaries



Eagle Kingfisher

Eagle Kingfisher was born December 22, 1921, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to Goingsnake Kingfisher and Susie Drywater. He departed this life November 17, 2007, at his home in Stilwell, Oklahoma at 85 years of age.

Eagle was married to Nancy Weaver in Rocky Ford, Oklahoma in 1992. He was a lifelong United Keetoowah Band member and served in the U.S. Navy in World War II in the South Pacific, on the U.S.S. Lexington. Eagle was Chief of Medicine Springs Ceremonial Grounds and served on the executive board of Native Americans for a Clean Environment for several years. He was also a hospice volunteer.

He was preceded in going to a new life by his parents, Goingsnake Kingfisher and Susie Drywater, brother, Jackson, and sisters, Maggie Ahnawake, Betty Sue, Leola and Sally, also by his uncle and teacher, Sam Drywater and grandchildren, Cheryl and Samuel.

He leaves behind his wife, Nancy Kingfisher; children Randall, Bonnie, Ray and Sam, as well as his grandchildren, Donald, Edwin, Benjamin, Karma, Willie, Eli, Larissa, Waylon, Robert and Marjo; 11 great grandchildren and 12 nieces and nephews including, Joyce Alley, Pame Kingfisher, George and James Walters, Hutke Fields, Jobi Fields and Ramona Campos.

Services were held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at Hart Memorial Chapel with Sam Triplett officiating. Interment followed at Fort Gibson National Cemetery under the direction of Hart Funeral Home.

### UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND TITLE VI NUTRITION MENU

December 2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Brunch Served at 11:00	4 Goulash Hominy Buttermilk Biscuit Salad	5 Sheppard's Pie- Cornbread Salad Dessert	6 Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Toast Salad Dessert	7 Breakfast Served at 10:30
10 Beef Stew Corn Muffins Salad Dessert	11 Smothered Chops Wild Rice Yellow Squash	12 Brown Beans Jalapeno Cornbread Greens Dessert	13 Catfish Galley Chips Beans Hushpuppies	14 Breakfast Served at 10:30
17 Chicken Noodle Soup Biscuits/Crackers Salad Dessert	18 Pepperoni Pizza Pasta Marinara Caesar Salad Dessert	19 Hot Ham n Cheese Potato Chips Salad and Dessert	20 Marinated Chicken Red Potatoes Mixed Vegetables	21 CHRISTMAS PARTY
24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 CLOSED	27 Venison Chili Jalapeno Cornbread Salad Dessert	28 CLOSED FOR CLEANING
31 CLOSED				

# UKB Regular October Council Meeting Minutes

**UKB Regular Monthly Council Meeting At the Kenwood Community Building October 13, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 1:04 p.m.**

## I. Call to order by Chief George Wickliffe

## II. Invocation:

Liz Littledave

**III. Roll Call:** 10 + Chief answered Roll Call. Quorum declared. (S. Wofford & C. Wofford absent at call.)

## IV. Chief's Address

Spoke of celebration last week and how a large crowd was present for the parade where several marching bands participated.

Many people of Tahlequah telephoned and stated how the parade had been one of the best. 1,000 pounds of hog meat was prepared and served at the noon meal; approximately 2500 people were served the meal and more of this food item could have been served.

The celebration grounds were very well prepared for this celebration event and organization of events was very good. There was always three groups working to see to smooth organization.

The Pow-Wow, corn stalk shoot and Marble games were some of the events.

There was a large crowd in attendance. It was difficult to estimate the crowd but it appeared to be the largest crowd ever attending the UKB Celebration and it is expected future celebrations will continue to grow in attendance.

UKB Elder's Assistance Program continues in presenting \$200.00 to each elder two times per year. This is possible because of organization of tribal finances.

(10:18 AM – S. Wofford & C. Wofford arrived)

CNO continually attacks the UKB Housing program. From the first day of our housing program CNO began trying to stop our housing and last year they did stop our housing grant. We appealed and have a law suit and we feel good about getting housing grants again. Even during this time, UKB continued to provide as much as possible for UKB people in reference to emergency housing assistance using finances which was a balance of previous housing grant.

We now have an Economical Development Authority who searches for jobs and businesses. There are many opportunities for economic development which does include opportunities for getting government contracts and put people to work.

UKB will continue to search for opportunities for the employment of people and building business.

Chief Wickliffe concluded by stating he had never been involved in anything more satisfying than his current position in working for the UKB and his involvement in bringing the UKB to where they should have been through-out history.

