

This issue of the Biskinik continues publication of recorded interviews of Choctaw elders from 2007.

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BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

April 2011 Issue

Serving 205,327 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Choctaw Nation donates fuel sale profits to Japan relief effort

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation held a fundraiser at its 13 travel plaza locations on the weekend of March 19-20, donating all fuel sale profits made to support the relief effort in Japan. The amount raised that weekend totalled more than \$12,000.

With the ongoing earthquake, tsunami and nuclear tragedy in Japan, the Choctaw Nation, like many in the area, wondered what it could do to help with the relief efforts. The relief organizations and resources on the ground in Japan say that monetary donations are of the best assistance. And with rising prices of fuel and with so many families hitting the road for Spring Break, the Choctaw Nation saw this as an ideal opportunity to turn the high fuel prices into a good cause.

The Choctaw Nation has a long history of generosity towards others during difficult times. "By giving during times of need we're following the moral examples set by our ancestors," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "For example, in 1847, the Choctaw gathered \$170 and sent it to the starving Irish people to aid them during the Irish Potato Famine. The Choctaw themselves had experienced extreme hardships 16 years earlier on the Trail of Tears. "The Choctaw people have big hearts and are always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor in need," he continued.

The money received from the fuel sales at the Travel Plazas during the fundraiser was donated to the American Red Cross specifically for relief aid in Japan, whose main focus is feeding, sheltering and supplying basic needs for victims.

Choctaw Nation Travel Plazas are located in Atoka, Broken Bow, Durant, Garvin, Heavener, Grant, Idabel, McAlester, Pocola, Poteau, Stringtown and Wilburton.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

To enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles.



The BISKINIK is printed on recycled paper.

Choctaw proudly takes charge as Durant fire chief

By BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

In all towns across America, there are people who take charge of institutions that the public could not live without. Mayor, sheriff and fire chief are just a handful of positions leading the public's essential entities.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is proud to claim newly appointed Durant Fire Chief Roger Joines as one of its own. With more than 20 years of dedicated service to the department, Joines was selected to fill the position by the Durant city manager after the previous fire chief retired.

Born in Idabel to Clifford and Margaret Joines, he soon moved to McAlester where he grew up spending time in the outdoors, hunting and fishing with his family.

He lived across the street from a fire station and was intrigued by it. "I remember watching them work and thinking they had a cool job," said Joines as he spoke about his early interest in the occupation.

When he was older, he went to school for automotive technology on the campus of OSU Okmulgee.



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Durant Fire Chief and proud Choctaw, Roger Joines.

He spent 12 years as a mechanic before taking up firefighting, and kept up mechanic work part-time afterward.

Joines moved to the Durant area in 1984 to be with the woman who is now his wife, Dana, who was from Caddo. His parents had moved to the area earlier, making the move a logical decision.

In 1989, as he tired of the mechanic career, he began to look for

something with more excitement, so he picked up the paper and discovered an ad for a fireman's position in Durant. He had a friend who was in the business and after a discussion with them he was ready to try his hand at it.

The thought of being a fireman felt exciting to Joines. "It's not something everyone does," he said. "I've

See FIRE CHIEF on Page 9



Drought related fire dangers

The recent lack of rain has left the residents of southeast Oklahoma concerned. Simple modifications can be made though to protect one's property from possible fire danger.

According to Fire Chief Roger Joines of the Durant Fire Department, a few simple steps can significantly decrease the chances of a fire around the home.

- Keep all the grass at a short length around the home. Tall grass can increase the height and intensity of flames.
- Keep pine needles and other roughage cleaned from the lawn.
- Any burning should be done in a burn barrel with a screen over the top to keep larger floating ash inside the barrel.
- Always keep a garden hose handy on any and every occasion.

By heeding these tips and using caution in everyday practices, you will decrease the chances of fire dangers at your household. Also, be mindful of any burn bans that may be affecting your area during droughts.

In Oklahoma, to find out if your county is under a burn ban, visit forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information or contact your county commissioner.

Archers take aim as fifth bow shoot season begins

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The draw was strong for several participants who traveled from Tuskahoma, Fort Towson, Broken Bow and Idabel to be the first to start the Choctaw Nation's fifth bow shoot season on March 12.

Winners in their age divisions were:

- 5 and under boys and girls: 1st, Calvin Pamer; 2nd, Shyla Hatcher; 3rd, Datin Tapley.
- 6 to 8 coed: 1st, Memree Hatcher.
- 9 to 13 coed: 1st, Levi Hatcher.
- 14-16 boys: 1st, Korbin Rich.
- 20+ men: 1st, Jody Waugh; 2nd, Darrell Palmer; 3rd, Joey Waugh.
- 20+ women: 1st, Pam Waugh.

There were no entries in the 17-19 girls or boys divisions or the 14-16 girls division.

The shoot will be held on the



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Pam Waugh takes aim at a target during the first bow shoot.

second Saturday of every month through November and is open for all ages. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. on the capitol grounds at Tuskahoma. Shooting starts at 11 a.m.

See BOW SHOOT on Page 11

Trail of Tears Walk set for May 21



T-shirt order form for this year's walk can be found on Page 5

Spring is here, a time for rebirth. The annual Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk is a time for remembering our ancestors' long walk from Mississippi and the rebirth of a nation. Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council would like to invite everyone to participate in this annual event on May 21 at Wheelock Academy in Millerton.

Everyone is asked to come early and park at Wheelock. Those who wish to join in the walk can ride a bus to the starting point at the park in Millerton. The walk will begin at 10 a.m. with opening remarks by Chief Pyle. A free meal will be served to all who spend this special day with us.

Choctaw festival to be held in Washington, D.C.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be celebrating with a Choctaw festival in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian on June 22 to 25. Featured during the four days will be food, workshops and performances, including a re-enactment of a traditional Choctaw wedding, stickball demonstration, dancers, singers and storytellers, and booths showcasing beadwork, pottery, flutes, the Choctaw language, and tribal cooking.

See QUINTON on Page 8

Chief Gregory E. Pyle congratulates Quinton superintendent Don Cox as JOM coordinator Judy Needham, far right, and Vickie Simco look on.

Quinton Public Schools named 2011 JOM Exemplary Program

By CHRIS DILL
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Quinton Public School was recently named 2011 Exemplary JOM Program representing the Choctaw Nation. According to CN JOM Parent Committee Liaison June Praytor, Quinton has exhibited great organization with a timely manner and has earned success with an extensive drug awareness program for its students.

On Oct. 1, 1984, the Choctaw Nation, under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Muskogee Area Office, contracted the Johnson-O'Malley funds for the operation of supplemental programs designed to meet the specialized and unique needs of the eligible Indian students within the Choctaw Nation. Supplemental programs consist of special program support and educational support.

These programs meet the educational need of an individual by utilizing needs assessments to determine the greater need of the students within the school. Some of the services provided include technical assistance to the school administrators, JOM staff and local Indian Education Committees. Other services include Parent and Youth Leadership Conferences.

The Choctaw Nation JOM Pro-

gram has 72 participating schools and 9,700 students enrolled. Each year JOM honors an Exemplary JOM Program from the Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Muscogee (Creek) Nations as well as the Bureau of Indian Education.

Quinton Public Schools employs Don Cox as the superintendent and Judy Needham as the school's JOM Coordinator.

"Quinton Schools serve as a model," said Praytor. Currently, there are 209 students enrolled at Quinton who are a part of JOM.

Praytor explained several reasons why Quinton was chosen as an exemplary program. "They submit all their documentation in a timely fashion," she said. "This school meets its goals and objectives."

Quinton Public Schools have shown initiative with its efforts in a drug awareness program. "The drug awareness program, which is highlighted during Red Ribbon Week, has been an ongoing program for several years," according to Praytor. "It has proven to be successful." Quinton Public Schools is not only continuing this program but expanding it as well.

All the teachers in each class at Quinton hold discussions during the drug awareness program with

Honored to care for those who serve

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Thanks to the dedication of tribal members and tribal staff, there have been many awards and commendations presented over the years, yet one of the most meaningful is the United States Freedom Award from the Department of Defense. I am so thankful for our veterans and our soldiers. Just recently, 11 of the tribal employees said goodbye to their families because they were deployed by the National Guard. I understand they are heading to Afghanistan in June. I humbly request that all of you remember them and their families in your prayers.

Several years ago, the Choctaw Nation began sending care packages to our soldiers in active war zones and we continue to do so, not only to Choctaws, but to friends of Choctaws. We have a Veterans Advocacy department and just recently placed a new person to serve in that office because all three of the

staff members employed in that division were called into active duty.

The Choctaw people have historically served the United States valiantly in great numbers, especially during wartime, and our tribe has stepped up to the challenge as well. We have offered the use of our tribal airplane on the average of once a month through Veterans Airlift Command to be used by wounded warriors of the current war for flights to medical appointments. These wounded soldiers are not usually able to use commercial flights for various reasons so this is a tremendous blessing for them and their families, and a greatly appreciated service that we are happy to be able to provide them. The warriors have sacrificed willingly for us and for our country, and it is an honor to be able to provide for them.

You can learn more about this great effort at their Web site, veteransairlift.org.



Choctaw Defense, a leader of innovative technology for our troops on the battlefield

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has numerous businesses, all of which are wholly owned by the tribe. One of the most fascinating is Choctaw Defense, which is the nation's leading Native American defense manufacturer. Just recently, the executive directors and I were honored to be toured through the facility in McAlester and shown the latest in manufacturing technology that is helping produce items that support our troops overseas.

The first part of the tour took us through the assembly line of the Medium Tactical vehicle replacement MTRV trailers. These trailers are built in several designs in order to haul whatever the soldiers need, whether it be water, generators, ammo or other cargo (all while being able to handle an off-road pounding). They have a lot of special systems that allow for the unique conditions faced in Afghanistan and Iraq.



We were shown the Improved Army Space Heater (IASH), a 14,000-BTU multi-field space heater, which is used worldwide. Choctaw Defense has produced over 15,000 of these in the last 10 years.

Choctaw Defense began production of Battle Damage Assessment and Repair kits (sometimes called "MacGyver Kits") in 2002. These are used on the battlefield to make repairs on Army vehicles that have been damaged in battle. These battlefield repairs allow the vehicle to remain mobile and return to base.

It was great to hear the staff at the manufacturing facility say with confidence that they were committed to doing whatever they could to support the troops to help them return home safely.

Choctaw Defense has been nominated for the Excellence in Innovation – Manufacturing Innovations Award through the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Congratulations to the team at Choctaw Defense and "Thank you" to all of the 260 employees who work there for all they do in support of the members of the United States military, as well as what they do to support the business vision of the Choctaw Nation!

Tribal Council holds March session

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets in regular session monthly to address the needs of tribal members and report on the latest happenings in the Choctaw Nation. On March 12, committee reports touched on a variety of information about several tribal programs.

Construction of a new Head Start in Wilburton is under way and the center is expected to be open by the fall session. The facility currently has 10 associates and 16 children in the program.

The Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) is preparing for a 5 to 10 percent decrease in federal funds. WIC administrators are working to find ways to continue serving the 54,923 participants in the program. It is also time for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program to begin its second year of utilizing local farmers' goods and providing vouchers for the WIC participants to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Career Development Program reported to Committee 1 that 1,813 people have completed the program that is designed to aid persons who wish to pursue an education outside of attending a college or university. There are different levels in career readiness certification. Welders and health care officials are in most demand, while engineering – a high-paying job – has the least interest exhibited.

The new Choctaw Recy-

cling Center in Durant has also enjoyed success since its opening in December 2010. The staff have been instrumental in saving the Choctaw Nation an estimated \$1 million with environmentally friendly tips and by undertaking the extensive job of changing out the light bulbs to conserve energy.

The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina is starting a new martial arts program for youth in Talihina this fall, an effort to encourage young boys and girls to get moving, learn self-control and confidence. Plans are to expand the classes to the Antlers and Broken Bow areas.

New business included approval of applications for grants:

- The U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Encouraging Innovation Field-Initiated Program will better enable local criminal justice systems to prevent and respond to emerging and chronic crime problems that affect communities in southeast Oklahoma. Funds from the U.S. Department of Justice will assist the Choctaw Nation in eliminating some of those challenges by continuing to support projects designed to address and prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Rural Innovation Fund Program. This will provide the Choctaw Nation support to address the need to provide support for highly targeted rural housing distress

and community poverty.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Medicaid and State Operations Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. This grant will provide the tribe with the ability to find eligible, yet not enrolled Indian children in Medicaid and CHIP with a particular focus on those who are the most difficult to reach and specifically the enrollment of Indian children.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Affordable Care Act Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Grant will provide the Choctaw Nation Wellness Centers with the tools to ultimately prevent and reduce childhood obesity.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services for the Native American Basic Grants and Basic Grants with Education/Assessment Option will provide the Choctaw Nation library staff by providing books, magazines and multimedia software as well as education courses and training workshops.
- The U.S. Department of Justice's Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program – Project SAFE – focuses on providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and child victimization in rural areas.

Also, in new business, a Council Bill was passed approving a grazing lease to Billy Perrin for three years on property in Choctaw County.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Photo Contest

Capture the Spirit of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and share your heritage with tribal members around the world.

Winning entries will be used in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's 2012 Calendar.

PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIFICATIONS:

• Digital images are preferred but not required. • High resolution 300 dpi RGB JPG files are preferred. • To be considered for a top inside calendar page images need to be at least 2 to 5 mb JPG files in horizontal format.

All photos must be received by **July 1, 2011.**

All photos must be accompanied by photographer's contact information including name, address, phone number and e-mail address. The subject(s) of the photos must be identified.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma reserves the right to use submitted photos in other publications.

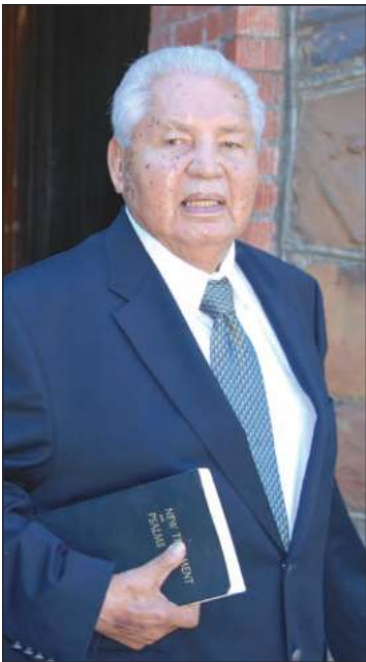
Watch future Choctaw publications and web sites: Even if you don't win this calendar contest, your image may be used in future publications!

A Grand Prize of \$150 will be awarded to the person submitting the cover photo. Individual \$50 prizes will also be awarded each person whose photo is chosen for calendar pages.

E-mail entries to lisareed@choctawnation.com or mail to: Lisa Reed, PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702

Happy Easter 2011

Chaplain's Corner



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

May God bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate Easter 2011, the Resurrection of our Risen Savior – the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father was pleased with the substitutionary death of His only Begotten Son. The third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, raised Him up from the dead. (John 3:16; Romans 8:11 NIV) The Apostle Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (I Corinthians 15:17 NIV). Jesus said in the Book of Revelation 1:18 NIV, "I am the living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! ..."

The grand theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. All the blood sacrifices recorded in the Old Testament pointed to the time when Jesus Christ would come as the Lamb of God and lay down His life for the sins of the whole world when He died on the Cross. Now the New Testament looks back upon this finished work of Christ on the cross. God's Plan of Salvation was finished at the cross, there is nothing else that can be done or be added. God the Father's Plan of Salvation has been finished. We can only confess – agree with God – that we are sinners and trust Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. This is done by faith in His finished work. This is the only way we can come into the presence of God, and this is the only message of salvation we can preach. After Jesus finished, God and the Father's Plan of Salvation He went back to Heaven and one day, soon, He will return for His own. He will come for His Church. The revelation of the Church was not granted to the Prophets in the Old Testament. The mystery hid from them was the bringing together of Jews and Gentiles into a body, the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we know as the Church. By a distinct revelation of the Holy Spirit Paul understood and declared this mystery of Christ, namely that Gentiles and Jews should be fellow heirs, and of the same body (Ephesians 3:1-9) We thank God for the New Testament which reveals to us the truth of the glorious Hope of Christ appearing for the redeemed. There is, for example, the Lord Jesus' prediction that though He was to leave His own, He would return for them and take them to be with Himself. He said in John 14:3, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also." As we read our Bible we can know that Jesus Christ is coming back and that His coming is very near. Right after the Church is taken out of this world, there will begin a time of Great Tribulation – a period of seven years when God will pour out His wrath upon this earth. Right at the beginning of this Tribulation Period the antichrist will appear. In the Book of Revelation, in chapters 17 and 18, we have a picture of the professing church during the Tribulation Period. As we look at this picture, I believe we will come to the conclusion that the professing church today is very close to the condition that shall prevail in the professing church during the Tribulation Period. One thing for sure, from our studies in these

two chapters, chapters 17 and 18, in the Book of Revelation, in the Tribulation Period the professing church shall be based on an apostate foundation. This apostate, false church is described as a harlot, a prostitute. Her name was "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth." (Revelation 17:5). I believe one of the signs of the great apostasy is the rise of false prophets around us. There are those who deny the doctrine of the Trinity, the doctrine of Grace, the Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Word of God, the Blood Atonement, the Bodily Resurrection and the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are those that deny that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, that He is the Son of God. The Apostle John warned the Christians of the false prophets when he wrote concerning those who denied the deity of Jesus Christ in First John 4:1-3 NIV, "Dear Friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world." John continues in verse 4, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." If the Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon, our question today is, "What kind of life should we be living?" How does the soon coming of Jesus Christ affect your life? More than anything else, God wants us to live expecting His return. Whatever decisions we make we should make them in the light of the fact that the coming of the Lord is very near. Live expectantly. May God help us to live that kind of life. Perhaps the greatest thing you need to realize is this, that the coming of Jesus Christ for His Church, the Rapture of the Church, will cut off forever your eternal destiny if you have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You will in the words of II Thessalonians 2, be compelled to believe a lie, the lie of the antichrist. Do you know Jesus Christ? Do you know the forgiveness of the cross and the power of Christ's Resurrection? (Read John Chapter 20.) Are you forgiven? Have you received new life – the Resurrection Life? Will you make your commitment to Jesus Christ today? God will help you, if you are willing. Remember to pray for America and for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in service.

Carrot & Orange Salad

Ingredients:
2 medium carrots, peeled and grated (about 4 cups)
2 oranges, navels or blood, fresh
2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
1 tbsp honey
½ tsp ground cinnamon

Directions:
Place the grated carrots in a large bowl and set aside.
Slice off the ends of the oranges, place each one, cut side down, on the working surface, and slice down the curved sides with broad strokes all of the way around, positioning the knife just deep enough to remove the peel and all of the white pith. Holding each peeled orange over the serving bowl, slip a paring knife between the membrane and one of the sides of each orange section, cut in toward the center of the orange, and then cut back out the other side with a motion resembling a V. The orange section will fall into the bowl.
Repeat this process around the entire orange and then squeeze the juice from the membrane into the bowl. Combine the lemon juice, honey, and cinnamon in a small bowl and pour over the carrot-orange mixture.
Before serving, allow the salad to sit for at least 10 minutes so the flavors mingle.

