State of the Nation address highlights annual festival

Huge crowds attended this year’s Choctaw Festival held during the Labor Day Weekend at Tushka Homena, the historic tribal capital. The weather was much more comfortable than the past few years, with temperatures in the high 80’s and an overcast sky much of the weekend.

Monday activities always feature the State of the Nation Address, a luncheon and a door prize giveaway of great items – this year a new pickup and cash.

Kenney Bryant, the Speaker of the Tribal Council, gave tribute to the growth of the Choctaw Nation and the Labor Day Festival. “We want to see the Choctaw Nation prosper, and with the help of God we will continue to do so.”

Bryant spoke of the importance of having a goal of progress for the tribal services and programs. “As the Chief and Assistant Chief walk the halls of Congress, they will get the answers they are seeking because God walks with them,” said Bryant.

Assistant Chief Mike Bailey thanked the many workers who had volunteered their time and efforts to make the festival a success. He also spoke of his appreciation of the Chief and for the numerous projects and programs that have been established during the last few years. Examples of these projects and programs included the beautiful Choctaw Nation Health Care Center at Tushka, the education programs such as scholarships and Child Development Centers, chiefly programs such as the Independent Living Centers, and improved facilities at home office.

Chief Gregory P. Pyle spoke of the credit these improvements and additions with the members of the Tribal Council. “We have a Tribal Council that is successful. They meet several times a week to learn about the needs of our Choctaw people and to seek solutions to those problems.”

Chief Pyle spoke of the recent ribbon cutting at the tribe’s third Travel Plaza – this one in Willburta. He said that funds have been secured from HUD in the amount of $750,000 each for travel plazas planned in Stringtown, Atoka, and Pontotoc “Travel Plaza number 4 will provide about 100 new jobs and also provide income to support services to Choctaw Nation.”

Other tribal business ventures mentioned in Chief Pyle’s address included: CM&SE, an 8(a) company that provides services through government contracts, such as supplying medical personnel to military bases and supplying the WIC program to reservations. The Chief also talked about three manufacturing plants the Choctaw Nation owns: Atoka-based Choctaw Food Products and Hugo and McAlister-based industrial plants.

In his State of the Nation Address, Chief Pyle announced that out of 353 Federally Recognized tribes in the United States of America, and the hundreds of Community Health Representatives (CHR) Programs, the Choctaw Nation is one of only 15 with the status of the Choctaw Nation. The Chief also said that plans for the future health care improvement of tribal people include hiring additional employees so that a physician and staff could travel to different field offices and community centers on a rotating basis.

People interested in the history of the Choctaw Nation were thrilled to hear the announcement that the museum would be renovated to offer more displays and additional safety precautions will be installed. “The improvements to the museum will be done carefully, because we want to see it and retain the historical integrity of our Capitol Building,” said Chief Pyle.

There are currently 14 community centers across the tribal boundaries, and the Chief said there was still a need for more. “Three additional community centers will be constructed – one at Spiro, one at Smithsonian and one at Crowder.”

Programs to assist with housing needs have grown over the past months. The Modular Home plan in Elk Grove continues to supply homes, and a second facility in Stigler is being built so that an increased number of Modular Homes can be constructed. There is also a program administered by the tribe called CHAP that can assist home buyers in eight states.

Chief Pyle thanked the Council for their support and votes that make these services available. A massive $3 million dollar Council Bill was approved in August to fund education scholarships for the next year.

Six Councilmembers were inaugurated during the Labor Day ceremonies. Taking the Oath of Office from Chief Justice James Wolfe were Ted McCaleb, Jack Austin are pictured here. McCaleb is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and local county commissioner. The Council also approved by the Tribal Council.

Funding for the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant was held Saturday, September 1 during the annual Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homena. Crowning Sr. Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was Reannon Frazier of District 3. First runner-up for Sr. Miss is Keri Seaberg of District 9, second runner-up is Katrina Taylor of District 7, and third runner-up is Stacy Sims of District 6.

For the title of Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant was held Saturday, September 1 during the annual Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homena. Crowning Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was Al Chappell Crowder of District 2. First runner-up for Jr. Miss is Serenity Scott of District 2, second runner-up is Tia Hampton of District 8, and third runner-up is Grace Sims of District 6.

Several young ladies competed for the title of Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation. Tia Hampton of District 6 was crowned Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation.

