



Aragon
named
Secretary
of VA

Page 5



Thanksgiving
celebrations

Pages 10-12



Choctaw
artist
shares
talents

Page 16



A wood
sculptor's
style

Page 17

BISKINIK
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHOCTAW NATION

BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

December 2010 Issue Serving 204,350 Choctaws Worldwide **Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success**

Choctaw Nation honored at 2010 Drum Awards

The inaugural 2010 Drum Awards were held Nov. 1 at the Event Center in Durant. Among the honorees were the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Scholarship Advisement Program.

At right, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Judy Allen, executive director of Public Relations, accept the Patriotism Award on behalf of the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I.

Far right, Jo McDaniel and the staff of SAP accept the Educators Drum Award. Monica Brittingham, front left, served as the awards presenter for the ceremony.



Tribal Council holds November regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met Nov. 13 in regular session at Tushka Homma. New business included several budgets and budget revisions for the new fiscal year. All were approved.

On the agenda were Family Violence Program, Tribal Victim Assistance Grant, VOCA Grant, Vocational Rehabilitation Section 121 Program, Environmental Office Water Pollution Control Program Grant, Environmental Office Tribal Air Quality Ozone Monitoring Project, Child Care Development Fund, DHHS Administration for Aging MIPPA Grant, DHHS for the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women, Administration for Children and Families of the Affordable Care Act Tribal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program, the U.S. Department of Justice for the Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Program Call and Concept Papers, and the U.S. Department of Justice for the Transitional Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic, Dating Violence, Stalking or Sexual

See **COUNCIL** on page 14

◆ What's inside

Notes to the Nation.....	2
Columns	3
Nursery News.....	4
Food Distribution	4
People You Know	6
VocRehab Calendar	15
Iti Fabvssa	18
Obituaries	19-21

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.

Happy 35 years. BISKINIK!

Newspaper marks many milestones

November 1975	Makes its mark Volume 1 of Hello Choctaw, the first official publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, was published on Nov. 1, 1975.
June 1978	Name change The name was changed to BISHINIK to better reflect the culture. It was meant to be named Biskinik after the little Chahta news bird. The name was misspelled on the council bill; however, the name stayed.
July 2010	Corrections addressed After 32 years, the name was corrected as part of the cultural revitalization within the tribe. The council unanimously voted for the change in the July council session. The first BISKINIK ran as the August issue of the paper.
October 2010	Going green The first issue of the BISKINIK E-News launched on Oct. 27, 2010, and allowed tribal members the chance to opt-out of receiving a paper copy in the mail. Also, for the first time, non-tribal members are able to be on a mailing list to get news and keep up with what's going on with this great tribe! Sign up today on the Choctaw Nation homepage! www.choctawnation.com

Williston becomes District 1 Councilman



Swearing to serve

Thomas Williston was sworn into office by tribal judge David Burrage on Nov. 29 at the tribal complex in Durant. Williston was elected to fill the vacancy left after District 1 Councilman Hap Ward passed away Aug. 3. A special election was held Oct. 30 and required a run-off between Williston and Matilda Paxton. He received 51.6 percent of the votes in the Nov. 20 run-off.

Williston will fulfill the remainder of this term, which runs until the next regular election in July 2011.

Williston said he is excited and looking forward to the new job. He said his goal as councilman is to help provide a better quality of life for the people in his district. "I'm here to help and serve," he said. "I'm here for all our people."

Coalgate Head Start students perform at the State Capitol

By **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Seven Choctaw Nation Head Start students from Coalgate were invited to perform traditional Choctaw dances at the 2010 Native American Heritage Celebration on Nov. 15 at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

The students danced proudly in front of hundreds of guests and dignitaries from across the state who gathered to celebrate the state's Native American culture. The event at the Oklahoma Capitol Rotunda in Oklahoma City featured dance exhibitions, information booths, traditional Native American music and food, and included representatives from all 39 of Oklahoma's Native American nations.

Lana Sleeper, marketing manager for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, led the group of young dancers and supervises the Choctaw Nation Head Start dance program throughout the 10-½ county area, teaching the students the traditional dances.



The group takes a break on the Capitol steps after performing. Lana Sleeper, right, is joined by Rylie Blue, Jett Burris, Bentley Hill, Caleb Hopkins, Kale Horton, Damian Martinez and Nekoda Wainscott.

"Chief Pyle had the event on his calendar so I got in contact with Wilson Seawright, the event committee chairman, and the little Choctaw dancers were added to the agenda," said Sleeper. "The Coalgate children were chosen because of the size of the group and their proximity to Oklahoma City."

Sleeper, who spearheaded the dance program late last year, was more than happy to show off the work she, the children and the teachers have put into learning the traditional dances.

"The dances are easy

for the children to learn," explained Sleeper. "They were great and the teachers were so helpful. Their attitudes were wonderful and we had a lot of fun."

The group – the youngest to perform at the celebration at the Capitol – performed two traditional

Choctaw dances – the Raccoon Dance and the Snake Dance. The children danced all around the large rotunda, and in and out of the audience during the Snake Dance, keeping everyone engaged.

"I enjoyed seeing the

See **HEAD START** on page 17



Tribes celebrate culture as Native American month comes to a close

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It was a tremendous honor to keep step in the Grand Entry behind the veterans of many Native American nations at the huge Inter-Tribal Pow Wow hosted by the Choctaws the last weekend in November. This is an annual event that brings Native American Month to a close for us, with a diverse assembly of dancers competing for prize money.

The beauty of the regalia of the hundreds in the Grand Entry, along with the songs from the eight drums, and the flags held proudly by the color guard was absolutely awe-inspiring.

I was deeply touched when the honor guard led the departure from the arena after grand entry to line up and shake the hand and say “thank you” to each veteran.

Past world champions were on the event floor, amazing the onlookers, and other past champions were part of the team

who worked and judged the competition, making sure the entire pow wow ran smoothly and successfully.

I appreciate all the hard work that volunteers put into this fabulous weekend. It was a great way to showcase the culture of the tribes of the United States, since the dancers, arts and crafts and the foods were all highlighted.

Many of the dancers had young children with them, teaching them the traditions of the tribes. The youngest I saw during the grand entry was carried on a cradleboard. The Tribal Council were also joined by their children and grandchildren as we came into the circle.

Tiny tots is a special category of dancers that the youngsters can also compete in during the pow wow. It is wonderful that the families are coming to tribal events together to participate in the traditions and heritage. I was proud to see so many Choctaws at this very special occasion.

Heritage celebrated with learning experiences

From the desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Hands-on experience is the best way to learn many things, and pottery is definitely something you need to dirty your hands with to learn! From digging mud, to firing it, Tribal Archaeologist Ian Thompson has been hosting Choctaw pottery classes this year, with some special activities during Native American Month at the

tribal complex and a pottery expo to show the craftsmanship of the students from the past year.

I was blessed with the chance to actually take mud in hand (literally) and shape a pot under Ian’s training. During the pottery expo I watched how pots are fired in an open fire and am excited to plan on the time that mine is ready to go through that process. This is an an-

cient technique of our ancestors that our generation has begun to relearn and it is an exhilarating experience to think we are making something exactly the same way our great-great-grandparents would have created it.

More opportunities to learn about Choctaw heritage during the celebration for Native American Month included classes and exhibitions for traditional foods, beadwork

and baskets. Choctaw Ghost Stories were told at the end of October as well. In the coming year, more chances to share our heritage will be available. Pottery classes will continue, traditional bow shoot competitions are held March through October, and as always, language classes in Choctaw are ongoing. In fact, you can check out the “word of the day” on choctawnation.com.



The real meaning of His birth

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2011.

December is not only remembered as the closing month of another year, but especially the month of Christmas, the month in which Jesus was born, according to church tradition.

There is no scriptural basis that Jesus was born in December, much less on the 25th day of December. The Bible is silent concerning the date of Jesus’ birth.

We should not be interested in merely celebrating a birthday, but we should be occupied with the real meaning of His birth.

During this Christmas season the religious world celebrates the very Person who will be Lost in the Crowd. It was so from the beginning. Jesus is lost in the crowd.

Jesus was lost in the crowd at the age of 12. We read this very familiar story in Luke 2:41-49:

“Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover.

“And when he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

“And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

“But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey; and they sought him among their kinfolk and acquaintance.

“And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking questions.

“And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

“And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”

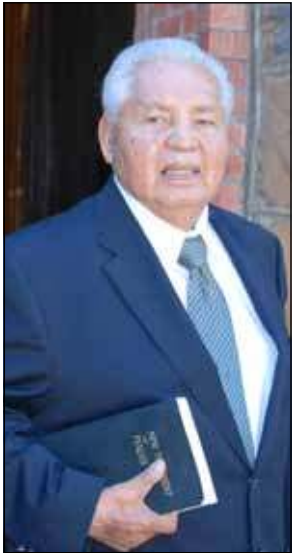
This familiar story in Luke tells us that it is possible to lose Jesus in religion, even in our churches.

The parents of Jesus celebrated the Passover feast each year by going up to the feast of Jerusalem. The Passover feast was the one great high feast in the calendar of the Jewish year. This is the holiday commemorating the deliverance of the nation of Israel from the bondage of Egypt some 1,500 years before.

This holiday in the history of Israel had become more than a commemorative feast of the deliverance of Israel. It had come to be a homecoming, a time of visiting and feasting rather than in the spiritual exercise which the day deserved.

We remember that the central person at

Chaplain’s Corner



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

this feast in Luke 2:41-49 was the boy Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

The Passover Lamb spoke of Him, pointing toward the One who was God’s true Passover Lamb. The One who would shed His own precious blood upon the cross to provide redemption and salvation for lost sinners and show the way back to God.

But the great milling crowd who had come there to join in the festivities were unaware of the presence of the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

We are surprised when we read of Mary the mother of Jesus, and Joseph his foster father, who come so completely occupied with the activities of this season that they forgot Him, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and went a day’s journey without missing Him.

It is possible for Christians, who ought to love the Lord Jesus Christ and gather about Him, and should make Him the center of all their attention and devotion, to lose Him.

It is a sad thing that amidst all of this excitement and all this celebration, we lose the vision of Him who is the source of all our blessing.

The world is preparing itself for the holiday season which is called Christmas, with its commercialization of the birthday of the Giver of God’s greatest gift. Sad to say, the drunkenness and reveling, the dancing and worldly celebration will prevail in many homes.

Jesus will once again be lost and fail to receive the attention He demands as the Giver of every blessing, not only at this season of the year but every day here.

What place are you going to give the Lord Jesus Christ in your life during Christmas 2010? Will you too with the crowd lose Jesus in the midst of celebration and merrymaking? Are you going to place Him in the center of your life and worship Him?

Before you even think of giving anyone else a single gift, give Him the gift which He asks of you, “give me your heart.” The greatest gift that God gave was the Lord Jesus Christ, and the greatest gift that you can return is yourself, by believing, in receiving Him, the Savior of the world.

But before you can give yourself to Him, you must receive Him first of all. We read in Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Confess you are a sinner and will you trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? You do this by faith.

Write to me and I will be happy to pray for you. My mailing address is P.O. Box 9, Antlers, OK 74523.

Pray for America and pray for our leaders, pray for our brave men and women in our armed services.



Four-year-old Alana Kendrick molds clay during a pottery class.



Kerwin Moore shapes his clay pot at the pottery workshop.



Debbie Buchanan weaves a basket at a Choctaw basket-making class.

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month



Ian Thompson teaches pottery making to Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Gayla Guillory.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton, far right, molds a clay pot during the pottery making class. At right, Lari Ann Brister makes a small basket at the basket making workshop.



Pam Waugh, left, and Amy Thompson, serve traditional dishes after a presentation on Choctaw foods.



Shirley Barboan gives lessons on traditional Choctaw dress making.

Healthy holiday tricks

Halito and merry Christmas! The holidays are such a wonderful time of year, from the family gathering around the table at Thanks-giving to the celebration of Christmas. And what would this all be without those old fam-ily favorites? We all have them, those once a year treats that only you’re favorite Auntie can make. Then there is the flip side of course: the guilt from enjoying a little here, there and everywhere. Well first of all, don’t beat yourself up over this. These are joyous times that we should celebrate and if we use moderation and cut corners here and there we can enjoy the holidays without gaining 10 pounds or sacrificing. Here are some ideas to help enjoy the holiday festivities without all the guilt.

- Typical holiday meals and get-togethers have much the same foods and beverages from year to year, so plan ahead. Write down what you typically want and try not to have more then 3-4 ½ cup servings of foods high in starches and fats.
- Foods high in starches and carbs are dressing/stuffing, potatoes, breads, spoon bread, beans, corn/hominy, cran-berry sauce, fruits/fruit salads and pies/cakes/pastries
- Use a small plate. Space foods so each serving is sepa-

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Jan. 4-25, except for:
Jan. 3 : Closed for Inventory
Jan. 5: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
Jan. 12: Bethel 9-10:30a.m.; Smithville 12-2p.m.(market closed)
Closed Jan. 26-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Jan. 13 and Jan. 21

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Jan. 4-25, except for:
Jan. 3 : Closed for Inventory
Closed Jan. 26-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Jan. 4 and Jan. 11

McALESTER

Market open weekdays: Jan. 4-25, except for:
Jan. 3 : Closed for Inventory
Closed Jan. 26-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Jan. 7 and Jan. 17

POTEAU

Market open weekdays: Jan. 4-25, except for:
Jan. 3 : Closed for Inventory
Closed Jan. 26-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Jan. 5 and Jan. 19

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday.
We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

Antlers: 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES


Bethel: Choctaw Community Building
Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Idabel: Choctaw Community Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center
Stigler: Choctaw Community Center

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Depart-ment of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohib-ited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compli-ance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Tribal documentation important to Choctaw Membership

The Choctaw Nation’s CDIB/Membership Depart-ment urges tribal members to help keep files up to date. “It is very important that you contact our office if a member of your family pass-es away,” says CDIB/Mem-bership Executive Director Brenda Hampton. “We need to complete their files to protect against fraudulent claims. If our records show a person to be deceased, we would know immediately not to issue any duplicate cards. “Fraud is everywhere

and it doesn’t just happen to those of us who are living. Our deceased loved ones can become victims,” she said. Please send readable cop-ies of death certificates to at-tach to files. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated very much.




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	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	Mon.-Fri. (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	Mon.-Fri.
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon.-Fri.
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Mon., Thurs. & Fri.
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	Mon.-Fri.
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Mon.-Fri.
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro	918-962-3832	8:00-4:30	Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Mon.-Wed.
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday

rate and then wait 5-10 minutes before going back for seconds, just to make sure you are not already satisfied. Because you know you want to save room for a serving of dessert.