Nutrition facts
Makes 4 servings
Amount per serving
Calories - 49.4, Total Carbs - 12.6g, Total fat - 0.2g, Potassium - 127.1mg, Fiber - 2.6g, Sat fat - 0g, Protein - 1g, Sugars - 7.6g, Unsat fat - 0.2g, Sodium - 21.8mg,
Hope you enjoy this recipe! For further information you may contact:
Erin Adams, RD, LD
Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center 800-349-7026 ext: 6959

Steps to stop cancer

April is National Cancer Control Month. The topic was addressed in February for National Cancer Prevention Month, however, with new research recently presented addressing the diabetes-cancer connection, this topic deserves a another look. According to Karen Collins, MS, RD, CDN of the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR), a consensus panel of experts from the American Diabetes Association and American Cancer Society issued a report on research which shows that diabetes is associated with a slightly higher increased risk of several types of cancer. The AICR reports high body fat as a convincing cause of several cancers, but research also suggests that insulin resistance and other metabolic changes associated with pre-diabetes do increase cancer risk independently of obesity. More research is being done to look further into this topic. The good news is prevention has been shown to be a key factor that can be worked toward. So, with the connection of diabetes and cancer, researchers have also found there is a connection in the prevention of diabetes and cancer. The Diabetes Prevention Program of 2002 found that lifestyle changes could decrease incidence of diabetes by 58 percent. The AICR reports that research suggests that the lifestyle changes could also prevent about one-third of our most common cancers.

- Weight/Waist circumference Management – 5-7 percent weight loss if overweight is one of the primary recommendations. Weight loss is strongly related to reducing a marker of inflammation which in turn reduces risk of cancer.
- Physical activity promotes weight management – Being physically active for at least 30 minutes, five times per week of moderate to vigorous intensity working up to more time can improve weight management.
- Diet – avoiding processed foods, focusing more on fiber-containing plant foods supports lower risk of diabetes and cancer.

With these key preventative measures in place, the risk for type 2 diabetes and several types of cancer can be diminished. The recipe that follows was given to Erin Adams, RD, LD, at the CNO Diabetes Wellness Center by a friend who not only has type 2 diabetes but also is a breast cancer survivor. She acquired this recipe from dLife www.dlife.com a diabetic web site with wonderful recipes.

Recipe of the Month: Mini Pizzas

Ingredients:
1 can of biscuits
1 cup of mozzarella cheese
½ cup of pizza sauce
½ cup of sliced ham or turkey

Preparations:
Roll or press out biscuits.
Top each pressed biscuit with pizza sauce.
Place cheese and meat on top of pizza.
Bake in oven for about 5-10 minutes at 375°



Add a twist to your Mini Pizzas by adding: diced tomatoes, sliced green peppers, fresh mushrooms, shredded carrots and black olive slices.

Contributed by Choctaw Nation WIC

Spring into new eating habits

WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Spring is the perfect time to freshen up your diet and give your eating habits a make-over! With more choices in fresh fruits and vegetables available at the local farmer’s market and grocery store, there is no excuse to skip those healthy treats.
Spring is a great time to load up on fresh fruits and veggies that you skimped on over winter; the warmer months also make it easier to simply eat less, so why not

incorporate some fresh new foods that give you some real energy?
If you’re not already eating a large salad for lunch or dinner, this is the season to begin!
5 Healthy Eating Tips for Spring:
• Reach for the raw- Raw fruits and veggies are loaded with nutrients, vitamins and minerals. Raw foods are great for a boost of energy and can give you more nutrition than processed foods.
• Pick those greens- Leafy green vegetables are a great addition to your diet year around. Don’t forget to wash



Earning certification in Parents as Teachers Curriculum Feb. 25 are Angela Dancer, Brandi Smallwood, Shauna Humphreys, Ashley Norris, Becki Morris, Christi Hammons, Jessica Allred, Hope Tom, Mandy Allensworth, Johnny Sue Kemp, Ruthie Cannon, Judith McDaniel.

Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers developed its evidence-based home visiting model more than 25 years ago. Through advocacy and outreach, Parents as Teachers serves as a voice for early childhood development through the critical role of parental involvement and early intervention in the childhood development and education continuum. Over the years, the premise of its four-component model has remained solid and the core values upon which Parents as Teachers was built remain unchanged. Well-designed independent research studies support hundreds of thousands of families in all 50 states as well as many other countries through a proven parent education model featuring intimate, in-home visits with parents and children. These studies have consistently confirmed the effectiveness of Parents as Teachers in improving children’s development across multiple domains by increasing school readiness, improving parents’ knowledge of early childhood development and parenting practices, identifying developmental delays and health issues and preventing child abuse and neglect.
Choctaw Nation is very excited to offer our Native American families this opportunity to take advantage of the new programs in which we are now taking applications for services. The program provides services to pregnant and parenting teens and women 21 years of age and under, their infants, male partners and families who reside in the 10 ½-county service area of the Choctaw Nation. The project provides comprehensive and integrated services to improve health outcomes for mother and infant, increase healthy parenting skills, provide opportunities for assessing each client’s individual needs by resources available, and increase healthy parent and child interaction skills.
To be eligible, clients must:
• Be 21 years of age or younger and around 24 weeks pregnant
• Must be expecting a Native American infant
• Must reside in the Choctaw Nation 10 ½ county service area
• Must be actively pursuing a high school education (GED or high school diploma)
For further information please contact Director Angela Dancer, 580-326-8304 or 877-285-6893, e-mail angelad@choctaw-nation.com; Assistant Director Shauna Humphreys, 800-349-7026,ext: 6441, or e-mail dshumphreys@cnhsa.com.

‘Light Up a New Way of Life’

Development of the All Nations Breath of Life smoking cessation program began when American Indian and Alaska Native patients from Kansas, part of the Oklahoma Area Office of Indian Service, requested a smoking cessation program appropriate for their ethnic groups. This sparked collaboration between American Indian and Alaska Native colleagues, community members, Kansas University Medical Center, the American Lung Association and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences to create All Nations Breath of Life with funding from the National Cancer Institute. The study will conduct a two-arm group randomized trial at two sites in Kansas and southeastern Oklahoma to test the efficacy of the program. This study is the first controlled trial to examine the efficacy of a culturally tailored smoking cessation program for American Indians and represents a partnership between two academic research centers Kansas University Medical Center and the OU Health Sciences Center – the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and four reservations in Kansas.
This study will use a group multi-site scientific research plan for American Indian smokers: (1) each site (Kansas and Oklahoma) will randomize 28 groups, resulting in 14 groups per arm of the intervention, with eight smokers in each group per site, for a total sample size of 448 American Indian smokers, and (2) for

participants in both groups, a group intervention, culturally tailored smoking cessation program vs. individual standard care, non-tailored.
Group support sessions will consist of group members providing the majority of support and advice, with help from the facilitator and educational materials. Educational curriculum will provide the latest smoking cessation methods with such culturally specific elements as traditional use of tobacco vs. commercial tobacco use, stress reduction and management using American Indian flute music meditation techniques.
Once data is collected and analyzed, and if the intervention is successful, the potential public health impact will be significant because the prevalence of smoking is the highest in this population. In addition, this unique partnership also offers the opportunity to provide insights into effective collaboration across sites with both urban and rural American Indian communities. Facilitators are ready to sign up participants in the McAlester and Hugo communities, shortly to be followed by Talihina, Broken Bow and Idabel. Call Melanie Johnson at (405) 271-2229, Ext. 50481, to find out if you’re eligible for the study.
For more information about the project contact:Melanie Johnson, project coordinator, (405) 271-2229, ext. 50481.

NURSERY NEWS

Braden Bazille

The family of Braden Mack Bazille is proud to announce his birth. Braden was born at 5:40 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2010, at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, to Blake and LaDawn Bazille of Mounds. Braden was 21 inches long and weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces. He has one brother, Brendon, and a sister, Brooklyn. He is the grandson of Bobby and Barbara Clyma of Mounds, and Valerie Bazille of Tulsa. He is the nephew of Ryan and Bavette Miller of Owasso, and cousin to E.J. Leeper and Teagan Miller of Owasso. He is also nephew to Chris and Dana Clay of Owasso, and cousin to Connor and Kayla.



Alexandria and Sophia McFarland

Crysta and Daniel McFarland welcomed identical twin girls Alexandria Jo and Sophia Danielle into the world on Dec. 8, 2010. Alexandria was born at 7:33 a.m., weighing 5.2 pounds and measuring 17.5 inches long. Sophia arrived at 7:35 a.m. weighing 4.10 pounds and measuring 17.5 inches long. Their paternal grandparents are Carmen Winlock Parker and Silas A. McFarland. Thelma Daney Winlock is their paternal great-grandmother. Maternal grandparents are Donald Riley Sr. and Ruby Cline Riley.

Patience Haury

Jessica Cockrill and Derrick Haury of Haworth are very proud to announce the birth of their very precious daughter, Patience Glanna Marie Haury, born at 1:07 p.m. on March 9, 2011, at Talihina hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19.1 inches long.
The proud grandparents are John and Glenda Cockrill of Redland Community and Evelyn and Jaime Casterjon of Idabel. She is the great-granddaughter of Ilamae Satterfield of Atoka, the late Coleman Felihkatubbe of Perris, Calif., and Francis Willis of DeQueen, Ark.
Patience is also welcomed into the family by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.



Tips for burping your baby

You’ve survived nine months of pregnancy, you’ve been through labor and delivery, now you’re ready to head home and begin a new life with your baby. Many young parents tend to panic at the slightest change in their bundle of joy including gas discomforts in the baby, but there is seldom any need to worry.
Burping the baby
After feeding your baby it is important to burp him/her. Burping involves handling the baby in a way that the excess air swallowed by him/her during their feed is released. In addition to swallowing milk a baby also tends to swallow air. Air can get trapped in his system and cause the baby discomfort.
When to burp your baby:
- Every two ounces if you bottle feed
- Every time you change breast if you breast feed
- Anytime your baby seems fussy during a feeding
- At the end of every feeding
If you have been burping your baby for a few minutes and have not gotten a burp, try changing their position and try again.
Here are three positions for burping a baby. No matter what position you use, remember to be gentle.

- (1) Baby sitting in your lap: position your baby sitting up in your lap with his/her body leaning forward. Support his/her chest and head with one of your hands by placing your palm under their chin, be careful not to grip your baby’s throat, use other hand to gently pat the baby’s back.
 - (2) You can lay your baby across your lap with his/her tummy down (keep upper body elevated or else the baby will vomit) for some time.
 - (3) You can lay baby upright against your shoulder (tummy against chest), while gently patting him/her on their back.
- If the baby seems fussy while feeding, stop the session and burp your baby and then begin feeding again. If your baby tends to be gassy try burping every ounce during bottle feed or every 5 minutes during breastfeeding, again always burp your baby when feeding time is over.
Sometimes your baby may awaken because of gas: simply picking up your baby and burping might put him or her back to sleep. As your baby gets older, you shouldn’t worry if your child doesn’t burp during or after feedings. Usually, it just means that your baby has learned to eat without swallowing excess air.
A burping baby doesn’t have to live with that discomfort, learn how to get that burp and you will have a happier baby.

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-5264	8:30-4:00	Every Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	Daily, except 1st Tues. & 2nd Thurs.
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:00-4:30	Every Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2257	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Daily
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Mon., Thurs. & Fri.
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	Daily
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Daily
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro	918-962-3832	8:00-4:30	Every Wednesday - Friday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Monday - Wednesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Adamson to compete in National American Miss Oklahoma Pageant

Anastasia Lynn Adamson, 11, has been selected to return as a state finalist in the National American Miss Oklahoma Pageant to be held July 8-10 at the Marriot Hotel in Tulsa. She was selected as a state finalist in the 2010 National American Miss Oklahoma Pageant and was awarded four trophies, a crown and sash. She is returning this year in hopes of achieving more goals, awards and prizes.

Anastasia is the daughter of Michael and Shannon Adamson and granddaughter of John and Diana Hays and Art and Pat Adamson.

Anastasia will be competing in the pre-teen age division in the pageant, and the winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses



and air transportation to compete in the National Pageant in California, where she will receive an exciting complimentary tour of Hollywood and two V.I.P. tickets to Disneyland.

The National American Miss Pageant awards \$1.5 million in cash, scholarships and other prizes each year. All activities and competitions are kept age appropriate. The pageant program is based on inner-beauty as well as poise

Hopkins celebrate 65 years of marriage

Thomas Lee and JoAnn Patterson Hopkins of Caddo will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on May 1. The couple was wed in 1946 in Durant. They have seven children: Alice and husband David Periman; Pamela and husband Mark Taylor; Vicky and husband Robert Hammons; Jo and wife Shannon McDaniel; Connie Palmer; Thomas Hopkins Jr. and wife Judy; and Mark Hopkins and wife Lori. They also have 32 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. They will be celebrating at their home on May 1 from 2-4 p.m. All family and friends are invited to come honor them on this special day. No gifts are requested.



Adamson to compete in pageant

Miss Ceaira Adamson, 12, has been chosen as a state finalist in the National American Miss Oklahoma Pageant to be held July 8-10 at the beautiful Southern Hills Marriott in Tulsa. The National American Miss pageants are held for girls ages 4-18 and have five different age divisions. Ceaira will be participating in the pre-teen age division along with other outstanding young ladies from across the great state of Oklahoma.

Ceaira's activities include cheerleading and playing soccer. She also enjoys reading. Her sponsors include relatives and friends of the family. Ceaira is the daughter of Daniel Adamson and Kristy Van Brant.



Choctaw family participates in KC Challenge

Out of more than 2,000 families who applied, the Leuschen family consisting of Paul, Tamantha, Rebecca and Allysa of Kansas City, Mo., is one of three families who will participate in the Fit KC Challenge.

Partnering with the health experts at Saint Luke's Health System, Price Chopper selected the Leuschen family to participate in a 12-week nutritional/fitness makeover that runs through May. Participating families will receive \$180 a week in Price Chopper gift cards to stock up on the freshest ingredients and everything they need to create healthy, nutritious meals. They will also receive individual consultation with Saint Luke's fitness and nutritional experts. Cardiologist Dr. Tracy Stevens will meet with the three Fit KC Challenge families, providing direction to living a heart-healthier life, and fitness coach Gayle O'Connell will oversee the families' fitness consultation during the 12-week challenge. In addition, Saint Luke's Health System dietitians will guide the families on their new nutritional direction.



Families will receive enrollment in Saint Luke's Heart Health education program and access to Saint Luke's Health System Center for Health Enhancement, a medically based fitness center.

Friends, family members and anyone wishing to follow the journeys of the three Fit KC Challenge families may do so via mypricechopper.com and a Facebook page set up for each family. After three months of working to live a healthier lifestyle and utilizing all the resources mentioned above, Price Chopper and Saint Luke's will select the winning family based on a weighted average from three sources: evaluation by a panel of fitness and nutrition experts, each family's number of Facebook fans and consumer voting at checkout when a purchase is made at Price Chopper. The Fit KC Challenge winning family will receive an all-expense paid family cruise, including airfare, plus a \$1,000 Price Chopper gift card.

You can follow their journey and vote for the Leuschen family via Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/leuschen.family>.

Jake's turning 2!

Logan Talan would like to wish his baby brother, Jake Grizzly, a happy birthday. He will be turning 2 on April 19. Proud parents of Jake and Logan are Allison and Brad Patterson of Red Oak. Happy birthday, Jake!



and presentation. Emphasis is put on the importance of developing self-confidence, learning good sportsmanship and setting and achieving personal goals.

The competition categories are Community Involvement, Self-Introduction, Interview and Poise, which is evening gown. Each girl has an opportunity to enter any additional category of her choice. The additional categories are judged separate from the pageant by different judges.

Anastasia will be participating in the additional categories, including Actress, Modeling, Talent, Photogenic and Spokes Model.

Families interested in learning more about this unique and outstanding youth program may visit namiss.com.

Dorothy Glenn

Dorothy J. "Dot" Glenn, 75, is the daughter of Henry and Wanetta Siddle Glenn. Her siblings are Billy, Mary, Ray, Fayetta, Larry, Jack and Parker, and they were all born at the home. To show respect to their mother, they have the "White Buffalo" that stands in the front yard of their home.

Dorothy and her siblings were educated in Hugo Schools, and they all excelled in sports.

Dorothy received a tennis scholarship to Victoria University in Victoria, Texas. She then received her bachelor's degree from Southeastern State Teacher's College and went on to teach in Cushing for six years. She also taught in Omaha for 35 years.

While teaching at Cushing, Dorothy attended Oklahoma State University in the summers and received her master's degree in 1963.

Over her 75 years, Dorothy has collected several honors: Choctaw Nation FCT-1861; member of the National Education Association; life member of Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; member of the National Education Association; Parent Teacher Association life member; member of Network of Professional Indian People; member of the Minority Affairs Committee of the Nebraska State Education Association; and a member of Phi Delta Kappa. Dorothy was also named an admiral for The Great Navy of the State of Nebraska in 1993. She was a professional teacher from 1958 to 1993, and served as a park ranger for three years while in Omaha. She received an Eagle Feather from the Omaha and Dakota tribes of Omaha in 1991.

Dorothy came back to Hugo in 2005 to spend time with her brothers and sisters.



Happy birthday, Gabriel

Gabriel Louis will celebrate his 15th birthday on April 22. He is in the ninth grade and enjoys football, basketball, track, school and video games. He loves going to church and being with his family, friends and his dogs. Sending him birthday wishes are his mom and family. Gabriel would like to send birthday wishes to his uncle, Ray, and cousin, Caleb.



Happy birthday, Jayde

Happy 16th birthday to Jayde Fazier on April 4. Jayde is the daughter of the late Aaron Frazier of McAlester. Her grandmother, Alice Fraizer, her aunts from McAlester, Stella, Lisa and Janice, and uncle Des would like to tell her happy birthday.



Happy birthday, Pauline

Pauline Pittman Whitworth celebrated her 91st birthday on April 1. She is the daughter of the late Oscar and Mattie Pittman and was raised in Bennington. Pauline graduated from Chilocco Boarding School and attended Southeastern College. She married Odis N. Whitworth and moved from Oklahoma. She's lived in Boise, Idaho, and Wichita, Kan., finally settling down in Colorado for the majority of her life.

She has two daughters, six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She now resides in Virginia with one of her daughters and family. She spends her days walking a mile, watching TV and helping with yard work. Her birthday was celebrated with her daughter's family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Happy 91st birthday to Grandma

Lillie Willis turned 91 on March 25. She is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Her family feels greatly blessed to have her in their lives. She is truly an inspirational woman, and they are thankful for her life and for which she stands. She is their "angel on earth," and they wanted to wish her a happy birthday. May God continue to keep her and bless her throughout this year; from Alice, Trea and Trisha.



Townsend named director of Iowa Civil Rights Commission

Iowa Gov. Terry E. Branstad announced on Jan. 20 that Beth Ann Townsend will be the director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. "Beth's experience representing individuals before the commission over the past nine years will serve her well as she makes the transition into her new role," said Branstad.

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission has a mission of enforcing civil rights through compliance, arbitration, support and education leading to safer, more inclusive communities.

"I am humbled to be asked to serve as the Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission," said Townsend. "I believe strongly in the commission's mission as I know Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds do as well. I look forward to leading the com-



mission in meeting the needs of the citizens of Iowa to ensure that discrimination is ended where it exists and the process is fair and responsive to all parties before the commission."

Townsend is the daughter of Carol Townsend and the late Sam Townsend of Clay Center, Neb., and the granddaughter of original enrollee Clark Townsend of Valliant.

