Tribal Council Representatives and tribal employees were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony in July to open the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program on the 280th Base Support Battalion and Schweinfurt Military Community in Germany. Councilpersons Lois Burton and Charlotte Jackson were happy to participate in the official opening of the WIC site.

“It is wonderful to talk to the employees of the program and know that they are so excited to be able to offer the counseling and nutrition products to the families,” said Councilperson Burton. “These families were not able to receive assistance from WIC before the Choctaw Nation administered it here through CMSE,” said Councilperson Jackson. “This will be a tremendous asset for them.”

Both Councilpersons pointed out that not only will these families have their nutrition needs improved, but the food purchase vouchers will help the families’ financial budgets.

Brigadier General Richard L. Ursone, TRICARE Europe Lead Agent, has been a proponent of the WIC program for many years and was instrumental in getting the program approved for servicemen and women’s families overseas. General Ursone credited the local WIC team with implementations of the service at Schweinfurt. This team of workers included LTC Jenny Roper, LTC John Lane, 1 LTC Kim Lecosbert, Lisa Keyes, LTC Barbara Freinweil, LTC Sue Keller and Erika Edwards. Ursone also thanked the 280th Command and the Dental Clinic for their cooperation and help.

WIC has been around since 1972 in the United States, administered at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Studies show that WIC has been consistently associated with reductions in the prevalence of very low birth weight of infants and a lower incidence of infant mortality. WIC participation has also been associated with improved dietary intake in children and improved cognitive development.

Studies show that for every two, children enrolled in WIC, approximately 20 other children are enrolled in WIC, primarily in better vocabulary scores. Children participating in WIC also have a better memory for numbers.

WIC Overseas (WICO) brings this valuable service to eligible soldiers and family members. Two members of the Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise Board of Directors, Paula Wongfield and Diane Perrin, were also present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the Schweinfurt site.

Some of the first WIC participants at the military base in Schweinfurt, Germany were Ivonne Shiraishi and her children, Sean Logan and Tiffany Ann. Ivonne’s husband, Sam, is enlisted in the army and based at Schweinfurt. Recently hired CMSE employee, Erika Edwards, is processing the paperwork for the Shiraishi family to receive their WIC vouchers.

Chief Greg Pyle is pleased to announce that U.S. Senator James Inhofe has allotted the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma $750,000 in CDBG grant funds to construct a Diabetes Clinic and Wellness Center in the amount of $750,000. The tribe will be constructing a Diabetes Clinic and Wellness Center at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. The tribe will provide the balance of funds necessary to complete the facility.

Chief Pyle said that Diabetes is now the number one killer in America. The disease has reached epidemic proportions among American Indians, and presently there are over 3,000 diabetic patients being treated in the Choctaw Nation’s free health care facilities. In November 1997 the tribe opened a Diabetes Treatment Center, housed in a small area of the Choctaw Nursing Home in Antlers, to address the needs of diabetic patients. In March 2000 the clinic was moved into the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. The space in the hospital soon became cramped and does not provide the minimum requirements necessary to provide effective and total care. When the Diabetes Treatment Center was moved to the hospital, they had 30 active patients. One year later, the patient load had increased to 135. They average 70 new referrals each month.

It is well documented that primary prevention activities can have a major effect on reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes. A sedentary lifestyle and obesity are two modifiable risk factors for diabetes that can be improved. (See GRANT on Page 4)
Dear Chief Ty, and people of the Choctaw Nation,

I am writing to express my gratitude and thanks for helping me to obtain a college degree. I have been a recipient of the Choctaw Scholarship Program for four years. In May, I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Oklahoma Health University School of Nursing and will soon be going to work for the Indian Health Service. I am looking forward to serving the Indian people and learning more about Indian culture.

I would also like to acknowledge this at this time my great-grandmother, Amanda Yarbrough, my great-grandfather, Elvaner Faye Berry, and grandmother, Thelma Berry Henson Kirby. My grandmother is still living and I am blessed that her ancestors because she feels they would be proud as she is also.

Thank you for your help in providing financial aid during my undergraduate college career. On May 30, I graduated with honors from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Musical Theatre. I attended a musical theatre camp in Chicago in June and moved to New York City where I am currently working in theatre. Without the help of the Choctaw Nation, my family and I would have had hard-pressed to find the money for college. For this financial help we received from the Choctaw Nation. I feel that I have received promises and who-God's journey' and still to wait until I get home to write, but then, I feel so compelled that I dig into my purse and find a piece of paper to jot down notes.