- When going to a dinner or gathering, have a healthy snack just prior to leaving to help prevent hunger from taking over what you eat.
- Drink water! Make water your primary choice of bev-erage; this will save a lot of wasted calorie intake.
- Bring healthy alternatives to gatherings. Reduce fat in some of your favorite dishes by:
 1. Using non-stick pans and cooking spray.
 2. Baking with apple butter.
 3. Use egg whites or egg substitutes.
 4. Use herbs and spices. Sprinkle fresh lemon, lime or orange zest over veggie or rice dishes or herbs like tarragon or dill on salads. Remember to add herbs at the end of cook-ing to preserve flavor.
 5. Make dips with fat-free sour cream, Splenda brown sugar for fruits and fat-free sour cream and fat-free miracle whip with Italian seasonings and garlic for veggies.Now for a recipe to put all those left-over dishes from the holidays to good use:



BROCCOLI AND TURKEY CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 4 oz dried mushroom noodles
- 2 1/2 cups chopped cooked chicken or turkey
- 1 10 oz package frozen chopped broc-coli, thawed
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions
- 1 10 3/4 oz can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup skim milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese (2 oz)
- 1 tsp dried basil, crushed
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- paprika

Directions:

1. Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain well.
2. In a 2-quart casserole dish, stir together noodles, chicken or turkey, broccoli and green onions.
3. In a medium mixing bowl, stir together soup, milk, cheese, basil and pepper. Stir into noodle mixture.
4. Bake, covered, in a 350 degree oven for 40-45 min. or until heated through. Sprinkle with paprika. Makes six servings. Can be made ahead, cover and chill up to 24 hours, then bake as above.

Nutrition Information:
Calories: 290 Sodium: 508 mg Total Fat: 11 g Total Carbohydrate: 22 g Cholesterol: 61 mg Protein: 25 g
For further information contact Erin Adams, Choctaw Nation Dia-betes Wellness Center, at 800-349-7026 ex. 6959.

Choctaw sites participate in CACFP

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Day Care Pro-grams announces its partic-ipation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals, at no extra charge to the parents and without re-gard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disabili-ty. In accordance with fed-eral law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institu-tion is prohibited from dis-criminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of dis-crimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whit-ten Building, 1400 Indep-ence Avenue, SW, Wash-ington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal op-portunity provider and em-ployer. This statement applies to sites of the CN Day Care Center in Durant and the following CN Child Devel-opment Centers: Talihina, Bennington, Coalgate, Sti-gler and Idabel.

Tips for healthy holiday eating

Holidays and celebrations usually mean lots of family, fun... and food! For many of us, holidays and celebrations often involve foods that are high in fat, sugar and calories and short on nutrition. By fol-lowing a few tips on holiday eating, you and your family can enjoy special foods while keeping a balanced and healthy diet.

Tips to healthy holiday eat-ing:


- Take control - Don’t go to a party hungry. Eat a whole-some breakfast or nutritious snack before the holiday meal to prevent overeating at the party.
- Keep your balance - Watch your portions. Treat yourself to your favorite dish or dessert, but use moderation. It’s best to go for the smaller portions so you can sample different foods.
- Wash it down - Many drinks can be short on nutrition. Try water, hot cider or hot tea to help stay hydrated and warm.
- Play it smart - Be active. Taking walks or playing outdoor games with your loved ones is fun physical activity that the whole family can enjoy during the holiday season.

Many holiday memories stem from meals and celebrations with our families. By keep-ing your meals more nutritious and your families more active, there will be many more holiday memories to cherish. Remember, family meals create happy, healthy memories that last a lifetime!

NURSERY NEWS


Mac Cleveland

Max Cleveland was born July 2, 2010, at 7:52 a.m. at the Joint House Elmendorf/Richardson Hospital, Elmen-dorf AFD, in Anchorage, Alaska. He weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 23 inches long. Max is the son of Maj. Frederick R. and Martina Cleveland of Anchorage. He is the grandson of Fred and Fay Cleveland of Albuquerque, N.M., and Margaret and Franz Merzbacher of Germany. He is also the nephew of Carrie Cleveland. Max’s paternal great-great-grandparents are the late Sham and Anna Par-ish of Antlers. He is also the great-great-great-grandson of an original enrollee and the great-great-great-grandson of a Navajo code talker.




Manny Dave Wickson

Siomara and Guillermo would like to announce the birth of their new baby brother, Manny Dave Wick-son. Manny was born on Sept. 30 at 7:22 p.m. at the Choc-taw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 9 pounds, 9.7 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Wesley and Carisa Wickson of Hugo. Grandparents are Dora Ward of Hugo, Rachel Wickson and Freddie Battiest of Wright City and the late Woodrow Caldwell.




Ayla J’vonne Whiteman

Ayla J’vonne Whiteman was born at 7:07 p.m. on Sept. 2 in Arlington. She was 6 pounds 5 ounces, and was 18-3/4 inches long. Her parents are Tommy V. Whiteman Jr. and Letty Whiteman. Proud grandparents are Tommy V. Whiteman and Delphine Whiteman of Fort Worth. Great-grandparents are Henry H. Whiteman and Celia Whiteman of Beggs.




Hydee Ayanna Lyman

Heather Watson and Brad Ly-man of Coeur d’Alene, Ida., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Hydee Ayanna Lyman, on April 8, 2010, at 12:15 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 20-1/4 inches long. The proud grandparents are Brian and Joyce Watson, also of Coeur d’Alene. She is the great-granddaughter of Shirley Watson of Kellogg, Ida., and the late Norman Watson.




Kamden Lee Nita auntcheubbee

Welcome Kamden Lee Nita auntcheubbee Brown, born on Oct. 27, weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces and 20 inches long, delivered in Oklahoma City. He is the son of Nita Brown and Shandra Bird and brother of Aiden Lowakiskatini Brown and sister Makayla Watson of Oklahoma City. He is the grandson of Bobby Brown of McAlester and Monique Warden of Okla-homa City. Kamden is the great-grandson of Bob and Shir-ley Brown of McAlester. Kamden is also welcomed into the family by his aunt, Hope Lee, and uncles, Elmer and Elijah Brown.



Hadley Grace Everitt

Hadley Grace Everitt was born on Aug. 27, 2010, in Ada to Drew and Emily Everitt and big sister Greenlee Everitt of McKinney. She is the grand-daughter of Mona Watson of Broken Bow and the great-granddaughter to the late Daisy Mae Watson and Linda Everitt of McKinney.



Recruiters, students and parents praise Ivy League & Friends 2010

‘This was a superb event, and I have attended many over the years’

High praise from recruiters combined with gratitude and pride from students and parents are typical of follow-up survey comments from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program’s (SAP) third annual Ivy League & Friends – Choctaw Student Recruitment. The event was held in Nov. 6 at hte Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant.

In November 2010 SAP was honored as the recipient of the Education Award in the in-

lege programs and about 300 Choctaw students and parents from 10 states.

Always working off feedback from recruiters, students and parents, SAP staff expanded

Ivy League & Friends 2010 to a full-day affair with both undergraduate and graduate school programs. Promotion and communication to CNO students began in early September and included special

online newsletters and an Ivy League & Friend Updates page on SAP’s Web site.

Ivy League & Friends 2010 began with a breakfast buffet and an important new feature – morning breakout presentations. Breakout topics ranged from talks by school recruiters to special meetings for parents on subjects such as planning and financial advice. Lunch was served to all in attendance

at the Choctaw Event Center followed by a complete afternoon for students and parents to meet one-on-one with recruiters of their choice.

Ivy League & Friends 2010 drew approximately 200 students plus 300 parents and

guests (about 500 total) from 14 states: Utah, Missouri, Idaho, Illinois, Virginia, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Kansas and Oklahoma. Twenty of America’s best undergraduate programs attended as did 17 of the nation’s top graduate school programs (see lists).

How was SAP’s 2010 Ivy League & Friends

received? The best answers come from the comments of those who attended.

From a parent: “This program is great. I wish something like this had been around when I was in high school.”

From a student: “What a wonderful experience!! We were treated nicely and the program was great. We were proud to be Choc-

taw!!!”

From recruiters:

“I can’t believe all the resources provided to these lucky students. You all are a model

program that others should look to follow.” “T h i s was a superb event – and I have attended many over the years.”

“I had a chance to speak to some very good candidates.”

“It was super to be able to do a presentation as well as the college fair.”



Jean Lee, Yale University.



“Tell the students not to wait until their senior year to figure all this out. Get them involved their freshman year.”

Student Survey Comment

Ivy League & Friends 2010 Graduate Programs

- American Indian Graduate Center
- Columbia University Law School
- Duke Fuqua School of Business
- Graduate Horizons
- Harvard Divinity School
- Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- Northwestern University Graduate School
- Purdue University Graduate School
- Syracuse University Graduate School
- The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management
- The University of California/Berkeley Law School
- Wake Forest University Schools of Business
- Washington University in St. Louis - George Warren Brown School of Social Work
- Yale Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- Yale School of Management



Phil Gover, Dartmouth College.

Ivy League & Friends 2010 Undergraduate Programs

- Brown University
- College Horizons
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Purdue University
- Rice University
- Syracuse University
- Stanford University
- University of California at Berkeley
- University of Pennsylvania
- Vanderbilt University
- Williams College
- Yale University

Rita Aragon named Oklahoma’s Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Oklahoma Governor-elect Mary Fallin today named retired Major General Rita Aragon as her next secretary of veterans affairs.

“No one is more experienced or more effective when it comes to Oklahoma’s military and veterans needs than Rita Aragon,” said Fallin. “As an accomplished military woman and a dedicated public servant, I know Rita will make an invaluable member of my cabinet.”

During her 28-year military career, Aragon has served as the commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard and as the Air National Guard assistant to the deputy chief of staff of Staff Manpower and Personnel



RITA ARAGON

at the Pentagon, where she was the senior Air National Guard officer responsible for military and civilian personnel management, education, training and resource allocation.

Aragon was the first female in the United States to com-

mand a state’s Air National Guard. She received the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

In addition to her military career, Aragon has served as an elementary school teacher and an elementary school principal. She was named an OKC Chamber of Commerce Excellent Educator of the Year in 1990 and an Oklahoma City Principal of the Year in 1992. Aragon also serves on the boards of the Red Cross Chapter of Central Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women and the Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma.



Photo credit Mark Engebretson

Trail of Fame inductees include the Choctaw Code Talkers, accepted by Judy Allen, Choctaw Nation’s executive director of Public Relations; Neal Gay, professional rodeo cowboy; singer Lynn Anderson; actor Dean Smith; and fiddle player Johnny Gimble.

Code Talkers added to Texas Trail of Fame

Choctaw Code Talkers have been added to the honored few who are in the Texas Trail of Fame. The Trail of Fame was established to pay tribute to those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the western way of life.

Throughout the walkways of the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District, bronze inlaid markers have been placed in recognition of achievements of those honored on the Trail of Fame. The markers are patterned after a frontier Marshall’s badge, and are inscribed with the name of the honoree. The Choctaw Code Talkers were among the honorees for this year, which was the 20th anniversary of the Texas Trail of Fame. The Code Talker bronze star may be viewed in the sidewalk in front of the Visitors Center at the Fort Worth Stockyards. Other inductees for 2010 included Lynn Anderson, Johnny Gimble, Dean Smith, Neal Gay, Casey Tibbs, and Col. M.T. Johnson.

Jazz Hall of Fame honors Wallis Willis

Choctaw Nation Marketing Manager Lana Sleeper had the honor of accepting The Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame’s 2010 Gospel Award on behalf of inductee Wallis Willis. The event, held Nov. 16 at the Jazz Depot in Tulsa, recognized Jazz greats from around the country including Sam Rivers as the Living Legend inductee and Joe Lee Wilson as Jazz & Blues inductee.

Willis, a Choctaw freedman, is known for writing such classics as “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” “Roll, Jordan, Roll,” and “Steal Away to Jesus.” The lyrics have provided solace and spiritual nourishment for generations.

After the Civil War and emancipation, Alexander Reid remembered Willis and his songs and transcribed them for the Fisk Jubilee Singers to add to their growing repertoire of African American music. Wallis Willis’ work has become immortal, an indelible part of American music and culture.



20th Annual Livestock Show is Feb. 5-6

This is the 20th year for the Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show. A record-breaking number of entries are expected in the two-day show scheduled for held Feb. 5-6 in two locations – Eastern Oklahoma State College,

Wilburton, and the Choctaw Nation Event Center, Durant.

The show is open to all 4-H and FFA members who are 9 to 19 years of age at the time of the show and have a CDIB. Animals scheduled to be shown on Feb. 5 are mar-

ket swine, market goats and market sheep. The heifer and steer shows are on Feb. 6.

For more information, please log on to www.choc-tawnation.com, click on News Room and then Events, or call 918-297-2518.



Adolfo Martinez, Cory Martinez, Kendra Baker, Peyton Baker, Kendall Adams, Danielle Karr, Erika Snead, Erica Martinez, Jennifer Williams, Whitney Arron, Ariel Anna, Colby Crosby, Chance Wesley, Kandice Wesley.

Youth Advisory Board shares important message

Youth Advisory Board members in McCurtain County recently partnered with SWAT and McCurtain Memorial Hospital to do a demonstration for the Great American Smoke Out in November. The YAB carried signs and wore T-shirts with the number 16 on them to educate the people that 16 people in Oklahoma die each day from tobacco-related illness.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Ruby turns 100

Ruby Beams Henderson Johnson was born Nov. 24, 1910, to James and Jettie Beams of Kingston. Ruby had two sisters and two brothers.

As a small girl Ruby and her family lived on her father's Indian allotment, which was located around Shay, Okla. Ruby's father, James, was a deputy for the Sheriff's office in Marshall County.



Around the age of 10, Ruby's father moved the family to McClain County where Ruby attended school at Staley, located southwest of Purcell. At 18, Ruby married Clyde Henderson and they had six children. In 1937, Ruby and her family moved to California where she picked cotton, tomatoes and grapes and worked in a cannery.

When World War II broke out, Ruby's family moved back to Oklahoma where Clyde farmed and Ruby worked in Dallas at the defense plant.

The Henderson family then moved to Garvin County where Ruby worked in restaurants at Lindsay as a cook. In 1959, she went to work for the state of Oklahoma as a cook at the state school in Pauls Valley. Clyde passed away in 1970 and Ruby retired and moved to Purcell, where she became a caretaker for the elderly.

In 1985, Ruby married James Johnson and moved to Tishomingo.

Ruby has six children: Kenneth Henderson of Tishomingo, Lonnie Henderson of Fort Worth, Cecil Henderson of Pauls Valley, Eva Lon Powell of Tishomingo, Dolores Ward of Belen, N.M., and Joan Abbott of Tishomingo. She has 20 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and 30 great-great-grandchildren. Ruby lives at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Tishomingo.

Trinity turns five

Trinity Thorne celebrated her fifth birthday on Sept. 12 at Alligator Alley with family. She is a pre-school student at Northmoor Elementary in Moore. Her grandparents are Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. Her great-grandparents are the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Congrats to Spec. Pisachubbe

Spec. Jeanita C. Pisachubbe, a public affairs specialist with the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, stationed at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, meets Gen. David Petraeus, the commander of U.S. and ISAF forces in Afghanistan, at a ceremony held in Camp Spann on Oct. 23. Pisachubbe covered a mass re-enlistment ceremony, which was comprised of 4th CAB and 10th Mountain division Soldiers, where Petraeus spoke and read the oath of enlistment. The 4th CAB deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in July and are slated to re-deploy in the summer of 2011. Pisachubbe's parents are Ed and Marjorie Pisachubbe of Hugo. Jeanita is a graduate of Texas Women's University of Denton and majoring in English and Theatre. She is a cum laude graduate.



Happy birthday, Ella

The Amos family visits their aunt, Ella Jones, on her 98th birthday. Bill, Simon, Louise and Charlene are pictured with Ella at the home of her daughter, Helen Hester, on Oct. 9.