Prior to being named di-

rector, Beth was in private practice where she represented individuals before federal and state jurisdictions, including the U.S. Supreme Court, in the area of civil rights and employment law. Previously Townsend served as member of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Air Force, where she prosecuted and defended airmen and most recently served as a military judge in her last reserve tour. She retired from the Air Force Reserve in Aug. 2010 as a Lieutenant Colonel after 21 years of active and reserve duty. Townsend earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Nebraska. Beth is the mother of one son, Samuel Easer, and lives in Urbandale, Iowa.

Sisters share birthday

Happy birthday to sisters Betty Heard Watson of McKinney and Suzanne Heard of Haileyville. The girls were both born on March 23 although there's a few years between them.



Happy birthday, Jarvis!

Happy birthday to veteran Jarvis Johnson of Utica, from the Johnson family. He will be 62 years young. Have a great birthday, Jarvis!



Big 13

Happy 13th birthday to Ronnie Smith Jr. from his mom, dad and Danielle. Ronnie is the grandson of Evelyn Johnson of Ardmore and the late Eulus Johnson of McAlester.



Congrats!

Marcea Herron and Kelvin Young were wed March 11 in Oklahoma City. Marcea is a nursing student and registered Choctaw.



Happy fourth birthday!

Happy birthday to Colt! Colt Crader turned 4 on March 11. He celebrated with friends and family with a Batman-themed party. They are so blessed to have him in their lives!



Happy birthday, Secada and Meggedo

Jeremy and Jana Janowski would like to wish a happy birthday to both of their wonderful and Godly children. Meggedo Shayne Janowski (left) turns 7 on April 21, and Secada Haley Janowski (right) turns 10 on April 2.

Meggedo and Secada are the grandchildren of Frank and Stephanie Janowski (Grammy and Poppa) of Broken Arrow.

Both children are very active in sports. Meggedo is a baseball fanatic and loves video games while Secada is a typical tomboy that still loves to be girly. She plays soccer and can out-read most adults. They know they will have a great birthday, from their parents.



Happy birthday, Shade

Shade Cody's parents, family and friends would like to wish him a happy third birthday. His birthday was March 10. Shade celebrated with a monster truck-themed party with lots of friends and family. His parents are Nick and Brenna Cody; grandparents are Kenneth and Dora Winship and Larry and Sande Cody; great-grandparents are Georgia Cupit and Kathy Rhodes, all of Hugo. Also wishing Shade a happy birthday is his uncle, Duane Winship, his aunts and cousins.



Happy birthday, Malachi

Malachi Deshawn Valliere celebrated his first birthday on Dec. 22. He is the son of Chris and Crystal Valliere of Durant and the grandson of Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Robert and Cynthia Valliere of Lafayette, La. Malachi would also like to wish his twin cousins, Caryssa and Cynthia Bui, a happy birthday as they turned 8 on Dec. 18.



Durant-Mondays • Broken Bow-Mon., Wed. and Fri. • Idabel-By appointment
Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-2410
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Ron McKinney keeps them dancing to the beat of his own chanting

By **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The snake dance. The raccoon dance. The stealing partners dance...the list of Choctaw dances keeps going and each dance is unique. And the person ultimately in control of a group of dancers is the chanter.

The pace at which the dancers do their toe-heel, toe-heel, or the quick turns that make the girls' colorful Choctaw dresses spin with them, the yells of "yeeeeeaaa!", or playful chases through rows of their "corn stalk" play mates, among many other motions, are all directed by the chanter. The words, the sounds, intonations and pitches, the verbal highs and lows, the clicking of the sticks...these are what provide the cues for movements during certain dances and help the dancers keep pace.

Most Choctaw dancers know the chants by heart in order to perform the dances but the chanters know it's they who truly are in charge of the dancers.

One of these chanters is the Rev. Ronald K. McKinney of Flandreau, S.D. Ron has been performing Choctaw chants since he was a child growing up in Broken Bow. His parents, John McKinney Jr. and Julia (Billy) McKinney, raised their six children attending the Oka Achukma Presbyterian Church. He grew up in a tight-knit family that participated in many church and cultural activities together.

During the 1970s, Ron and his family were part of a dance group that performed traditional Choctaw dances and chants, as taught by the Mississippi Choctaw. That group, *the Okla Homma Chahla Hihla*, was started by the Rev. Gene Wilson as part of the ministry of the Choctaw Parish churches in McCurtain County. It became a way for



Photo provided

Along with sharing the story and culture with the next generation of Choctaws, chanter Ron McKinney is also a husband, father, reverend and Native American Student Advisor at South Dakota State University.

the group to reconnect to their Choctaw roots. The dance group made many trips to Mississippi to learn the traditional dances and chants from their distant "family," the Mississippi Choctaw.

Back home in Oklahoma, the group gathered often to give presentations, combining dancing with storytelling to teach about the culture. Chanting is a fundamental aspect to their presentations. Each dance is performed with a specific chant, helping them to identify the dance and knowing what steps and turns to make next, furthering the story along.

Because dancing and chanting go hand-in-hand, chanting was just as key an element for the group to learn and bring back with them to Oklahoma as was the dancing. That task fell mostly on Jerry and Shirley Lowman. They learned from the Mississippi chanters, Prentice and Amy Jackson. Gene Wilson made several recordings of the Mississippi chanters during their many trips, bringing them back to continue learning from and for the group to use during

dance performances as well.

As the dance group continued to grow larger, it began to form into two groups – an adult group that danced in the evening and a youth group that danced during the day. "We had a really large dance group with both adults and kids. Sometimes it was hard for the kids to keep up because there were about 60 dancers," said Ron.

It was at this time that Ron and his younger sister, Carla, began to learn the Choctaw chants. They learned the chants by listening to the recordings of Prentice and Amy Jackson made by Gene Wilson while in Mississippi. Curtis Billy, a counselor at their school in Broken Bow, who was part of the Choctaw dance group as well, also had recordings of their chanting, allowing Ron and Carla another perspective. They also picked up a lot from listening first-hand to Jerry and Shirley Lowman at the group's many Choctaw dance gatherings.

In the early 1980s, as part of the Johnson O'Malley program, the dance group began a shift from the church to

more school involvement. In 1982, when Ron was a junior, he and Carla began dancing as part of a group in the Broken Bow Public Schools. "We were the first and only chanters in the group," at the time, he said.

"That program continues today," he said proudly, saying he visited recently. "It's a whole new generation now, some are the children of my former classmates."

Curtis Billy spearheaded the group when Ron was still in high school, helping to secure the details of the visits they would make. "We'd visit churches before Thanksgiving," among the many locations they visited, said Ron. "We performed at many locations. It was just the high school at first but then it grew. Later, it consisted of Broken Bow high school, middle school, and elementary school students."

It was during this time in his life that he met a man who helped shape who he'd become as a chanter. "One of the most influential things that changed me as a chanter was a trip I took in 1984, the year I graduated high school," explained Ron fondly. "Curtis Billy arranged a trip for a group of us to go to Chucalissa in Memphis, Tenn., and it was there I met a chanter named Wood Bell. Even though I learned from Prentice and Amy Jackson, I never got to actually meet them. But I got to talk to Wood Bell and visit with him and ask him questions. He shared some of his wisdom with me about chanting...telling me to adjust it to each group, speed it up, slow it down. It just all depends on the group. They determine what I do but I change it up so that they don't get used to one thing and start to anticipate moves. He really taught me a lot."

After high school, Ron left Oklahoma for Arkansas, graduating from the University of

the Ozarks and later enrolling at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. It was while in seminary that he met and married his wife, Danelle C. Crawford, a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Oyate in northeast South Dakota. Together, they have three children, Alethia, 15, Madison, 12, and Ronston, 6.

Ron and Danelle have made sure that their culture has always been an important part of their children's upbringing. "It was natural to include them in it as they were getting older," he said, referring to his teaching them the art of chanting and dance. They all are learning to speak and read Dakota and Choctaw, and grew up singing hymns in both languages. "It's just always been a part of their lives," he continued.

Over the years, Ron has led his family as he continues to share the stories and culture of the Choctaw people in schools, churches, and community groups across the

United States and abroad. He and his wife have raised their family in a Christian environment as they've answered pastoral calls at several locations around the country. They've made their home in Flandreau for the past 12 years.

In December of 2008, Ron started his own dance group in South Dakota, the Flandreau Choctaw Dancers, of which his children are a part. They are a group of approximately 10 middle school and elementary school aged children – "Choc-kotas," a mix of Oklahoma Choctaw/Dakota, and Mississippi Choctaw/Lakota. They have performed at local schools and churches, and have become a regular fixture with the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Upward Bound Summer program, and the SDSU Native American Heritage Month Events, according to Ron.

"Some of the kids in my group are the grandchildren of Mississippi Choctaw who moved up here to South Dakota in the 1970s so I feel like I've gone full circle," he said. "From learning from the Mississippi Choctaws to being able to go to South Dakota to teach kids descended from them. I just feel like I've been able to give back instead of just receiving. It's a good feeling."

Ron will continue to "give back" this summer as he displays his talents as a featured chanter at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma festival in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian from June 22-25. The festival will be four days of food, workshops, and performances, including a re-enactment of a traditional Choctaw wedding, stickball demonstration, Choctaw dancers, singers and storytellers, and booths showcasing beadwork, pottery, flutes, the Choctaw language, and tribal cooking.



Photo provided

Ron leads a group of dancers by chanting at one of many cultural presentations.

QUINTON

School named a JOM Exemplary Program

Continued from Page 1

students. This leads to more in-depth learning about the dangers of drugs, for the students. They also have a motivational speaker visit, commented Praytor. They are an outstanding example of a progressive school.

Paired with Quinton's drug awareness program is its

school attendance, which serves as another positive aspect that contributed to their recent title of JOM Exemplary Program.

Praytor recognizes Quinton's JOM Coordinator Judy Needham for her great work with the school. Needham's long-time experience has "proven invaluable in the strength of the Parent Committee," said Praytor. "And beneficial to the Indian students and the community as a whole."

According to Praytor, "success truly comes from an experienced JOM Coordinator

who communicates with the teachers and Parent Committee," which Needham has thoroughly accomplished, having served as the coordinator.

Quinton Public Schools received a plaque for their recently received award and each member on the Parent Committee, Quinton Public Schools Superintendent Don Cox and Needham received blankets from Chief Gregory E. Pyle and several Council members. The members were also recognized at the annual Oklahoma JOM Conference.

Receiving the honor of

Exemplary JOM Program requires timely completion of paperwork, meeting deadlines and turning in documentation. "The only way to have a successful JOM program is the coordinator, Parent Committee and school administration all working together and communicating," said Praytor. "We look for that model school that is self-motivated."

There's lots of work that goes into becoming a successful JOM program. "We look for people who are well-organized and understand the importance of JOM," added Praytor.

Choctaw author, poet LeAnne Howe honored

LeAnne Howe, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, received the Tulsa Library Trust's "American Indian Festival of Words Author Award" March 5 at Central Library, Fourth Street and Denver Avenue.

Howe writes fiction, poetry, screenplays and plays dealing with American Indian experiences. Her works have been translated in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. Currently, Howe is professor of American Indian Studies, English and Theatre, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She returns to her ancestral home in Ada each summer.

Howe's first novel, "Shell Shaker," [Aunt Lute Books, 2001] received the American Book Award in 2002. The story is a parallel story of families in the mid-18th century in what is now Mississippi, and a twentieth-century Choctaw family in 1991. The French translation for "Shell Shaker" was a finalist for Prix Medici Estranger, one of France's top literary awards.

Her second novel, "Miko Kings: An Indian Baseball Story" [Aunt Lute Books,

2007] was chosen by Hampton University in Virginia as their 2010 "Read-in" selection. Chapter three of Miko Kings is set at Hampton University and also documents the ethical challenges throughout Indian Territory in 1906.

"Evidence of Red," [Salt Publishing, UK, 2005] an introspective look at American Indian persistence and struggle, received the Oklahoma Book Award for poetry in 2006.

Howe also is active in American Indian film productions, serving as co-producer along with Jim Fortier, "Playing Pastime," a 30-minute documentary of Indian Baseball Leagues in Oklahoma; and screenwriter and on-camera narrator of the PBS documentary "Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire," a 90-minute documentary on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, aired nationally in 2006.



Submitted photo

Founder and director of WagonBurner Theatre Troop, her plays have been produced in Los Angeles, New York City, New Mexico, Maine, Texas, and Colorado. Her one-act play, "The Mascot Opera, A Minuet" was part of a production at Mixed Blood Theater in Minneapolis.

In 2003, she was the Louis D. Rubins Jr. Writer-in-Residence at Hollins University, VA. She has received an Artist-in-Residence grant for theater from the Iowa Arts Council. In 2004 she was the Regents Distinguished Lecturer at University of California, Riverside. She was the John and Renee Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi at Oxford, Miss., in 2006-2007.

"LeAnne is the perfect example of a successful Oklahoma author who connects the traditional ways and thoughts with scenes in the 21st century," said Teresa Rannels, American Indian Resource Center coordinator. "Through complex characters and moving imagery, she explains how we are all connected within the natural cycles of life. She is the perfect example of what the American Indian Festival

of Words Author Award represents."

Inaugurated in 2001, the American Indian Festival of Words Author Award recognizes literary contributions of outstanding American Indian authors. It is the first and only award given by a public library to honor an American Indian author. The award is given in odd-numbered years, alternating with the "Circle of Honor" award. Recipients receive a \$5,000 cash prize and medallion. Past award-winners include: Joy Harjo, Vine Deloria Jr., Leslie Marmon Silko and Carter Revard. "Oklahoma is my home and where I grew up, so this award means more to me than anyone will ever know," said Howe. "So much so, that I flew home to Oklahoma from Amman, Jordan, where I'm currently a William J. Fulbright scholar."

Howe went to Jordan to research her newest novel, and to teach American Indian Studies at the University of Jordan. Following Howe's presentation, the American Indian Festival of Words featured dancers, storytellers, as well as cultural and crafts programs for families.



Reynolds helps in Japan

Cody T. Reynolds of Ardmore is serving aboard the USS Ronald Reagan in the Sea of Japan. Reynolds is a search and rescue swimmer for the Navy. The USS Ronald Reagan is serving as a base of operations during the Japanese catastrophe. Reynolds is the son of Kent Reynolds of Oklahoma City and Michelle Patterson of New Mexico. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. George Prince of Pontiac and Doyle and Ann Reynolds of Ardmore.



Joe (right) and R.L. "Bob" West (left) are pictured with Chief Pyle at the Veteran's Day celebration in Tushka Homma last year. Joe and Bob live in Pontotoc County near Ada. Their great-grandmother was Choctaw, and they both served in the 45th Division in the Korean conflict.

Text2Give to support Military Warrior Support Foundation

Here's your chance to help our wounded heroes with mortgage-free homes and job assistance. With Text2Give, you can give a \$10 tax-deductible donation and help change the lives of a wounded hero and his or her family. Your generous donations will be supporting the Military Warrior Support Foundation.

Text the word **HERO** to **85944**
Anyone with questions on the ways donations will be used can go to www.militarywarriors.org

SERVING THE HEROES WHO HAVE SERVED FOR US

Karl McKinney inspires next generation of Choctaw youth dancers

By **CHRISSY DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

In the spring of 1996, plans were being made to have a family reunion of John and Mulsey McKinney. Mulsey made a request to include Choctaw dancing, with her grandchildren as the dancers. She knew most of her grandchildren could dance, because they were a part of *Okla Homma Chahta Hihla* back in the 1970s.

Her grandson, Lyndon Karl McKinney Sr., assembled a new generation of Choctaw dancers – Mulsey’s great-grandchildren. They were taught the Choctaw social, animal and war dances of their ancestors.

In the spring of 1996, Karl McKinney fulfilled his grandmother’s wish and the new dance group was formed. They are known as the Choctaw Youth Dancers.

Karl serves as the head organizer and founder of the youth dancers with the help of his wife, Janis. “I just present the dances and the interpretation of the dances,” he said. Karl also has taught the group members the moves and steps of all 11 dances.

The Choctaw Youth Dancers have been invited to perform in Washington, D.C., at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Festival at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in June. They plan to show their pride in their Choctaw culture by performing several dances, including social, animal and war. “All together right now we’ll do nine,” said Karl. When the group members were informed of their invitation, “they were excited and scared,” laughed Karl.

All of Karl’s four children dance in the group and have been taught the importance of the Choctaw culture since they were very young. His daughter, Stephanie, will be 29 and serves as the oldest member of the youth dancers and his oldest son, Lyndon, is 26. Johnathan will be 25 and the lead dancer, Steven, will turn 21 years old soon.

Most of the dancers are from the Broken Bow area with two coming from Poteau and five or six from the Smithville area. “All together, I have about 20 to 25,” said Karl. “The majority being girls.”

The first Choctaw Youth Dancers were formed in 1996. “I’d say we had 10 or 12 at least,” said Karl. Steven was just 6 years old. Both nieces and nephews of Karl



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSY DILL

Karl McKinney is the head organizer and founder of the Choctaw Youth Dance group, with the help of his wife, Janis.

and Janis’s sides of the family formed the first group. “It was my grandmother’s dream,” said Karl. “She’s the main reason we started dancing.”

Growing up, Karl would attend Choctaw gatherings and people would ask him “what’s your dance, or what’s your song?” he recalled. “We knew we were Choctaw, but other than that, that’s all we knew,” he explained.

From that point on, when Karl and his family made their annual one-week summer trip to Mississippi, his interest in who he was as a Choctaw Indian became stronger. Karl would visit the mounds, caves, tree sites and places with “historical significance” in the homeland.

Karl took an interest in Choctaw dancing in 1974 soon after he watched Gene Wilson’s Choctaw dance group performed at the Owa-Chito Festival in Broken Bow. Later on that summer, Karl began learning Mississippi Choctaw-style dancing from Prentice Jackson, who was from the Pearl River community in Mississippi, his wife, Amy, and Tony Bell.

Karl’s father was a member of Gene’s group in the Pearl River community in Mississippi. “The style from Pearl River community, that’s the style they taught us,” explained Karl. “My brothers and sisters dance and my dad danced.”

In the ’70s, there were seven Choctaw dance groups. “Each one had their different style and dance,” said Karl.

According to Karl, today there are about 23 different Choctaw dance groups, each with their own variation and style.

When Karl first organized the youth dancers, his wife Janis made all the dancers’ dresses and shirts. She still makes them today with the help of her sister-in-law, Marissa, and other dressmakers around the area. “It takes time,” said Janis. “There’s lots of times when we travel that we work on belts. It’s a family effort.”

Janis makes the dresses by hand, and they are all tailor-made to fit with hand-torn fabric. She expressed the difficulty in making silk dresses. “I’m on my second silk dress now,” she said. “Made for the public.”

Along with their traditional Choctaw dresses, the girls wear aprons. “The apron is a sign of purity,” explained Janis.

While the girls wear aprons, the boys wear sashes with their traditional Choctaw shirts and their slacks. The boys’ lead dancer wears one sash across his chest, indicating his role, while the chanter wears two.

“This is traditional dress in Mississippi,” explained Karl. “As far as Oklahoma, there’s not a style or standard. The way we dress and our chants are Mississippi-style.”

The current Choctaw Youth Dancers met and began practicing last year. The last group of dancers Karl formed graduated, joined the military or

got married and started families, so the dancers took about a five-year break and started again this April, bringing in new dancers.

Karl holds group practices usually once a month, “depending on the event coming up,” he said. “Sometimes the kids will say, ‘We need to practice!’”

The youngest group member being only 4 years old, Karl has had plenty of experience teaching Mississippi Choctaw dances. “As time goes on, they’ll pick it up,” he said. “It’s kind of hard to get their attention and keep it, but if they want to get out there we don’t say no.”