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Dear Editor,

The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds objectionable. Any information that you may have would be greatly appreciated. Any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be submitted within 30 days. The BISHINIK assumes no responsibility for mailing charges. Any address changes must be submitted within 30 days of the mailing date. The BISHINIK reserves the right to return any material not accepted. The BISHINIK has no obligation to publish information received.

Sincerely,

Heather Davidson
Assistant Editor
Diabetes is one of the most prevalent diseases among the Choctaw people. One of my pri-

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

WIC Outreach is critical to the quality of life for our families

Choctaw Code Talkers Association holds meeting

Agreement with DIALS allows for a social worker in each of five tribal health clinics

Chocotaw Nation wants better health for diabetics

Chocotaw Nation is proud to announce that the WIC Outreach Program is now underway.

The Choctaw Code Talkers Association met during the Festival of Heroes weekend, with descendants of both Edwards and Bobb.

Fred Bobb said that he was related to both Mitchell Bobb and James Edwards. "My father didn't talk about the war much. The Code Talkers were a 'secret weapon.'"

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The addition of Optometrist Tanya Mayer will ensure more patients will be able to receive eye care at the Eye Clinic.

Optometrist joins CNHCC Eye Clinic

Dr. Tanya Mayer has become a full-time member of the staff at the Eye Clinic. She performs comprehensive eye examinations for all ages, detects glaucoma, monitors diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Mayer was born and raised in Kazakhstan, a republic of the former Soviet Union. Seven years ago, she arrived in the United States with her mother. Prior to her immigration, Dr. Mayer completed four years of medical school at the Medical University of Almaty. She received her Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma State University and her Doctor of Optometry degree from Northeastern State University College of Optometry. Upon her graduation, she accepted the position at CNHCC. Her husband, Vitaly, is a computer program- mer. They have three children, Sarah, Hannah, and Ben. They reside in Edmond. "We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Fransen on board as a fellow in the American College of Surgeons." He and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Sam, and Kallie. They reside in Edmond.

Dr. Fransen will come to Talihina one Thursday each month to see and treat patients with specific problems. Patients who require treatment may sometimes be at the clinic all day, but this is done to avoid the long travel times the other doctors have had to endure.

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Choctaw Nation Tribal Law Enforcement receives grant

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Law Enforcement (COTA) Tribal Resources Grant Program, funded by the Oklahoma Governor’s Tribal Resources Grant Program, was sponsored by the Office of the Governor of Oklahoma to support the most critical needs of law enforcement agencies that serve sovereign Native American communities. The Choctaw tribal police department received $60,000.

The funding assists with hiring officers, training, equipment, and postage to support the law enforcement agencies in the Choctaw Nation. The grant, totaling $60,000, was awarded through the Office of Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) Tribal Resources Grant Program. The grant is intended to support the most critical needs of law enforcement agencies that serve sovereign Native American communities.

Jenica Ashford Nelson, one of Choctaw history’s most famous figures, died 15 years old, camped and died, lived alone in an abandoned farm house, for her father, and she died.

A tall handsome clock about 5 feet high stood in the center of the room. It was said to be over one hundred years of age, and had a balance wheel, a pendulum, and a time piece. It was not glazed. However, it did not look like an earthen water pitcher with a spout. It will probably hold one and one-half gallons. She said it was made of mud and shell, and concealed it when not in use.

The old clock was a weight driven clock, with a wooden handle around it, and a wooden handle on the side of the handle of the wall. One of its handles is 6 inches wide. The handle of the clock was really a gallows, and it held up a bit over a gallon of ale.

The surface was not glazed.

Another figure was the ash-lye. Take some of the pounded corn and put in cold water. It will hold a bit over a gallon of ale.

The pounding of corn was done in the fall, and with a pestle and mortar.

A clock was indeed a complicated piece of furniture, and had graced the home of Colonel Cole Griggs, father of Ida Griggs (Connolly),业务 for the New Leaf, a bank or bullion or bullion or bullion.

The weights in each side of the clock were used for: the clock. The weights in each side were used for:

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This pitcher was used for a wash bowl with a spout. It was over one hundred years old, and had a red clay, molded it into the shape desired and then burned it. However, it did not look like a ordinary "finely ground." The surface was not glazed.

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Tyler and Bryanna celebrate birthdays

Tyler Blayte Adams turned two years old on June 27 and Bryanna Danielle Adams turned four on July 23. Their parents are Bryan and Crystal (Johnson) Adams of Eldorado, Oklahoma.

Proud grandparents are Nathan and Patty Johnson of Quapaw and Jean and Eddie Turner of Cordell, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Johnie Walker of Eldorado, Oklahoma, the late Daniel and Josephine Johnson and the late Roy Jackson.