Happy birthday, Cody

Happy birthday to Cody Cannady who turned 9 years old on Nov. 2. His grandma Louise is very proud of him for doing so well in school. She, along with Cody's mom and dad, Kendall and Bob, wish him a very happy birthday.



Happy birthday, Lisa

Happy birthday on Oct. 23 to Maj. Lisa M. Pruitt from her family. Lisa is currently stationed in Fort Levingworth, Kan., for school for the Army, continuing her education. Lisa is pictured receiving the PFC McElwee Award when she was a company commander in Iraq two years ago.



Happy anniversary

Cody and Katherine Smith celebrated their anniversary on Aug. 30 along with their daughter, Avana.



Choctaw girl

Makayla Danielle Sexton celebrated her sixth birthday on Nov. 20. Makayla is in kindergarten at Achille. She has all A's and loves to dance in the pow wows. She is the daughter of Daniel T. Sexton and Lisa D. Sexton. Her family is proud of her and want to wish her a very happy birthday!



Arnold earns degree

Regina Kaye Arnold, formerly of Eagletown, recently received a master's degree in secondary education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Regina's degree focuses on health and physical education. She earned a bachelor's of physical education from Oklahoma State University in 2008 and an associate of the arts from Eastern Oklahoma State College in 2005. Regina is the daughter of Tracey and Robbie Risner of Eagletown. She is married to Chad Arnold of Durant. The couple has one child, Stormi Arnold.



Bennett turns 3

Bennett Wyatt turned three on Oct. 13 in Sonoma, Calif. Parents are Beth and Ian Michael Wyatt. Happy grandparents are Don and Cathy Kittle of Rohnert Park, Calif., Mike Wyatt of Stillwater and Carol Wesley of San Diego. Great-grandparents are the late Bennett and Anna (Brokeshoulder) Wesley of Durant. Pictured are Bennett and his sister, Evelyn Rose. They are the great-great-grandchildren of original enrollees Morris and Martha Brokeshoulder, a Mississippi Choctaw, and Harris Wesley and Emma Dyer.



Happy birthday to Ryan

Ryan Thorne celebrated his ninth birthday on Aug. 28 at the Phoenix Science Center with family. Ryan is in the fourth grade at Butterfield Elementary in Tucson, Ariz. Grandparents are Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. Ryan shares his birthday with his late great-grandma Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Happy birthday, Richard and John

Happy birthday to brothers, Richard Moran on Dec. 17 and John Moran on Dec. 24. Wishing them happy birthdays are their sisters, Nancy Gravitt and Beverly Herring.

Whitemans visit nation's capitol

Tommy and Delphie Whiteman celebrated their 32nd anniversary with a visit to Washington, D.C. on Sept. 25-26. During their visit they were able to meet with Tommy's nephew, Bill Willbrant and his wife Kristy. They visited the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery. They were able to snap a picture of the original portrait of Peter P. Pitchlynn, by George Catlin in 1834, who has had many accomplishments within the Choctaw tribe and served as Choctaw Chief in the 1800s. Tommy got to visit the gravesite of his ancestor Pitchlynn, who was his great-great-great-grandmother's brother at the Congressional Cemetery. Tommy's mother is Celia M. Tovar Whiteman.

Tommy was asked by a staff member at the Congressional Cemetery to record the history of Pitchlynn, which was an honor to him. To listen to his recording, call 202-747-3474, then dial 24#.

Tommy would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for putting a memorial at Pitchlynn's gravesite back in 1998. He is currently employed with Mansfield Independent School District as a bus driver. He and Delphie are members of the New Hope Baptist Church in Mansfield.



Bohanan: Champion junior bull rider

Brent Bohanan, 13, of Eagletown, is an excellent junior bull rider, and it shows in his many titles recently won. He is pictured with a saddle he won as the 2010 Champion Junior Bull Rider at Snow Rodeo in Garvin. He has also won a buckle as the 2010 Junior Bull Riding Champion at the Idabel Rodeo. On Aug. 27-28 Brent won second place at Boswell Rodeo; Sept. 3-5 he competed in the Soper FFA Rodeo and won first place; and on Sept. 11 he won first place at the Hugo FFA Rodeo. Proud parents of Brent are Jimmy and Barbi Bohanan.



Third-graders attend capitol tree lighting

Trevyn Nelson and Savanna Shults, Gifted and Talented 3rd graders at Silo Elementary, were recently invited to the Oklahoma Capitol Tree lighting ceremony. Their group decorated a Christmas tree, enjoyed many different cultural activities through the capitol and had their photo taken with Governor and First Lady Brad and Kim Henry and Santa Claus.



Happy 60th anniversary

Andrew Orville Scott and Verna Lea Bowen were married on Nov. 18, 1950, in Lawton. Andrew was the son and grandson of original enrollees Effie Barnett Scott and Amanda Isabell Barnett. From this union four children were born: a daughter, Carol, and three sons, Donald, Billy and Ronnie.



Sierra is 2

Sierra Vera-Marie Wesley was born Nov. 6, 2008, in Talihina. She is the daughter of Erica A. Martinez and the late Richard Neal Wesley II. Her maternal grandparents are Vicki and Cirilo Perez of Broken Bow and Adolfo Martinez of DeQueen, Ark. Great-grandparents are Robert and Vera Winship of Broken Bow and Jose and Gloria Martinez of DeQueen. Her paternal grandparents are Richard "Buck" Wesley and Janis Wesley of Wright City. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Elsie Wesley and Lenis Wesley of Hugo and the late Adeline and Lester Noah of Broken Bow.



Red Sox have fun season

The 2010 7-8 year-old Red Sox team of the Boys and Girls Club of McAlester completed a fun summer season. Future softball stars are front row, left to right: Tenaya Perkins, Paige Grimes, Dominique Garcia, Lauren Nichols, Ajaysie Bell; back row: Pat James (coach), Madison Wagnon, Madison Ward, Riley Isabell, Anna Kenieutubbe, Amanda Ward (coach). Not pictured is team member Lexie Robertson. They would like to thank the McAlester Choctaw Travel Plaza for the generous donation of pizza for the end-of-season party.

Trail of Tears quilt

This Trail of Tears quilt was made by Maude Ella (Cook) Buxton, born in 1926 in Garland, Okla., near Stigler. Her parents were John Rupert Cook and Larene (Garland) Cook; grandparents were William Greenwood Garland and Mary Lavena (Beller) Garland; great-great-great-grandfather was Major James Garland I. The quilt was made from past Choctaw Trail of Tears T-shirts.

Maude is searching for information on her great-grandparents, Joseph G. Garland Sr. and Malissa (Harrison) Garland. Anyone with information can contact Maude at P.O. Box 203 Canyonville, OR 97417.





Romanian guests are honored

Members of the Choctaw Nation recently honored guests from the country of Romania. Pictured above are members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hoquiam, Wash., front row, Nathan Boboce, son of Cristian and Simona Boboce, Wilma O'Day, director of the SDA Food Bank , and Bob O'Day, Adventist Community Services Director. In back are Thomas E. Davis, Choctaw Nation tribal elder, Daniel Boboce and Eugenia Boboce, honored guests from Galati, Romania, with their son, Cristian Boboce, pastor, SDA Church, and his son, David Boboce, with wife Simona, and Carol Daitey, SDA Deaconess. The Boboces were presented numerous items from the Choctaw Nation in recognition of the spirit of international relationships for their global contributions and community services to persons in need of food, clothing and compassion.



Four generations

Pictured for the four generation photo are: Heather Watson, holding her baby daughter, Hydee Lyman, and great-grandmother Shirley Watson. Grandfather Brian Watson is standing in back.



Five generations

Pictured above is a five-generation family (from left): Ryan Olds, Mary Howe, Judith Wooley and great-great-grandmother Mary Williams holding baby Greysin Olds.

First profession

Bro. David Carpenter, Order of Saint Francis (OSF), of Fort Worth made his first profession and was received by Bro. Zane Young, OSF, the Minister General of the Order of St Francis and the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickels, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia in Seattle, on Oct. 28 at the Cathedral of St. Mark in Seattle. Bro. David is a proud Choctaw descending from Sophia Folsom. His sainted grandmother was Jewel Southerland (Harris) of Rush Springs and his sainted mother was Linda Harris (Carpenter) of Maude. Bro. David serves in a lay ministry at St. Luke's in the Meadow Episcopal Church as both the Parish Administrator and Sexton as well as being active in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. His planned focus in ministry is quality in end of life issues and approaching a Holy death and the inclusion of all baptized persons in all the sacraments of the Church.



Kimmie Sue turns 2

Kimmie Sue Couch turned 2 on Dec. 4. Kimmie is the daughter of Ronnie Jr. and Natallie Couch of Poteau. Her grandparents are Ronny and Wanda Couch, Ronald Adams and Debbie Nietert and Rob and Wanda Lawrence, all of Poteau. Her great-grandparents are Helen Adams and the late Fay Berry Adams and Bessie Thurman and the late Fred Thurman.



Happy birthday, Bianca

Bianca Genevieve Fuller is celebrating her sixth birthday. Sending her very happy birthday wishes are her parents, Princess and Richard.



Tribal member receives OSU award

The Oklahoma State University Alumni Association has named 41 students as OSU Seniors of Significance for the 2010-2011 academic year. The Seniors of Significance Award recognizes students who have excelled in scholarship, leadership and service to campus and community and have brought distinction to OSU. "This group represents approximately one percent of the senior class and OSU's best with their involvement in numerous service and leadership organizations," says Larry Shell, OSU Alumni Association president. "We are honored to recognize them for their achievements and support them as they prepare to join the OSU alumni family."

Jason Connor Ferguson was named an OSU Senior of Significance. He is the son of Yvonne Ferguson.

Student writes children's book

Jessica Lynn Militante is a junior at Branham High School in San Jose, Calif. She has attended Native Doors Networking Center, an American Indian tutorial and mentoring program, since she was five years old. American Indian students from Stanford University volunteer their time for this program. Jessica has learned much about her heritage and has become an honor student through all of her school years.

While attending junior high school, she wrote and published a children's book titled "Natalee the Bumblebee" for a school project. Jessica has started an American Indian Student Club at her high school and was selected to join The Link Crew, a group consisting of upperclassmen that help 10 incoming freshmen each to adjust to high school.

As a result of her scholastic and community achievements, Jessica was chosen to be on the board of directors at the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley as a youth member, a position she truly honors. She is looking forward to attending college and hopes to become a writer and pursue other interests.



Congrats, Darren

Local angler Darren Mize of Spiro, sponsored by the Choctaw Casinos, placed 23rd competing against 200 anglers nationwide in the 2010 Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Weekend Series Championship, operated by American Bass Anglers, held Oct. 31 through Nov. 6 at Lake Guntersville, Ala. Darren qualified for the National Championship by competing at the state and regional level, placing eighth overall at Lake DeGray, Ark., in the regional tournament. Darren is the owner of Darren's Paint and Body Shop in Spiro. He is the father of two teenage boys, Tyler and Travis.

Happy sixth, Alana

Alana Lawless-Felarca of Dallas celebrated her sixth birthday on Nov. 18. Alana is the daughter of Anita and Renno Lawless-Felarca. Her grandparents are Charles Wayne and Sue Davis of Dallas. Her great-grandmother is Mable McKinney of Broken Bow.



John gets a nice buck

This deer was shot by John Troussel on Oct. 16 in the McAlester area during the youth hunt. It was 11 points and the biggest deer for John so far. John is the son of Chris and Kimberly Troussel of McAlester and the grandson of Tommy and Betty Spears and Don and Sandy Troussel of McAlester.



Happy birthday

Hadley Grace would like to wish her older sister, Greenlee, a happy fourth birthday. Greenlee turns 4 on Jan. 14. Her parents are Drew and Emily Everitt of McKinney and her grandmother is Mona Watson of Broken Bow. She's the great-granddaughter to the late Daisy Mae Watson and Linda Everitt of McKinney.



Canyon turns 10

Canyon Lane Taylor will celebrate his tenth birthday on Dec. 20. He is in the fourth grade at Hugo. He plays baseball and loves to spend all his time with friends and family. His parents are Becky Peters and Dwayne Taylor of Hugo. His grandparents are Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson, William and Judy Taylor of Soper and Theda and the late Dodson Lamb of Hugo. Canyon has four sisters, two brothers, four nephews and one niece.



Need Cash for Education? Choctaw Asset Building Program

With the cost of post-secondary education increasing, more and more people are having difficulties funding a college education for themselves or family members. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is proud to offer a new matched savings program to help Choctaw Tribal Members with the increased costs of education. You have been invited to this webinar that describes the Choctaw Asset Building Program.

The Choctaw Asset Building Program (CAB) provides the following:

- Financial independence
 - Financial literacy
 - Matching funds (Individual Development Accounts-IDA)
- IDAs are matched savings accounts that are designed to encourage regular savings habits and investments (such as education) that increase in value over time. Account holders save a minimum of \$25 of their earnings each month for 6-36 months. Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) then match these savings at a rate of \$2 of matching funds for every \$1 of personal savings for qualified educational expenses.

You must save for at least 6 months in your IDA, and CAB will match your contributions for up to 3 years. Participating IDA savers must attend at least 12 hours of money management training and additional training related to their educational asset. The knowledge and skills you gain will help you use your savings wisely and protect your investment. You must meet income and other requirements to qualify for the CAB program. Listen in and ask questions of the CAB Achievement Coach. You will also receive an application for the program.

What: Need Cash for Education?
When: January 18, 2011, 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. CST
Who: Janie Joplin, CAB Achievement Coach

–Call 920-2260 to register –

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

<u>Latimer County</u>	<u>Bryan County</u>
Beginning date and time: Jan. 3, 2011	Beginning date and time: Jan. 4, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays 1-4 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center 515 Center Point Rd Wilburton	Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-9 p.m. Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex South building, downstairs Durant
<u>North LeFlore County</u>	<u>Pushmataha County</u>
Beginning date and time: Jan. 4, 2011	Beginning date and time: Jan. 3, 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-4 p.m. Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center Poteau	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center 400 1/2 "O" St. Antlers

The class will meet two days each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10-per-day transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.



Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes



Martha Childs gets ready to conduct Adult Education Classes over One-Net Distance Learning. Monitors have been set up in Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Bethel, Coalgate, Smithville, Talihina and Wright City so students in these rural areas will have an opportunity to take the classes and earn a GED.

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the above locations to students in the Choctaw Nation. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using the One-Net Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows students and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she helps you prepare to take the GED test. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. The class will meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. A CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) is required. For more information please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield, Choctaw Nation Adult Education, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319 or 2122.

Choctaw twin sisters win Dartmouth University scholarships

“It’s a life-changer,” says Terri Morley of Saint Paul, Minn., about what happened to her twin daughters, Cassie and Christie. A single-mom who admits she struggled in order to give her girls a good education, Terri says the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) has meant everything to her and her girls. “Without SAP we’d never have known about Native American programs like College Horizons or the Dartmouth Native Fly-in. My girls’ high school counselor was simply not aware of them.”

Cassie and Christie became involved in SAP in high school and used the program’s advice to gain helpful SAT and ACT tips that improved their college entrance test scores. Christie learned about the program through the CNO Newspaper, The Biskinik. Cassie discovered it through her Mom’s contact with SAP and the online newsletter, SAP News.