I sit in my motel room in Cherokee, North Carolina pondering whether to wait until I get home to write, but then, I feel so compelled that I dig into my purse and find a piece of paper to jot down notes.

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The Choctaw Nation has a focus on education and preparation for the future of the tribal members. At the same time, the Council and the people in general have continued to make great progress in so important an enterprise of ours. We seldom think of the great success which our young have already achieved. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful success in our education endeavors over the past few years. Travel plans, painting operations, manufacturing of different industries, and contracts throughout the U.S. Government have all contributed to the tribals that have made life better for many people. One of these programs that the tribal businesses have been possible is the Choctaw Language Program. The Choctaw language will be offered in public schools as an accredited course. Considered a "pilot program" for the first year, the course will be offered through technology of the internet to four schools – one per tribe. The teacher will be Hanndy Bamond; he will be broadcast onto the view screen in all of these schools. The students will receive credit for the class for their language at graduation. Next year, we expect to expand the public school language classes to include all those classroom in the Choctaw Nation who wish to offer the course. The program is an evolution about much more than the language. A great deal of the history of the Choctaw Nation is also shared by the teacher. Learning about our tribe is a great experience and it is exciting and enjoyable to offer this information to so many people.

LTC Jenny Roper is pictured with Co-Administrators Charlotte Jackson and Lois Burt and CM/SE Managing Officer Matt Novick at the Schweinfurt WIC clinic opening. Over the years the Choctaw Nation has proudly served two generations of military families. The WIC program has never been offered in a military setting. The WIC overseas program is to benefit pregnant and nursing mothers as well as their infants. It is a program whose purpose is to help ensure a healthy birth and promote healthy growth and development. To date, the Choctaw Nation has never been more prepared to serve our military families. This new program will provide an opportunity to further serve our military families overseas. The WIC program will be able to extend our services overseas to the military community. The Choctaw Nation team, including Matt Novick, Charlotte Jackson, Lois Burt, Diane Peritt, Paula Wingfield, Lawrence Sempiprivo and Jayne Hart, visited with FAP employees at a "pilot program" for the first accredited course. Considered an "accredited program" for learning a second language, this class for learning a second language is offered in public schools as an "accredited program". To learn our native language. Many families are serving our country.

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Sierra heading for first grade

Sierra Moran graduated kindergarten on May 22, 2001 from Wickers Elementary. She is excited about going to the first grade.

Sierra is the daughter of Scott Moran, the granddaughter of Susie Oliver and the great-granddaughter of Nacy Oliver. She would like to say “Hi” to her brother, Allen.

Look who’s two!

Happy second birthday to Santina Ryanne Childs. She turns two on September 4, 2001. She is the daughter of Chris and Christine Taylor of Tulsa, Oklahoma and William Childs of Sand Springs, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are James and Jan Culp and Val and Mary Childs of Shady Grove, Oklahoma. Santina will be celebrating by having a “pooh” party with her sisters, including her GeGe and Pipo, her cousins, Christy, Courtney, Kellan, Ryan and Daniell, aunties Kim and Tabitha, uncle Jerry, and lots of friends. We all love you very much, Talie! Have a great year!

Derek is awarded baseball scholarship

Derek Collins of Latta High School was recently selected to play in the McDonald Coaches Association All-State baseball games at Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City.

Derek is playing this summer for the Oklahoma American Legion team. He has played in seven state tournaments in his high school career, winning one title with three runner-ups. He will attend Carl Albert Jr. College in Poteau, Oklahoma this fall as a baseball scholarship recipient. He is the son of Ed and Tammy Collins of Ada, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Kenneth and Joyce Collins of Chouteau, Oklahoma and the late Herman Collins.

Presidential scholar

Amanda Quintana, great-granddaughter of original enrollee Leo E. Merryman, recently graduated from Veneta, Oregon. She graduated cum laude. Because of her 4.0 grade point average, she was selected to receive the “Presidential Citation” and “Presidential Certificate.” Amanda is also an athlete, being a standout pitcher on a fastpitch softball team, the Killer Bees, which competes statewide.

Jeek celebrates first birthday


Her parents are Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana, Grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and and Bobbie Scott of Oklahoma. Her great-grandparents are Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.

Bookout, Seamman exchange vows

Triabil member Scott Allen Bookout and Emily Seamman were married on July 10, 2001 in Oklahoma City. They plan to reside in Oklahoma City.

Congratulations!