Happy birthday wishes from Dad and Mom, Pa-Pa and Me-Me Johnson.

Original enrollee turns 96

Original enrollee Ona Sanner Taylor is pictured with great-granddaughter Morgan Taylor McCallings. Ona was born September 7, 1905 in Indian Territory and has made her home in Stephens County since birth. She celebrated her 96th birthday with a party.

Matthew turns four

The family of Matthew McAmis would like to wish him a happy birthday! Matthew turned four on June 26. Matthew’s parents are Misty and Stacey McAmis of Paris, Texas. His grandparents are Jackie Ballinger of Paris, Texas, Marilyn and Robert Wilkerson of Waymon, Texas, and Malcolm and Evelyn McAmis of Hurst, Texas. Great-grandparents are Ernest Jefferson and the late Mary L. Jefferson of Paris and Charles King and the late Mary R. King of Detro, Texas.

We love you!

Happy first birthday!

The family of Cheyenne Sammut Upchurch would like to wish her a happy birthday. She turned one year old on September 7, 2001. She is the daughter of Bill and Barbara Upchurch of Antlers, Oklahoma. Her sister is Coren Upchurch and she has a half-brother, Joseph Kerh, of Sherman, Texas.

Her grandparents are George Sr. and the late Corena Wilson and the late John and the late Rena Upchurch. Sending birthday wishes are the Wilson family and the Owens family. We all love you very much.

Happy birthday Gene Hudson!

We would like to wish our dad, grandpa, and husband a happy birthday. Gene is the son of Lloyd Hudson of Broken Bow, Oklahoma and Barbara Hudson of DeQueen, Arkansas. Shown with him are his children, Misty, Micah, Kandis and Ryder, and his grandchildren, Cody and Dakota.

Ready to party!

Happy birthday to our "Princess"

Happy birthday to our "Princess" Eliza Taylor of Rattan, who turned 92 on July 3.

Original enrollee

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Savanna Lee Hicks

James Edward Dry

Cassie enters Foreign Language Teaching Assistance Program

Gabriel Jacob Sperry

Benjamin Scott Folson

Charlotte Foster celebrates her first birthday

Happy birthday Hazel and Matilda

Quanah High School grad

Edmond senior Taylor Long excels

James Edward Dry

Savanna Lee Hicks

Melody Raye Thorne

Gabriel Jacob Sperry

Benjamin Scott Folson

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Happy birthday Hazel and Matilda

Quanah High School grad

Edmond senior Taylor Long excels
LABOR DAY FESTIVAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Horseshoes – Men’s Singles was won by Phillip Morris.


Horseshoes – Women’s Doubles: Phillip Morris and David Davis.


Men’s Fast-Pitch – Second Place: Little Axe of Little Axe, Oklahoma.

Women’s Fast Pitch – First Place: Oklahoma Tribe of Little Axe, Oklahoma.

Women’s Fast Pitch – Second Place: Chahta of the Oklahoma City area.

Volleyball – First Place: Kingfishers

Volleyball – Second Place: United Medical
LABOR DAY WINNERS

Checkers – First Place: Mark Savage of Hartshorne, Oklahoma; Second Place: Henry Willis of Moore, Oklahoma.

Dominoes – First Place: Alfred Crosby of Wight City, Oklahoma; Second Place: Ray Burris of Richardson, Texas.

Chief Pyle awarded medallions to the oldest person attending the festival on Monday morning, Georgia May Self, 96, of Antlers, and the person traveling the farthest, Yuki Sato of Japan.

Basketball 3-on-3 first-place winners, 12 and under, are Uncle’s Boys of Ada – Daniel Walker, Bubba Walker, Brandon Postoak and Nikki Walker.

Basketball 3-on-3 second-place winners, 12 and under, are the Noble Bears – Tiffany Rutherford, Chystal Smith and Brittany Smith.

Basketball 3-on-3 first-place winners in the women’s division are the Goodwins of McAlester – Amber Gann, Angela Young, Sam Mattioda and Missy Morgan.

Basketball 3-on-3 second-place winners in the women’s division are Tribal Court of Norman – Sarah Williams, Crystal Williams, Shawna Folsom and Christine Bui.

Basketball 3-on-3 first-place winners in the men’s division are Nike – Darrel Burisse, Mike Vitt, Don Tossie and Kevin Tossie.

Basketball 3-on-3 second-place winners in the men’s division are the A-Team – David Bobb, Marcus Bobb, Allen Clay and Shawnee Berryhill.