In the fall of 2009 – about three weeks before Ivy League and Friends - both Cassie and Christie attended the Dartmouth College Native Fly-in program, a

program they learned about from the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program.

Dartmouth, like many of America’s top schools, is actively seeking qualified Native American students. The Hanover, NH Ivy League College annual Native Fly-In program provides talented high school seniors with the chance to gain firsthand knowledge of the College’s academic resources, student services and admission and financial aid criteria. Fly-In participants interact with members of the Dartmouth Native community including a cross section of college students, faculty and staff through a mix of information sessions, academic presentations and social events. Complimentary meals and on-campus housing are included for Fly-In guests with round trip transportation assistance. (Student and parents can email the Dartmouth Fly-in Program at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/admissions>).

After the Fly-in program, in November 2009, Terri and Cassie drove 850 miles from Saint Paul to Durant to attend SAP’s second annual Ivy League and Friends event. They came to take



Twin sisters, Cassie, left, and Christie Morley of St. Paul, Minn., have won full Scholarships to Dartmouth College.

advantage of the opportunity to meet one-on-one with representatives from nine of the nation’s top colleges. It was also a chance for Mom (Terri) to meet – and for the twins to reconnect – with Dartmouth admissions representatives they’d met three weeks earlier.

While the twins had been accepted to a number of colleges (they used the Common Application in or-

der to apply) once they were accepted to Dartmouth, and granted scholarships, “it sealed the deal for Cassie and Christie,” according to the twins proud Mom.

“I probably wouldn’t have applied to Dartmouth had I not been sent information on the Native American Fly-in from SAP,” says Christie. “Before I was accepted into the Fly-In program, I definitely didn’t

think I had the capability to go to an Ivy League school. The Dartmouth program changed my perspective on the opportunities I could take advantage of.”

“I realized that SAP really could help me achieve my dreams when I started receiving their e-mails about free test preparation offers as well as information about other events,” says Cassie. “My goals are much more ambitious today now that I’m attending an Ivy League school and have a world of possibilities open to me. I really believe I’m here because of the support of the Choctaw Nation and the events SAP puts on to help students like myself. SAP can introduce you to possibilities you’d never previously thought you’d be able to achieve.”

“Both twins love languages,” says their Mom. Both speak French fluently. Cassie is currently undecided regarding her main academic interests, but says she wants to give back to the community that helped her get into Dartmouth. Christie also is undecided on a major but will be taking French 10, Sociology and a course on Perspectives in Native American Studies.

Christie says Choctaw students should not be discouraged by test score results, but should instead follow SAP’s advice. “You can take the tests again and your scores will improve. My ACT went up three points - from 27 to 30. CNO students can go places they never imagined in their lives with the help of the SAP. The important thing is to become a member and take their advice.”

What does her twins’ success mean to Terri Morley? “I think she might be still in shock,” says Cassie. “But she’s also excited to see what we make of ourselves.” “They’re in the world of movers and shakers now,” says Terri. “We had a lot of obstacles to overcome, but we made it!”

In a conversation with Terri Morley one of the twin’s high school teachers put what’s happened to Cassie and Christie in a different perspective. “Terri, you have no idea what your girls have just fallen into,” said the teacher. “A lot of our students are going to go to good schools, but what has happened to your daughters is absolutely unbelievable. Their lives will never be the same.”



Melissa Canterbury



Christen Voice



Tracy Lewis

Jones Academy Scholarship Foundation serves former students

One of the benefits of attending Jones Academy is getting financial assistance after you have completed your high school education. The Jones Academy Scholarship Foundation offers funding for students who have attended Jones Academy and are pursuing a post secondary education. Students who qualify for the program need to have completed one academic year of school at Jones Academy. Students are funded whether they are attending an academic institution of higher learning or receiving training in a vocational or technological setting. Currently the foundation is sponsoring 24 former Jones Academy students in various colleges, universities, and technology centers throughout the country. Up-

ward Bound Director, Robert Ray, is a student liaison for the foundation. Reflecting on the years that he has provided assistance for students, Ray expresses that he is “thrilled” that the foundation has so many kids on the program. Students are required to submit their class schedules and grades every semester.

Students currently enrolled in the program include class of 2009 Melissa Canterbury, Cassandra White and Megan Duran.

Melissa is attending the University of Southern Alabama in Mobile. She receives a stipend as the football manager and works at a Kohl’s retail store. Cassandra is in her sophomore year at Lakota College in Kyle, S.D. Megan is at the University of New Mexico

in Zuni, NM.

Graduates Jessica Phelps (2004) and Lee Pell Meashintubby (2003) are both pursuing nursing degrees at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Other Jones Academy graduates attending institutions of higher learning include Rachelle Dinardo, Bacone College in Tahlequah; Kim Ramone, Langston University in Langston; Christen Voice, Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.; Johnny Cervantes, Murray State College in Tishomingo; Tranette Turrieta, Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, N.M; Warren Clegg, Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant; and Tracy Lewis, University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

Jones Academy students attend ACT workshop

About 100 students attended the ACT Workshop held at the Kiamichi Vo-Tech in McAlester on Oct. 1, 2010. Sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Talent Search Program, the seminar featured Chad Cargill, who directs pre-ACT clinics for students throughout Oklahoma. Cargill is a motivational speaker, but also lends his expertise to students in developing better test-taking skills and improving general academic performance. The speaker kept the high school students engaged throughout the three hour session with a rapid fire approach to his in depth lessons and



Koty Duran, Kayla John, Destiny Mathis and Jaren Richards learn tips to improve thier ACT scores.

his generous use of humor. Cargill encouraged the students to take the ACT test more than once and to study even harder between the periods of test-taking. He also inspired the students to think of ways to serve their respective communities and

challenged them to become a selfless generation. Seven Jones Academy students attended the seminar and came away with an appreciation for hard work, making good choices, and a sense of urgency to help those in need.

To the Youth of the Nation

By Kolby Dale Cross, Youth Advisory Board
1st Place Scholarship Winner

I became acquainted with CNYAB when I was in eighth grade at Heavener Schools. I was fortunate to become a part of the mentoring program to second graders and present the Falvmmichi Program with “Hitting is Not Cool.” At this time I met leaders that were genuinely concerned for the students of our community. It was not only fun and a way to get out of class, but made me aware of the possibilities and opportunities I had.

After moving into high school, I found that the more I became involved in CNYAB the more I felt a part of my school and my community. The leadership events that I attended helped me in serving my Student Council and my class. One of the events that I have found very useful to me is the 2M2L program. This program has definitely made me a better leader and a more responsible person. I feel much more confident in myself and feel I can easily stand up for what I believe is right.

Community service events are not only rewarding, but also often memorable. The one that comes to mind most often is the Senior Citizen Prom. The planning and decorating were nothing compared to the dance lessons. My partner could not hear and wasn’t always in the best of spirits. I don’t believe we ever made it completely through an entire song, which is

just as well, because I’m not much of a two-stepper. Ironically, I spent my 18th birthday dancing with a much older woman, but I couldn’t have asked for a better birthday party with friends within the CNYAB and with new friends from the nursing home.

Compliance checks were also one of my favorite events. I guess I had never realized how easily accessible it is for youth to purchase alcohol at convenience stores. I was actually ID’d and they sold it to me anyway. I don’t think I have ever been so scared in all my life, and my friends and I still laugh about it today. I work at a convenience store and have been pressured by peers to sell them alcohol and tobacco. This experience helped me in knowing that I was doing the right thing.

All of the things that I have done with CNYAB have been so much fun. Picking up trash, marching against meth, making posters and speaking in front of others is not always something most people look forward to. I can honestly say each and every event has been a learning experience and I could always count on a good laugh.

I have not only learned to be a good leader, but how to get along with people. I used to dread being roomed with a complete stranger, but now I know so many people from so many different places. I am so fortunate

to have been able to share in all of these experiences. The CNYAB has always been so generous in the way they host and treat its members. I could never repay all that I have learned and experienced.

The leaders, locally and statewide, have so much to offer the youth. They have been so supportive and instrumental in everything. They are very caring and sincere. What I appreciate the most is the way they challenged me to stop outside my comfort zone and do things that I would have never been able to do on my own. It is easy to be a follower but they have pushed me just enough to do more than what is expected of me. Having the confidence to do things that are challenging to me is something that will help me the rest of my life. Without the CNYAB Program, I am certain my high school career would not have been as memorable and fulfilling as it has been.

I plan to use all of the skills I have learned in CNYAB to prepare for my future. My immediate plans are to attend Northeastern State University and major in Human Relations. I hope to become involved in many organizations such as student government and journalism.

My hope is to give back to my community all of the resources I have gained from the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board Program.



Jones Academy receives Irish visitor

By **DAVID SANCHEZ**
Jones Academy

The Choctaw people were 16 years removed from the Trail of Tears when, in 1847, they heard of the plight of another people. Across the Atlantic in northern Europe, Ireland was experiencing the catastrophic potato famine of the 1840s. Over a million Irish people would perish during the time of this great calamity. The Choctaws understood suffering. Out of the depths of their own poverty, there was an outpouring of compassion. The tribe sent a monetary gift to encourage and assist the Irish in their despair. There was no political motive or advantage for the Choctaws to do this. They simply acted from their generosity and out of their kind nature and saved many lives.

When Seosamh MacSuibne traveled 4,000 miles in late October of this year from his home in Donegal, Ireland, it was to express the gratitude of the Irish people to the Choctaw Nation for the kindness shown to them over 160 years ago. Seosamh MacSuibne (pronounced SHOW sef mac SIV nee uh) was the director of a Gaelic language immersion school in Donegal last year when his students began corresponding with Jones Academy elementary students. The pen pals forged a friendship that would lead to MacSuibne's travels across the Atlantic Ocean to visit Jones Academy and the chief of the Choctaw Nation. He came as an ambassador of goodwill bringing gifts, tributes, and a message of gratefulness from the people of Ireland. MacSuibne expressed that the people of Ireland had never forgotten what the Choctaws had done for them in 1847. In May of this year, the residents of Donegal held a day of recognition at the Gaelic school to commemorate the sacrifice of the Choctaw people and the bond shared by the two nations. They had a ceremony at the school where they hoisted the Choctaw flag, which they fly daily on their campus. There was a parade and a march to a hallowed cemetery outside of town where many of the Irish who perished in the famine had been buried. Music was

played and a flower bed in the shape and colors of the Choctaw seal was dedicated to the memory of those lost and to signify the friendship of the Irish and Choctaw peoples. MacSuibne also brought a proclamation from the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan. She is the deputy prime minister and the second most powerful member of the Irish government. The document was a signed declaration of the union between the Irish and Choctaw nations. Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Brad Spears signed their part of the resolution melding a friendship with the people of Donegal and Ireland. Along with his visit to Durant, MacSuibne was also able to visit Jones Academy and meet with several of the students. He gave a short presentation and then exchanged gifts. MacSuibne brought flutes from Ireland for all the children, two drums, books, art prints, tweed hats and an Irish flag for the elementary school.

The visit was an effort on MacSuibne's part to teach a new generation of Choctaws and Native American students the lessons of sharing and to strengthen the bonds between the two peoples.



Seosamh MacSuibne and 5th and 6th graders at Jones Academy pose for a group photo.

played and a flower bed in the shape and colors of the Choctaw seal was dedicated to the memory of those lost and to signify the friendship of the Irish and Choctaw peoples.

MacSuibne also brought a proclamation from the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary

Coughlan. She is the deputy prime minister and the second most powerful member of the Irish government. The document was a signed declaration of the union between the Irish and Choctaw nations. Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Brad Spears signed their part of the resolution melding a friendship

with the people of Donegal and Ireland. Along with his visit to Durant, MacSuibne was also able to visit Jones Academy and meet with several of the students. He gave a short presentation and then exchanged gifts. MacSuibne brought flutes from Ireland for all the children, two drums, books, art

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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.

Choctaw Nation represented well at national summit

The U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women (DOJ/OVW) extended an invitation for one youth and chaperone to attend the Department of Justice Tribal Youth Leadership Summit to Choctaw Nation Project Safe Director, Lari Ann Brister. Director Brister requested the youth and chaperone from the Youth Empowerment Program (formerly Healthy Lifestyles Department). Director, Martina Hawkins selected two participants to attend; Justin Jernigan, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board member (Durant chapter) and Leslie Rains, Choctaw Nation Community Outreach Specialist.

The DOJ Tribal Youth Leadership Summit was held July 19-23, 2010, at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Thirty Tribal Nations were invited to attend and approximately 130 Native American and Alaskan Native youth and chaperones from across the United States participated in the Summit. Beginning daily with a traditional Opening Circle and prayer, scheduling consisted of a variety of seminars targeting critical current issues related to teens. These included Prevention of Teen-Dating Violence, Healthy Teen-Dating Relationships, Substance Abuse Prevention and Wellness, Leadership Development and many others.

The DOJ/OVW held an interactive session on Healthy Teen-Dating Relationships and Justin Jernigan was one of three selected to facilitate the only youth-led session of the Summit. He was also chosen to speak during the "Listening to the Voices of Tribal Youth" conference, which addressed current issues facing youth and finding solutions for bettering communities.

In addition to the work-



Choctaw Nation YAB member Justin Jernigan, center, poses with the organizers of the U.S. Department of Justice Tribal Youth Leadership Summit.

shops and seminars, youth were provided opportunities to earn points throughout their time at the Summit. Points were gained through team-building exercises, good sportsmanship, enthusiastic spirit and timeliness, among others. Staff members could also award points for those who demonstrated responsibility and fairness, leadership, and respect and trustworthiness. Of the over 100 tribal youth represented, Justin Jernigan, of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, was the top points-earner and received the highest honor awarded during the Summit. He was presented with a traditional Native American blanket for his efforts. Justin also received a beaded necklace for his volunteer work, as well as two certificates of appreciation for exhibiting great character and leadership, and his contribution of insights related to healthy teen-dating relationships in tribal communities.

Throughout the Summit, special attention was given to culture while addressing historical trauma, healing and wellness, positive youth development and resiliency, career exploration, and empowering youth. Further, traditional Native American games, dances and customs were presented and Justin Jernigan was selected to participate in multiple activities. A Traditional Closing Circle with an Honor Song and prayer completed each day.

Notable presenters and

speakers included Larry Echo Hawk (Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma; Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior), Lorraine Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of Fort Hall, Idaho; Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs in the U.S. Department of Justice OVW), Kenneth Gonzales (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico; U.S. Army Reserves since 2001; currently holds the rank of captain), Victoria Ybanez (Navajo, Apache, Mexican; executive director of Red Wing Consulting and facilitates with OVW), LeAndra Bitse (Navajo; creator of Inspire. Motivate. Lead. Inc., dual consultant and marking firm committed to the advancement of young people), Wes Studi (Cherokee; native Oklahoman; Vietnam veteran; Actor: Dances with Wolves, The Last of the Mohicans, Avatar), Evon Peter (executive director of the Indigenous Leadership Institute; chief executive of Gwanzhii, LLC; former Chief of the Neetsaii Gwich'in from Arctic Village in Northeastern Alaska), and many others.

According to LeAndra Bitse, there are approximately 1.9 million Native Americans living in the United States today. Of this, 65 percent are under the age of 25.