Perfect attendance

Pamela West and daughter Keyonna Comte have received their perfect attendance pins. Pam’s new 18 inches long, marks her 7th year of perfect attendance. Keyonna’s is 5 1/2 inches long and marks her 3rd year.

They received the pins on Homecoming Sunday from their grandmother, Mack Jones, who also serves as Student Council president of Apelar Nazarene Church. They received the pins in memory of the late Vera Jones, their grandmother who passed away earlier this year.

Pam is the wife of Eric West of Stuarts, Oklahoma. Her parents are Buck and Frances Jones of Apelar. Her grandparents are Lorene McClelland and her late husband, MC and Mack Jones and the late Vera Jones, all of Apelar.

Keyonna recently graduated from Haywood Elementary School where she was active in basketball, track, 4-H and served as Ms. Haywood School Queen for 2001. She will attend Stuart High School in the fall.

She is the daughter of Keyanna and Ron West of Stuarts, Oklahoma. She is the late Joni Comte, her grandmother who passed away earlier this year.

Easter’s master’s degree

Manus Malone Lockey of Albquerque, New Mexico, graduated May 12, 2001 from the University of New Mexico. She received a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technologies.

Currently, Maneus teaches first grade at San Felipe Pueblo Elementary School in San Felipe, New Mexico. She also facilitates workshops through a New Mexico State University Grant for their schools.

She is the daughter of Carlos “Bear” Lockey and Gwendolyn Quinterly. Her master’s degree wasBlooming New Mexico.

Happy birthday

Daisy Watson, the daughter of Lance and Edith Watson of Oklahoma, turned one year old on August 6.

Daisy is the son of John and Kathy Watson of Palmer, Texas.

Birthday wishes are sent from her grandmother, Vera Jones, her aunts and uncles and all of her cousins. We love you very much and that you will have a special birthday.

Also, Renika would like to say “Hi” to all her cousins, Darian, Sadie, Jalen, Cameron, Darrell, Ronnie, Morse, and Julie and grandson, Ray, all of Tulsa. Also, happy birthday to her uncles and grandmothers, Great-Nancy and Uncle Billy Butler and family.

Cousin wished a happy birthday

Jennifer L. (Thomas) Gardner, 19, of Duvall, Washington will turn 19 years old on May 27, 2001. She is the daughter of Lance and Erika (Baker) Thomas. She was born May 27, 1982 in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Jennifer is the granddaughter of Anne Mae Wilson of Broken Bow and the late Bernice (Baker) Coltriss. She is a 1999 graduate of Broken Bow High School.

Congratulations, grad of 2001!!

Lena Willis, the daughter of Jimmy and Paula Griffith of Wright City, recently graduated from the U.S. Navy. Jimmy will receive two weeks of training in Great Lakes, Illinois. Jimmy also is the grandson of Anne Mae Wilson of Broken Bow and the late Bernice (Baker) Coltriss. She was born May 27, 1982.

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Larosa, who is very proud of her.

Sabrina’s family and her future would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for taking the time to go over her letter and helping her closer to reaching her goal of becoming Miss America National Hostess. The Miss American Princess Program for 2001 will be held November 19 through 26. Good luck, Sabrina!”

BIRTHDAYS FOR MAKALA AND KELSEY

Birthday wishes go to Makala who turned four years old on April 24 and little sister, Kelsey, who turned three on June 12.

Their parents are Jerry Walker of Le Flop, Oklahoma and Tawnya Wears of Okla. Oklahoma.

Grandparents are Gary and Jeff Loftin of Arkia, Gomez Walker, a member of flag corps and football trainer, basketball cheerleader, of Oklahoma.

Happy birthday, Kelsey! Happy birthday, Makala! Mother and father are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Morgan Mathis, a nine-year-old Tyler, Texas youth, has captured Reserve Champion Texas District 20 in the National Barrel Horse Association. This qualifies her for the NBHA Youth World Championships held in Jackson, Mississippi.

 mortar Mathis, a nine-year-old Tyler, Texas youth, has captured Reserve Champion Texas District 20 in the National Barrel Horse Association. This qualifies her for the NBHA Youth World Championships held in Jackson, Mississippi. Morgan secured her position using a point system established by the NBHA by winning barrel races in her first event in any of the 20 districts in the nation with over 300 members.

Morgan will compete with youth from across the United States, Canada, Italy and Panama. Prizes will be given by several national sponsors to include money, saddles, belt buckles and horse tarps.

She is the daughter of Chantay and Chad Mathis of Tyler and the granddaughter of Chester and Jane Crosby, Buzz and Mary Willingham and great-grandmother is Betty Johnson of Mercid, California and Cliff and Pat Johnson of Merced, California.