Eight- to 12-year-old winners in the Terrapin Races are Malinda Steve of Calera, Third Place; Hunter Duncan of Tuskahoma, Second Place, and Candance Cagle of Cove, Arkansas, with the First Place terrapin.

Owners of the fastest terrapins in the age 3 and under division are Second Place, Blake Strange of Miller; First Place, Mason Emert of Bennington, and Third Place, Kallie Sioux Voice of Ollusttee.

Basketball 3-on-3 first-place winners, 13-17 boys, are Da Boys of Ada – Trevan Jimboy, James Poe, Brandon Whinagle and Jarrod Factor.

Basketball 3-on-3 second-place winners, 13-17 boys, are M&J of Fittstown – Mark Poe, Jim Thomas, Josh Ross and John Jessie.

Basketball 3-on-3 first-place winners, 12 and under, are the Noble Bears – Tiffany Rutherford, Chystal Smith and Brittany Smith.

Basketball 3-on-3 second-place winners, 12 and under, are Uncle’s Boys of Ada – Daniel Walker, Bubba Walker, Brandon Postoak and Nikki Walker.

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Keith Willis was injured during a stickball game but didn’t stay on the sideline. As soon as his ankle was wrapped he rejoined the players to score for his team.

Chief Greg Pyle gives his wife, Pat, a beautiful bouquet honoring their 30th wedding anniversary.

Artist Norma Howard autographs a calendar photo for Kathy Clark while Joy Culbreath and Vineta Thomas look on.

Powwow Head Man Dancer Michael Roberts recently won World Champion Fancy Dancer.

Jack Austin visits with Williston Wesley and Delia Wesley.

Betty Ketchashawno prepared banaha in the village so visitors could sample the boiled bread.
The McKinney Dancers demonstrated Choctaw dancing several times during the four-day festival.

Assistant Chief Mike Bailey visits with Rowena Waggoner, her husband, Jon, and mother-in-law, Marie, who is a CHR at Talihina.

Wayne and Phyliss Cable of Newcastle look at beadwork done by Semaih Frazier of McCloud. The Cables are participants in the Choctaw Language class in Oklahoma City.

Stickball is always a favorite of festival-goers.

Mercedes Wilson enjoys the free play area full of colored plastic balls. Her grandpa, Gene Wilson of Eagletown, watched the fun.

CHR Margaret McKinney checks Nancy Peters’ blood pressure.

Broken Bow Dancers perform the wedding dance for onlookers.

Six Choctaw Nation Tribal Councilpersons are sworn in by Chief Justice James Wolfe. Beginning a four-year term are Ted Dosh, District 9; Delton Cox, District 4; Randle Durant, District 6; E.J. Johnson, District 10; James Frazier, District 12, and Jack Austin, District 7.

A traditional Choctaw wedding was demonstrated in the village.

Senator Enoch Kelly Haney, Jayne Myers and Chief Greg Pyle get ready for the Grand Entry of the Powwow.

Julia Painter won the $500 education scholarship from the tribe that was given away at the Youth Gathering during the Labor Day Festival. Julia is 20 years old, attends OU and is a former Miss Indian Oklahoma. Her CDIB shows her heritage from three tribes, the Kiowa, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Julia is pictured here with the gospel group Forty Days who performed for the gathering.
Happy birthday!  Happy birthday wishes go out to Alice F. Rodriguez who celebrated her 21st birthday on September 11. She is the daughter of Denny and Davina Watson of Okemah, Oklahoma. Also, a belated happy birthday wish goes out to Carols Perrin on August 8. Happy birthday, Ali and Carlos, from your nephews, Cameron and Jordan Hodge. We love you.

University of Central Oklahoma graduate celebration. Congratulations to all those who were responsible for the grants she received from the Choctaw Nation.

Kelly recently graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. She was on the Dean’s Honor Roll while attending college. Her major was psychology. She plans to continue attending UCO for her master’s then attend University of Oklahoma for her doctorate. She is very proud of Kelly for her accomplishments. Pictured with Kelly is her grandmother, Newuman (Crowder) Ferrall; her father, Bill Wietelman, and Jean Kemp.

Happy anniversary, Mom and Dad! You are loved and admired by us all.

Kizer promoted to Lieutenant

Robert L. Kizer has recently been promoted to Lieutenant on the Edmond Police Department. Robert has worked with the police department for six years. He is the son of Florence Crosby. He and his wife, Donna, and their two daughters, Robin and Jamie, have lived in and around the Edmond area since his discharge from the Marine Corps in 1993.