While it is well known that Native American youth are the future of tribal nations, many fail to recognize, the future is now.

Summer Jobs for Youth

WIA Now Taking Applications

Deadline:

Must be complete and in the Durant office no later than April 15, 2011.

Applicants must live within the 10-½ counties of Choctaw Nation service area. Applicants must have a CDIB card and be 14 – 21 years of age by April 15, 2011. Because of the large amount of application received last year, the applications that are completed and eligible by April 15, 2011, will be allowed to work.

The WIA Program will begin taking applications Jan. 1 for the Youth Work Program. The program lasts five weeks beginning June 13, 2011, and ending July 15, 2011. Those who worked last year need only to fill out a renewal application packet. Those who did not work last year must fill out the complete application and send all required documentation before the application can be completed.

Below is a listing of dates the WIA staff will be visiting the area schools to hand out applications. To request an application, please call the WIA office to have one mailed.

Applications will be available at any Choctaw Nation field office, school or call the main office in Durant at 580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170, ext.2203.

Don't Wait! Call today!

2011 Youth Work Program School Schedule

SCHOOL	DATE	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
Achille	1/17/11	1:00pm	RENEE BARNHILL	580-283-3775
Antlers	1/19/11	10:00AM	Melinda Armstrong	580-298-2141
Arkoma	1/18/11	9:00am		918-875-3960
Atoka & Atoka Alt.	1/20/11	1:20pm	Ronnie Potts/Chris Hall	580-889-3361
Battiest	2/23/11	8:15am	Jo Tonihka/S. Ebert	580-241-5550
Bennington	1/12/11	1:15pm	Donna Maples	580-847-2737
Bokoshe	1/18/11	10:00am	Suzzanna	918-969-2491
Boswell	2/2/11	9:00am	Linda Green	580-566-2735
Broken Bow HS	2/2/11	11:00am	Monica Billy	580-584-3365
Broken Bow Jr. H	2/3/11	2:00pm	Monica Billy	580-584-3365
Buffalo Valley	1/13/11	1:00am	Amanda Floresona	918-522-4426
Caddo	1/12/11	8:45AM	Mr. Cole	580-367-2208
Calera	1/14/11	8:20AM	Marilla Parker	580-434-5158
Cameron	1/20/11	9:15am	Kristy Cauthron	918-654-3225
Canadian	2/16/11	8:40am	Carolyn Miller	918-339-2706
Caney	1/20/11	9:00AM	Seal Daniel	580-889-6607
Choctaw Interlocal	1/14/11	10:45am	Sheree Williams	580-931-0691
Clavin	2/2/11	11:00am	Ext.3	405-645-2411
Clayton	1/13/11	9:00am	Ramona Davis	918-569-4492
Coalgate	1/18/11	11:00AM	Karen Burris	580-927-2592
Colbert	1/14/11	9:15AM	Jane Hughes	580-296-2624
Crowder	2/16/11	10:00am	Patty Tucker	918-334-3204
Durant HS	1/21/11	9:30am	MS. CAIN	580-924-4424
Durant Jr. H	1/21/11	11:30am	Kenny Chaffin	580-9241321
Eagletown	2/17/11	1:30pm	Chris Maxwell	580-835-2242
Ft. Towson	1/26/11	9:00am	Cindy Brumley	580-873-2780
Goodland	1/18/11	9:00am	Bill Edwards	580-326-7567
Haileyville	2/17/11	9:00am	Veronica Miller	918-297-2627
Hartshorne	2/7/11	9:00am	Sheryl Baker	918-297-2033 Ext. 1210
Hawthorne	1/27/11	1:00pm	Ruth Ebert	580-245-1440
Heavener	1/6/11	8:55am	Janet	918-653-4307
Howe	1/12/11	12:15pm	Peggy	918-658-3368
Hugo	1/5/11	9:30am	Susan Stepp	580-326-9648
Hugo Jr. High	1/5/11	11:00am	Sarah Henson	580-326-3365
Idabel	2/2/11	8:45am	Mary Lou Hunter	580-212-6964
Indianola	2/3/11	10:00am		918-823-4231
Keota	1/19/11	1:00pm	Pat Jones	918-966-3246
Kinta	1/14/11	11:00am	Mr. Morton	918-768-3338
Kiowa	2/15/11	9:15am	Wade Daniel	918-432-5631
Leflore	1/10/11	9:00am	Patricia Holly	918-753-2345
McAlester	2/9/11	8:00am	Anna Booth	918-423-2804
Mccurtain	1/14/11	9:20am	Perry Amwine	918-945-7237
Moyers	1/19/11	9:00AM	Marsh Armstrong	580-298-5547
Panama	1/13/11	9:00am	Janet Steelman	918-963-2415
Pittsburg	2/15/11	12:15pm	Karey Anderson	918-432-5513
Pocola	1/4/11	10:30am	Carolyn	918-436-2437
Porteau	1/14/11	10:00am	Lila	918-647-7700
Quinton	2/11/11	10:00am	Judy Needam	918-469-3100
Rattan	1/19/11	1:00PM	Michelle Burchfield	580-587-2715
Red Oak	1/5/11	11:00am	Teri Ober	918-754-2426
Rock Creek	1/14/11	1:00pm	Jan Frederick	580-295-3137
Savanna	2/10/11	9:30am	Charles Everett	918-548-3887
Silo	1/12/11	11:45AM	Kate McDonald	580-924-7000
Smithville	2/23/11	10:15am	Delbert McBroom	580-244-3333
Soper	1/19/11	8:50am	Sue Haggerty	580-345-2213
Spiro	1/5/11	1:00pm	T. McKinney	918-962-2493
Stigler HS	1/5/11	9:30am	Ms. Hoover	918-967-2374
Stigler JH	1/7/11	9:30am		918-967-8721
Stringtown	1/18/11	1:30PM	Rick Herd	580-346-7423
Talihina	1/5/11	9:00am	Julie McClain	918-567-2259
Tupelo	1/18/11	9:30AM	Jerry Romines	580-845-2381
Tushka	1/20/11	11:15AM	Matt Simpson	580-889-7355
Valliant	2/2/11	12:45pm	Kim	580-933-7293
Victory Life	TBA			
Visions Acadmey	1/19/11	9:30am	Amy Riley	580-924-2423
Whiteboro	1/6/11	10:00am	Marsha H.	918-567-2556
Wilburton H.H.	1/11/11	9:30am	Charish Marshall	918-465-3797
Wilburton H.S.	1/11/11	10:15AM	Carmon Harkin	918-465-2575
Wister	1/11/11	11:00am	Francine Curnutt	918-655-3132
Wright City	2/2/11	10:30am	Bob Finley	580-981-2558

Tribal members enjoy festive Thanksgiving



Jack Touchstone, left, and Sam McGowan, both of Idabel, visit with each other before lunch is served at the Idabel Thanksgiving dinner.



Crystal Gaines and Tracey White of Garvin show off their 8-day-old daughter, Allie Nicole White, at the Idabel Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 17.



Belton Leroy and Betty Walker of Idabel enjoy the Thanksgiving lunch on Nov. 17. The couple was also celebrating their 50th anniversary that day.



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant greets Willis and Lysander Melton, along with 6-month-old Amara and 3-year-old Vickie Melton, at the Talihina Thanksgiving dinner.



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant joins Louise Van Ritte and Ben Melton Jr. of Talihina at the Talihina Thanksgiving dinner.



Delton Cox greets his cousin, Imogene Welch, at the Poteau Thanksgiving dinner.



District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard poses with mother Christine Dillard of Caney, and uncles Ted Leflore of Bentley and Don Leflore of Sherman, at the Atoka Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 10.



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox, Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton visit with Carol Harris, Juanita Gonzalez (District 5 princess) and Victoria Gonzalez at the Spiro Thanksgiving dinner.



Chief Pyle visits with Connie May, Cheryl Lovell and Leona Qualls at the Poteau Thanksgiving dinner. The ladies are cousins and granddaughters of original enrollee Dain White.



District 4 Councilman Delton Cox welcomes Geraldean Thrift to the Poteau Thanksgiving dinner.



District 3 Councilman Kenny Bryant visits with Carl McIntosh at the Talihina Thanksgiving dinner.



Anmarie Steele of Idabel holds her son, 10-month-old Atticus, at the Idabel dinner.



Veterans Advocacy staff member John Lance serves tea to Faye Frazier, Benny Gibson, Rebecca Noah and Norma Choate.



Peggy Nichols introduces her family to Assistant Chief Gary Batton - Taya Ward, Teela Walton, Alley Broomfield, Lailah Walton, Tamara Nichols, Billy Broomfield, Carmen Broomfield and Ron Nichols Jr.



District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard greets Alma Gossett of Caney and Sherman and Deloise Armstrong of Lehigh on Nov. 10 at the Atoka Thanksgiving dinner.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Robert Mahata Calvert visit at the Atoka Thanksgiving dinner.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton poses with John Casey, president of the Spiro Senior Citizens.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton welcome Linda Mitchell to the Spiro Thanksgiving dinner.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton chats with Shannon Billy and 3-month-old Nareli at the Atoka dinner.



Councilman Jack Austin relaxes before the Thanksgiving dinner with Antlers' resident Joe Martin.



Levoyce Ludlow visits with Chief Pyle at Bethel's Thanksgiving lunch.



Chief Pyle greets Wilma Noah and Rhonda Reynolds at Bethel.



Barbara Hightower and Judy Guthrie enjoy dinner at Broken Bow.



Councilman Mike Amos says hello to Micah Frazier, Tyra Baker and Brooklyn Frazier at Broken Bow.



Miss Owa Chito Cheyenne Shomo presents a proclamation naming November National Native American Heritage month from President Obama to Assistant Chief Gary Batton, right, and Councilman Mike Amos.



Josephine Gilmore passes out flyers to everyone at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner announcing the annual Choctaw Nation Pow Wow in Durant.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Sybel Cometti visit while at Coalgate.



Maggie Mae Anderson enjoys seeing Chief Pyle at Coalgate's Thanksgiving luncheon.



Councilman James Frazier stops by to say hello to Lou and Gladys Daniel at Coalgate.



Councilman Bob Pate stops to sample the rolls at McAlester's Thanksgiving feast. Also pictured are Oneida Winship, Scarlet Williams, Betty Thomas, James Green, Winald Muse, William Johnson and Andrew Johnson.



Ready for lunch in McAlester are Harlow Cunningham, Farrell Cunningham and William Moore.



Dorothy and A.R. Kirkpatrick enjoy their day at McAlester.



Shirley and Jerry Lowman and Councilman Kenny Bryant are ready for lunch at Smithville.



Councilman Kenny Bryant, Sidney Johnson, Farris Ashulintubbi and Mitchell James.



Councilman Kenny Bryant visits with Mr. Ludlow.



Laura Carney is a much-respected elder at Smithville.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Bob Mayfield and Chief Gregory E. Pyle pose for a picture while at Stigler's Thanksgiving luncheon.



Chief Pyle holds Emily Welch. Dad and mom are T.J. and Jessica Welch. Emily turned 16 months old on Nov. 27.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton are pictured with Shasta and Pat Jones, granddaughter and daughter of Councilperson Charlotte Jackson.

Choctaw members celebrate Thanksgiving



Great-great-grandfather Lloyd B. Morris shows off the newest addition to his family, 8-day-old Rylie O'Neal, to Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman James Frazier. Also enjoying Rylie in this five generation picture are uncle Devon Asbill, grandmother Lori Asbill, great-grandmother Deedia Francis and mother Markie O'Neal.



2010 District 8 Little Miss Choctaw Princess Summer Moffitt performs a hymn in sign language at the Hugo dinner.



Kyle, Morgan, Melvin and Mary Kay Francis with Raven Noriega waiting for their tasty Thanksgiving meals at Wilburton.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton gives thanks to the Crowder senior citizens for the gift basket they presented to him.



Beloved Sharp along with her daughters Taloa Raven, left, and Onna Raven enjoying their dinner at Tushka Homma.



Councilman Perry Thompson stops to smile with Mack and Marti Goodwin at the Thanksgiving dinner in Hugo.



Councilman Jack Austin pauses to pose with Les Wiliston at the Tushka Homma dinner.



Jeremy Haiakanubbi, formerly of Oklahoma City, and Kody Kaniatobe speak with Chief Gregory E. Pyle at the Durant dinner.



Chief Pyle smiles with the grandchildren of James Maytubby, Makayla Maytubby, Tyler Carney and Maliyah Carney in Wright City.



Councilman Jack Austin speaks with Solomon Tonihka at the Wright City dinner.



Chief Pyle says hello to Sherry K. Owens and Frieda Carterby at the dinner in Durant.



Assistant Chief Batton enjoys the great company and Thanksgiving meal at Crowder.



Councilman Ted Dosh welcomes District 9's Outstanding Elder for 2010 Rosa Gilmore to the Thanksgiving dinner.



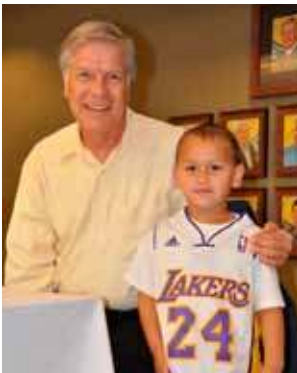
Leonard Jascko speaks with Chief Pyle and Councilman Joe Coley at the Wilburton Thanksgiving dinner.



Calett, Taryn and Tamara Morris enjoy the Hugo Thanksgiving dinner.



Kyle Meashintubby shares some pecan pie with daughter Neela at Tushka Homma.



Chief Pyle is pictured with Noah Baker at the Wright City Thanksgiving dinner.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton takes a moment from greeting Choctaw members for a fun picture with his family at the Thanksgiving dinner in Tushka Homma.



Norma Sam and Margaret Woodruff smile with Chief Pyle and Councilman Joe Coley at the Wilburton dinner.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Annual POW WOW



Jones Academy seniors get ready for the future



Destiny Mathis, Kayla John, Koty Duran, and Danielle Cruz sign up for activity during Mountaineer Monday at EOSC.



Dwyane Terry kisses the pig during Mountaineer Monday activities.

Jones Academy 12th-graders have been busy this year getting ready for their post-secondary school futures. Besides finishing all of their high school requirements for graduation and testing for college entrance exams, the students have been busy preparing for the opportunities ahead. The seniors attended a college fair held on Oct. 26 at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. They were able to meet with recruiters from 30 different universities and several field representatives from assorted professions. EOSC also sponsored the annual Mountaineer Monday on Nov. 1. This event allowed our students to tour the campus, classrooms, and dorms as well as get information about admissions, testing, and financial aid. A record 420 seniors from the immediate area attended the exhibition. Jones Academy seniors will be making visits to other institutions of higher learning and vocational training this year. They are in the process of making some heady decisions about their immediate futures.



EOSC Campus on Mountaineer Monday.



John Two Bulls is among the Jones Academy students benefitting from free computers.