The dancers have been invited to perform at many events. They’ve displayed their talent at school and church events, pow wows and community gatherings. “We’ve gone to a family reunion in Dallas,” added Karl.

The dancers have also performed in Arlington at a Texas Rangers baseball game in 2002. “We were all over the place,” said Karl. “No one knew that we existed until we danced at a pow wow in 2000 at Labor Day weekend.”

They’ve also danced at an Indian school in South Dakota in 2009, traveled to Bakersfield in 2003, danced at a village in Memphis and performed at a pow wow in Denver in 2002.

“A lot of the kids can tell you about things that have happened,” laughed Karl, remembering the many trips made and dances completed. “These kids can tell you a lot of stories of the places that

we’ve been.”

At a Choctaw event in April 2001, Karl’s group’s dance was followed by a group from Mississippi. Because of their great timing with their steps in their dancing, Karl overheard the Mississippi were afraid to follow his group’s performance. “If you put that kind of scare into a group from Mississippi, you must be doing something right,” Karl told them.

The Choctaw Youth Dancers plan to perform several types of dances at the Smithsonian this summer, including the snake, raccoon, quail, wedding, stealing partners, jump and fast war dances. Karl’s brother Ron is the group’s chanter, and will be traveling from South Dakota to chant at the Smithsonian.

The kids have their types of dances they enjoy performing most. “A lot of them I think like to war dance,” said Karl. This type of dance was learned from the tri-community dancers from Mississippi. “They learned to swing and stomp their feet rather than just jump sideways.”

The younger children like the snake dance, because they go in and out and around. “Growing up, stealing partners was my favorite,” said Karl. “I’d go look in the audience and see what girls I was going to steal!”

Not only does Karl provide the necessary disciplinary and teaching skills for the dancers, he offers great motivation as well. “I’ve always told them to take pride in who you are as Choctaws, as Native Americans,” said Karl.



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSY DILL

Karl’s group, the Choctaw Youth Dancers, gathers for one of its regular monthly practices.

FIRE CHIEF

Choctaw Nation proud to claim Durant fire chief as one of its own

Continued from Page 1

always been kind of an adrenaline junkie,” he continued.

In the beginning of his career, he was forced to do the grunt work, as is customary of all rookies in a new field. He was charged with grocery duty and the occasional off-the-wall task. “They used to put the new guys through the ringer,” remembers Joines.

He began doing work on grassfires and shadowing someone with more experience to learn the ropes. After a few months at the station, he was sent to OSU Fire Service Training.

After spending time as a basic fire fighter, he was moved up to the position of a driver. This is the man who would drive the truck and make sure it was working properly to do what was required of it.

After his time as a driver, he moved up to lieutenant,

which is the person in charge of overseeing a substation. Joines was in charge of Station Two, located near Durant’s public pool while he was a lieutenant.

Beyond the point of lieutenant, Joines progressed to captain, the second man in charge on a shift. The captain goes out on all wrecks and is the lead man in that situation. “If a truck is going, he is on it,” said Joines.

He only spent about four months in that position before he moved to the deputy chief position. In this position, Joines assisted the fire chief with all his duties. This was an eight-to-five job, which exceedingly contrasted his usual work schedule.

All fire fighters work in 24-hour shifts. They work for 24 straight hours and then have 48 hours off. “Every third day you work, holidays, Christmas, Thanksgiving. You miss a lot of time with your family,” explains Joines. “You actually spend more time with these guys than with your family,” he continued.

Even though he has missed family time, Joines was not without companionship. The firefighters build a great sense of camaraderie in their time together. “It’s like a family,”

stated Joines.

In the down time between fire runs, Joines and his colleagues would enjoy the peace that came with no fires with pastimes such as basketball and ping-pong. About six years ago, the department began doing medical runs.

This meant that if an ambulance goes, the firemen go to the site as well. This move was meant to cut response time in critical situations and lend manpower when needed. The implementation of medical runs greatly increased the amount of time the firemen spent out in the field.

Being in the field was what he loved, but it also came with a sacrifice. He had to miss a good amount of time with his family. It was worth it to Joines because he knew his job meant something.

Joines has two children, Austin, 14, and Aurianna, 10. Austin was born in 1996 while Joines was briefly serving as fire marshal. He left that position because it did not allow him enough work in the field, which he craved.

“We worked though it, it wasn’t always convenient... but, it was just a sacrifice



we made. I’ve never regretted coming to work one day,” exalted Joines.

Throughout his career Roger has saved property and given aid to many people. From removing people from wrecks, to helping out mischievous children who have gotten into a small amount of trouble, Joines has helped the community in many ways.

He distinctly remembers one instance of pulling two people out of a fire and saving a life. He does not brag about it, just noting that it gave him the feeling that he had made a difference; a feeling that fuels his ambition to do his job and serve his community well.

Joines has done a great deal to improve the fire department of Durant. After being with the fire department for a number of years, Joines and some colleagues attended a ropes class, which led to expanding the rescue side of the department, a useful tool in special cases where rescue would be required.

“Special Rescue Team was something I was proud of,” stated Joines as he speaks of his accomplishments with the Durant Fire Department.

Joines has been the fire chief for about two months. He is still in the beginning stages of laying out his plans for the fire department brand of leadership. He is constantly reading leadership books and studying ways to make his department run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

He strongly believes in furthering his employee’s knowledge and says, “Leaders are made through education.”

During every shift, training sessions are held on various aspects of duties to keep everyone fresh.

Joines also plans for constant training, in the hopes that once the men master the duties of their classification, they will begin learning the next role. With this in place, if one man ever has to step up to a position, he will be ready for whatever situation arises.

With technology growing, the fire department is gaining access to new and more efficient ways to arrive on the scene and control the flames. Joines and colleagues are learning the new methods in hopes to better serve the community.

Maps of the city, locations of fire hydrants and building plans are all being digitized for easy access in times of

crisis. Fire Marshall Lisa Jackson and Administrative Assistant Deborah Davis are crucial to the adjustment to the new system, mentioned Joines.

The City of Durant was also chosen by the Department of Homeland Security to receive a considerable amount of equipment to be used in a state of emergency. This equipment is shared over a wide area and is located in Durant because of location and manpower. Joines is charged with training his men how to use the equipment.

Joines takes great pride in his department and recognizes the Choctaw Nation for its help in providing another station to better serve the Durant area. He also appreciates the City of Durant for always looking to better the community.

Joines and his family are active in their church, the Church of the Nazarene in Caddo. Joines and his wife, Dana, do lessons with the youth group and help with Wednesday night services.

He loves to hunt and fish in his spare time and has been attending Durant baseball games where his son, Austin, plays as a freshman. Joines greatly enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.

Poteau Community Center hosts an array of events to attract local Choctaws

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation Community Center located in Poteau is home to many smiling faces and the host of a number of events in the northern part of the Choctaw Nation.

Every Wednesday the Senior Citizens Group gathers for its weekly lunch, followed by a beading class. There is also another beading time hosted on Monday afternoons.

Many classes, such as moccasins making classes and pottery classes, are held at the location to keep everyone's interests peaked. Regularly scheduled events and classes like the GED classes and the Choctaw Language classes keep the center ever moving and shaking.

Much learning occurs at the center, but that is not all. Good times and hard work are also a key element in this location. The seniors work hard together to raise money for their trips and activities.

A spaghetti dinner to be hosted on April 15 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to raise money for senior activities is a prime example of how the seniors are working toward goals they have set for themselves.

"You can tell we are working together," said District 4 Councilman Delton Cox as he



Betty Dickson shows off her door prize filled with candy as friends Shirley Mantaghi, Deloris Cox and Virginia Johnson accompany the proud winner.

spoke about the considerable amount of funds the senior group has been able to raise for themselves.

There are many exciting happenings scheduled to occur this spring and in the near future. The Youth Advisory Board and the seniors are making plans to co-produce a community garden, a concept that has become a success around the Choctaw Nation.

There are also plans to expand the center by adding a larger kitchen and a new exercise room to the facilities. The center hosts many gatherings with attendance commonly reaching several hundred. The extra space will be fully utilized once added.

This particular center also houses the Tribal Police of the Poteau area, Children and Family Services, Outreach Services and CHR.



Heavener resident Camela Luman, seated left, poses for a picture with her nieces, Leona Qualls, Cheryl Lovell and Connie May.



Raymond Mackey enjoys the company of Christine Mackey and Barbara Sloan after lunch at the Poteau Community Center.



Council Speaker Delton Cox takes time to chat with Kenneth Furguson.



Cylde Brown, a skilled beadworker, is careful to keep everything in line before beginning the task at hand.



Wynema "Sissy" Luman, Shirley Mantaghi, Shirley Picklesimer and Tammy Morrison smile big for the camera after they serve the food on the Wednesday afternoon gathering.



A group of Poteau's Choctaws gather around for a picture after their weekly activities.



Lena Munoz proudly holds her beaded creation.

Lizzie Carney remembers what it was like growing up Choctaw

Lizzie Winlock Carney was born on May 4, 1913, about five miles south of Red Oak. Like so many seniors, Lizzie's mind was filled with stories of the past, stories that connect what has been to what now is.

Most members of the Choctaw Nation are familiar with at least a small amount of Choctaw history, from the Choctaw Nation's roots with the state of Mississippi and their journey to Oklahoma, to the attainment of sovereignty in more recent years.

These are milestones in the legacy that is the Choctaw Nation. Members may know these certain major facts that support the native history, but the details that lie in-between are what creates the texture of Choctaws' true history.

Lizzie spent time sharing stories of her younger days so that the future generations of Choctaws may have better understandings of their ancestors.

As a little girl, Lizzie led a simple life that would be considered a trial by today's standards. Her father, Johnnie Winlock, passed away before she was three, and her brother Robert, who was almost 2 years old, died just near her third birthday. "I just barely remember a thing about him," said Lizzie as she thought of her brother from long ago.

Following the death of her father and brother, Lizzie and her mother, Ada Jefferson Winlock Gaines, went to live with her maternal grandparents, Thomas and Bicey Jefferson.

During her stay with her grandparents, Lizzie spent time feeding livestock with her grandfather and feeding doves that would fly into the barn. The birds she fed began to get accustomed to Lizzie feeding them.

After a while, "no matter where I went, those birds followed me," said Lizzie. She gained such an association

with the doves, that her folks began to call her "pachi," the Choctaw word for dove.

In 1917 a flu epidemic struck the area. Much of Lizzie's family died around that time. Family members and neighbors gathered in attempts to help one another, but sadly, many didn't make it.

Following the outbreak of flu, Lizzie and her mother moved around because her mother would help people she knew and be a provider for them. Lizzie recalls that, "We didn't worry about money because my father belonged to the Woodman's Lodge and had insurance on my brother and me."

Lizzie's mother eventually got remarried to William Gaines and bore five children by him. Lizzie was not present for the wedding though. She was with her uncle who had tuberculosis at the Talihina Indian Hospital, which was called the Civilized Indian Hospital.

While at the hospital, she was suffering from significantly painful headaches. "The hospital said it was due to my heavy hair," Lizzie recalled. She had such long hair that the weight would affect her head.

Lizzie's mother was very proud of her daughter's hair, and had difficulty letting it be cut by the hospital. Once her hair was short, the headaches subsided. "After that I had my hair cut all the time," said Lizzie.

Around 1923, Lizzie began her education at the Tuska-homa Female Academy. She was scared to leave her home for school, but her stepfather, who was more educated than her mother, insisted that



Lizzie needed an education.

When Lizzie told her aunt Lena, who she called "Big Mama," that she was going to attend school, Lena insisted that her daughter, Rena, attend school as well.

Lizzie, along with some other children, took the train to their future school. Along the way, they had a few delays because some of the towns had been quarantined for disease.

Once they arrived at the school, Lizzie had to adjust to the language of the school. All her life, she had only heard the Choctaw language. Her mother never knew English and the sermons in church were spoken in Choctaw.

Lizzie recalls that, when we got to the school, "we got spanked for speaking Choctaw. I didn't know my numbers or my ABC's."

The teachers would spank her hand with a ruler when she didn't know the answer in the classroom. "Sometimes a child who knew both languages would tell me why I got my hand spanked."

Lizzie recalls that Tuska-homa Academy was one large three-story building built like a dormitory. She stayed on the third floor, in a large

room filled with many beds. The beds were made of white iron.

The second floor was for the older girls and the first was where class was held. Each floor had its own restroom.

The children were responsible for providing their own clothes, but since they all had little, the school laundered their garments for them.

In December of 1927 someone put paper in the fireplace, which caused the wood shingles to catch fire. This was about 3 p.m., while Lizzie and the other students were in the auditorium practicing for a Christmas program.

Once the fire alarm rang, the children were told to get out-side quickly. Lizzie did not even have time to grab a coat, but she was ultimately one of the more fortunate ones.

Some of the other students had to come outside, where it was raining and sleeting without shoes. Lizzie recalled looking up at the burning building and saying, "I see my bed burning."

While they were outside, the older girls began to hurry the younger ones into the laundry room where it was a bit warmer. Once all the children were organized, the school official had to act fast to arrange where the kids would spend the night.

A woman who lived nearby told the school administration that she could house four girls in her home for a few

days, so Lizzie, along with three friends stayed with the woman.

During her few days with the woman, school officials would come by and check on the children. One day the woman came to the girls and said, "Be ready tomorrow. You are going home on the train."

The next day at the station, the school matron bought them a ticket. After giving the matron a hug, Lizzie and her friends boarded the train.

They arrived at LeFlore just before dark. Lizzie remembers being happy that it was not night yet because she and her friends had heard ghost stories and were scared.

Some girls' parents picked them up at the station, but Lizzie and three of her friends had to walk. Lizzie told them, "as long as we can cross Long Creek, we'll be all right if it's not overflowing."

The girls laughed as they walked to their homes, but as it grew closer to nightfall, they began to hurry. After crossing the creek, one of the girls left the group because her house was close. This left Lizzie and one other friend, Mary Stallaby Newman, for the rest of the trek.

Lizzie suggested to Mary that they run in order to beat the approaching darkness. They ran until they came to a hill that they had heard ghost stories about.

At the foot of the hill, Lizzie said to Mary, "let's just pray we make it." The two young girls said a prayer and then began to run up the hill, braving their fears of what they had heard.

Once at the top, they could look down and see Mary's house, and were relieved. As

they approached the yard, dogs began to bark. This scared Lizzie and alerted Mary's parents.

When Mary's father asked them why they were not at school, Lizzie thought it would be amusing to tell a fib and told him they had run away from school. Mary's father did not find it amusing, so "I changed my tune and said 'Our school burnt down and they sent us home'," said Lizzie.

Mary's parents told her she could spend the night. They made a fire for the girls that night, and in the morning, Mary's father took Lizzie the rest of the way home.

When Mary first saw her mother, she told her the truth about the school immediately, for she was scared to tell her mother the same story she told Mary's parents.

With Tuska-homa Academy out of services, many of the children were transferred to Jones Academy or Chilocco. Lizzie would attend Chilocco the following fall and gain her education from 1927 through 1936.

"I have to give credit to Chilocco," declared Lizzie. This is where she learned much of her home management skills. She learned basket weaving, pottery and beadwork. She even sold some of what she had made. Chilocco is also where she learned English.

She would later marry Elton Lee Carney, who she called Dutch. She worked for various people in different houses, using the knowledge and skills she gained in school to provide for the children she had with Dutch.

Lizzie's story of her younger years lends a peek at what it was like for Choctaw children to become accustomed to the American education system. This was a time of great change for the inhabitants of Oklahoma, and Lizzie's memories tell of these times of change.

"Sometimes a child who knew both languages would tell me why I got my hand spanked."
- Lizzie Carney



Wayne Lehew visits with Chief Gregory E. Pyle during the community gathering in Duncan.



Gary Hicks and son Bailey are pictured with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Roy Hicks at the March 22 meeting.



Joyce Teakell, Tonia Smith and little Addyson Brown listen to Chief Pyle speak at the Duncan event.

Duncan meeting attracts 500 Choctaws

Photos by JUDY ALLEN | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Sam Schornick and Alex Nowlin are delighted with the souvenir buffalo soap being given at the Choctaw Resort booth.



Geree Thompson and grandson Cabot Allen came from Ringling.



Mia and Jace Reich smile for the camera.



Aspen Norton is presented with a basketball for assisting with door prizes for the approximately 500 Choctaws, family and friends who attended.

Area Choctaws enjoy the community gathering in Ardmore

Photos by JUDY ALLEN | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Jose Alvarez helps Chief Pyle with door prize drawings at the Ardmore meeting on March 8. He's given a basketball for his assistance.



Chief Pyle smiles as he holds T.J. Harris for a photograph.



Above left, 6-month-old Charslee O'Steen and Hannah Messick of Ardmore.



Above right, Gillian and Elizabeth Coffman of Davis are guests at the Ardmore event.



At right, Chief Pyle examines a unique artifact brought by Kay Byers – a Ucskee rock containing war paint, found in the Ozarks.

BOW SHOOT

Fifth bow shoot season begins

Continued from Page 1

Please bring your own bow. Long bows, recurves and self-bows are allowed but no compound bows.

Medals are awarded to winners in each division every month. In November, a grand prize handmade bow will be awarded for most overall points in the men's and women's 17-19 and 20+ divisions. Trophies will be awarded in the younger divisions. Participants need to attend at least five shoots to be eligible for the grand prize at the end of the season.

Everyone is welcome to at-

tend and lunch will be

provided. Please use the RV/tent camping entrance off Nanih Waiya Road.

Several special shoots are also on the calendar this year.

An Intertribal Bow Shoot for ages 20+ will be held April 30 with everyone enjoying a potluck dinner afterward. Registration is at 1 p.m. The shoot starts at 1:30.

There will be a shoot during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma. It will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, in the village. More information will be announced on a Corn Stalk Shoot in October and on a 3D Intertribal competition. The group is also invited to attend shoots hosted by other tribes.

For more information, please call the Cultural Events Department, 1-800-522-6170.



Alta Mapp visits with Health Executive Mickey Peercy.



Kathy and John Russell Payne have been married 44 years.



Tyler and Donald Day say hello to Assistant Chief Batton.



Assistant Chief Batton welcomes Choctaw veteran Milton Jones.



Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans.

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.



Jones Academy third quarter super students

Jones Academy Super Students are chosen every quarter by the classroom teachers for their all around performance in the classroom and social skills. These commendable students represent six different tribes at Jones Academy. Pictured are, front row, Jenaro Lujano and Jose Lainez-Ortiz, both first-graders, and Kaylen Panteah, third grade. Back row, Bryan Hawkins, sixth grade; Gabriela Bernal, fifth grade; Mariella Chatkehoodle, sixth grade; Xynissa Thlocco-Deere, fifth grade; Lakota Dixon, sophomore; and Lena Goodbear, fourth grade.

Are you ready to purchase a new home?

The first step in the home-buying process is attending a

Homebuyer Education Class

Come to one of our Homebuyer Classes nearest you to learn the important steps in the home-buying process. You will become more aware of the benefits and risks associated with owning your own home. We make the process fun and educational, so call us for an appointment today! To register, call Debbie Childers at 1-800-235-3087, ext. 297, for one of the following classes:

- April 21 – Broken Bow Center
- May 10 – Durant Center
- May 17 – McAlester Center
- May 24 – Poteau Center

Choctaw language courses offered through Internet

By **CHRISSY DILL**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

This year marks the 11th anniversary of Choctaw Language classes available over the Internet. These classes are conducted by Choctaw Language Instructor Lillie Roberts, who has been teaching Choctaw language for 12 years.