She is the granddaughter of Gladys King Dunlap.

Morgan is the granddaughter of Coach Johnful Briscoe who won the GKA which now is the WPEBA barrel race in Jackson, Mississippi in 1964 and qualified for the first three National Final barrel races in 1959. Clayton, New Mexico 1960, Scottsdale Arizona and 1961 - Santa Maria, California.

Happy birthday, everyone!
The day of the Portland meeting, July 28, marked George Ruggles’ 33rd birthday. Happy birthday, George!

Frankie Cobb of Apache, Oklahoma attended the Portland meeting while visiting with her son, Terry Cobb and granddaughters, Janessa Cobb and Alex Cobb.

Miky Alcaraz, Lee Tiger, Shelly Alcaraz and Jessica Alcaraz (photo above) would like to say “Hi!” to their cousins in Talihina.

Eight-year-old Aubreyanne Miller poses for a picture with Chief Pyle.

Chief Pyle visits with Chris and Sean Walsh.

Rewarded with 2001 Long Walk T-shirts for being such a great help during the meeting are Nevin Halvorsen and Emily Taylor. Nevin and Emily took turns drawing names for door prizes.

Eight-year-old Aubreyanne Miller poses for a picture with Chief Pyle.

Sheri, Chris, Wade and Tyler Cach, Gary Fipps, Chief Pyle, Wanda Fipps and Harvey and Terry Foster.

Jeff Meeds fastens Choctaw pins to daughters Jaymie, Kara and Morgan’s blouses while mom, Mona, looks on.

Charles and Jennifer Watson with Ashley, Emily and Carly.

Patty Russell and Cheryl Arsenault receive information from Russell Sossamon, Housing Authority Executive Director, and Larry Wade, Higher Education Director.

Ida Haraughty, Clestina Barrett and Clestina Haraughty enjoyed meeting Chief Pyle.
Fifteen-month-old Jacelyn Provenzano attended the Seattle meeting to get her very own membership card.

Housing Authority Director Russell Sossoman visits with Perry Adams, a Lummi Tribal Councilmember, and Choctaw Tribal member Dianna Perkins Kale.

Norma Haney and Judy Wesch are greeted by Chief Pyle. Judy’s mother is Choctaw original enrollee Maud Lee Wyatt Fitzgerald, 100, of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

Chief Greg Pyle congratulates Evan Wilson on bringing home the gold medal in the 100-meter dash from the Washington State Special Olympics competition in June. They are pictured here with Ben and Pam Wilson.

Who’s the next winner? Lucinda Coleman draws door prize tickets at the Seattle meeting.

Orietta Hegtvedt, right, receives assistance with membership applications from Director Brenda Hampton.

Family gathers at Seattle meeting – Regina McKinney, Natosha Sanesi, Larry McKinney, Gabrielle Sanesi, and Matthew, Renee, George and Diana Holman.

Ruth Frazier McMillan shares many of her historical artifacts, documents and photographs with guests at the July 29 meeting in Seattle.

Housing Authority Director Russell Sossoman visits with Perry Adams, a Lummi Tribal Councilmember, and Choctaw Tribal member Dianna Perkins Kale.
The sound is country, the message is Christ

Susie Luchsinger

The annual CHR sponsored health fair and health exhibition will once again be held during the upcoming Choctaw Festival at Tushka Homma. This year’s theme will be “Choctaw Nation CHR – Creating a Buzz.” These events will begin on August 31 and continue through September 2, 2001. Daily schedules are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The health exposition will feature topics on “Circle of Life” – Breast Cancer Awareness, Diabetes – Diet & Exercise, Lupus – “To Cure & to friend” – how advertising promotes your health. Foot Massages; American Indian Bone Marrow drive; Diabetic Foot Care and “We Are What We Eat.”

The health fair segment offers screening of cholesterol, blood glucose level, hemoglobin b, blood pressure and weight. On-site counseling is provided to each health fair participant, with medical referrals as indicated.

As always, the Community Health Representatives of the Choctaw Nation are looking forward to another wonderful health event. We or “Creating a Buzz” and invite you to walk another world where you will be pleasantly surprised!

The Martins

Siblings add fresh sound to gospel music

The Martins – a trio of siblings Joyce Martin McCollough, Judy Martin Hess and Jonathan Martin – have breathed new life into Southern gospel music in the past couple of years with a fresh sound that takes them into the Adult Contemporary realm.