Jones students receive free laptops

Students at Hartshorne Junior High are benefitting from the 1 to 1 Digital Classroom Grant that will change the way students do their class work. As part of the recent federal stimulus money and the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, each seventh- and eighth-grader received a free laptop to assist them in their academic efforts. To date, about 40 Jones Academy students have received their laptops. The idea of the program is to teach students how to navigate available technology and improve their research skills. Students receive and complete their classroom assignments regularly on their laptops. The laptops, class work, and homework have become integrated. It appears that students are staring into the way of the future. Will textbooks become obsolete? One thing is certain – Jones Academy students are on the cutting edge of learning. This will be their opportunity to prepare themselves for the future and the high tech world of education and business.

Third Native American Repatriation Summit works to improve congressional act

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Many experts in the field of historic preservation gathered Oct. 26 in the conference area at the Choctaw Nation Casino and Resort in Durant for the third Native American Repatriation Summit (NARS III).

The purpose of the summit was to discuss the problems and possible solutions for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

NAGPRA is a federal law passed in 1990. According to NAGPRA sources, it provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items – human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony – to lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes.

“The reason NAGPRA was created in the first place is because Native American human remains and sacred objects were being treated differently than the remains of all other ethnic groups,” explains Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Tribal archeologist and NAGPRA coordinator.

Thompson continued by mentioning, “For most ethnicities, when the bones of their ancestors were disturbed or dug up, they were simply reburied. When Native American remains were unearthed, they were usually put into museums or federal repositories. By 1989, roughly 200,000 Native American human remains were being held in federally funded collections.”

During the summit, historic experts from numerous tribes such as the Choctaw, Seminole, Creek, Absentee Shawnee, Chickasaw, Caddo and others came together to discuss ways to improve the NAGPRA process of reclaiming the human remains.

Notable speakers at the summit included Dr. Joe Watkins, the Director of Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma, who served as the keynote speaker. Dr. Watkins spoke about NAGPRA being 20 years old this year, the positive effects it has elicited, as well as the challenges that it faces in the days to come.

The president of the Na-

tional Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), Bambi Kraus, who traveled from Washington, D.C., was also in attendance and led a discussion panel about culturally unidentifiable remains.

During the summit, those in attendance shared concerns about the NAGPRA. “It is such a long process,” said Terry Cole, official Tribal Historic Preservation officer for the Choctaw Nation.

The way the act is carried out is a tedious process as well. The steps that must be taken for the remains to return to their ideal burial location from a museum begin with determining cultural affiliation. The museum is charged with determining cultural affiliation in consultation with tribes.

“The language in the act says you must prove lineage,” said Cole. This is a difficult task, considering the remains are sometimes centuries old.

Once the affiliation has been established for the NAGPRA-eligible materials in a collection, the museum must publish a Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register.

Then the tribe requesting the remains must submit a “Notice of Intent to Repatriate.” The museum that has possession of the remains will then submit that document to the Federal Register, a national publication, for other tribes to review.

“We have organized to speak as one voice.”

- Terry Cole
CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Once submitted, it can take up to a year for the Notice of Intent to Repatriate to make it to the publication.

“One of the problems with NAGPRA is that after 20 years, many of the museums have still not filed Notices of Inventory Completion, and so the tribes cannot repatriate these remains and sacred objects,” divulged Thompson.

If the Intent to Repatriate stays in the publication for 30 days without a claim from another tribe, the tribe who requested the remains may rightfully claim the remains and bury them in the place closest to where the



Pictured, front, are Ted Isham, Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Presley Byington, Choctaw Nation; Terry Cole, Choctaw Nation; Lisa LaRue, United Keetoowah Band; Henrietta Ellis, Absentee Shawnee; Margeaux Talley, Chickasaw Nation; Bobby Gonzalez, Caddo Nation; Sandra Massey, Sac & Fox Nation; back, Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation; Robert Cast, Caddo Nation; Michael Tarpley, Jena Choctaws; Bambi Kraus, NATHPO President, Tlingit Indians; Cyndi Houser, Choctaw Nation; Crystal Douglas, Kaw Nation; Dr. Andrea Hunter, Osage Nation; Gingy Nail, Chickasaw Nation; Natalie Deere, Seminole Nation.

deceased members lived their lives.

The length and complexity of the process is a problem because the tribes to which the remains belong have long held the belief that the journey of their ancestors is not complete until they have returned to the earth. “They cannot complete that journey if they are stored away in boxes,” elaborates Cole.

For many years, Cole, and others who share the same beliefs have been working to return tribal ancestors to their proper burial grounds. “There are about 2,000 Choctaw remains out

process.

“We have organized to speak as one voice,” said Cole. By using a group effort, Cole hopes to greatly improve the efficiency of NAGPRA.

On Nov. 17, Thompson and Cole traveled to George Washington University in Washington, D.C. to present the NAGPRA Review Committee with the resolution that was created by the coalition of Oklahoma Tribes at NARS III.

Attending this meeting were “many key players,” described Cole. Among notable scholars was Choctaw archeologist Dr. Dorothy Lippert, who has worked for the repatriation program of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution since 2001, and who also produced an annual Heritage Day for the museum. “I was very impressed,” Cole added.

The review committee favorably received the resolution created at NARS III. The ultimate decision to accept and decline resolutions is the duty of the Secretary of Interior, but the committee’s acceptance is the first step to changes.

The resolution asks the review committee to appoint more staff to enforce the laws of NAGPRA upon the museums and repositories that house Native American remains.

Cole informed the committee that several of these repositories and museums

are not reporting their inventory of remains to the tribes within the allotted time of five years.

Because of this, disputes arise between tribes and the museums that house the remains, which are settled by the NAGPRA Review Committee. In order to retain fair judgment “they immediately established a subcommittee,” stated Cole.

This subcommittee would have the duty of ensuring the committee’s unbiased judgments in such disputes.

The Coalition of Oklahoma Tribes also requested that the head of government agencies that deal with the Native American remains travel to Oklahoma on an annual basis.

The committee favorably received this request and work will begin to fulfill it in the near future.

After reviewing the resolution created at NARS III, the NAGPRA Review Committee informed Cole and Thompson that they would use this resolution to gain support for Native American repatriation.

“The resolution will go into the permanent record,” stated Thompson. This means that it will be in file from now on for others to review and refer too for future requests.

Along with going on the record, the resolution will also be published on the NAGPRA website, an act that Thompson says will gain publicity and support

from those who are able to make changes in the law.

Once more publicity and support are created, funding for repatriation acts through NAGPRA should increase.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, in association with NAGPRA, has had recent success with a large number of human remains.

Choctaw Nation’s Historic Preservation Department has completed the NAGPRA process as stated above and will re-bury 124 remains in the spring of 2011 which were reclaimed from Natchez Trace Parkway.

These remains will be put back in the soil of Mississippi, the same location from which they were excavated. “This is the largest we have ever done,” Cole stated proudly.

It is the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s goal, along with the other Oklahoma tribes, that through the collaboration like that of NARS III, and the cooperation of the Federal Government, that examples of repatriation success like this one become more common.

“This resolution is a success, not only for the Choctaw Nation, but for Native Americans around the country. Through cooperation and careful deliberation between the tribes and the Federal Government, we are another step closer to preserving our Native history,” stated Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Tribal Council

Continued from page 1
Assault Grant.

Councilmembers also approved applications to the U.S. Department of Education for the Talent Search Program, to National Science Foundation for the Discovery Research K-12 Program, and to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program and the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.

Also on the agenda and approved were a grant proposal for the Family Violence Prevention Program, submittal of the DHHS Administration on Aging Proposal, and disposal of surplus equipment.

Council agreed to a donation to the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City. The \$500,000 donation will be matched by the Chickasaw Nation and will be paid over a period of two years.

Halloween festivities at Tushka Homma enjoyed by costumed crowds of all ages



Costume winners ages 0-5: Logan James Dexter, Devin Lee Dority, Reese Wolfe, Selena Taylor Brandon Marris and Raynie Tom.



Costume winners ages 11-15: Logan Brown, Giana Allensworth, Jessica Achon, Jasmine Schon and DeeDee Francis.



Costume winners ages 6-10: Jerry Ingle, Jordan Nolan, Joshua Anderson, Cobin Dancer and Dillan Wolf.



Costume winners ages 16 and up: Connie Courtwright, Marcia Hampton, Mandy Allensworth and Edna Johnico.

Putt-putt golf was one of the many events enjoyed by the participants in the Halloween activities at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s Capitol.



Having a great time at the Halloween festival!



Choctaws enjoy Austin community gathering in October



Andrew Jacks helped Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton with door prizes at Austin.



Nathon Wagon with Luksi.



Chief Pyle and nephew Aaron.



Maximus Flores (two months old) and father, Larry.



Chief and Assistant Chief with W.M. Gibson of Austin.



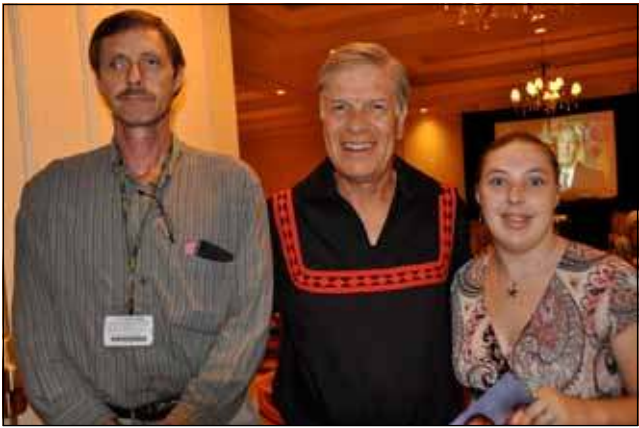
Lawrence Nelson, a Vietnam Veteran, is pictured with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Donna Wilson Tawkowty came from San Antonio with a donation for the Outreach program youth coat drive. Joey Tom is pictured at the program booth with her.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton with Linda Carol McBride and Morrison Rankin.



Chief with Leeon Bench and Crystal Titus. Leeon came from Canyon Lake so he could get his photo ID.

Oklahoma City-area Choctaws have community meeting



Damien Slinkey helped Chief Gregory E. Pyle with door prizes at the community gathering in October in Oklahoma City.



Billy Smith and wife Nelda of Midwest City with Chief Pyle.



Ed and Tina Enslinger with Assistant Chief Batton.



Chief with Betty Thompson, whose wheelchair was pushed by her mom, Bernice Bordan, and accompanied by her son, David Thompson.



Three-year-old Elias Hasler and 3-month-old Jocelyn Hasler of McCloud.



Sadie Rainbolt, 9-months-old, and her mom Cassandra Legg.



Karl Cruse and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Norris Samuels visits with Chief Pyle,

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION - JANUARY 2011						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <small>New Year's Day</small>
2	3	4 Antlers by appt.	5	6	7 Idabel 9:00-12:00 Broken Bow 1:30-3:00	8
9	10 Durant 8:00-4:30	11 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.	12 Poteau 11:30-1:00	13	14	15
16	17 Talihina 10:00-2:00 Durant 8:00-4:30	18 Crowder by appt.	19	20	21 Wright City by appt.	22
23 / 30	24 Wilburton 10:30-2:00 Durant 8:00-4:30	25 Atoka 9:30-11:00 Coalgate 12:30-2:30	26	27	28	29

Perkins passing on his knowledge of Choctaw culture

Award-winning artist shares his talents in welding and pottery

By **CHRISSEY DILL**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw culture and traditions can be passed down in a number of ways. There are many Choctaw members who use their skills to show their talents by creating arts and crafts that exemplify the beauty of Choctaw culture. One of these talented Choctaws is Edmon Perkins, a farmer who lives and works on the original allotment of his grandfather, Robert Perkins.

Ed chooses to pass on the knowledge of Choctaw tradition and culture through his Choctaw pottery. Ed has recently displayed three pieces of his work and competed in the annual Choctaw Nation Art Show occurring during the annual Labor Day Festival, for which he received first place and an honorable mention. He has entered his work in the Choctaw Art Shows for over five years and has received numerous awards for his dedication and artwork.

Ed’s interest in art began seven years ago when his wife saw an advertisement for the CN Art Show in the paper and told him he should enter. Ed is a farmer and has done a lot of work with welding, so he decided to give the art show a shot. He constructed the Choctaw Nation seal using metal and his welder, his first-ever entry in the CN Art Show. This piece earned Ed his first Heritage Award, called the Culture Award at this time. This award is given to the work of art that promotes and educates the practices that are specific to Choctaw culture. Ed’s Choctaw seal also received a second place ribbon.

Soon after seeing his clear talent for welding work, then curator for the Choctaw Nation Capitol in Tushka Homma Beverly Nelson, asked Ed to bid on a project that would “change his life,” he said. Beverly informed Ed that they were in need of a wrought iron fence around the capitol and asked if he could help. Being more than happy to lend his welding talent to the Choctaw Nation, he began constructing a template for the fence with the help of his son, J. Ed, daughter Rebekah, and her husband Spencer. Ed constructed the fence in a barn at his home, located on the South Canadian River’s border in Atwood, and hung it from the rafters as he painted it. He is responsible for building the pillars and gates found at Tushka Homma as well. “Being at the Capitol and meeting so many wonderful people associated with the Choctaw Nation really changed my life,” exclaimed Ed. The following year, Ed’s children gave him a certificate



for pottery lessons at East Central University, where he learned the basics from pottery instructor Wayneth Weddle. He picked up several techniques but was able to discern a lot about pottery on his own through his projects. During this time, Ed was using an electric kiln to fire and finish his pottery.

The Choctaw Nation Museum purchases items for Chief Gregory E. Pyle to take with him in his travels across the nation as an example of the tribe’s culture. “They’ve bought some of my stuff,” said Ed. “It’s really an honor.” The tribe has recently purchased a snake flute and a small owl vase Ed’s created.

This past Labor Day at the Choctaw Art Show, Ed received an honorable mention with his owl vase, a Heritage Award with another vase and first place with his 1835 Yanush storage pot. When asked where he got the idea for this particular piece, Ed said that the storage pot was a reproduction of a pot displayed at an Oklahoma City museum. Ian Thompson provided a photo of the pot that really helped Ed with the details.

Throughout his years of pottery and sculpturing, Ed has taught himself many techniques and has learned which type of pottery he loves best. He began his work with an electric kiln and has moved on to using a traditional fire pit, just as his Choctaw ancestors used. Though at the beginnings of his pottery, Ed’s work was more primitive, his main focus and projects today are traditional Choctaw pottery. He constantly tries to improve his own style and to keep his work as authentic as possible.

Ed explained the difference in commercial clay and native clay. He explained that you can coil easily with local clay

but not so easily with commercial clay. With commercial clay, which is treated for use with a pottery wheel, you must shape the pot and let it dry for 24 hours then add another layer to build the height of the pot. You don’t have to let the native clay rest like that. “I use the wheel for throwing pots,” said Ed, “but not when coiling. I’m heading more and more toward coiling only.” Ed used the coiling method to make his most recent pottery that received first place and a Heritage Award. Coiling is his favorite type of pottery-making method because “you can shape it any way you want,” he said. “What I like about pottery is the versatility of it,” explained Ed. “You can glaze it, sculpture with it or make traditional designs.”

Though Ed usually uses commercial clay to make his pottery, he was invited to go with Choctaw archaeologist Ian Thompson to dig clay in Tom, Okla., which he used to make his most recent pots contributed to the Art Show. Thompson teaches pottery classes for the Choctaw Nation which Ed has attended. Ian helped Ed with several techniques and he learned how to use a traditional fire pit to fire his pottery, which he uses continually today for his traditional designs. When asked what advice he has to give aspiring pottery makers, Ed simply stated: “Talk to Ian; he’s great.”