Roberts is adequately equipped to teach the Choctaw language in the online setting. “Choctaw was my first language,” she said. “I don’t think I knew English before the age of 6,” when she attended boarding school.

Roberts’ schedule consists of three different levels of classes. Levels one and two occur on Thursday nights and Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Levels three and four are combined and take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

In addition, Roberts teaches language at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the mornings through the distance-learning classes.

Anyone is welcome to enroll in Roberts’ online Choctaw language classes; how-

ever, “the material is at least for college-age students with grammar skills,” according to Roberts. Adults are the primary participants in the classes, with the youngest student being 16 years old and the oldest being 84.

The average enrollment in the online classes is “about 265,” she said. Currently there are 350 total participants.

When Roberts realized she wanted to teach the Choctaw language, she was asked to take a three-day teacher’s workshop, where she was instructed on how to become a teacher of the language. “We had to go in front of the language committee,” she explained. “They spoke to me in Choctaw and noted how I responded.”

Roberts’ first semester working for the Choctaw Language Department was in 1999. Soon after, the Internet classes began. She was asked to teach and she accepted.

Roberts put much effort into making the Choctaw language classes over the Internet very effective for participants. “I met several times with the writer of the textbook we use,” she said. She contin-



ued to write lesson plans, and the writer helped her make instructional videos shown to students.

When the Internet classes began, Roberts used a video camera and “video-streamed” her lessons through the Internet to the students at their homes. At one point in time, all Roberts had to teach with was a chat room with her students.

Today, the classes are

taught using AVAcast (Audio Visual Architecture), an easy-to-use interface where Roberts is able to interact with students using a chat room, video interface and other convenient forms of communication.

The classes are free of charge, and the only expenses paid are for the required learning materials including a textbook, “Choctaw Language and Culture,” which can be purchased at the Choctaw Na-

tion Bookstore, a Choctaw language dictionary and a “definer” or a “learner’s word book,” according to Roberts.

“The first two or three weeks, you’re just learning the sounds,” explained Roberts, of her online language classes. Students learn the Choctaw alphabet, consonants and vowel sounds in the beginning of the course.

Continuing from learning sounds, the participants learn to put syllables together and from syllables to forming words and sentences. They then learn how to have conversations in the Choctaw language.

The classes take place 16 weeks per semester and are conducted at least 50 minutes a day. Classes usually start “about the third week in August and end the last week in April,” said Roberts.

While in the past new registration was open every fall and spring semester during the 16 weeks of classes, the last two or three years enrollment is open only in June, beginning June 1 through the end of August.

The Choctaw language classes taught by Roberts on-

line have been experienced throughout the community and the world at large. Roberts has had the privilege of teaching individuals who wish to learn more about the Choctaw culture from places including Germany, Thailand, Ecuador, Romania, England, Canada, Mexico and Korea.

Roberts’ teaching style is productive and effective yet casual in its setting, leading to the Choctaw language Internet classes’ success. “I have no set-in-stone syllabus,” she said. “I teach according to how they’re learning.”

If you are interested in enrolling in Roberts’ online Choctaw language classes, enrollment will open on June 1. Visit choctawschool.com and click “Classes” at the top of the page, then click “Internet.” “When registration is taking place, there will be a link to a form they must fill out,” said Roberts.

Enrollment begins June 1 for Choctaw language online classes. With Roberts’ instruction and experience, participation in these courses will lead to increased knowledge of the Choctaw language and culture.

2011 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant schedule

It’s time once again for the Choctaw Nation District Princess Pageants. Each contestant must reside in the district in which she is competing. Little Miss contestants need to be between the ages of 8 and 12 by Sept. 1, 2011. Junior Miss contestants need to be between the ages of 13 and 17 by Sept. 1, 2011. Senior Miss contestants need to be between the ages of 18 and 23 by Sept. 1, 2011. All must be 1/16 degree Choctaw or higher.

District 1 Princess Pageant will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 14 at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel. Deadline for applications is May 9. For more information, please call 580-286-6116.

District 2 will hold its Princess Pageant at 5 p.m. on May 14 at the Choctaw Community Center in Broken Bow. Deadline for entries is April 29. For

more information, please call the center at 580-584-6372.

District 3 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. on May 24 at the Choctaw Community Center in Talihina. For more information call 918-567-2106.

District 4 Princess Pageant will be at 4 p.m. on May 28 at the Choctaw Community Center in Poteau. Deadline for applications is May 2. For more information, please call 918-647-9324.

District 5 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on May 11 at the Choctaw Community Center in Stigler. Deadline for applications is April 13. For more information, please call 918-967-2398.

District 6 will hold its Princess Pageant at 6 p.m. on May 20 at the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton. Deadline

for entries is May 6. For more information call 918-465-2389.

District 7 will hold its Princess Pageant at 6 p.m. on May 20 at the Antlers Community Center. Deadline for entries is 4 p.m. on May 11. For more information please contact Virginia Hammons at 580-298-5501 or Maria Moore at 580-981-7011.

District 8 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 27 at the Choctaw Community Center in Hugo. Deadline for applications is May 13. For more information please call 580-317-4188.

District 9 Princess Pageant will be held in conjunction with Durant’s Magnolia Festival. The pageant will be 5 p.m. on June 3 on the Courthouse Lawn in Durant. Deadline for entries is May 6. For more information, please call 580-924-8280 and ask for Kay Jackson, ext. 2504,

or Martha Polk, ext. 2326.

District 10 will hold its Princess Pageant at 7 p.m. on May 26 at the Choctaw Community Center in Atoka. Deadline for entries is May 6. For more information, please call 580-889-6147.

District 11 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 13 at the Choctaw Community Center in McAlester. Deadline for applications is April 15. For more information, please call 918-423-1016.

District 12 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 27 at the Choctaw Community Center in Coalgate. Deadline for entries is May 2. For more information, please contact Vickie McClure at 580-317-7427.

District winners will compete in September for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Miss, Jr. Miss and Little Miss.

To the Youth of the Nation

**Di’Mehlia Deedee Adamson
Youth Advisory Hugo Chapter**

Fear of Death

Death is silent, sad and heartbreaking. Many people are afraid of dying but many are not afraid at all. Many would say, for example, “The older generation I go to church with is not afraid; they are prepared and will praise until the time has come.” I’m not afraid, but I would love to accomplish my dreams before I die. I had a friend to die today. She was an older woman I’ve known since I was a child. She died of cancer, and the last time the family and myself saw her she said “This will be the last time I see ya’ll.” Why did she say that? I don’t know to be exact. My fear is to hear and see the death of friends, family and others.

“Celebrate when a person dies and cry when a baby is born,” is a very old saying. It means celebrate, because the person has gone through all their hardships and lived a full life, and cry when a baby is born because of the hardships and trials to come. So the question is, should we be afraid? No, I would say you should live life to the fullest.

Photos by **CHRISSY DILL** | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Mary Jane Lynn cuts fabric for a traditional Choctaw dress.



Ila Collins spends her time sewing.



Sue Crowley examines patterns in preparation for a Choctaw dress.



Sarah Haney works on her knitting with friends at the Choctaw Community Center in Atoka on a Thursday night.



Ernestine Wilson works on her beading.



December Pittman takes notes as dress-maker Shirley Barboan and Mary Jane Lynn cut fabric.



Laura Buss displays her hand-made Choctaw beaded necklaces.

Thursday nights are busy in Atoka

Hands stay engaged with beading and sewing



Assistant Chief Gary Batton is pictured with Okla Chakta Clan Head Princess Lindsay Reeder and 2008 Princess Sara DeHerrera at the San Diego gathering of Choctaws.



The Navarro family drove to San Diego from Riverside in spite of stormy weather. Pictured are Brenda, Mario, Catalina, Daniel and Andrea.



Internet language instructor Lillie Roberts is glad to see her nephew who lives on the West Coast.



Assistant Chief Batton presents a gift to Ashlynn Hudak for helping with the door prize drawings.



Albert Cabrales holds his son, Angel. Choctaws as young as Angel, even newborns, can get their membership card.



Barbara and Ralph Murray arrived early for the San Diego meeting on Feb. 18.



Greg Brewer visits with Assistant Chief Batton. Brewer is the executive director of the California Council on Problem Gambling. He voiced his appreciation of the Choctaw Nation and Career Development, which helped him with training and certification in his new career.



Nancy Kimberly and grandson Nicholas Castellanos visit with Genealogy Specialist Vicki Prough.



Faye Self and Bret Moss hand out free T-shirts, a gift from Chief Pyle to all who attended the meeting in Scottsdale.



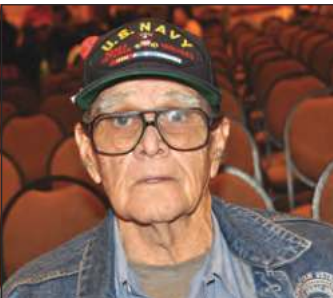
Assistant Chief Batton and Jackie Ricker are among the Choctaws who gathered in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Feb. 20.

Scottsdale Choctaws

Photos by JUDY ALLEN | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Young Jaden Landson, 2.



Korean War veteran Adolphus Edward Lee.



Adalie Blackburn assists Oneida Winship with drawing tickets for door prizes.



Lisa and Richard Harper are pictured with Assistant Chief Batton.



Heron Claus, director of Big Chief Ministries, presents a print of "Worship His Majesty" by Ted Blaylock.



Melanie Mandelin and Timeree Aden of Phoenix obtain information on furthering education from Larry Wade.



Hiram and Deborah Simpson with Assistant Chief Batton.



The Blackburn family – Erick, Carson, Brennen, Adalie, Colby and DeAnn.

Stickball Making Workshop weaves facts and skills of Choctaw heritage

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The facilities of the Choctaw Nation Cultural Events Office were utilized on Feb. 24 to host a Stickball Making Workshop.

Longtime stickball player Josh Willis and Cultural Events staff member Kay Jackson, hosted the event. Joey Tom with the Hugo Youth Outreach program aided Willis in his stickball lessons for the day.

The reason for the implementation of this class into the agenda of the Cultural Events staff, as stated by Executive Director of Cultural Events Sue Folsom was to teach members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma interesting facts of their heritage.

These handmade stickballs serve more than just the purpose of connecting Choctaw members to their past, but they also have a certain

cash value. Patrons at Choctaw events and locations are intrigued by the artifacts and are willing to purchase them. "We are hoping to teach people a skill, a tradition and a way to make a profit," stated Folsom.

"This is part of teaching the kids about our culture," said participant Paul Roberts. He went on to tell that this knowledge would add to his arsenal of tools that he uses to teach the youth of the Choctaw Nation.

All those attending were given a long, thin piece of leather, a golf ball, cutting pliers, and a demonstration on how to make the traditional Choctaw ball used in the sport. A golf ball was used to avoid the use of ambiguous-shaped



objects such as rocks, which were the center of the original balls.

To make the stickball, Willis instructed his students to, first and foremost, fold the leather string in half, making sure that both ends were even. If one side became longer, it will result in the weave of the leather over the ball to become off centered and crooked.

Once the leather is divided, the ball must be placed in the middle fold and wrapped tight. Following this step, one must hold the fold of the leather on the designated spot while making it meet on the other side of the ball. Once together, the leather is folded over the top of the ball, dividing it in vertical fourths.

This process continues, making more vertical lines much like longitudinal lines on a globe. After 11 of these lines are formed, each end of the leather string will be on opposite sides of the ball.

One must then take an end of the leather and weave it under the longitudinal lines near the poles of the ball. Alternating the end with which one is working with, the weaves will eventually meet in the middle, completing the leather weave on the ball.

The process is a complicated and difficult one. Creators of a stickball ball must have great patience as well as strong and nimble fingers. "I'm ready to get this under my belt for the therapeutic enjoyment," said DeAnna Moore of the Choctaw Language Department as she described how, once she has acquired the skills, finds peace in Choctaw crafts such as this and basket weaving.



Kirklan Loman



Tyler Dressman



Alexandria Picone



B.J. Nunn



Felicita LeFlore

Students perform well at Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock Show

Jones Academy 4-H students competed at the Pittsburg County Junior Livestock Show held in March 2-5, 2011, in McAlester. About 15 school districts were represented with approximately 300 entries. Overall, 17 Jones Academy students were selected for the premium sale honors on March 5. According to Brandon Spears, the Jones Academy Agricultural Supervisor and 4-H leader, the success was due to a lot of hard work and commitment on the part of the students and staff. Spears explained, “The students and staff work as a team. They spent many late hours out caring for their animals and preparing for this event. There is a lot of work that is done behind the scenes that goes unappreciated until the competition begins.” He added, “The students were rewarded at the premium sale for their labor, but what is really important is learning the value of



Taron Wise

hard work and dedication.” The Jones Academy 4-ers are now preparing for the Oklahoma Youth Expo held during spring break in Oklahoma City. B.J. Nunn exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion (overall). The Hamp was bred and raised at Jones Academy. B.J. is a ninth grade Academic Honors Student from Muldrow and is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Jones Academy students who placed at the Pittsburg County Junior Livestock Show were:

Chesters Class: Brandon Andersen, 1st Breed Champion, Gabriella Bernal, 2nd Place Reserve Champion

Hamps Class: B.J. Nunn exhibited the Breed Champion and was named Grand Champion (overall breeds). Liliana Bernal, 2nd Place Reserve Champion

Spots Class: Courtney Wallace, 1st Place Breed Champion,



Nichalle Evans

Mariella Chakethoodle, 2nd Place Reserve Breed Champion.

Crosses Class: Liliana Bernal, 1st Place Breed Champion.

Breeding Class: Taron Wise, 1st Place Reserve Breed (Poland), B.J. Nunn, 1st Place Reserve Breed (York).

Reyes wins art contest

Jones Academy student Elisa Reyes recently won a poster contest that will be displayed on a billboard in Shawnee and numerous magazines distributed by the Potawatomi Nation. One hundred and twenty-six tribes received the nationwide grant in an effort to stem the problems of methamphetamine use and suicide among Native American youth. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation was one of the tribes that received the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative Grant. The Potawatomi Tribal Youth Services Program sponsored the grant and proposed an art contest for Native American youth in the United States. Thirty-five entries were submitted from outside Oklahoma and as far away as Washington State. Six students from Jones Academy participated in the contest. In her age group, Elisa submitted a drawing voicing the theme of methamphetamines and its effects on the Native American culture. She received her award plus an iPod Touch at the MSPI banquet held at the Cultural Heritage Museum on Feb 26, 2011, in Shawnee. Elisa is an 11th grader from Pine Ridge, S.D. Amber Hearn, a prevention specialist with the Choctaw Nation MSPI and Wind Horse Program in McAlester facilitated the art contest and assisted the students at Jones Academy.



Jeffrey Herrington honored by TeenNick, Above the Influence



From where are the heroes of tomorrow coming? They could be coming from right here in southeastern Oklahoma. Jones Academy student Jeffrey Herrington was recently profiled on TeenNick.com for his community service work and ongoing efforts to promote a safe and drug-free environment. According to the website, the program that featured Jeffrey is a partnership between TeenNick’s HALO Awards and Above the Influence. The program recognizes young adults across the country for providing creative opportunities which encourage other teens to foster a substance free environment within their communities. Jeffrey’s story was showcased in February 2011.

In the past, Jeffrey has promoted drug-free advocacy through prevention meetings, which included role-playing with fellow students and skits on risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol use. Jeffrey is also a committee member of the Choctaw Nation Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative. As a member of the committee, Jeffrey has provided a teen’s perspective on the impact of methamphetamine on the youth and community. Jeffrey’s motivation to promote community service was fostered by his family and his own aspiration to advocate to his community and peers against drug use. Jeffrey has been involved with the Choctaw Nation Learn and Serve America Project at Jones Academy since 2008. He has served the program in several capacities including class representative and Co-Chairperson in 2009-2010. Jeffrey is a sixteen year-old Choctaw from Dibble, Oklahoma. He is a sophomore at Hartshorne High School.

For more information on teens making an impact in their communities go to www.teennick.com/halo-abovetheinfluence.

‘JA Writers’ publish newsletter

Budding journalists at the Jones Academy Alternative School write, report and publish “JA Writers” six times a year under the direction of Teacher Aide Denell Cooley. You can read the entire newsletter by clicking the link on the home page of www.jonesacademy.org or from the Jones Academy page on www.choctawnation.com.

Following are some highlights of what’s been happening at Jones Academy from the journalists at JA Writers. To read each story in its entirety please visit either of the Web links above and download the complete JA Writers January file.



Former student teacher Scott Hartness helps a group of students test the solar panels they assembled during their solar energy lesson.

Soaking up some rays – in a scientific way

By Joshua Sam

With the high cost of utilities wouldn’t it be nice to be able to build your own energy source? That is what the fifth grade class at Jones Academy did.

With the aid of Mr. Sirmans and former 2008 student teacher Scott Hartness, the students were able to build solar panels. Solar panels are used to obtain a form of alternative energy that comes from the sun.

Solar energy is a renewable resource that is cheap and easy to obtain. Solar Panels are not hard to make. During this project the students learned about electricity and gained valuable skills like how to use power tools and hand tools. They also learned about tool safety and used their knowledge about calculations and measurements.



Mr. Spears and Mrs. Rogers are pictured with the top three students who participated in the Soft Seven event – First place: Desma Valdez; second place: Kyle Miller; third place: Felicity Leflore.

Soft Seven Super Students

By Lakota Dixon

Are you a good test taker? Well, here at Jones Acad-

emy we take pride in our test scores and the elementary students have proven it. Our students participated in the Soft Seven program.

It is a computerized program that helps students upgrade their skills in school subjects like Math, Reading, Language, Geography and Social Studies. This month the third through sixth grade students participated in the Math Project for 2011. The students with the three highest scores were: fourth graders: Desma Valdez – 2806 and Kyle Miller – 2739 and sixth grader: Felicity LeFlore – 2734. These students received Soft Seven water bottles for performing so well. Any student who scored 2000 or above received an Einstein Certificate.

Youth Advisory Board pulling some strings – puppet strings, that is!

By Gavin Smith

Members of Jones Academy’s Youth Advisory board recently put on a puppet show production for the first and second grade students at Jones Academy. The theme of the production was “Better Choices.”

The aim of this event was to present information about how to deal with anger in a positive manner so that the young students would be more educated about how to deal with anger issues and to help them make better decisions when facing these problems



Mariella Chatkehoodle and Felicity LeFlore learn about the food pyramid and nutritious foods during the Breakfast of Champions contest.

Breakfast of Champions

By Brylee LaFaunce

The sun is rising. The alarm clock goes off. What is the first thing that pops in to my head? It isn’t the agenda for the day. It isn’t what will I wear today. It isn’t even what assignments are due today for school. The first thing I think about every morning is, “What’s for breakfast today?” Most of the time, people are in such a hurry to get their day started that they don’t even take time to eat the most important meal of the day-breakfast!

Most people just grab a donut or a candy bar and a pop for breakfast. They call this the “Breakfast of Champions!” But not at Jones Academy. Here, we’re served very nutritious meals that are not only good for the body, but good for the tastebuds too. Our kitchen staff makes sure we get a good source of vitamin C and a variety of fruits and vegetables, not to mention ample servings of meats and breads. That’s what it’s all about.

Recently, though the elementary students got to experience what it is like to plan nutritious breakfast menu. Our Registered Dietician, Mrs. Sparks, challenged the students to prepare a balanced breakfast menu choosing the most nutritious, yet delicious foods for the whole campus.