**V. Approval of the minutes** for Regular Council meeting of September 8, 2007 and for the Emergency Council meeting of September 27, 2007

MOTION by Charles Locust to approve the September Council minutes; **SECONDED** by Eddie Sacks; **VOTE:** 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. Comment by Representative Barry Dotson: Dotson drew attention to September 8th minutes entry, page 6, paragraph 3, where he had made the motion: Monetary stipend of Council be abolished with officer's salaries and all salaried personnel be cut by 15%. Mr. Dotson stated minutes should have given explanation as to why he had made this motion. Mr. Dotson stated his intent for making such motion was to try to help the people by using the abolished stipend and salary cuts so he would like the people to know his reason for the motion. Mr. Dotson went on to express his great concern for the needs of the people in Sequoyah District.

Chief Wickliffe informed, if it was desired that minutes be amended, such amendment would be reflected in the next monthly meeting, which would be in November.

MOTION by Charles Locust to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2007 Emergency Council meeting; **SECONDED** by Eddie Sacks; **VOTE:** 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

## VI. Presentations - NONE

## VII. Reports to Council

Barbara Girty: informed the Education Committee had voted to declare the seat of Kristene Pedrick vacant. Council will be notified in writing next week and at the next Council meeting the committed will accept nominations for filling that vacancy. The Committee has received two recommendations for filling this vacancy but no names for certainty at this time.

## Enrollment Committee Report:

Liz Littledave 33 applications for new membership were presented to Council for approval.

3 CDIB cards were processed and issued to 0-3 year old children and have been entered into tribal membership and is presented to be acknowledged and honored by Council.

36 Total new memberships presented to Council **MOTION** by Eddie Sacks to accept and/or acknowledge 36 new membership applicants into tribal membership; **SECONDED** by Charles Smoke; **VOTE:** 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

3 Requests for UKB Tribal relinquishments were received and are presented to be acknowledged and honored by Council.

**MOTION** by Eddie Sacks to acknowledge and honor the 3 requests for relinquishments from UKB tribal enrollment; **SECONDED** by Charles Smoke; **VOTE:** 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

## VIII. Public Forum

Charles Locust: stated UKB has been working on some cases with our lawyers and what happens is; this land we're talking about and in other places is under management of CNO but if you look at the deeds these lands are only supposed to go to tribes which are OIWA approved and that's the Keetoowah. CNO is not OIWA

approved. This causes a legal stance and we're working on this right now. This does not just involve this land usage. It involves health care and other denials by CNO. CNO challenges us everywhere but we are developing the case involving OIWA. The Keetoowahs can challenge CNO's managerial control. Under the deeds the only tribe that can have managerial control is a tribe that is approved under OIWA. CNO is being challenged in Washington right now by the black caucus because they have never been approved under OIWA and it is said CNO is just an organization and not a tribe. CNO is discriminating against Keetoowah with land and health services. All we want is our fair share and to be treated right. CNO's action is denying our rights.

Marcella Foreman: informed she was attempting to set up a meeting at Oaks with Butch Garner, from CNO, to discuss the hunting situation. Previously Mr. Garner had stated he and some of those people would be willing to come to a meeting and discuss the situation but now she has been unable to contact Mr. Garner about a scheduled meeting. She said she had hoped such a meeting could be scheduled for Thursday night.

Chief Wickliffe: cautioned respect for individuals during their presentations and to give everyone an opportunity to speak and be heard.

John Hair: he thanked and welcomed Council to Kenwood. He stated he believed this was the first time a Council meeting had been held in Kenwood. He expressed appreciation to those attending the meeting. He informed the audience that this Council was the Keetoowah government and this is the time of Public Forum and the public was welcomed to stand and speak. He encouraged continued attendance of Council meetings and learn what is going on. He stated how it was important to hear for yourself what actually happens at these meetings.

Barry Dotson: commended the people for taking care of the celebration grounds.

Woodrow Proctor: thanked administration for handling celebration preparation. He expressed being proud of attendance at the celebration parade and festivities at the celebration grounds. He also expressed appreciation to all the committees involved with making the celebration a great success and he acknowledged the hard work done by all.