Look who’s two!

Johnny and Sheila Pitts of McAlester, Oklahoma, were recently chosen as one of AITEC’s Outstanding Youth Participants. The United Indian Council and the American Indian Education Council, Training and Employment Center (AITEC) recently selected three young men as Outstanding Summer Youth Participants. The three winners were Chad Sullivan (Choctaw), Brandon Standifer (Choctaw) and Rocco New Roc (Blackfeet). They were honored at a banquet on August 16 at the Holiday Inn in Oklahoma City. Chad, discovering the realities of life without an education, decided to work toward his GED. He earned his GED during the year-round program. He earned his GED in April 2001. Chad has an interest in heat and air and the City of Midwest City was chosen as his worksite. He worked in the Community Development Department where he earned his summer’s heat while assisting in remodeling houses for low-income families. He also helped to mentor a younger participant at the same worksite.

Chocatw teen selected as one of AITEC’s Outstanding Summer Youth Participants

The annual Reunion will be held for the second time in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. This will focus on all those involved in the Choctaw Nation. Lucinda Morgan and her 14 children (Minerva, Lorenzo, Charles, Dean, Carol Ann, Harry Lee, Duci Lane Rasha, grandsons Marces Leopoldo Rasas and Pedro V. Lamas.

Look who’s three!

Happy birthday, Mother! Rose Bond Ward turned 84 years old on September 4. Lots of love, hugs and blessings from your kids, Willis, Jim, Riley Dean, Carol Ann, Harry Lee, Duci Lane Rasha, grandsons Marces Leopoldo Rasas and Pedro V. Lamas.

Look who’s a son!

Happy birthday to 12th son to our son! Kristianna Holder turns seven on October 10. She loves her dog, Luke, as seen in the photo. Kristianna is living with her grandparents, Clark and Peggy Holder, of Dallas, Texas and with her parents, Cindy and Dusty Holder, of Oklahoma City. She loves swimming and playing all kinds of sports. Happy birthday, Kristianna.

Chocatw teeypecial feature on Bethel Medora, San Antonio and Oklahoma City.

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The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. have announced the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to provide business financing assistance to Choctaw tribal members and other Native American entrepreneurs.

REI is also coordinating with the Rural Development Initiative (RDI) representatives of Little Dixie Community Action Agency (LDCAA), the housing office for the Choctaw Nation and the Regional Development Center, East Central University, to focus on marketing the business financing programs of REI to Choctaw tribal members and other Native Americans who want to start or develop a business.

REI provides financing assistance to small businesses throughout the state, but the agreement between REI and Choctaw Nation targets the Native American population.

In the MOU, Choctaw Nation agreed to provide assistance to the targeted clientele to complete the loan application and business plans, and when funding is available, the Nation will participate in funds with REI in funding the project. The purpose of the MOU is to build capacity to access capital through various lending programs. Upon completion of the loan applications, REI will make the final lending decision. REI will also offer manufacturing, import/export, and other business development assistance.

Charles Cayton, the Choctaw Nation’s economic development officer, said he believes the MOU will be a great tool for the Nation and REI as well. "We will be partnering to help the Choctaw entrepreneur to get into business — or not to get into business, which can be just as important," said Cayton. "Chief Greg Pyle has expressed an interest in building the lending capacity of ours and REI, and providing that link to make it possible." Cayton also said that the MOU will provide a way to build REI’s lending capacity and the needed assistance directly to the people in their own communities. "Bringing the needed assistance to the people is what it all about," Cayton said.

"We want to help the Choctaw entrepreneur, as does REI, so we simply combined our resources and delivered to our service right to the people in their own homes," it’s geared to the partnership of the ground," Tom Joth Smith, REI President and CEO said. "We have the financial products, Choctaw Nation and Little Dixie Community Action Agency have the contacts, so it’s a perfect union to get the word out to Native American entrepreneurs about the assistance available to them."
Lewis Bullard, Jr.

B.J. Spring

B.J. Spring, 80, of Dallas, Texas, formerly of Kinta, Oklahoma, passed away Wednesday, August 22, 2001 in Dallas hospital. He was born November 14, 1920 in Kinta, Oklahoma to Lavada andacceptC.R. "B.J." Spring and Alice (Consort) Spring. He grew up in Kinta where he was a graduate of the Class of 1940. He attended Northeastern State University.