Safety Camp teaches Choctaw youth useful skills

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The historic sight of Wheelock Academy, a former tribal school for Native American girls, was filled with youth from around the Choctaw Nation on March 18.

About a hundred 6 to 18-year-olds attended the annual Safety Camp hosted by the Choctaw Nation's Tribal Outreach Programs.

The event was spread across the grounds of Wheelock Academy with events designed to teach Choctaw youth safe practices and wellness.

- Events included:
- gun safety and skeet shooting
 - fishing
 - fire safety and extinguisher operation
 - exercise tips and training
 - a DARE demonstration
 - drunk driving simulation using "drunk goggles" to give a feel of the danger of being intoxicated behind the wheel
 - a presentation from the NRA about gun safety

The stations designated for these events began operation at 10 a.m. and ran until noon, when lunch was served. Following lunch, all the participants gathered for the NRA presentation in which they

were visited by Eddie the Eagle, the spokesbird for the NRA.

The Safety Camp is an annual event usually hosted in August, but changed to March this year for cooler temperatures and scheduling. It is hosted by Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach, however it is not the only department to facilitate.

There were about 50 staff members from numerous programs that fall under Outreach Services to aid in managing the children and teach them the various aspects.

Paul Roberts, director of Youth Outreach and Injury Prevention, who headed up

the event, mentioned that this is typical of the programs under the Outreach Services to come together for a cooperative effort.

Throughout the year there are many events like this one, such as Outreach at the Beach, that require the combined efforts of many programs. "We are more than happy to help each other out," said Roberts.

The purpose of this particular happening was to give Choctaw Youth a fun and informative way to learn important aspects of life. It gives them the opportunity to get out of the classroom and to learn more hands-on activities.



Photos by **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma





Submitted photo

Ward appointed to California state government

Dr. Michael Ward, one of the appointed commissioners and current chairman of the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC), is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the only Native representation on the commission. Selected from a pool of over 30,000 applicants, Commissioner Ward is among the first Choctaw Nation members to be appointed to California state government. Ward is a chiropractic and sports medicine physician in Fullerton, Calif. Prior to entering the medical field, Ward was a federal agent in charge of international criminal and counter-intelligence cases and served as a decorated Air Force Officer.

In California, an historic experiment is taking place of which Ward is a part. For the first time, the fully independent CRC has been given the authority through propositional mandate to create all the boundaries governing California's Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts to reflect new population data in a process known as redistricting. The goal of redistricting is to make sure that every person has one vote, and that each vote carries the same weight. Districts are created by drawing lines that safeguard the communities that live within them and ensure

that communities can elect representatives of their choice that are responsive to their needs. The outcome of redistricting has a daily affect on individual communities from how much funding their schools and hospitals receive to tax rates, infrastructure or transportation needs of an area. The impact of redistricting lasts for at least 10 years until districts are recreated after a new national census is completed.

"For the first time every community has the power to provide direct input that will become the backbone of shaping how their community will be represented over the next decade" stated Ward. "The Citizens Redistricting Commission is going to great lengths to gather and implement public input into the political landscape of California."

CRC will be traveling the state taking testimony from the general public regarding their representational needs beginning in April. The public can also provide this information anytime directly to the commission through the website www.wedrawthelines.com.

The final district maps must be completed by Aug. 15, 2011. "Don't wait, get involved and make a difference in your community," urged Ward.

Choctaw Code Talkers Association

Annual Membership (January thru December)

Yes, I want to join CCTA today and help support our heroes
_____ New member. _____ I've been a member before.

Our membership is open to descendants, relatives and friends who are interested in preserving the history and learning more about the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I and World War II. CCTA is dedicated to educating the general public about the Choctaw men who served our country even before they were citizens of the United States. Our efforts include a bronze statue to be placed at the NACC Museum in Oklahoma City, a quilt sale, annual meetings and Congressional Medals honoring the Code Talkers historic service.

Applicant's Name: _____ Age _____
(if under 18 yrs.)

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work or Cell: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Full members are documented, eligible descendants or are related by blood to a Choctaw Code Talker of WWI or WWII cited by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Full members who are 18 years of age or older have voting privileges, may hold an office in the Association, and may serve on any committee as a member or as chairperson.

Associate members are individuals who express an interest in joining the Association and who support the objectives of the Association or are in the documentation process. Associate members are not eligible to hold office, but may vote or serve on a committee. Associate or full members under 18 years of age may not hold office or vote.

Full Documented Membership (12 months)	\$10.00 _____	Enclosed Date _____
Associate Membership (12 months)	\$9.00 _____	Check _____
Lifetime Membership	\$150.00 _____	Cash _____
Corporate (12 months)	\$100.00 _____	M. O. _____
Donation for Bronze, Quilt, Other	\$ _____	

Please send me information about becoming a documented Full Member. _____

My Code Talker's name is _____, Relationship _____

Mail this application, donation or membership fee to:
Lila Swink, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 55, Swink, OK 74761
580-873-2301, home, or 580-326-5591, work, e-mail, swink10k@yahoo.com

Choctaw pottery on exhibit



The Museum of the Red River, Idabel, is featuring a pottery exhibit with 15 pieces made by seven Choctaw artists. Items on display are on loan from Choctaw potters Dr. Ian Thompson, Evangeline Robinson, Shawna Folsom, Sue Folsom, Theresa Prough, Edmon Perkins and Dan Bernier. The exhibit ends May 8.

The museum's permanent collections feature artifacts of the Choctaw and Caddo, contemporary

Education is IMPORTANT and Haskell has made a difference in so many Choctaw students' lives.

In the past few years Haskell has come under government scrutiny and funds have been cut, administration has been playing musical chairs. Not enough faculty and a whole lot of administration. Now they have come to a point that they are cutting programs across the board. The most recent discussion has been some athletic programs. The Culture Center is on the brink of closing, due to funding for the curator. As alumni we can help with donations, fundraisers, moral support and representation to our students, you can contact the museum via web site or the local president of alumni in Lawrence, Kan., Corey Hudson, 785-749-8404, ext. Upward Bound office, or e-mail chudson@haskell.edu. Anyone who has been to

Haskell can take with them their whole life the Haskell experience, with Haskell Rascals contributing to our Nations. Over 150 tribal nations from all over the nation still attend there each year. Oklahoma tribal nations including the Choctaw Nation on an average sends four to five students to school there each year. The campus is reminiscent of those who have gone there from the Choctaw Nation. Pushmataha Hall houses the office and meeting room of the local alumni who are trying to bring the National Alumni Organization back to Lawrence. A road winds its way through campus named Choctaw Ave. Just a few blocks away a Choctaw woman pastors at the Lawrence Indian Methodist church representing the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

In 2004, the administration put before the Board of Regents a resolution to raise the

2011 Haskell Commencement Pow Wow

HONORING THE 2011 GRADUATES

MAY 13 - 14, 2011

HASKELL POW WOW GROUNDS | LAWRENCE, KS

HOST DRUM: STONEY PARK | ALBERTA, CANADA

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: MANNY KING

ARENA DIRECTORS: STEVE BYINGTON & CHAD KILLS CROW

FRIDAY, MAY 13
5:00 GOURD DANCING
7:00 GRAND ENTRY

SATURDAY, MAY 14
12:00P & 7:00P GRAND ENTRY

DANCE SPECIALS:
WOMENS ALL AROUND 18+ (STARTS FRIDAY)
MEN'S FANCY (SATURDAY AFTERNOON)
MEN'S CHICKEN (SATURDAY NIGHT)

ADMISSION:
\$5.00 WEEKEND PASS
5 & UNDER, 65 & OVER FREE

CONTEST INFORMATION:
POINTS BEGIN SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 12P GRAND ENTRY
MEN (16-49) NO. TRAD., SO. TRAD., FANCY, GRASS
WOMEN (16-49) NO. TRAD., SO. TRAD., FANCY, JINGLE
GOLDEN AGE (50+) MEN & WOMEN
\$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100

JUNIOR GIRLS (6-15) TRAD., JINGLE, FANCY
JUNIOR BOYS (6-15) TRAD., GRASS, FANCY
\$250, \$150, \$100, \$50

POW WOW INFORMATION:
785-830-2780

VENDOR INFORMATION:
HASKELLPOWWOW@GMAIL.COM

fees to attend there, they wanted to quadruple the amount, but after many meetings and student input about the history of Indian Education, it was raised to double the amount to \$215 a semester. The Board of Regents realized that this was a topic that the alumni and the students should have a say about. The Board of Regents

Social Security looms for Baby Boomers

By JASON ALDERMAN
Practical Money Matters

Talk about a stampede: The first wave of Baby Boomers begins turning 65 in 2011, which means they'll soon be tapping Social Security retirement benefits, if they haven't already. If you're a Boomer and haven't yet investigated how this program works, this may be a good time to learn the ropes.

When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn up to four "credits" per year based on net income. In 2011, it takes \$1,120 in income to earn one credit. You must accumulate at least 40 credits over your lifetime to qualify for a benefit; however, those who haven't earned sufficient credits sometimes qualify based on their spouse's work record.

Retirement benefits are calculated based on earnings during 40 years of work. The five lowest-earning years are dropped and each year not worked counts as zero. "Full retirement age" increases gradually from 65 for those born before 1938 to 67 if born after 1959.

If eligible, you may begin drawing benefits at 62; however, doing so may reduce your benefit by up to 30 percent. The percentage reduc-

tion gradually lessens as you approach full retirement age. Alternatively, if you postpone participating until after reaching full retirement age, your benefit increases by seven to eight percent per year, up to age 70.

You can use the Retirement Planner tools at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2 to estimate your retirement benefit under different earnings, age and life-expectancy scenarios.

If you're married and your earned benefit is less than 50 percent of your spouse's, you're eligible for a benefit equal to half of theirs. Spousal benefits also are available if you're divorced, provided: your marriage lasted at least 10 years; you remained unmarried before age 60 (or that marriage also ended); and you're at least 62.

If you remarried after age 60 (or 50, if disabled), you can still collect benefits based on your former spouse's record.

If your spouse dies and was benefits-eligible, you and your children may be eligible for survivor benefits. Amounts vary depending on age, disability status and other factors. Read the Survivors Planner at www.ssa.gov/survivorplan/ifyou.htm for details.

Know that if you begin collecting Social Security before full retirement age yet continue to work, your benefit may be reduced. In 2011, you'll lose one dollar in benefits for every two dollars you earn over \$14,160. (Note: Investment income doesn't count.)

However, if you reach full retirement age in 2011, the formula changes: one dollar will be deducted from your benefits for each three dollars you earn above \$37,680 until the month you reach full retirement age. After that, no further reductions.

Thus, if you think you'll need to continue working, it might be wiser to hold off collecting Social Security until reaching full retirement age. These benefit reductions are not completely lost, however: Your Social Security benefit will be increased upon reaching full retirement age to account for benefits withheld due to earlier earnings.

And finally, although Social Security benefits aren't taxed by many states, they are considered taxable income by the federal government. So, depending on your income, you may owe federal income tax on a portion of your benefit.

For more details, read IRS Tax Topic 423 and Publication 915 at www.irs.gov.



Submitted photo

New Choctaw CDs to be available soon

On March 19, 2011, 38 talented Choctaw singers and pianists assembled at Crystal Clear Studios near Dallas, and recorded several of our Choctaw people's beloved songs.

Led by Choctaw Nation School of Language Assistant Director Richard Adams and Roger Scott, singers from all across the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's 10 ½ counties gathered to produce a recording of traditional and Southern Gospel-style Choctaw songs.

With competent staff organizers Dee Anna Moore and Amy Thompson accommodations for all the singers and their families were made

successful throughout the whole process of putting together what we believe will be vital to the ongoing success of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for generations to come. There are more traditional songs yet to be recorded among Choctaw people and it must be of primary importance that the Choctaw Language Administration make this an important undertaking for the preservation of our language, culture and history.

The School of Language is in the final stages of the production for this recording, so look for this to be available in the bookstore very soon.

Choctaw Nation's plastic recycling explained

As we continue to add recycling items for collection we want to teach everyone what each is and how to identify them and what they may be used for in the future.

On the bottom of each plastic container there is usually a small symbol that is the three arrows with a number in the middle of it similar to the one shown. The CNO's recycling facility currently accepts numbers one and two.

Number two plastics:



HDPE (high density polyethylene)

Found in: Milk jugs, juice bottles; bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles; shampoo bottles; some trash and shopping bags; motor oil bottles; butter and yogurt

tubs; cereal box liners

Recycling: Picked up through most curbside recycling programs.

Recycled into: Laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, fencing

HDPE is a versatile plastic with many uses, especially for packaging. It carries low risk of leaching and is readily recyclable into many goods.

Haskell Indian Nations University alumni, southern chapter needed

pus, which are many. But the money contributed by federal, state or alumni was never considered comparable to those universities. They are not Haskell, a community within a community, there was once a time when students were not allowed or permitted to go off campus. To this day there are residents of that city that do not know who or what Haskell is. Haskell is allowed to learn and participate in their many different cultures and ceremonies; they know who they are when they leave, if not when they arrive. Being Choctaw made me prouder than I had ever been after attending Haskell.

I want to propose a new HINU Alumni Chapter in the Southern Area of Oklahoma, any University especially Haskell is only as strong as their Alumni. There is strength in numbers so if you have had that Haskell Experience and wish that for other Native

students I would like to see us organize and help make that possible. Please contact: Connie Hudson, an HINU 2008 graduate with a B.A. in American Indian Studies, at choctawvista@hotmail.com or 580-920-0577. I live and work in Durant for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma under the AmeriCorps VISTA Program but we can have meetings anywhere we can agree on. I would like to take to the national alumni in May our plan of Operations and member list when they meet for commencement activities this year on May 13-14. The school must feel abandoned; we haven't but one chapter outside of Kansas.

We need to become strong, and make Haskell a strong institution of Education.

Cornelia (Connie) Hudson
Americorps VISTA Program
National Society for
American Indian Elders

Finally able to call Jeremiah ‘their son’

By **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

March 7, 2011, is a day Randall and Brenda Wilson will never forget. It was the day they brought their son, Jeremiah Joel Wilson, home for the first time. He isn't a newborn though, and it wasn't the first time for him to come to this home. In fact, Jeremiah is a 2-and-a-half-year-old happy, bouncing little boy who has lived with the Wilsons since he was just two days old. The key words here are *“their son.”* What makes March 7 different for this family is it was the day Randall and Brenda were finally able to officially adopt Jeremiah.

The road that led to his adoption was rocky and full of emotional highs and lows, but one the Wilsons say was always worth the travel.

“I fell in love with him the day I picked him up at the hospital,” recalls Brenda, as she recounts picking up the 2-day-old Jeremiah from the hospital nursery.

Choctaw Nation Indian Child Welfare (ICW) contacted her late in Jeremiah's biological mother's pregnancy when it was learned the mother was possibly on drugs and had received no prenatal care.

“When ICW became aware that Jeremiah would need a foster home, the Wilsons were very willing and able, so it worked out perfectly,” said Shane Haddock, Jeremiah's ICW worker.

Even knowing the yet-to-be-born baby could be facing many difficult and unknown medical issues, the Wilsons did not hesitate when asked if they could take the baby as a foster child when he was born. Though he had a low birth weight, 4 pounds 1 ounce, miraculously Jeremiah was born relatively healthy, though long-term effects of the in utero drug exposure is yet to be seen. “He has asthma and sinus problems pretty bad,” said Brenda. “But fortunately, the doctors don't think he'll have any major problems.”

Jeremiah's mother never fought to keep him. She handed him over willingly at

the hospital and even legally gave up her parental rights to him in September 2009. Jeremiah's biological father, on the other hand, was where the trouble lied. It wasn't that he fought to get custody of him. In fact, in Jeremiah's 2-½ years of life his biological father never made a single attempt to see him. Though incarcerated, he was given numerous opportunities by the courts to appear to protect his parental rights and he declined. Ultimately, in March 2011 the judge terminated his parental rights.

The emotionally draining part for Brenda was that the court dates kept getting delayed and rescheduled, creating time and opportunities when “anything could go wrong,” she said.

Jeremiah's ICW worker said the “waiting” proved most challenging too. “When you know that this home is where Jeremiah needs and deserves to be, it's hard to be patient sometimes,” said Haddock. “I can't even imagine the eagerness that the Wilsons had.”

Doing what was best for Jeremiah was what everyone wanted for him. “As his worker, it was my role to make sure his needs were being met as well as advocate for his rights as a Native American child in court hearings,” said Haddock.

Though his biological parents' rights have been terminated, the Wilsons have maintained a pleasant relationship with Jeremiah's biological extended family, visiting often with many of his family members. “It's important for those relationships to be there, for him to see that he wasn't deserted by his family,” said Brenda. “It makes me happy. We're his family, but so are they.”

The Wilsons are no strangers to the Choctaw Nation ICW, taking in foster children over the past several years as they've been needed. It's the way they welcomed the children and their families with open arms that was one of the reasons Choctaw Nation ICW made the call to the Wilsons in the first place.

“Randy and Brenda Wilson truly care for children and want what is best for them,



Photo provided
Proud parents Randall and Brenda Wilson pose with newly adopted son Jeremiah in the courtroom shortly after Judge Rocky Powers declared his adoption official.

even if that means the child going back to their biological family,” said Lari Ann Brister, director of Choctaw Nation ICW and Adoption/Foster Care programs, as she expanded on the situation with Jeremiah's biological family.

“The Wilsons proved to be an excellent foster home for our Choctaw children because of the way they cared for them,” continued Brister, who was initially responsible for certifying the Wilsons as foster/adoptive parents and ensuring their home met and maintained standards to be a licensed home.

“They treat foster children as their own and provide for their basic needs and beyond,” said Brister. “They open their home to any child and, when they are comfortable, open their home to the child's biological family in an effort to help the reunification process...Randy and Brenda know the importance of keeping a family together,” she continued.

Jeremiah was the 10th Choctaw foster child they'd taken into their home. One child, almost 9-year-old Hasklee Ray, was the first child they'd ever taken to foster. Hasklee has been with Randall and Brenda for more than four years and continues to live in the home with them today. To Jeremiah, he's “Bubba.” And Hasklee feels

the same. “Hasklee loves Jeremiah so much,” says Brenda. “He's very protective of him. He considers him his brother.”

Even though they are not able to adopt Hasklee due to different circumstances, they love him as though he were their own son. “His family situation is different,” explains Brenda on why they aren't able to adopt Hasklee, “but we're still a big, happy family.”

The big family she's referring to goes beyond her, Randall, Jeremiah, and Hasklee. Brenda also has an adult son, Eric, and daughter-in-law, Heidi, and Randall has an adult daughter, Marissa, and together they have five grandchildren.

As a family, they couldn't be happier to have Jeremiah as a permanent member of the Wilson brood. Randall's mother, Evelyn, was just elated to have him as a new grandson. “He just took her heart,” said Brenda. “She fell in love with him immediately. She was so afraid he was going to have to go back. It's happened so many times (with other foster kids.) She was afraid of losing him.”

Fortunately it wasn't the case for Jeremiah and the Wilsons this time, but the heartache that comes with loving and getting attached, then saying goodbye to a foster

child is one the Wilsons have felt many times. When the time was right, the children went back to their parents, to live with other relatives, or in some cases, just to a different home to be reunited with a sibling. Even though she knows it was in the best interest of the child, it never came easy. “Once, we had one foster baby for seven and half months,” said Brenda, tearfully, “but then it was time for him to go back to his home. That time was so hard.”