Betty Mouse: spoke of how, what is called Indian Cemeteries are not really being Indian Cemeteries. She stated how CNO has turned these sites over to the counties and recently the county commissioners got the deeds to Spavinaw Cemetery Land and now we are told we must organize as non-profit organizations before we can get this site back into Indian Cemetery status. She was told all these cemeteries are that same way. It is said this site does not belong to the Indians. This site can become burial sites for non-Indians and fill up. She stated the process has been stated to organize as a non-profit for putting the Spavinaw Cemetery back into Indian Cemetery status. She cautioned if this can happen in Spavinaw it can happen to all other cemetery sites. The

County Commissioner said if the Indian Communities don't organize then anyone can go to the commissioners and ask permission to be buried in these "Indian Cemetery" sites.

Joanne Tidwell: stated the state wants to use burial sites for their unidentified bodies and this could be accomplished without anyone's permission to do so.

Chief Wickliffe: stated we are identifying historical sites and this action was approved by Council. Cemeteries with headstones laid down and 15 years passes he believed the site ceased to be a cemetery (this is yo-nag rules). The Indian rule is that the state has no authority on cemetery land. If a cemetery is not taken care of, even if its not fenced if its not on Indian land or not identified, the county commissioners still must mow and keep them open if the cemetery is still active.

Albert Shade: stated in the community cemetery in the Lost City area has a Cemetery Board and the board decides who is buried at that site. Maybe a board should serve the needed purpose in Mayes County cemetery sites. He would like more information on the legalities on the authority over these types of sites.

Amy Mathis: stated the Lost City Cemetery is a non-profit organization and we have a Tax I.D. number. We have decisions making power on who is buried at this cemetery but the county does come in and dig the graves.

Sammy Still: stated years ago a family in Adair County discovered a cemetery. The person who found this site planned to clear off, bulldoze off this site but the family contacted the state, County Commissioners and Sheriff Department. The County and the state told the people all cemeteries were public domain (doesn't belong to any particular group).

Charles Locust: asked if Historical Society would have authority over cemeteries?

Sammy Still: responded, yes but it must be documented what the significance is to historical value.

Chief Wickliffe: stated he remembered a newspaper article about 2-3 years ago describing what Ms. Mouse was referring to, where there had been a decision between County Commissioners and it would be a good idea to find out how this decision reads.

Betty Mouse: had previously informed she was in possession of a copy of the deed which gave the state authority over cemeteries and she agreed to provide UKB Administration with a copy of this document.

Joann Tidwell: inquired of an 800 phone number in reference to information on Indian land.

Charles Locust: said this number is available on BIA website and Tim Good Voice at the administration office would probably have this 800 number.

Anthony Proctor: representing the Kenwood Ball Field, he said he had been working with Cherokee Nation on means and ways to improve the ballpark and its slowly coming along and he was willing to work with the UKB as well. He said he wasn't present to beg for funding but for anything that

would improve the ballpark. When he first became involved in this project last year, there was not water but CNO helped get the water turned back on. Mr. Proctor said the ballpark was under the KCA

(Kenwood Community Association). There are goals and plans for improvements but lack of funding is the problem.

Charles Locust: asked Mr. Proctor to submit this request in writing. He said there was several areas where assistance could be provided.

Chief Wickliffe: stated approval from Mr. Proctor's Chief would be necessary before UKB provided any help with the ballpark project. The UKB will do anything to help on the ballpark but if we went out there to help and CNO learned we were there they might send the marshals out there.

Charles Locust: stated CNO might hurt the ballpark committee if CNO knew the Keetoowahs were helping.

Anthony Proctor: said he could see Chief Wickliffe's point but he had spoken with the KCA Board and told them he was willing to work with the UKB. He said he had also spoken with Chad Smith and Chad didn't see any problem in this working arrangement at that time. He said he would again speak with Chad Smith about this and he (Mr. Proctor) saw nothing to keep from working with both sides.

Charles Smoke: said CNO agreement for us and them to be involved on the ballpark project must be in writing that Chad Smith agrees with what Mr. Proctor had stated.

Woodrow Proctor: said if a written agreement from Chad Smith is obtained it will be a good start.

## IX. Unfinished Business

Council discussion to vote to approve/disapprove Rules of Order for Parliamentary Procedure (3 versions submitted for consideration)

**MOTION** by Jerry Hansen to disapprove the three (3) versions of Parliamentary Procedure submitted for consideration but to continue the current practice of Council in parliamentary procedures; **SECONDED** by Woodrow Proctor;

## DISCUSSION:

Jerry Hansen: stated he had observed other tribes in Council action and he believed the UKB did good in conducting Council business. He said we don't get out of line or out of hand, we don't issue threats like he has heard at other places.