McCollough and her brother and sister grew up singing in the tiny Tillou Baptist Church in northern Louisiana, not far from the cabin where they grew up in southern Arkansas.

The family had no plumbing or electricity in its cabin, and the children learned to entertain themselves by reading and singing. Their mother taught them how to harmonize, and those early lessons are paying dividends today.

In spite of their family’s lean finances in those years, the three have nothing but fond memories.

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The Crabb Family

Sharing the gospel through song

The Crabb Family brings to the stage a seven-piece band and six vocalists. The word that comes to mind at the thought of this talented family is “unique.” Composed of Gerald and Kathy Crabb, five of their six children, a couple of in-laws, and musician Chuck Royer, the Crabb Family is the largest “family” group on the road.

Sharing the gospel through song

The bluegrass state of Kentucky that brought us the Happy Goodman Family, the Ramseys and the Hinsons has birthed yet another musical sensation – the Crabb Family. In just a few short years, the Crabb Family has firmly established a place in the hearts of radio audiences adding to their credit nine top ten songs within the last thirty years.

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The Crabb Family brings to the stage a seven-piece band and six vocalists. The word that comes to mind at the thought of this talented family is “unique.” Composed of Gerald and Kathy Crabb, five of their six children, a couple of in-laws, and musician Chuck Royer, the Crabb Family is the largest “family” group on the road.
**District Princesses ready for Pageant**

Many young ladies will be competing for the titles of Little Miss, Jr. Miss, and Sr. Miss Choctaw Nation on Saturday, September 1 during the annual Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma. Everyone is invited to attend the pageant which begins at 10 a.m. in the amphitheater. Each contestant has won their district title and will be representing that district in the pageant. All are judged on interpersonal, traditional Choctaw dress, traditional Choctaw accessories, and beauty page. The Jr. and Sr. Miss contestants are also judged on the categories of traditional talent and goals as princesses.

- **District 1**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Andrea Wilson, District 3 Little Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Andrea Fox, District 1 Little Miss

- **District 2**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Tia Hampton, District 8 Little Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Jennifer Tenequer, District 10 Little Miss

- **District 3**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Tiffany Shorno, District 2 Miss Little Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Leandra Morgan, District 12 Little Miss

- **District 4**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Gloria Molton, District 3 Jr. Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Phyllis Lee, District 9 Little Miss

- **District 5**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Rachel Cagle, District 12 Jr. Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Leandra Morgan, District 12 Little Miss

- **District 6**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Staci Tims, District 8 Jr. Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Jessica Tenequer, District 10 Little Miss

- **District 7**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Kristie McClaire, District 5 Little Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Pakasi Polk, District 9 Jr. Miss

- **District 8**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Pakasi Polk, District 9 Jr. Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Soonie Smoak, District 1 Little Miss

- **District 9**
  - **Miss Little Miss**: Nakisha Boshman, District 7 Little Miss
  - **Miss District Princess**: Jennifer Tenequer, District 10 Little Miss

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**Youth groups taking center stage in gospel music**

A scene from the recent annual Choctaw Nation Festival in Tushka Homma, “Gathering of Youth,” will feature some of the best up-and-coming talent in gospel music today. Cross Road, an Oklahoma-based Native American Southern Gospel group won first place honors in this particular contest. This made winning even more special.

Recently signed to Benson Records, the group Forty Days is launching the release of “Everyday,” the group’s very first label recording. Band members Mark Warren (vocals, harmonica), Joel Warren (vocals, acoustic guitar), Brian Burch (drums), Chris Foster (acoustic electric guitar) and Dene Philips (bass, background vocals) have created an acoustic rock blend of songs that maintains an edgy pop sound that is accessible to a wide range of listeners.

The project was produced by Third Day front man Mac Powell, and is his first outside production effort to date. Based in Dallas, Texas, Forty Days has quickly built a huge regional following over the span of the last few years since the group’s beginnings in 1995. With two inimitably produced projects under its belt, the band has already become a regular on the touring circuit, performing at youth and collegiate events in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee to name a few.

The band’s experiences over the past year have been a big factor in the formation of the new album. It is a challenge to those who believe in Christ to follow Hoffcomple- tely. As Forty Days continues to move into Christian music’s center stage, the band’s message re- mains the same: to reach across cultural religious boundaries with a timeless message for a generation of youth.

“Our ministry to kids matters more than our music does,” Joel explains. “Too many people get caught up in the music, but we do this to be able to relate to kids and share with them. If we were doing it for any other reason than that, we would have quit a long time ago.”