That pain never kept them from accepting another child in need into their home though. “We still did it,” she said. “Those kids still need love just like anyone else does, some need it even more,” said Brenda.

In fact, the idea to adopt Jeremiah wasn't even on the radar for the Wilsons at first. “It was Lari Ann (Brister) that brought it up to me,” said Brenda. “I hadn't really even given it any thought until she asked me if I'd consider it if no family members came forward to claim him. I didn't hesitate. Right then, I felt this is what God told me to do.”

Brister expanded on this, saying, “Achieving permanency is crucial for children in foster care whether it's going home when appropriate or being adopted. Being adopted versus remaining in foster care can give the child a sense of belonging to a family and being a part of a family unit.”

Jeremiah's ICW worker felt it was the best for him as well. “It was important for Jeremiah to be adopted so he could have that sense of permanency and always be assured that the Wilson's house is his home,” added Haddock. “Since Jeremiah was placed in the Wilson's home, he has benefited by being part of an incredible family. Now that the adoption is finalized, he can continue to thrive in their home.”

For Brenda, to work with the Choctaw Nation ICW was important to her because it was a connection to her roots. Both she and Randall are members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and are both employed by the tribe as well. “I felt like that's where I was needed,” Brenda said. For Brister, that connection

was also comforting knowing, “Jeremiah will be very much involved in his Choctaw culture, as this is important to Randy and Brenda,” she said.

The staff of the Choctaw Nation ICW have become like a family to the Wilsons over the years during the fostering and adoption interactions. “They've been so helpful beyond helping with the adoption,” said Brenda. “They've even helped us with clothes, school supplies and beds.”

She singled out two ICW employees in particular who made a special impact on her family. “Lari Ann (Brister) and Shane (Haddock) have been friends, a support group and have stood behind us through this entire process,” she elaborated. “They make it easy to stand up and be a foster parent for our Choctaw kids. I couldn't have done this without them.”

Brister said working with the Wilsons was “wonderful” as well. “Our program couldn't ask for better foster/adoptive parents,” she said. “When I think of Randy and Brenda Wilson the first thing that comes to mind is genuineness. They are two individuals who are honest, straight forward, true to heart and together, they are solid.”

According to Haddock, it's families like theirs that the Choctaw foster care and adoption program is always working diligently to recruit and retain as tribal foster and adoptive homes. “I can't stress enough the tribe's need for more tribal homes like the Wilsons,” he emphasized.

Currently, there are approximately 125 Choctaw children in foster care within the Choctaw Nation's boundaries and close to 300 Choctaw children within the state of Oklahoma in foster care. Since July 2010, at least 10 tribal foster/adoptive homes have finalized adoptions, according to Brister.

The need is great for more Choctaw foster and adoptive homes. Anyone interesting in becoming a foster or adoptive parent or those just seeking more information on becoming a certified home can contact the Choctaw Nation Indian Child Welfare at 800-522-6170.

Protect and prevent: Take a stand for children April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Since 1983, April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention month in an effort to bring awareness to and help combat the serious issue. According to the Angel Rock Project website, every day, nearly four children in this country die as a result of child abuse in the home, every day, more than 27,000 children in this country are exposed to domestic violence, and every day, a child somewhere in your community lives in fear.

10 Signs of Child Abuse

1. Unexplained injuries. Visible signs of physical abuse may include unexplained burns or bruises in the shape of objects. You may also hear unconvincing explanations of a child's injuries.

2. Changes in behavior. Abuse can lead to many changes in a child's behavior. Abused children often appear scared, anxious, depressed,

withdrawn or overly aggressive.

3. Age-inappropriate behaviors. Abused children may display age-inappropriate behaviors, e.g., for older children: thumb-sucking, bed-wetting or fear of the dark.

4. Fear of going home. Abused children may express apprehension or anxiety about leaving school or about going places with the person who is abusing them.

5. Changes in eating. The stress, fear and anxiety caused by abuse can lead to changes in a child's eating behaviors, which may result in weight gain or weight loss.

6. Changes in sleeping. Abused children may have frequent nightmares or may appear tired or fatigued.

7. Changes in school performance and attendance. Abused children may have

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD has been abused...

DO
Keep calm.
Believe the child.
Show interest and concern.
Take action. It can save a child's life.

DON'T
Panic or overreact.
Pressure the child.
Confront the offender.
Blame the child.
Overwhelm the child with questions.

difficulty concentrating and have excessive absences, sometimes due to adults trying to hide the children's injuries from authorities.

8. Lack of personal care or hygiene. Abused and neglected children may appear uncared for and may be wearing unsuitable clothing for the weather.

9. Risk-taking behaviors. Young people who are being abused may engage in illegal activities such as using



drugs or alcohol or carrying a weapon.

10. Inappropriate sexual behaviors. Children who have been sexually abused may exhibit overly sexualized behavior or use explicit sexual language.

Some signs that a child is experiencing violence or abuse are more obvious than others. Trust your instincts. Suspected abuse is enough of a reason to contact the authorities. You do not need proof.

Public Hearing Notice Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program

The Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program will conduct a public hearing on June 3, 2011, at 9 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance office located at 1704 W. Elm Street, Durant, OK.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the provisions of child care services under the Child Care Development Fund Plan. Child Care providers, parents, and the public are invited to attend the hearing, or may forward comments or questions to:

**Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program
ATTN: Marilyn Williams, Director
P. O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280**

Healthy Volunteers Needed!

The Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic is looking for the following:

- Ages 20-45
- American Indian volunteers w/ CDIB Card
- High school graduate or GED
- Read and speak English fluently
- No history of brain injury, substance abuse, or severe mental illness

If you are interested in participating in a study of computerized tests examining attention, memory, and reasoning, please call 918-448-6796.

Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic

Study Pls: C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D. and Myron F. Weiner, M.D.
Contact Pls@ 214-648-4427

Participants will be compensated for their time upon completion of the study visit with a \$25 Walmart gift card.

Choctaw Nation selected to join fight against head injury

The U.S. Department of Defense has selected the Choctaw Nation to help in the fight against head injury in military personnel.

Over the next two years, American Indians with CDIB cards will be asked to join in a study of computerized tests of attention, memory and reasoning that will be used to help detect brain injury in our service men and women. In order to be similar to military personnel, participants will need to be from 20-45 years of age, have a high school education or GED and have no history of brain injury, drug abuse or severe mental illness.

In the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, one of the worst injuries has been the effect of blast injury to the brain. Only a few years ago, soldiers who suffered severe blast injury did not live. Now, thanks to new and more effective medical treatments, these soldiers survive, but then must live with the long-term effects of their brain injuries. Many of these soldiers have physical signs, like weakness or paralysis. Others have damage that is not visible, such as confusion, poor judgment and inability to remember or to learn. This type of damage is frequently overlooked in the course of combat as more obvious physical injuries are treated first.

The DOD has selected as leaders of this project Drs. Munro Cullum and Myron Weiner, who have been involved with the Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic for the past 10 years. Testing will be done at the CNO Healthcare Center in Tahihina. It will involve one visit lasting about 90 to 120 minutes. A \$25 Wal-Mart gift card will be given after testing is completed. The study will be coordinated by native Oklahomans Angela Curran and Carey Fuller, who can be reached at 918-448-6796.

OBITUARIES

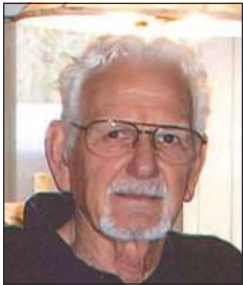
Douglas Statham

Douglas “Doug” Statham of Boko-she, 76, passed away Feb. 27, 2011, in Fort Smith, Ark. He was born Nov. 5, 1934, in Bokoshe to Everett and Nao-mi (Branson) Statham.

He was a tool and dye maker before he went to college. He was a coach and then a teacher at West Arkansas Community College. He was a rough-neck, heavy machine operator and car-penter. Doug was multi-talented and very particular about his work. He liked to travel, watch basketball and anything out-doors, especially in Colorado.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Kendal Statham; and three sisters, Sue Jane Medlock, Lucretia Tolbert and Doretha Strack.

He is survived by one son, Randy Statham of Bokoshe; three sisters, Betty Lou James with husband J.B. of Broken Arrow, Patsy Wayne Wann of Pocola and Virginia Lee Patton of Po-cola; one brother, Paul Everett Statham with wife Helen of Bo-koshe.



Marguerite Goodwin

Marguerite Marcella (Blakley) Goodwin, 61, passed away on Feb. 4, 2011, in Atoka.

A lifelong Tushka-Atoka area resi-dent, Goodwin was born July 29, 1949, in Durant to Eugene “Sonny” Blakley and Marcella Morena (Butler) Blakley. She graduated high school at Tushka and received her bachelor and master degrees from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Marguerite did her post grad studies at Central Oklahoma State University. She taught school for 40 years, one year at Stuart, 23 years at Tushka and 15 years for Oklahoma Department of Corrections at Mack Alford and McLeod Centers. Marguerite married William “Will” Goodwin on July 30, 1971, in Tushka. She was a longtime member of Tushka Baptist Church and at Southside Baptist Church for approximately 20 years. She taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Training Union. She was a member of Oklahoma Education Associa-tion and Atoka Retired Teacher Association. She loved cook-ing, collecting dishes, traveling and church work.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandpar-ents.

She is survived by her son, Benjamin Goodwin with wife Shelly of Tushka; grandchildren Nicholas Grant Goodwin of Tushka, Tyller Ames, Kaylee Ames and Brandon Trotter; spe-cial grandchildren Tyler Horn, Taylor Cooper and Sadie Co-op-er; special sister and buddy Will Goodwin of Tushka; along with many special in-laws, cousins, former students, teachers, school administrators and many dear and loved friends.



Luella Mae Williams

Luella Mae Williams, 80, passed away on Feb. 2, 2011, in Wichita Falls, Texas, surrounded by her family.

Luella was born July 9, 1930, in Erick to the late Simon and Lorena (Harkins) Wilson. She and Cecil Williams were married Jan. 25, 1947, in Olney. She was a good Christian and a member of the Southside Baptist Church.

She was also a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. She loved to cook and enjoyed spending time with all of her fam-ily, but especially with her grandchildren and great-grandchil-dren. She was preceded in death by four brothers, Harold, Jim, George and Ruel Wilson; and one sister, Ruby Flowers.

Survivors include her husband, Cecil Williams of Olney; three daughters, Paula Pollack with husband Rusty of Archer City, Texas, Carolyn Dobbs with husband Tom of Olney and Cynthia Dobbs with husband Mike of Olney; one son, Glen Williams with wife Kim of Olney; three brothers, Tom and Si-mon Wilson of San Bernardino, Calif., and Willie Wilson of San Diego, Calif.; one sister, Betty Marquez of Turlock, Calif.; as well as eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Though she has passed on, and we miss her more each day. She will live forever in the hearts of her friends and family.



Josiah Amos

Josiah Amos passed away on Dec. 10, 2007. Josiah was born on Oct. 3, 1918, and was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Amos, mother, brothers and sons. He is survived by his daugh-ter Louise.

Joe Billy Dennis

Joe Billy Dennis, 69, passed away Feb. 24, 2011, at his home in Soper.

Joe Billy was born Aug. 8, 1941, in Dallas, the son of Gatha Herman and Willie Inez (Page) Dennis. He was fondly known as Joe Bill by his friends and was a lifelong resident of Soper. Joe Bill married Patricia Custer on Feb. 27, 1975, and he was a mem-ber of the Riverside Unity Church. Joe Bill worked commercial construction as a heavy equipment operator for 45 years before his retirement. His work took him across the United States to the construction of paper mills and oil refineries in several states. Joe Bill loved spending time with his kids and grandchildren. He loved animals including his puppies, cats, and even a pet tortoise. In his retirement he opened a knife sharpening shop that he always enjoyed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Rena Dennis; one son, Tim Broadrick; one grandson, Jerod Dennis; and one brother, Roe Dale Dennis.

Joe is survived by his wife, Patricia Dennis of the home; two daughters, Teresa Fenner with husband Kirk of Rapid City, S.D., and Jane Nelson with husband Dennis of Midlo-thian, Texas; one son, Troy Broadrick with husband Brent of Denison, Texas; one brother, Jerry Dennis of Soper; six grand-children, Patti Huyck with husband Tyler of Rapid City, S.D., Tonya Kimble with husband Bryan of Greeley, Colo., Steven Broadrick with wife Jessica of Soper, Timothy Broadrick with wife Maggie of Denver, Colo., Jordan Dennis of Edmond, and Jillian Dennis of Midlothian, Texas; four great-grandchidren, Jayln, Jesslyn, and Stanten Broadrick, all of Soper, and Kenzy Broadrick of Denver, Colo.; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.



Larry Wade Riddle

Larry Wade Riddle, a proud American, Choctaw tribal member and longtime Denton County resident, passed away Dec. 18, 2010, after a long and courageous battle with pan-creatic cancer. Larry left this earth peacefully in his home sur-ounded by his family.

Larry was born to D.A. Riddle and Frances Mardell Messick Riddle in Bennington on Dec. 7, 1946. Larry attended school in Brownfield, Texas, and Bennington. Mr. Riddle served his country in the U.S. Army during the war in Vietnam. He re-ceived the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Good Conduct Medal and was cited as a rifle sharpshooter. After completing his service, he attended Lincoln Technical Institute and worked briefly as a mechanic. Larry met and married Sheila Davis in 1969 in Dallas and they settled their home and family in Sanger, Texas. Larry made his career as a firefighter with the City of Dallas Fire Department from 1970 until his retirement in 1999. He was also a PRCA calf-roper and later a tournament fisherman and fishing guide. Larry enjoyed riding his bicycle and could often be seen riding his bicycle in jeans and a long sleeve T-shirt from Sanger to Denton, Valley View, and even Pilot Point. Larry also enjoyed playing his guitar with family and friends. He especially enjoyed the moments he spent teaching his granddaughter, Courtney, how to play or singing with his daughters, Daphne and Amanda.

Larry was preceded in death by his father, D.A. Riddle; brother D.A. Riddle Jr.; and sister Linnie Toles.

Larry W. Riddle will be best remembered for his witty sense of humor, love for his family and the dignity and integrity by which he lived his life. Larry was a supportive and caring hus-band to his wife of over 40 years, Sheila Davis Riddle. He is also survived by his daughters and granddaughter, of whom he was extremely proud, Daphne Riddle Swartz of Denton, Amanda Riddle Abercrombie and son-in-law Jason Abercrom-bie of Irving and Courtney Lynn Swartz of Denton; mother, Frances Riddle Conner of Lake Dallas; sister Jeannie Hall; two brothers, Eugene Riddle and Bobby Riddle; aunts, Anna Dewett and Jimmie Friloux of southern Oklahoma; as well as a host of loving nieces, nephews, and extended family and loved ones.

Naioma Cox

Naioma Marie (Fitzer) Cox, 82, passed away on Feb. 13, 2011, at Ozark Nursing and Care Center in Ozark, Mo., where she had been a resident since 2008.

She was born Jan. 17, 1929, in Lona Valley to original enrollee Tobias and Anna F. (Trollinger) Fitzer. She lived in Lona Valley, Beaver Mountain and Whitefield while growing up. She attended schools in Lona Valley, Beaver Mountain and Stigler. She received her nurs-ing degree from Cerritos College in Norwalk, Calif. She was a nurse in several hospitals on the West Coast until she retired in the late 1980s.

After high school, she married James E. Bryce and they had four children. It was during her marriage to James that they moved to California. Later, she wed Bill Aderholt and had an-other son. She later married Denzil V. Cox and they had several happy years together before his death in 1998.

She lived several places in California, including Norwalk, Eureka and Crescent City before moving to Salem, Ore. After Denzil’s death in 1998, she moved to Springfield, Mo. A year later, she moved to Stigler to be closer to her brothers and sis-ters. In 2008, she moved to Ozark Nursing and Care Center to be near her daughters.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Denzil V. Cox; two children, Barbara A. Russell and James E. Bryce Jr.; a grandson, Gilbert Molina Jr.; her parents, Tobias and Anna F. Fitzer; two sisters, Mary “Sis” Neal and Nancy Ruth Wren; three brothers, Sam Fitzer, James “Doodle” Fitzer and a baby boy who died in infancy.

She is survived by daughters, Joyce with husband Arvel Cunningham of Bruner, Mo., and Jane Moreno of Sparta, Mo.; a son, Steven Aderholt with wife Angela of Garden Grove, Cal-if.; stepson Buddy Cox with wife Marilyn of Orting, Wash.; five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She is also sur-vived by three sisters, Juanita Townley with husband William of Caldwell, Idaho, Ramona Mitchell of Stigler, and Virginia Spears with husband Gary of Whitefield; three brothers, Joe Fitzer with wife Mae of Whitefield, Bill Fitzer of Stigler, and John Fitzer of Porum; and many nieces and nephews.



Norman Lee Murphy

Norman Lee Murphy, 55, passed away on Feb. 6, 2011, at Irving Baylor Hospital in Irving, Texas.

Norman was born on Oct. 19, 1955, in Talihina to Josephine and James Lee Murphy. He lived in Bentley un-til moving to Texas in 1959. He was raised in Texas along with eight other siblings. He was given the nickname “Chief” by family and friends, and was the oldest son of James and Josephine. In 1974, Norman received the blessing of a son, and named him Norman Lee Murphy II, known as “Chiefy” to the Murphy family. In the passing years, Norman received another wonderful blessing when he found and married his soul mate/best friend, Maria, and her four beautiful children. Norman took them under his wings with no hesitation and raised them all as if they were his from the beginning. The love he had for his family was like no other. He would drive hundreds of miles across the country to visit family from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast. He had a passion for road trips, an admiration for eagles, an honor for his native heritage, and a great enthusiasm for the Dallas Cowboys football team. He enjoyed life to the fullest and any-one who knew him could see the light that shined so bright through his heart. Though he is not physically beside his fam-ily, he lives through all the goodness in each and every family member he left behind.

Norman is survived by his wife, Maria Murphy; sons, Nor-man Murphy II, Lucas Perez, Felipe Cruz, Leonardo Cruz; daughter Tiana Motton; mother Josephine Murphy; siblings, Larry Murphy, Rodney Murphy, Wanda Jo Burke, Trish Mur-phy, Leonard Murphy, Norma Simmons, Phyllis Davis, Don Murphy, Patrick Murphy, Myron Murphy, Mary Rodriguez; grandchildren, Ryker, Cheyenne, Gavin, Ariana, Iliana, Lucas; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, in-law re-latives, and friends.



Edwin Hudson

Edwin Hudson, 80, passed away Jan. 13, 2011, in Oklahoma City. He was a full-blood Choctaw, born April 9, 1931, in Eagletown to Isham Daniel Hudson and Phoebe Bohanan. He attended Jones Male Academy School for Indian boys and afterward served his country in the U.S. Army. He worked as a truck driver and was of the Baptist faith.

Edwin’s first known Choctaw ancestors who were forced to leave their beloved homeland of Mississippi and walk the Trail of Tears to the newly established Indian Territory were his great-grandmother, Widow Hudson, and her sons, Tannip; James, who was a Choctaw judge and minister; and George, who eventually became the first principal chief of the Choc-taws of Indian Territory.

Widow Hudson never reached Indian Territory but died en route and was buried in Arkansas in an unmarked grave. Her sons arrived and they settled in a Choctaw community called Eagletown, Indian Territory. James and Ahobatema met and married in Indian Territory and are great-grandparents to Ed-win. Ahobatema’s father’s name was Meashambi, who also arrived and was eventually buried in Indian Territory in an un-marked grave.