Woodrow Proctor: reminded all of how many, many years ago the UKB Council set in their procedure and it worked and out of respect for those persons, he wished to keep the parliamentary procedure as is.

Albert Shade: stated there is a need for some rules of order, to draw attention to some of those silent seconds that, nobody heard and when people have the floor and others interrupt, stuff like that.

Chief Wickliffe: stated concerns for proper procedure can be corrected. We can set our own rules. Our elders set our rules a long time ago. We can take care of Council business.

Barry Dotson: said he wished the speaker would be recognized and others should be quiet and listen to the speaker out of respect for the chair.

Woodrow Proctor: state he agreed with Mr. Dotson but if motion on the floor does not pass then he will make the motion that the Chief uses his gavel to enforce a time limit on speakers.

Chief Wickliffe: stated he would control the time limit on speakers and enforce recognition of the speaker who has the floor.

Shelbi Wofford: stated discussion and input relating to parliamentary procedure is a good start on rules of order.

**VOTE:** 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

**MOTION** by Woodrow Proctor that Chief utilize his gavel in conducting Council business because Chief is the Chairman according to our Constitution. Chief should use the gavel in following policies and procedures on how he will conduct your Council meeting. Mr. Proctor recommended Chief begin using his gavel and set a time limit for speaking on each and every Council member what ever the Chief so desires and that speakers stand at their presentation Chief Wickliffe: will have his expectations, rules, procedures, etc. written and presented to Council at the next Council meeting

Woodrow Proctor: agreed his motion that Chief utilize his gavel, etc. could be entered in the minutes as a suggestion.

Council discussion of proposed Election Ordinance Draft

## DISCUSSION:

Ella Mae Worley: Election Board member, discussed Election Board Ordinance

Ella Mae Worley: informed the board had worked very closely with attorney Michael McMahan since the initial draft, in preparing this ordinance draft. She stated this was the same draft previously presented to Council. Ms. Worley explained Sonja Hartness and Leroy Adair were not present today due to illness but Calvin McCoy and Amy Mathis were in attendance with her today.

Amy Mathis: announced there is a vacancy on the Election Board due to the resignation of Sonja Hartness. At present Leroy Adair is the Chairman of the Election Board. The board will submit names for filling the vacancy and the Council is invited to submit names as well toward filling the vacant seat.

Definitions have been added to the Ordinance Draft in hopes of clarity.

The term election officials has been deleted because wording was vague in defining "who" these people were and changed the wording.

Percent workers is defined

On section 212 the question is "who is election administration."

The old ordinance reads; the Council by resolution may appoint at least three persons as election administrators who shall assist... What does that mean? Should it be removed?

Election Board members continued to read areas of concern for understanding.

Page 2 = definition, what is executive = should read exclusive. The way ordinance reads we're not working by exclusive member.

NOTE: AG Ken Bellmard assisted in presentation. He stated there are dual enrollments, need to

\_\_\_\_\_Continued on page 8

## A Letter to the UKB People

From Chief George Wickliffe

Continued from page 2

nations, an Act of Congress is the only legal measure which can accomplish the changes Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has illegally moved to do, which include, but are not limited to:

1. Prohibit Cherokee Freedmen from tribal citizenship, voting and other rights;
2. Operate under a Constitution;
3. Amend A Constitution;
4. Hold an election (except under a valid Constitution);
5. Remove Federal Approval from the Constitution;
6. Denying service to federally-recognized Native Americans within their service area using Federal funds, who are not members of the Cherokee Nation;

and,

7. Having jurisdiction of Trust Lands which are held in trust for a "Cherokee Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (OIWA)," which the Cherokee Nation is not.

It should also be noted that the Bill calls for severe further scrutiny and monitoring ensuring that Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is not only in compliance with its treaty obligations, but all Federal Statutes which 'govern its relations with the United States Government.' This stipulation is beneficial to the United States, as well as other Native American and Federally-recognized tribes which have been denied their rights due to Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma illegally excluding them from benefits and services by law.

H.R. 2824 states in the last paragraph under "GAO Report on Expenditure of Federal Funds" that, "The report shall include an analysis of Federal funds allocated by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's leadership for its member benefits and services and for administrative and other purposes. The report shall determine whether or not the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is in full compliance with all Federal regulations and laws regarding the management and disbursement of Federal funds." It is hoped this will allow the thousands of members of the federally-recognized United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, who are not members of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma receive services through their own tribal government, which has the same jurisdictional area Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma claims. Until this point, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has successful and illegally blocked funding to the United Keetoowah Band, and OIWA-organized tribe, with an erroneous claim of dual-enrollment and double-servicing.