Mark adds, “Kids are so impressionable, and they seem to have an open heart to music. Music reaches people like nothing else, and God can use us in this ministry in their lives, maybe we can be an encouragement to keep living for Him.”

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**Checkers and Dominoes Tournament**

**Sunday, September 2, 2001**

**Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival**

Registration begins at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Checkers begin at 1 p.m., with Dominos immediately following.
Diabetes screening and education booth will be available at Labor Day Festival.

The staff of the Diabetes Treatment Center will have a booth set up at the Labor Day Festival again this year. We will see the usual suspects and those who have never participated in the diabetes screening.

Our dietitian, nurse practitioner, and diabetes educator will be on hand to answer your questions about your healthcare.

We have been busy this summer preparing for ourreturn of the children with the Wellness camps.

Two Wellness camps were held at Tulsa during July. Norman, Oklahoma, and the CHNs organized these fun events.

The staff of the Diabetes Treat-
ment Center will help with regist-
rations, prizes and processing the

screening. We are presenting information on the wellness camps at the Americ-
an Diabetes Association’s Annual meeting in Oklahoma City, August 15-19.

The Wellness camps dem-

strate a true community education in a culturally sensitive format.

Indian Health Service has

invited our program to share our success in diabetes control and prevention for the third annual Tribal Health Summit in Tulsa on August 29. Results of the annual diabetes audit demonstrate our success in lowering blood sugar for our patients and preventing complications of diabetes. We are honored to represent Choctaw Nation at this important meeting.

In the near future, we will ex-

pand our education and this pro-

gram into the communities of Oklahoma. We look forward to providing these important services in locations most convenient for tribal members.

For questions regarding any of the services of the Diabetes Cen-
ter, contact Sharon Passmore at 580-745-7125, ext. 6005.

For appointments call ext. 607.

Eating breakfast can make you feel fuller all day long. It can improve your cognitive function and concentration. It can even lower your risk of diabetes and heart disease. And it can help you lose weight.

But not all breakfasts are created equal. A healthy breakfast should include a variety of foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein. It should also be low in added sugars and sodium.

Here are some ideas for healthy breakfast options:

• Whole grain cereal with low-fat milk
• Greek yogurt with fresh fruit
• Oatmeal with fruit and nuts

Remember—breakfast feeds the brain as well as the body. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast every day.

The Department of Labor will sponsor a booth at the Labor Day Festival.

Applications are being ac-
nounced to students in southern Oklahoma and students in eastern Oklahoma State Uni-
campus in Durant. Students are eligible to participate once a year and coursework be-
gins in January. Students who eat breakfast are less likely to miss classes, be tardy, or report they are too sick to school and more likely to enjoy their meals. Breakfast eaters also score higher on tests and have better concentration and muscle coordi-
nation. Kids who eat breakfast are less likely to be overweight too. Unfortunately, about 50% of children between 6 – 12 years old do not eat breakfast every day.

Parents need to encourage their children to eat breakfast. Starting with a young age, parents can create a positive attitude to-
ward breakfast by showing their children how much they enjoy the morning meal. Do it for your kids— and for yourself.

Eating breakfast as a family offers an opportunity to spend quality time together. On busy morn-
ings when it’s impossible to eat together, encourage children to bring breakfast to school.

Sometimes because of the busy lifestyles we have, breakfast seems like an impossible task. We simply do not have the time to prepare breakfast meals for our families. Everyone is on the go these days but a healthy breakfast can be quick and easy to fix and eat. Try these breakfast-in-a-minute ideas:

• Toasted bagels topped with fruit and yogurt
• Fruit smoothie (fruit and milk)
• Peanut butter on whole-wheat toast
• Cracker with cheese
• Ready-to-eat cereal with fruit and milk

Remember—breakfast feeds the brain as well as the body. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast every day.

For more information or to register, inter-

ested persons should contact Rebecca Smith at 1-800-522-6170.
Dream of American Legion baseball team is realized

Dear Chief Pyle and Tribal Council,

With your graciousness we dream of an American Legion baseball team in LeFlore County has come true! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Chief and the Tribal Council, for your support. The LeFlore County Little League with Burnet and Docken as their vocal support during my visit on your field. You may not be able to see the picture, but on every player and coach there is a Choctaw Tribal Seal patch to honor our relatives, the Chief and Council.