“The Choctaws have really been supportive of me,” said Ed. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to build the fence for the Capitol and the joy it brought him to work on the Capitol grounds. “I was a solitary farmer and it brought me in a different direction.” Ed said he is proud of what the Choctaws have done for him and they do good work. “Building that fence really changed my life,” he remembered with a smile, “working with my family and meeting so many nice people was a great experience.”

Even though the Labor Day Festival and Choctaw Art Show is over, Ed is still hard at work creating truly impressive pottery. Recently he’s been selected to sell his pottery on Dec. 4-5 at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian Art Market in Washington, D.C. More than 35 native artists from North and South America have been chosen to participate in this annual weekend art market and offer a wide selection of items from their collection for purchase. There are six pottery makers, including Ed. He is very grateful for having been chosen to showcase his items.

Ed Perkins is a successful contributor in the effort to keep Choctaw tradition and culture alive. His pottery has shown he truly cares about showing people the Choctaw culture. He has proven his work is exceptional by the many awards received at the Choctaw Art Shows. Ed plans to continue his pottery and possibly look into sculpturing. “Eventually I’d love to get into bronze sculpturing,” he said with aspiration. No matter what form of Choctaw art Ed turns his sights to, it promises to be pleasing to look at and a good example of traditional Choctaw culture.



Caught Being Good – Tobias Goodbear, Shalane Black, Chiv Begaye, and Justin Jefferson.

Caught being good

In an effort to promote a positive climate and improve the quality of student character, Jones Academy has a program in place to achieve these goals. That program is called “Caught Being Good.” Jones Academy staff is encouraged to “catch” students in acts of kindness, courtesy, and selflessness. Students “caught being good” are cited for positive behaviors and recognized for their example. As an added measure, the students’ names are placed in a drawing to reward individuals for their good choices. The students selected receive a Wal-Mart gift card as acknowledgement for their conduct. The program has helped to boost morale among students and staff and develop a positive atmosphere at the school.



Joe Simpson and Elisa Reyes.

Energy saving tips - Duct work

Heating and cooling is one of the home’s biggest uses of energy, so it’s important to make sure all your ductwork is tightly sealed. Studies show 10 to 30 percent of conditioned air in an average system escapes from ducts, reports the U.S. Department of Energy.

Clearly, no one wants to be paying for hot or cold air that is simply going to waste, or be responsible for more CO2 emissions than is necessary. Therefore, it’s a good idea to hire a professional and experienced service technician to come out and test home systems and fix any duct problems that are uncovered. Don’t just try to apply duct tape, because it’s not very effective. The unsealed ducts in attics and crawl spaces lose air – uninsulated ducts lose heat, wasting energy and money.

Properly sealing ducts can save the average home up to \$140 annually, according to the American Solar Energy Society. A number of utilities also offer incentive programs to make duct improvement even more affordable.

Finally, well-sealed ducts can also help cut down on mold and dust, leading to healthier indoor air.

Duct Tips:

- Check ducts for air leaks. First look for sections that should be joined but have separated and then look for obvious holes.
- If using duct tape to repair and seal ducts, look for tape with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) logo to avoid tape that degrades, cracks and loses its bond with age.
- Remember that insulating ducts in the basement will make the basement colder. If both the ducts and the basement walls are uninsulated, consider insulating the basement walls and the ducts.
- Be sure a well-sealed vapor barrier exists on the outside of the insulation on cooling ducts to prevent moisture buildup.
- Get a professional to help insulate and repair all ducts.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle greets Eugene Branam as they arrive at the Fall Fest in Antlers.



District 5 CHR Sherry McGuire hands a door prize to Elsie Walls of Rattan.



Tribal program representatives hand out information.



Lucinda Gaines, Charleen Samuels and Maud Stubbs, all of McAlester.



Choctaw Nation Outreach Services held its annual Fall Fest Oct. 26 at the Pushmataha County Fairgrounds in Antlers. Numerous program representatives were on hand with information and giveaways for all who attended. Guest speakers, entertainment and a free lunch were also enjoyed by everyone.



Joann Taylor of Wright City visits with Councilman Jack Austin.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Jane Mintz of Bokchito.



Carmen Garcia-Mejia and mom Nakisha Garcia-Mejia of Battiest.

Wood sculptor’s style is ‘Slow and Steady’

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

It’s hard to call Lyman Choate just a woodworker. A more accurate title is artist, with wood as his canvas. From turtles and eagles to buffalo and people, Choate turns a plain piece of wood into a remarkable piece of art, carving whatever he can “see in the wood,” he says.

A resident of Broken Bow for the past 49 years, Choate walks the banks of the Mountain Fork River in search of just the right pieces. Root sections of cedar trees are his wood of choice, but he also uses others such as catalpa and black walnut. He uses only “found” pieces to make his sculptures, never cutting down trees for the wood. “I just use what I find washed up on the banks or pieces that people give me,” he said. “In the wintertime, when the river is up it’ll wash all kinds of things up on the banks. I just go down there and collect what I can. I look for the root pieces and if I find one I like I just take it home with me.”

Choate began carving wooden sculptures about 17 years ago, picking up the hobby after a friend gave him a horseshoe rasp. “I just started carving with that rasp, some hand files and a hack saw...just whatever I had,” he said. “I’ve always done a little whittling but after that I decided to make something bigger. I still have the first piece I made. It looked like buffalo coming up out of the ground.”

He owned no electric wood tools then but over the years has added several to his collection.

Choate has created a little more than 80 sculptures over the years. This year alone he’s made 10 – the most ever in one year. Some he’s given away, some he’s sold, and many are located all across the United States. “I’ve given them away or sold them to people in California, North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Illinois, Tennessee, Colorado, and several other states,” he said.



Lyman Choate of Broken Bow shows off his wooden red cedar turtle sculpture, “Slow and Steady,” one of more than 80 sculptures to his credit.

Choate doesn’t take special orders for sculptures and he doesn’t keep track of the time it takes for him to craft his art. “I do it as a hobby. I don’t keep up with how long it takes to make one. It might take me a month, might take two months. I don’t rush. I just work on it when I feel like it.”

A recurring theme throughout his sculptures is the turtle. “I just like turtles,” he said. “I have a turtle that comes to my house every year and he’s been coming for about the past six years,” said Choate. “I started marking him and every time he comes by I’ll mark him again.”

His process is to first determine what to carve from the wood he has. “I don’t usually have something in mind; a lot of times I can just see something in the wood,” he said. “If I don’t really see anything then I usually just make a turtle or an eagle, just whatever strikes me.”

To start, he rough saws off the large sections that won’t be part of the piece. Next, he uses a grinder to shape it into the general form of the sculpture. Then he moves to

the smaller tools and gets into the detail work on the piece, first marking it and then using small, fine burrs and hand files. He then spends several days sanding the wood. “It takes a lot of time to sand it. I sand it all by hand,” he stated.

When he’s satisfied with the sanding, he’ll finish each piece by applying a coat of tong oil. Tong oil, once it’s soaked in, helps to preserve the wood, removes moisture, and keeps it from cracking. After the tong oil cures for 24 hours, he’ll buff it with steel or artificial wool to shine it and smooth it out. He then repeats the tong oil/buffing process about three times to get the finish that he wants.

Each piece is completed with a nameplate stating the title of the sculpture and his name. He also marks them all by hand carving his logo into it, which is the year and his name, with the first letter of his name decorated with two feathers as a tribute to his Native American heritage.

Choate’s sculptures can be viewed at many places throughout the Choctaw Nation. In addition to several pieces of his art on

display at the Choctaw Nation Museum in Tushka Homma, Choate’s wooden sculptures are in schools and buildings, including several at the tribal complex in Durant.

The new Child Development Center in Durant is also adorned with his sculptures. One piece, “Water Turtles on a Log,” was designed with the terrain surrounding the center in mind. “They’ve got a small dried creek running through there and they saw turtles down there,” he explained. “That’s why I made that one and donated it to the center.”

Another at the center has three separate sculptures carved from one piece of wood and it tells the traditional Choctaw story of how the turtle got the cracks on its back. “The first part is a little girl throwing a stick and she hits herself in the head and the turtle laughs at her,” he said, describing the piece. “In the second section, she hits the turtle with a stick and breaks his shell. The third section has the ants putting the turtle back together.”

Though he’s invited to several art shows every year, Choate chooses to enter only two – the annual Tushka Homma art show and the annual Owa Chito art show. He has won numerous awards from both art shows, including several top prizes. “It’s a blessing to get to know some of the artists in it and what they do. Not everyone can do it,” he said.

Choate and his wife of nearly 49 years, Ruby, have five children, Lymona, Lydia Gayle, Lynda Beth, Randy and Russell. They also have 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with another great-grandchild due in January.

He realizes that the sculptures are a part of his legacy – something that will always be around for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren to enjoy, and that’s one of the reasons he loves to craft his wooden works of art.

Broken Bow appreciation dinner



Councilman Mike Amos, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren and Chief Gregory E. Pyle enjoy the dinner.



Pictured with Chief Pyle are Hope Mulkey and Matt and Mildred Ashilintubbee, all from Eagletown.



Ashlin Choate, Senior Miss for District 2 and Councilman Mike Amos pose for a photo.



Robert Frazier visits with Bill and Louise Amos at the dinner.



Marissa Baker and Carla Sanders are all smiles.



Dean Thompson and Ivan Battiest are ready for dinner.



Sue Dwight and Ada Wilson enjoy each others company.



Chief Pyle speaks to the crowd.

Coalgate Head Start students dance at state capitol

Continued from page 1
reaction of the crowd as they watched the children because it’s completely different from what they’re used to seeing when they think of tribal dance,” she said. “Choctaw dance isn’t like pow wow dancing, which I’m sure is what they’re used to, so that was interesting to see.

“I was curious to see how the children would react performing in front of all the people,” she continued. “They did so well. I was excited to see the Head Start dance program taking off and I was proud to be up there with the students.

“I know the children were so proud while they were dancing and their

parents were excited to see their children dancing on the capitol rotunda,” she continued. “I’m sure they’ll always remember this.”

The children who attended were Rylie Blue, Jett Burris, Bentley Hill, Caleb Hopkins, Kale Horton, Damian Martinez and Nekoda Wainscott.

The Coalgate teachers

who assisted on the trip were Staci Sawyer, Sherry Grigg, Stephanie Lucas and Linda Woods, along with Choctaw Nation Head Start Coordinator Shawn Cress.

Sleeper is currently working to expand the dance program to all Choctaw Nation Head Starts in the 10-1/2 counties by early 2011.

Eastern Oklahoma State College holds appreciation luncheon

“It’s all about the community,” Choctaw Councilman Joe Coley told Eastern Oklahoma State College staff members at a luncheon for him on the Wilburton campus.

Eastern President Dr. Steve Smith scheduled the luncheon meeting with the Councilman to say thank you for his and the Choctaw Tribe’s involvement with improvements on the campus.

The Choctaw Nation has aided the college on several projects through the years including renovation of Johnston Hall on the campus.

Most recently the Choctaw Nation provided improvements for the west end of the Wilburton campus by paving the parking area south of US highway 270 and north of the Agriculture Complex.

“For years,” Smith said, “the area needed attention. The college did not have the funding to pave the area. Literally thousands of students use the complex each year from all over the state.



Choctaw Councilman Joe Coley, center, with Eastern administrators Vice President of Student Affairs Vic Woods, Athletic Director/Baseball Coach Aric Thomas, President Dr. Steve Smith and Director of Maintenance Operations Rudy O'Donley.

“If it’s raining, it can become a real problem.”

The Agriculture Complex is used for a number of community and college functions each year including 4-H and FFA activities, the county fair and a number of livestock shows the largest of which is the District Livestock Show sponsored by Eastern Agriculture Division and the Wilburton Lions Club.

The Choctaw Nation also provided paving and striping for the baseball and

softball parking areas north of the Agriculture Complex.

“There is simply no other way the college could have paved the two areas during current economic times,” Smith said.

“Without Councilman Joe Coley’s representation to the Choctaw Nation and the Nation’s community concern, it would not have happened in the foreseeable future.

“It wouldn’t have happened without their continued community and campus

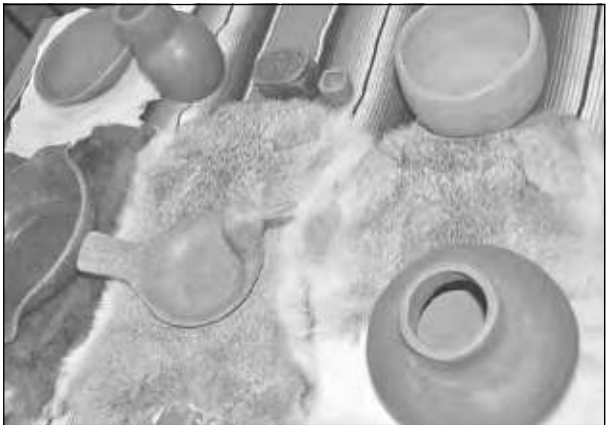
involvement,” he said.

Coley said the Choctaw Nation incorporates a little more than 10 counties in the southeast quarter of Oklahoma. Coley is one of 12 councilmen who represent the interests of the areas.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides some funding to tribes for distribution within their areas for community involvement. Coley said the tribe provides aid to communities for fire and rescue, roads and bridges and other projects.



Dr. Ian Thompson, tribal archaeologist, demonstrates firing newly made pottery.



Traditional Pottery Expo



Pat Blagg creates her very first piece of Choctaw pottery.

The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department hosted a Traditional Potters' Expo Nov. 27 at the Choctaw RV Park in Durant. Participants who attended the expo were able to meet some of the talented tribal artists who are considered to be on the "ground floor" of revitalizing Choctaw pottery as a living art form.

"It was a good event for raising awareness for how well our potters are doing," said Dr. Ian Thompson, tribal archaeologist. "It's a way to show the community their work." At least 15 potters were present to display their works of art while "around 150 to 200 visitors" came to see the pottery.

The potters showcased their artwork, answered questions, and gave talks about their inspiration. Attendees were able to view and purchase the hand-made Choctaw pottery created from natural Oklahoma clays and watch live pottery firing demonstrations.

"The common thread with this expo is that all the clay was hand-dug, the pottery was hand-made, and the pieces were all wood-fired," said Thompson. Various types of pottery were on display at the expo, most of which are functional pieces such as cooking bowls, eating bowls, bottles, vases and other dishes.

Moccasin class



The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department, along with the organization of tribal archeologist Dr. Ian Thompson, conducted the first-ever Choctaw Moccasin class on Nov. 6 from 1 to 5 p.m. The moccasin class was taught much like Dr. Thompson's Choctaw pottery classes which he teaches around five or six times a month at various locations. The moccasin class took place at the cultural events building in Durant. Eight participants were present to hear Dr. Thompson's instructions on making traditional Choctaw moccasins. "We made Choctaw-style moccasins which are different from other moccasins," said Thompson. "That's what made the class special." Thompson also said they have had many people call and ask where they can purchase Choctaw-style moccasins, but "you can't buy them anywhere," he said, which makes the class even more significant.