It is hoped this information imparts a deeper understanding of the claim made on page 8 of H.R. 2824, that "The manner in which the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is conducting the relationship between the United States and the tribal entity is not in the best interest of the United States Government, citizens of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and violates existing treaties and laws governing the relationship between the United States Government and the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma." You will note that in addition, it is not in the best interest of citizens of the United Keetoowah Band (over 10,000 residents of Northeastern Oklahoma), as well.

Most importantly, it is hoped that the distinguished members of Congress will find the audacity of Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma to assume it can supersede Congress no less than astonishing.

While the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma exists today only legally capable of administering the assets of the original Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and to service the original Dawes Enrollees, the United Keetoowah Band is Congressionally recognized under the OIWA, as are other Oklahoma tribes. The Treaty of 1866 was negotiated to ensure the Indian tribes, originally from the Southeastern area of the United States, were consistent with the civil rights of black people enjoyed through the United States Constitution. The so-called "Five Civilized Tribes" were the signers of this treaty, and the mandates of the document do not affect the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, nor other tribes in the United States other than the 'five.' Certainly, tribal governments have the legal right to determine their own citizenship requirements, IF these are not in conflict with treaties signed between the United States and the tribes. If a tribe is in conflict, there is no court in the land which can abrogate the treaty. Only Congress can do so.



KEETOOWAH CHEROKEE CASINO maintenance employee, Dustin Sanders, right, and Hominy Littledave, left, UKB Community Service Coordinator, volunteer their time to help repair and winterize a Keetoowah Cherokee elder's home.

*George Wickliffe*

## UKB Regular October Council Meeting Minutes continued

process this concern and get data to the Election Board. This is a very technical situation and may take time to solve because this is a paper work issue.

Charles Locust: what is the priority, the Enrollment or the Election Board?

Ken Bellmard: the priority is a decision of the Council. If you decide enrollment then its enrollment. It needs to be this way otherwise you will have two different lists.

Eddie Sacks: this is the equivalent to state elections. If people move and fail to inform the election board they are not eligible to vote in their new voting place and unless those non-voters could make a difference in the election outcome no one pays attention. We can say only exclusive members can vote but there will be non-voters voting because people are going back and forth. This is less likely to be noticed in larger voting districts. We can tighten voter eligibility but we are not going to solve the problem. He does agree we should "put our foot down."

Woodrow Proctor: says due to needed time for discussion on this Election Ordinance issue, he believed the Election Board and the Enrollment Committee needed to get together with the attorney and try to come up with an equal solution and bring this back to the Council again. He said Eddie Sacks is right about this being a tough situation.

Charles Locust: said years ago the BIA sent let-

ters to John Hair saying the only way for funding to go to the UKB was we claim exclusive members separate from the Cherokee Nation. If we take exclusive out then we will be back where we were before John Hair received those letters from the BIA. This is something to consider.

Ken Bellmard: he believed this situation could be solved and it is a timing issue. It will never be perfect. But what is needed is an official document which comes to the Election Board at the right time which says these are the people who are eligible to vote in the next election. There will always be problems. The way the law is written is the way the law must be enforced. There is a current problem with deceased people still being on the roll and they cannot be removed unless someone brings an affidavit or a death certificate. There will always be problems which are unforeseen but the Election Ordinance can be improved and we'll work on the draft.

MOTION by Woodrow Proctor that the Enrollment Committee meet with the Election Board, the AG and the Election Board attorney Amy Mathis: asked that the Enrollment Committee and the Election Board have an initial meeting without the attorneys.

Eddie Sacks: stated he seconded Amy's statement if Woodrow's motion extended to any-

thing decided by the two bodies, the Council will endorse as formal participation between the two bodies so then this will go in the official record.

Motion to read: MOTION by Woodrow Proctor that the Enrollment Committee meet with the Election Board, to discuss the Election Ordinance Draft and submit to the AG, then make recommendations to the Council; SECONDED by Eddie Sacks; VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

Woodrow Proctor: stated a decision is to be presented at the next Council meeting.

Barry Dotson: requested the AG define affidavit for voting.

Ken Bellmard: said an affidavit was used with people who came to vote but were in the wrong district to vote. Those people were allowed to sign an affidavit of explanation as to why they were allowed to vote at that particular voting site. He also commended the Election Board for their hard work relating to the Election Ordinance Draft.