We also plan to know that this first year team, made up of players from LeFlore County, has won its district and zone playoffs and is now headed for the state playoffs in Perry, Oklahoma. They are an advertisement for all youth, but for a first year team I'm quite sure that is a record and let me assure you that the Choctaw nation has been very proud of this team through the season and you have been acknowledged as our main supporter.

Keith Patton, team manager and proud Choctaw Peca, Oklora

Employees contribute to forensic program

Dear Chief Pyle,

I just want to acknowledge a few employees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that contributed to the Oklahoma Forensic Nurses’ "Multidisciplinary Forensic Education Day" held in McAlester, Oklahoma on July 31. Specifically, Mr. Robert Blum, hospital administrator, and Sampson Moore of the Choctaw Nation Health Care System; Mr. Bob Page, Councilman, Ms. Gloria Slamovitz, McAlester Choctaw Community Center, and the Tribal Police for their assistance and participation in the program.

This program targets a multidisciplinary approach to the forensic sciences and education similar to the format of graduate forensic science programs. The majority of our speakers are known experts and professionals to McAlester, Oklahoma. We hope to work with the Choctaw Nation again.

Sincerely,

Dexter Jefferson, BSN, RNC

Education Chair, Oklahoma Forensic Nurses

Choctaw seeking information on heritage

Dear Editor,

I am in the process of researching my family tree and trying to find information about my maternal grandmother’s family. My grandmother was Lena May Florence (Choctaw) who lived at 1253 Dukeshine in Chickasaw. Lena was the daughter of George and Phoebe Gardner who lived in the Chickasaw Nation. I would appreciate any information that anyone could give me on the family of George and Phoebe Gardner. Thank you very much.

Ira H. Stormy Bryant III

"214 N. 103 St."

Pieh Lake, OK 73805-1598

sharing Lorraine

Smallwood-Mckeever Family

The annual Smallwood and Mckeever Family reunion will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2001 at the Soper Senior Citizens building in Soper, Oklahoma. We are hoping for a good turnout. We will have a covered dish luncheon Saturday. For those who can’t attend the reunion we will meet in regards to regards in order to help find out more about your heritage.

My grandmother’s name was Ruby May Strickland. She was from Durant, Oklahoma. I am enrolled in the Choctaw Nation, but other than that I have no idea of my heritage. I am seeking any individual who might be willing to correspond with me in regards to helping find out more about my heritage.

I have been a shambles and spent most in prison, that of which I am not proud. I am currently in federal prison with no contact with family or the free world. If you would like to correspond with me and help to enlighten me as to what it is like to be Choctaw, please write to:

Frank Henry Ainsworth #14491-064

FCU PO Box 158

El Reno, OK 73036-1598

Researching family tree

Dear Editor,

I am in the process of researching my family tree and trying to find information about my maternal grandmother’s family. My grandmother was Lena May Florence (Choctaw) who lived at 1253 Dukeshine in Chickasaw. Lena was the daughter of George and Phoebe Gardner who lived in the Chickasaw Nation. I would appreciate any information that anyone could give me on the family of George and Phoebe Gardner. Thank you very much.

Ira H. Stormy Bryant III

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Sharing Taylor and Durant family history

Dear Editor,

I will be in the Choctaw Nation over Labor Day weekend and would like to talk with anyone descended from the Jackson Taylor and Louis Durant lines.

I have some materials on this family on this family. I hope to use this information to help find out more about you.

Ira H. Stormy Bryant III

"214 N. 103 St."

Pieh Lake, OK 73805-1598

Durant pre-school class takes field trip

The pre-school class of the Choctaw Nation Daycare in Durant recently enjoyed a field trip to KLBK radio station. Shown in the photo are Reed Brilliard, Sylva McArthur, Victoria Deleon, Brittany Martin, Garrett Mitchell, Alliyon Thomas, Keiglie Newton, Colvin Stevenson, Tayton Wilson, Spencer Newman, Karylin Cortinck, Alexis Weatherford, Patrick Cardin, Taylor Nelson, Kelly Smith, Drink Pine, Dylan Anderson, Aaron Aubin, Kayleigh Powell, Christy Smith and Garry Gursley along with radio personalities Tim Mullins, Bob McKinney and Clay Carter. The class has also visited Eaker Field, the library and the First United Bank in Durant. Teachers are: Alli McRae, Brenda Mo and Michelle Faith Watashe, Licensing Supervisor for Child Care for the Creek Nation; Lydia Campbell, Deep Fork Child Care Referral; Jackie Miller, Executive Director of the Okemah Youth Services; Brenda Miller, Extension Educator; Melissa Doxson, Parent of child in Early Head Start Program; Valerie Steele, Early Head Start Site Manager, and Ollie Cornish, Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) State Planner.