James and Ahobatema Hudson had four children – their son, Daniel, who married Sally Going and are the grandparents of Edwin. Sally’s parents were Isom and Eliza Going, who re-sided in Indian Territory and are buried in unmarked graves in Eagletown. Daniel and Sally Hudson were among one of the first generations of the Choctaw immigrants to be born in Indian Territory.

Edwin was preceded in death by ex-wife Gertrude Miller of Antlers; his mother, Phoebe Bohanan Hudson of Eagletown; sister Velma; brother John Beaver; great-nephew Victor Hunt-er; sister Pauline Hampton; nephew Jerry Bohanan; father Ish-am Hudson; nephew Darrell Wayne Hudson; and great-niece Vera Bohanan.

He is survived by his only son, Glen Dale Hudson and daughter-in-law Debra; three granddaughters, Latasha, Terese and Nicole; and one great-grandson, Tyler. All are of Okla-homa City. He is also survived by two brothers, Daniel Hud-son, 86, of Pushmataha Nursing Home in Antlers and James Hudson, 78, of Speers. Edwin was cared for by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews – Lois Hunter and her children, Pat, Regina and their other siblings, all of Okla-homa City; Charles Dennis Hudson of Moore; Jimmie Carol Merrival of Rapid City, S.D.; Kay Beauvais and children Issac and Cody; Sarah Hudson and children Reanna and Chris of Oklahoma City; and Romona Bohanan of Edmund.

Kerry Edward Voice-Jim

Kerry Edward Voice-Jim, 42, a life-time Stringtown area resident, passed away on Feb. 25, 2011, in Antlers. He was born on Oct. 7, 1968, in Okla-homa City to Lester Delroe Jim and Sally Sue Voice.

He graduated from Stringtown High School, attended Kiamichi Vo-tech’s welding program and Eastern Oklaho-ma State College. Kerry was a laborer and was of the Baptist faith. Kerry enjoyed hunting, fishing, and crafting.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, William Ed-die and Joan Voice, Abbott Jim and Virgie Peters; aunt Joann Ramos; uncle Ernest Voice; cousin Brenda Samuels.

He is survived by daughter Kallie Sioux Voice of Altus; father Lester Jim of Stringtown; mother Sally Jim of String-town; siblings, Gary Jim with wife Annette of Coalgate, Donna Contreras of San Jose, Jana Jim of Stringtown, Jason Jim with Misty Madbull of Antlers; companion and children, Nancy Taylor, Toni Marie and Nowatha Mathis, Ethan, John, and Jeremy Taylor of Antlers; mother of daughter, Brenda Voice of Altus; nieces and nephews, Vanessa and Jesse Contreras of Dallas, Brandon, Mason, Nathaniel, and Gary Jr. Jim of Coal-gate, Kielind and Ataiya Jim of Stringtown, Choleaunna and Alexaunna Jim of Antlers; along with numerous other relatives and friends.



Linda Noah

Linda Jean Noah, 60, of Hugo passed away on Jan. 27, 2011, in Hugo.

Linda was born Nov. 28, 1950, in DeQueen, Ark. She married Or-ville Noah on June 1, 1979, in Bat-tiest. Linda worked for Texas Instru-ments in Dallas, then spent her time as a housewife. She had lived in the Goodland Community for the past 19 years after moving from Battiest. She enjoyed playing with her grandkids and reading books.

Linda was preceded in death by her father, John Morris; and siblings, Bobbie Emeyabbie and Johnnie Lue Hodges.

Survivors include husband, Orville Noah; two sons, Roger James Phillips of Calera, and Gerry Vance Noah of Hugo; two daughters, Kelly Vanarsdall of Wright City and Michelle Lynn Noah of Hugo; mother, Willie Jean (Scribner) Armentrout; three siblings, Abbie Bird of Soper, Betty Cooksey of Miami and Roger Dale Morris of McAlester; eight grandchildren, along with a host of other family and friends.



Larry Ernest LeFlore

Larry Ernest LeFlore, 53, passed away on Feb. 17, 2011, in Antlers. He was born Nov. 20, 1957, in Antlers to Frankie and Bettye Lorene (Dixon) LeFlore. Larry married Roma Hager-ty on Dec. 31, 1993, in Cloudy. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spend-ing time with his family, friends and babies.

Larry was preceded in death by parents, Frankie and Bettye LeFlore; brothers, Robert LeFlore and Roy Gene LeFlore.

He is survived by his wife, Roma LeFlore, of the home; brother Wayne LeFlore of Cloudy; sisters, Alice Darling of Coalgate, Louise Green of Rattan, Karolyn Hurlburt of Cloudy, Margie Ouellette of Antlers, Linda Brines of Antlers; numerous nieces and nephews; three puppies, Lance, Lady and Sassy; as well as many other relatives and friends.



OBITUARIES

Jack Lee Dunaway

Jack Lee Dunaway, 90, passed away on Feb. 8, 2011. He was born on March 23, 1920, in Tuttle, the son of Margaret and William Dunaway. Jack served his country as a combat engineer in the Army during the Allied Invasion of Europe in World War II. After the war, he married Viola Beatrice Nunn in 1945, who preceded him in death in 1962. He earned Electrical and Mechanical Engineering degrees from Oklahoma State University, and in his early career, he worked for Dallas Power and Light. He married Mary Allen McKenney in 1964, and they worked for and retired from Bechtel of Houston, then moved to Lewisville, Texas.

Jack remained active by working for the City of Lewisville at the Lake Park tollgate from 1996 until October 2010. The mayor honored him on his 90th birthday by declaring March 23, 2010, as "Jack Dunaway Day." His coworkers and daily drives through the park remained his lifeline to the very end. He enjoyed boating, fishing, gardening and was the ultimate fix-it man.

He was preceded in death by his parents; eight brothers and sisters; and in 2002 by his wife, Mary.

He is survived by one brother, Carl Jackson with wife Betty of Greenville, Texas; his children, Jack Dunaway with wife Debbie of Greensburg, Pa.; Jill Fogle with husband Mike of Denton, Texas, Michelle Griffin with husband Wayne of Highland Village, Texas, Mike McKenney with wife Dawn of Onalaska, Texas, and Kent McKenney with wife Cindy of Lewisville, Texas; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Theodore Williams

Theodore "Ted" Williams, 81, passed away on Feb. 17, 2011, in Indio, Calif. He was born in Oklahoma City, the son of J.O. and Eunice Fariel Williams.

Ted's family moved to Stigler, where he attended school and played as well as lettered for four years in basketball and lettered three years in football. He served as senior class president and graduated with the class of 1948.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1950 and served in the Korean War from 1951-1952. He was awarded the Korean War Service Medal from the Korean government and the Presidential Citation Medal that the First Marine Division was awarded in World War II. Ted was a member of the First Marine Division in Korea.

After discharge from service, he enrolled in Panhandle A&M College in Goodwell in 1952. While there he met his wife, Patricia A. McPherson, and they shared 58 years together. He graduated from Panhandle A&M with the class of 1955 and then taught school and coached basketball at a junior high level in Amarillo.

He moved to Bolivar and owned and operated an Otasco Hardware store. He then moved to Indio where he was employed as an elementary teacher. Ted also was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Methodist Church in Indio.

After retirement, he and his wife bought an RV and spent summers in Macks Inn, Idaho. He enjoyed woodcarving, attending church and fellowshiping with church members.

Preceding Ted in death were his parents; his twin brother, Tom; an older brother, James O.; one sister, Geraldine; and his grandparents, uncle and aunts, who are buried at Stigler and Whitefield cemeteries.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; one son, Oren of Bolivar; three grandchildren, Jamie, Stephanie and Deborah; three great-grandchildren; and two brothers, W.W. "Pat" of Paso Robles, Calif., and Carl Ray of Lompoc, Calif.



Richard Jones

Richard Lee Jones, 79, of Ada passed away on April 10, 2010, at an Oklahoma City hospital. He was born May 29, 1930, in Earlsboro to Harrison Earmond and Ethel Ealo Asher Jones. He attended Holdenville schools and graduated from Holdenville High School. He also attended East Central University in Ada.

He married Margaret Louise Dean on June 8, 1958, in Yeager.

Richard was a graphic artist for the Holdenville Daily News for 18 years and the Ada Evening News for 33 years, retiring in 1993. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and served in the Oklahoma National Guard during the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret "Tookie" Jones of Ada; two sons, Timothy Dean Jones and wife Christy of Houston and Richard Alan Jones of Gainesville; two grandchildren, Kaleb Wisch Jones and Harrison Kerr Jones, both of Houston; three great-grandchildren, Riley Wisch Jones and twins, Karter Dean Jones and Kylie Marie Jones of Houston; a brother, Gene Jones of Norman; and a sister, Joyce Wright of Bethany.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Dorothy Mead; and three brothers, Harrison Jones Jr., Robert "Bob" Jones and Jack Jones.

Sarah Butler Conley

Sarah Williams Butler Conley, 91, passed away on Jan. 12, 2011, at her home in Ukiah, Calif., with family at her bedside.

She was born on Aug. 6, 1919, at Pickens to original Choctaw enrollee Mike Williams and Mary Elizabeth Davis Williams.

She is survived by her husband, Leo Conley of Ukiah; daughter Sarah E. Thompson of Ruidoso, N.M.; sons, David Butler of Ukiah, Wayland Butler of Aloha, Ore.; brother Lee Roy Williams; sisters, Rose Lee Senior and Martha Smith, all of Smithville; along with many other nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Genevieve Venable

Genevieve Madeline Garland Venable of Stigler was born Dec. 14, 1913, in Garland, Okla., and passed away Jan. 8, 2011, in Fort Smith at the age of 97.

She is the daughter of Davis and Etta Wasson Garland. Davis is the son of Ward H. Garland and Sophina Nail Garland, the son of James Garland II and Peggy Folsom, son of John Garland I, son of Maj. James Garland I and Hushiyukpa (Happy Bird).

She is survived by two daughters, Marsha Barnes and husband Dale of Stigler and Felicia Sockey and husband Leland of Stigler; and one great-grandson, Ryan Dodd of Stigler.

Genevieve was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Venable; three sisters, Cornelia Jones, Clara St. Clair and Gladys Howard; four brothers, Herman Garland, Frantz Garland, Vernon Garland, a baby brother who died at birth; and her parents.

She married Fred Venable in 1939, and she was a Free Will Baptist in faith.



Joyce Battiest

Joyce Evelyn Battiest, 67, of Boswell passed away on Jan. 31, 2011, in Durant. Joyce was born Jan. 13, 1944, in Kingman, Ariz., the daughter of William Henry King and Ada Ellen (Hart) King and had lived for the past 37 years in Boswell. She married Alto Battiest on Jan. 13, 1973, in Glendale, Calif. He preceded her in death on Dec. 14, 2010. She was also preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Sandra Berniece Bushard; a son, John Jeffrey Battiest; and a brother, Delbert King. Joyce had been employed as a bookkeeper for Wal-Mart and was also an officer with the Hugo Police Department. She was a foster mother for at-risk children and a member of Victory Life Church of Boswell. She enjoyed serving her community, loved the "ranch life" and her Yorkshire terriers.

She is survived by two daughters, Anita Chelf with husband Jody of Dansville, Mich., and Diana Crane of Boswell; one sister, Lila Imondi of Kernersville, N.C.; two brothers, Melvin King of Meadview, Ariz., and Arthur King of Piggott, Ark.; grandchildren, Angela Kopplin, Alex Chelf, Matthew Bushard and Lisa Crane; great-grandchildren, Isobel Kopplin and Jessica Kopplin, along with many other relatives and friends.



Loretta Willis

Loretta Willis, 80, a homemaker, passed away on Feb. 5, 2011. Loretta was born Tanda Loretta Scantlen on Aug. 1, 1930. Loretta is in a better place where she will never endure pain and suffering again.

She was preceded in death by her father, Tandy Scantlen; her mother, Flossie Lesley; and stepfather, Bernie Lesley.

She is survived by R.A. Willis of Tulsa; daughter Karen Hart with husband Jim of Tulsa; son Ira of Tulsa, and son Rick Willis with wife Janet of Tulsa. She is also survived by three siblings, Bill Scantlen with wife Barbara of Wagoner; sister Shirley Petcoff with husband John of McAlester and sister Gerry Weeks with husband Earl of McAlester. She leaves behind four treasured grandchildren, Jimmer Hart, Jerrod Hart, Shannon Forbes, and Shea Matson. She also leaves behind seven great-grandchildren. Loretta enjoyed life while spending the past 64 years married to R.A. She always had time to give while supporting her children as they participated in sports and cheerleading and grew into responsible adults. Loretta enjoyed fishing, bowling, and playing bunco with her friends. An occasional evening at the casino usually left her in the winning column ahead of her husband. Loretta was passionate about sports and was an avid Oklahoma Sooners football fan. She would sit and intensely watch their games on television. It was never a house divided with a good amount of OU memorabilia on display.

The Willis family would like to thank Sherwood Manor staff for Loretta's outstanding care during her stay there. This extended family is greatly appreciated and will be missed. Family would also like to extend a special thanks to Eva Walker, Loretta's very close friend. Eva fed Loretta lunch on a daily basis until circumstances interrupted. A truer friend cannot be found.



Anna Radford

Anna Althea Radford, 41, of Cedar Hill passed away on Jan. 2, 2011, in Durango, Colo., at Mercy Medical Center.

Our family and friends have reluctantly turned Anna "Thea" over to the Kingdom of God. Anna was born Jan. 21, 1969, in Missoula, Mont., to Jessie Elaine Hobmeier and Jerome A. Flink Jr.

She spent a majority of her schooling years in Aztec, starting in 1977. She graduated from Aztec High School in 1987. She worked for the U.S. Postal Service for many years throughout San Juan County but enjoyed working for the postmaster in Waterflow the most. Anna and her husband Kurt established JTK Services, an oil field company, which they truly enjoyed working for until her passing. She had many hobbies that would pass her spare time when she could find any, which included belly dancing with the Cats Eye Dancers of Aztec and working on her sewing projects.

Anna was preceded in death by her father, Jerome A. Flink Jr. of Missoula; paternal grandparents Anna and Jerome Flink Sr. of Missoula; and maternal grandparents Iva and Floyd Bastible of Trout Creek, Mont.

She is survived by Kurt, her beloved and grieving husband of 13 years who was always there by her side in her passing moments; caring daughter Jessica Green of Seattle; loving and grieving parents Jessie Elaine and John Hobmeier; her only brother, Floyd L. Flink of Farmington; her in-laws and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends throughout the United States.

Her family would like to pass on a deep appreciation to the doctors and medical staff of Mercy Medical Center during Althea's courageous battle with cancer.



Viola Battiest

Viola Battiest, 65, of Wright City, passed away on Feb. 17, 2011, at her residence. She was born on Sep. 18, 1945, in Talihina.

A faithful member of Bible Baptist Church, she taught Sunday School for over 30 years. She was a great cook and loved cooking for preachers. She was a wonderful grandma and she loved watching her grandkids playing ball. She especially enjoyed holidays spending time with her family. She worked at the gift shop at the Wheelock Museum. She truly enjoyed her work.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hampton and Frances Ott Williams; son, Delvis Battiest; brothers, Sonny Williams and Donell Williams; sister, Lucille Seely.

Viola leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Luther Battiest Sr.; sons, Luther Battiest Jr., Lawrence Battiest with wife Gloria, all of Wright City, Randy Battiest of Wylie, Texas, Gary Battiest and Daniel Battiest with wife LaDonna, all of Wright City; brothers, Timothy Williams with wife Vivian and Marcus Williams, all of Idabel; sisters, Lydia McClure with husband Mike and Rose Shemwell with husband Jim, all of Idabel, Loretta Battiest with husband Ivan of Broken Bow, Bonnie Feathers with husband J.B. of Stillwell and Rita Anna with husband Clayton of Wright City; 16 grandchildren; one aunt, numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and her church family.



Zora First

Zora Belle Wall First passed away Dec. 17, 2010, at her residence in Tuskahoma at the age of 89 years.

Zora was born to Thomas Wall and Allie Potts Wall in Albion on April 21, 1921. Both her parents were original Choctaw enrollees.

She attended Albion, Talihina and Whitesboro schools as well as Oklahoma Presbyterian College. She went on to nursing school and became an LPN. Upon graduation she was employed at the state hospital, now known as the VA Center, and the Talihina hospital, which is now the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center.

Years passed and she decided to take a journey to California. There she met George First. They were married in Little Rock in 1952. George was in the Navy and served for 30 years. After he retired from the military, they came to Oklahoma and lived near Whitesboro.

George enrolled at college in Wilburton. He finished in two years and went to Southeastern in Durant. After his graduation, he and Zora moved to La Porte, Texas, where they resided for a long time. Zora was having health problems with a brain tumor and breast cancer. After she recovered, they moved to Tuskahoma to make their home. They lived there 20 years then they passed away one month apart. Zora loved to do crafts. She made a lot of ceramic Indian pieces, cloth work and sewing. She was proud of her Indian heritage and her home was an example. She and George attended Tuskahoma Methodist Church, and they enjoyed the friendly people there.

Zora was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, her parents, seven sisters and four brothers.

She is survived by one son, Thomas Wall of La Porte; one sister, Dee Tidwell of Honobia; three grandchildren, Sherry, Zoriena, Ramsey and Thomas G. Wall; four great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and special friends, Jody and Pam Waugh, Louise O'Banion and Becky Edwards. All the nieces and nephews were special to Zora. She also leaves a host of cousins and friends.

The family thanks the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center for all the care Zora received all the days she spent there. They also thank Latimer County Home Health and all the people that assisted she and George during their long-term illnesses. She was a remarkable person, and she will be missed.



Agnes Baker

Agnes Bond Baker, 80, passed away on Dec. 20, 2010. She was born on June 5, 1930, in Bethel to Samuel and Jewel Johnston Bond.

Agnes graduated from Battiest High School. She was raised in the church and lived her life to serve God. She taught Sunday School while a teenager and was a missionary in Tama, Iowa. Agnes earned an associate's degree from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C., and a bachelor's degree in Christian Education from the University of Tennessee in Maryville. She also attended the University of Texas at El Paso, where she acquired her certification to teach in Texas.

She worked at Wheelock Mission School for girls in Oklahoma prior to her move to Texas. After marrying Owen J. Baker in 1955, Agnes moved to Anthony, N.M., and started her family. Elaine Ruth was born the following March, followed by Michael Owen six years later, and finally her "baby," Nowena Jan in 1964. Agnes was a very kind, thoughtful woman who had a love for children. She spent her life working with children and was the consummate teacher. She dedicated 35 years of her life teaching children in the El Paso Independent School District and in Canutillo and Anthony N.M.

Agnes loved camping, fishing, reading, cooking and feeding people. An avid learning, there was nothing she could not do, often saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way."

Agnes spoke English, Choctaw, French and some Spanish. Choctaw was her first language. When she began elementary school, she knew no English. She was the first of her family to graduate from high school and college and the first female in her area to buy a new car. She was proud to be an educator and in 1994, she won the cash prize for catching the largest fish of the season at Lake Whitney, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Owen J. Baker; son Michael Owen Baker; parents, Sam and Jewel Bond, who both passed away in 1934; sisters, Beatrice Hooper, Frances and Hazel Blanche Bond; Dylan Baker Watts and Iggy Baker passed away in 2006 and 2009 respectively.

She is survived by two daughters, Elaine Baker Watts and Nowena J. Baker; her beloved son-in-law, Gary C. Watts; two granddogs, Melanie and Clyde P. Baker.