Chief Wickliffe: supported AG Bellmard's statement relating to the Election Board.

### X. New Business

Council discussion to vote to approve/disapprove the recommendation of the Gaming Board to place Randall Cummings on the Gaming Board.

LENGTHY DISCUSSION: RE: Randall Cummings being an ordained minister

and church pastor. All discussion expressed respect for Mr. Cummings being a minister and pastor. Rev. Cummings stated he would accept a position on the Gaming Board and would perform to the best of his ability and not lose sight of his Christian calling.

MOTION by Albert Shade to approve the placement of Randall Cummings on the Gaming Board; SECONDED by Jerry Hansen; VOTE: 9 Yes, 2 No (S. Wofford & Proctor), 1 Abstentions (C. Wofford).

Council discussion to vote to approve/disapprove the membership of each member of Council in the National Congress if American Indians (NCAI) with membership to include UKB Administrative Officer. MOTION by Eddie Sacks to approve the membership of Council listed, see attached list, in the National Congress if American Indians (NCAI) with membership to include UKB Administrative Officer as well as other employees listed and the Federal Programs Director; SECONDED by Jerry Hansen; LENGTHY DISCUSSION

VOTE: 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

### XI. Announcements

XII. Benediction: Jerry Hansen

XIII. Adjourn: MOTION by Eddie Sacks; SECONDED by Charles Locust; Approved by affirmation. Conclusion: 1:04 PM

## The True Meaning of Community Helping Community

In Keetoowah history, communities came together to help one another in time of need. A family's home burned down or loss of a family member, people in the communities would come together and provide food, clothing, shelter or cut and gather wood for the family. This tradition was called s-ga-du-gi (community helping community). In the true meaning of the word the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma still practice this tradition today. It is a tradition that has been practiced from generation to generation by the Keetoowah Cherokee people.

Carrying on this tradition the United Keetoowah Band has organized a coalition, the "Warmth of Love" committee, committed to providing aide to the Keetoowah elders and tribal members in the communities within the nine districts.

Many Keetoowah Cherokee elders live alone and many others provide care for their grandchildren and do not have the resources to repair or winterize their homes. With this in mind, a committee was formed to recruit volunteers to go out into the communities and provide help to the Keetoowah Cherokee families who are in need. The volunteers provide their time to go to homes to assist in home repairs, winterization and cleanup. The "Warmth of Love" committee requests and receives monetary contributions, donations of household items and aide from individuals and organizations to help with the cost of repairs and cleanup. Tribal members even volunteer to prepare meals for the workers.

"We hope that others will be motivated to help. You don't have to be a professional to be out here, if you can push a broom, use a rake, pick up trash, you can be a valuable volunteer," said Sue Gaytan, Tribal Victims Assistance Program Advocate. "The need doesn't stop here with repairs and cleanup, we are asking people to donate any furniture that is usable, that is still in good condition and they have no need for it, if they can give us a phone number we can contact them, and we will come by and pick up the furniture. We know a lot of people who have their homes burned out and need furniture, dishes, anything to restart their lives."

The motivation for this committee is not for praise or recognition, but for the love of their

Keetoowah people. No political ties, no pats on the back, just people who want to make a difference in helping people. This is the Keetoowah Cherokee tradition. This project will be ongoing with a family within the nine districts of the United Keetoowah Band hopefully being assisted every month.

Members of the "Warmth of Love" committee are Rod Fourkiller, General Manager, Keetoowah Cherokee Casino; Sue Gaytan, Tribal Victims Assistance Program Advocate; Sonya Cochran, Director of Tribal Victims Assistance Program and Indian Child Welfare; Brenda Locust, Specialist Events Coordinator; Hominy Littledave, Community Service Coordinator; and Jim Teehee; Security Officer, Keetoowah Cherokee Casino.

"We want to thank Chief George Wickliffe; Assistant Chief Charles Locust; and Tim Good Voice, Administrative Officer; for their support in this project. They were very instrumental in helping with all of this. If it wasn't for their understanding and compassion, this would have never happened, we are very grateful for this," Stated Gaytan.

To volunteer for this project or for more information please contact, Sonya Cochran or Sue Gaytan at 918-456-9200 or you can call toll free 1-800-794-6514.



UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND Chief George Wickliffe, left, and Chickasaw Nation Lieutenant Governor, Jefferson Keel, right, visited during the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual National Congress of American Indians Convention in Denver, Colorado.