David James, who is a three-quarter Choctaw, is from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. His father is of Choctaw Nation Heritage and the mother is of Creek Indian. David’s mother is Hattie James of Broken Arrow and his father is Bill James of Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Chocotaw is child of Mubhuse Awareness Task Force

Members of the Okmulgee County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force look over the group’s plans for the upcoming year. Picture are: LaVon Jones, Early Head Start Director, Alisa Cashman, Staff Physiologist for Creek Nation Behavioral Health, Faith Waites, Licensing Supervisor for Child Care for the Creek Nation, Lydia Campbell, Deep Fork Child Care Referral, Jackie Miller, Executive Director of the Okemah Youth Services, Brenda Miller, Extension Educator; Melissa Doxson, Parent of child in Early Head Start Program; Valerie Steele, Early Head Start Site Manager, and Ollie Cornish, Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) State Planner.

Internet Language Class Schedule - 2001-2002

Full registration for all classes began August 1, 2001.

The registration for day classes is at 8 p.m. on Monday, August 27, 2001.

Full registration for evening classes classes is at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28, 2001.

Spring class and sem-semester registration will be announced at a later date.

Please see following schedule for a list of classes offered:

“Beginning Choctaw Grammar”

Beginning day classes

Ending date: December 14, 2001

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

1 p.m. (Central Time)

30-minute classes

“Beginning Choctaw Grammar”

Beginning day classes

Ending date: December 14, 2001

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

1 p.m. (Central Time)

30-minute classes

“Intermediate Choctaw Grammar”

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Benjamin Nelson
Benjamin Nelson, 96, passed away July 7, 2001 at Bayshore-Richmond Hospital after a brief illness. He was born in 1905 near McAlester, Indian Territory, and was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was the son of Jackson F. and Emma Pitchlynn Nelson. He was an original enrollee at the end of the allotment period. Mr. Nelson attended school in Alderson, Oklahoma and graduated from Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas in 1926. He was employed by Western Union in Prescot, Arkansas and Snyder, Texas after graduating from Chilocorte Business College in 1929.

In 1927, he married his high school sweetheart, Lucy Benham, and they were married for 60 years. They were the parents of 14 children, 13 of whom were reared in the Choctaw Nation.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather to all of their children. He was a loving father and grandfather to all of their grandchildren.

It is with tremendous sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Taylor, Jeffery Lee. Jeff passed away April 19, 2001 in Broken Bow, Oklahoma at the age of 49 years. He was born March 21, 1952 in Sobel, Oklahoma to Wilson and Driloris (Billy) Taylor. Jeffery Lee Taylor passed away on March 21, 1952 in Sobel, Oklahoma to Wilson and Driloris (Billy) Taylor. Jeff was a lifelong resident of the Choctaw Nation and many areas.

Survivors include his wife, the love of his life, parents, Wilson and Delores Taylor of Ratan, Oklahoma, grandparents, J.C. Taylor of Ratan; three children, Jennifer Davidson and Taylor Family, and the many others who were there for us in a time of need. We appreciate all that everyone took the time to help us with food, words and prayers. Words can't express how grateful we are to have friends and neighbors.

Thank you.

In memory of Nadine O. Petey
Nadine O. Petey, 75, of Oklahoma, passed away Friday, July 27, 2001 in Paris, Texas. She was born December 10, 1926 in Sinton, Texas to George E. and Dorothy Brown Petey. She was a lifetime resident of the Choctaw Nation.

Survivors include her children, Mary Louise and Donald Beasley, both of Tulsa, and Mark Robert Taylor, Arkansas; sisters, Ella Mae Beasley and Marcella Beasley, both of McAlester, Oklahoma; nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and neighbors.

Jennifer Davidson and Taylor Family
Eulogy for Nadine O. Petey
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Jennifer Davidson and Taylor Family
Ted Sanderson Williams
Ted Sanderson Williams, 61, of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away Thursday, August 9, 2001 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was the son of Albert LeRoy and Estella Merle Williams.

Sanderson was a floor manager of a sporting goods store in McAlester.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert LeRoy and Estella Merle Williams.

He is survived by his wife, Jessica, a daughter, Rachel Yvonne Beasley of the home and Sophia Lynn Beasley Beasley, both of Tulsa, and Jimmy Don Beasley of Texas; daughters, Jessica, Cyal, Tesla, Marcus, Case, Devon and Ciera.

O'BITUARIES

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