He married Iva Harris on July 12, 1941 in Kinta and they made their home together in Wichita for one year and California for one year before settling in Dallas for eleven years. They made their home in Dallas in 1958 when he began his career as a mining and construction manager for companies until his retirement in 1983. They enjoyed traveling during their retirement and was remembered as anavid outdoorsman who loved fishing and hunting.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six sisters, Elma Weatherspoon, Blanche Sullies; and two brothers, Gil B.J. Spring, 80, and Intallumeon Helen Nicholson and Bernece Polland, and three brothers, Jack B.J. Spring, and Raymond B.J. Spring.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Iva; one son, Gale Spring of Melbourne, Australia; and one daughter, Wynetta Wilson and her husband, Gene Of Kinta.

Ralph David Lynn, Jr.

Ralph David Lynn, Jr. born September 22, 1940 in Denver, Colorado, passed away Friday, February 22, 2001 in Houston. L.Lynn was a 27-year vet eran of the Houston Police Department.

He is survived by his wife, Jerry Lynn; four children, Melissa Lynn; Christopher Lynn; Stephanne Lynn; and his mother, Betty Rowland; Sherry Krann Kamp: along with numerous other family and close friends.

Donald Anderson

Donald Ray Anderson, 62, a longtime Stigler, Oklahoma resident, passed away Monday, July 29, 2001 in Tulsa hospital. He was born November 21, 1938 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma to TT. Anderson and Sarah (Hepsto) Anderson.

He attended the Kinta Elementary School and was a graduate of the Kinta Community and began his education at Jones Academy in Hartshorne. He completed his high school at Tahlequah High School, and served in the U.S. Navy for several years.

In June of 1962, he moved to his alma mater in Oklahoma and continued his education at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. After completing his degree in agriculture, he returned to his alma mater in Oklahoma and continued his education at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Following his military service, he worked as a bar tender for several years before opening his own automotive business, which he operated until his retirement.

Survivors include his wife, Martha; one daughter, Leta Lynn; two sons, Carl Anderson and Clark Anderson; and three grandchildren.

Pat Gregory

Pat Gregory, 80, passed away Sunday, August 19, 2001 at his home in Heaven, Oklahoma.

He was born June 29, 1921 in Pocola, Oklahoma and joined the CCC’s at Stapp, Oklahoma where he learned masonry. He met and eventually married the local beauty, Oynotis Pledger. They raised their five children at their home in Heaven, Oklahoma. He retired from a large department store in Tulsa after 30 years of employment and resided in Heaven where he was an active member of the First United Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge.

Pat Gregory was predeceased by his parents; the Gregory’s; his wife, Oynotis Pledger; and his two brothers, Donald and William Gregory.

Survivors include his sons, Dwayne, Bobby, and Barry; his daughter, Marilyn; his five grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren.

Mitchell Arey


He was a student at Kinta High School, where he was a member of the basketball team. He was the son of one who would have been senior this fall. He was active in the high school football and basketball teams.

He is survived by his parents; three sisters, Tony, Dana, and Jim, and all of Heaven; two grandchildren, Coby and Tesa, and all of Heaven; two great-grandchildren, Coy and Tesa, and all of Heaven; and three nieces and nephews.

Survivors also include his cousins, Tony, Dana, and Jim, all of Heaven; two great-grandchildren, Coy and Tesa, and all of Heaven; two great-grandchildren, Coy and Tesa, and all of Heaven; and three nieces and nephews.

Survivors also include his grandmother, Lynette Murphy, and his great-grandmother, Emma Murphy.

Visitation will be from 2:00-7:00 p.m. at the Kinta Community Center. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29, 2001 at the Kinta First United Methodist Church. Burial will be at the Heaven Cemetery.

B.J. Spring

Michael D. Pledger

Michael D. Pledger, 27, a longtime Stigler, Oklahoma resident, passed away Saturday, August 19, 2001 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was born October 9, 1973 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Glen Dale Carney of Oklahoma; two daughters, Caitlyn Nicole Carney and Brandy Elizabeth Carney; and a host of friends.

He attended the University of Oklahoma and was a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He was a member of the Kinta High School class of 1991, where he was a member of the football team.

Survivors include his parents, Glen Dale Carney and Cynthia Lynn (Smith) Carney; aunts and uncles and their families; and nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, August 20, 2001 at the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 21, 2001 at the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. Burial will be at the Heaven Cemetery.

Rosary/Obituary Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 20, 2001 at the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 21, 2001 at the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. Burial will be at the Heaven Cemetery.