Participants learned all the basics of making Choctaw-style moccasins in just a few hours. When asked if another moccasin class is in the near future, Thompson stated, "I'd like to do it again." Bringing back the Choctaw-style moccasin is a good way to show the Choctaw cultural influence is still alive within the tribe. "By making moccasins according to the traditional Choctaw designs, we are keeping a connection with our ancestors," said Thompson.



Learning to make banaha

Jim Parrish, director of the School of Choctaw Language, participated in a banaha-making class during one of Durant's Tuesday night language/history classes.

Women's clothing

Over the last few months, the writers of Iti Fabvssa have been receiving quite a few inquiries about the type of clothing that Choctaw women wore back before European contact. In this month's edition, we'll be presenting some of what is known about the garments that were made and worn by our talented early foremothers. To do this, we'll be taking you on a trip backwards through time.

The beautiful traditional dresses worn by Choctaw women today are made from colorful cotton cloth and edged in fine ribbon work. Garments like these have been made by Choctaw ladies for several generations, but Choctaw women's wear has not always looked like this. Today's dresses are the product of a long line of development, which has incorporated a great deal of change in both fashion and material. The forerunners of today's Choctaw ribbon work dresses can be seen in paintings from the 1840s-1870s, some of which depict women wearing separate skirts and blouses with very simple, but elegant ribbon work. Choctaw women made these outfits from store-bought cloth in styles that resembled the clothes worn by their Euro-American neighbors, but they often put their own twist on it by executing Tribal designs in the ribbon work.

The origins of these cotton clothes go back to the early 1700s, when Choctaw women first began obtaining cloth from French traders. Written accounts from around this time period suggest that they first made simple, topless skirts from this cloth (Adair 1775:6-7), which resembled an indigenous style of clothing that had been worn by their ancestors for centuries.

In the millennia before Europeans entered Choctaw country, our grandmothers designed, produced and wore clothing that was both functional and beautiful. Rather than purchasing their materials, they drew upon a great deal of traditional knowledge, skill, and hard work to transform natural objects into the raw materials that were needed to make clothing. The two primary materials that they used include tvlhko (buckskin) and nan tvnna (cloth) made by Choctaw people.

The process of Choctaw traditional hide-tanning is complex; someday it will be the topic of a full Iti Fabvssa article. However, we'd like to include just a little bit about it here to give some idea of exactly what all went into making our grandmothers' clothing. Soft, clothing-grade buckskin was made by carefully skinning a hide from a deer carcass, scraping off the membrane that lies on the flesh side of the hide, coating the hide in wood ash (probably) for a few days, scraping off the hair as well as the underlying epidermis and grain layer of the ash-soaked hide, putting the scraped hide in a creek for a day to wash out the wood ash, wringing the hide out, soaking it in brains to dress the hide fibers, wringing the hide out again, constantly stretching and pulling the brain-soaked hide as it dries so that it will become soft, and finally, exposing the dry, softened hide to smoke to protect it

from getting damaged by water. This produces, a soft, warm, amazing product, but it takes more than 10 hours of hands-on work per hide before one can even begin to make it into clothing. Tired yet?

Our early ancestors also produced their own cloth, ranging from coarse to very fine in texture. The fibers that they used to make it came from buffalo wool, the inner bark of small mulberry saplings cut in the spring, or from the stalks of certain annual plants including stinging hvshtapolha (stinging nettle), nuchi (milkweed), and dogbane gathered in the fall. The fibers were processed either by soaking the plant material in water until everything except the fibers started to rot away, or through manual processes that involved a lot of pounding and peeling. The fibers were then spun into yarn, either by hand or through the use of a drop spindle. Bundles of plant fiber yarn were sometimes bleached through different chemical processes, and then colored with vegetable dyes. These were then twined by hand, into a piece of fabric, or a finished, whole garment. It appears that a great diversity existed in the twining patterns that they used. Some



Detail: "Choctaw Village Near the Chefuncte," Francois Bernard (1869)

of it was very fancy, roughly equivalent to today's lace.

Once the materials were processed, an ancestral Choctaw woman was ready to make her clothing. In the centuries leading up to European contact, the basic unit of clothing that our grandmothers wore was the alhkuna, a type of wrap-around skirt (Swanton 1946:472). We know that Southeastern Tribes sometimes made these skirts from buckskin (Adair 1775 6-7), and at times and places Choctaws probably did too. However, our best existing source (Anonymous 1918[1755]:67-68) says that Choctaw women in the early 1700s made their alhkuna out of a piece of fabric, as thick as canvass, that was created from a combination of buffalo wool and plant fiber. The fabric is said to have been "double like a two-sided handkerchief", and to have measured approximately 54 inches wide by 160 inches long.

The garment was wrapped around the waist and tied on to make the skirt that probably went down to about the knees. Depending on the form of the garment and the resources of their wearer, an alhkuna could serve as work clothes, or be a part of fancy attire. Mississippi is very warm and humid in the summer, and this light, cool garment, was usually all that our grandmothers wore during the hot season.

During the cool season, the alhkuna could be augmented with several other pieces of clothing. One of these, a turkey feather mantle, is known as kaskmo in the Choctaw language (Byington 1915:225). These were made by attaching the iridescent feathers from the turkey's breast to both sides of a net. The feathers overlapped each other and created a warm, soft, garment (Adair 1775:423). Early



Iti Fabvssa



Lorelei Sullivan wears a Choctaw dress to greet visitors at Tribal Headquarters.

documents suggest that some of the kaskmo worn by influential people were very, very fine and beautiful pieces of clothing. Written accounts also indicate that many Southeastern women, instead of wearing a feather mantle, draped a long, rectangular piece of cloth or buckskin over their upper body, wrapping it over their left shoulder, and tying it under their right arm (Elvas 1995[1557]:75-76). It is likely that many of our Choctaw grandmothers did this, particularly if they lacked the resources or time to make a kaskmo.

In cold weather, Choctaw women, like their Chicka-



A Tunica woman wearing an alhkuna (de Batz 1732)

On cold days, or when traveling through thorny patches, Choctaw women often wore buckskin pucker-toed moccasins. The long uppers of the moccasins extended half-way up the calf where the nearly met the

bottom of the alhkuna. Summer or winter, one thousand years ago, or today, Choctaw women have always enjoyed accessorizing their outfits with jewelry, make-up, and hair-styling. Due to space, constraints, these will have to be a topic for another time.

References Cited

- Adair, James
1775 The History of the American Indians... Printed for Edward and Charles Dilly. London.
- 1776
Anonymous
- 1918 (1755?) Translated by John Swanton. An Early Account of the Choctaw Indians. Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association 5(2).
- Byington, Cyrus
1915 A Dictionary of the Choctaw Language. Bureau of American Ethnology Vol. 46, Washington.
- Elvas, a Gentleman from
1993[1557] True Relation [1557]. Translated by James Alexander Robinson.
- In The De Soto Chronicles Vol. 1, edited by Lawrence Clayton et. al, pp. 19-220. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
- Swanton, John R.
1946 The Indians of the Southeastern United States. Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 137. Greenwood Press Publishers, New York.

Choctaw Traditional Pottery Class

Durant

Jan 9, Jan. 23 – 4:30-9 p.m.
Cultural Events Building, 4451 Choctaw Rd.

Poteau

Dec. 27, Jan. 10 – 5-9:30 p.m.
Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

Idabel

Dec. 28, Jan. 11 – 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

Antlers

Dec. 16, Dec. 30, Jan. 13 – 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Antlers Library and Community Building
202 N. High St.

Sherman, Texas

Jan. 20 – 5:30-8 p.m.
Renaissance Retirement Center, 3701 N. Loy Lake Rd.

OBITUARIES

Bill Roebuck and Jade Elizabeth Woods Moore

Bill Roebuck Moore passed away Oct. 6, 2010, in Sayer, Pa. He was born on June 25, 1985, in Ada to Eddie and Shirley Moore.

Bill attended Soper High School and graduated as valedictorian in 2003. He received an Honor’s Scholarship to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in English in 2006. On Sept. 30, 2006, Bill married Jade Woods in Paris, Texas. Bill was self-employed as a freelance writer and proofreader.

Bill is the great-grandson of Oscar Roebuck, an original Choctaw enrollee.

Bill was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Fay Roebuck, paternal grandfather Bill Moore, aunt Alice Gentry, all of Soper, and by his aunt, Joyce Redmon, of Monahans, Texas.

Bill is survived by his parents; maternal grandfather Melvin Roebuck, and paternal grandmother Doris Moore, all of Soper; brother Anthony Moore of Richardson, Texas; brother Chad Moore of Hugo; uncle Jerry Moore of Broken Arrow; and uncle Billy Redmon of Monahans, Texas.

Jade Elizabeth Woods Moore passed away Oct. 5, 2010, in Ithaca, N.Y. She was born May 8, 1986, in East Meadow, N.Y., to Linda and Joe Woods.

Jade attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Political Science in 2010. After SOSU, Jade received a two-year Fellowship to Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., to attend its Institute of Public Affairs graduate program. Her future plans were to become a lawyer and advocate for the March of Dimes.

Jade is survived by her parents and sister Sarah Woods of Boulder, Colo.

Bill and Jade had a love for books, reading and music.



Dick Walton Blackwood

Dick Walton Blackwood, 88, died on Oct. 3, 2010, after a short illness. He was born in Foster on Aug. 29, 1922, to Belve Blackwood and Lucinda Gibson Blackwood. He was enormously proud of his Choctaw heritage. His mother, Lucinda, born in Whitebead in 1886, was an original enrollee.

Dick was a proud U.S. Army veteran. He enlisted in the Army in December 1942 and served with the 851st Aviation Engineer Battalion in Europe from June of 1943 until December of 1945. Like many veterans of World War II, he forged friendships and lifelong bonds with many members of his company. His devotion to the service of his country was a lifelong pursuit. As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1947 and a lifetime member since 1971, Dick became actively involved in the VFW in 1969. In 1974, he was elected Commander of Post 9477; he later served as District Commander and was the first Native American State Commander for the Department of New Mexico. Additionally, he was named All-American Post Commander. Nationally, he served on a number of committees, including the National Veterans Foreign Affairs Committee, National Political Action Committee, National Safety Committee, National Defense Committee and was National Aide de Camp. Through his work for and commitment to veterans, Dick helped to achieve greater benefits and recognition for all veterans. Chief among his priorities was allowing women veterans to join the VFW as full members, upgrading veterans’ hospitals and guaranteeing the availability of a bed in a Virginia hospital for all WWI veterans. In November of 2002, Dick was presented with a Citation of Appreciation from the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars in recognition of his service to the United States veterans and the VFW.

Dick has been a member of Masonic Lodge #46 in Lovington since 1967. He is a 32nd degree Mason and belonged to the Valley of Santa Fe Scottish Rite Lodge in Santa Fe, N.M.

Dick made his home in Lovington, N.M., since 1946 when he went to work for Mobil Oil Company (then Magnolia Oil Company). After the war many young men from Oklahoma were drawn to the high plains of southeastern New Mexico by the opportunities offered by the oil companies for a prosperous and productive life.

Dick and Billy Jo Blackwood proudly raised their daughter Lucinda Blackwood there and always called Lovington home. Dick retired from Mobil in 1986 after over 40 years of employment.

Dick is survived by his only child, Lucinda Blackwood of Los Angeles and his wife, Juandale, of Lovington.



Marie Higgins

Marie Higgins, 78, of Broken Bow passed away at the Christus St. Michael Health Care System in Texarkana, Texas.

The daughter of Tecumseh and Sophie (Jefferson) Anna, she was born on March 21, 1932, in Broken Bow. Marie was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking, feeding chickens, growing roses, watching Christian programming and cooking channels. She was of the Presbyterian faith.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Thomas; four brothers, Jake Anna, Solomon Anna, her twin, Cornelius Anna and Ezra Anna; four sisters, Clarsey Anna, Maude Ward, Cordie Edelman and Naomi Lewis; one grandson, Bradley Higgins.

She is survived by her children, Clara Higgins of Broken Bow, Tom Higgins of Broken Bow, Tecumseh Higgins of Broken Bow, Jonah Higgins of Broken Bow, Jonas Higgins and his wife, Susie, of Eufala and James Higgins of Broken Bow; one sister-in-law, Barbara Anna of Copan; five grandchildren, Tonya Cupit, Michael Higgins, Menda Higgins, James Richard Higgins and Brent Minter; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.



Samuel M. Townsend

Samuel Morley Townsend passed away Oct. 21, 2010. Sam was born to Clark and Ethel (Elkins) Townsend of Valliant, on June 12, 1935, one of twelve children.

Sam attended and graduated from Valliant High School in 1953. He attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton from 1953 until he transferred to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 1955. Sam earned his way through college by working as a welders’ helper working on the pipeline, often with his older brother, Bill. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education in 1957. Sam later earned a master’s degree in Agriculture Education from Oklahoma State and an education specialist degree from University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Sam taught agriculture in Sidney, Iowa, from 1960 until 1968. He enjoyed teaching in Sidney, especially his work with Future Farmers of America and meeting the many farmers in the local area. He always had many fond memories of his students in Sidney. In 1968, Sam was hired as Superintendent of the school in Clay Center, Neb., where he worked until his retirement in 1997. Sam’s love of education was never more evident than in his efforts to provide the best education possible to generations of children in Clay Center. Sam was very appreciative of all of the teachers, administrators and school board members that he worked with over the years in this endeavor.

Sam married Carol Crystal Lewis on Jan. 27, 1960. They had three children, Charles, Beth and Susan Townsend. Sam was an active member of the United Church of Christ in Clay Center for over 40 years. He also served as an EMT for over 20 years in Clay Center. Sam was a Mason who entered as an Apprentice in October 1956, at the Masonic Lodge in Valliant. He became a Master Mason on April 20, 1957. He received an award for 50 years of faithful Masonic Service to the Lodge in 2006.

Sam served as a member of the Army National Guard. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage and his father, Clark Townsend, was an original enrollee. Sam served on the Board for the Education Service Unit Nine for over 12 years. He remained an active member of the Nebraska Association of School Boards. After retiring in 1997, Sam remained involved in education by substitute teaching in local area schools including Sandy Creek and Lawrence Nelson. He very much enjoyed meeting students from these communities and being able to return to his original love - teaching.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Brunson, Pushmataha and Joe Clark Townsend, all of Valliant; two sisters, Pauline Tidwell and Lucy Stephens of Oklahoma City.

He is survived by his wife, Carol of Clay Center; his son, Charles, and daughter-in-law Stacey Townsend of Aurora, Colo.; daughters, Beth Townsend of Des Moines, Iowa, and Susan Townsend and son-in-law Brendon Sibley of Lincoln, Neb.; six grandsons, Trey Charles, Brunson C.J. and Elijah Layne Townsend, Samuel Lawrence Easter, Parker Alexander and Hawkin Taylor Townsend Sibley; brother Bill Townsend of Plano, Texas; sisters, Mary Daniels and Jane Whitten of Idabel, Sarah Dunaway of Spencer, Juanita Townsend of Oklahoma City, and Pat Privott of McCloud; and many nieces and nephews.

Mary LaVerne White Pond

Mary LaVerne White Pond, 83, lifetime resident of McCurtain County, passed away on Oct. 10, 2010, at Broken Bow. She was born Sept. 18, 1927, in Eagletown, the daughter of Noodie and Martha Wilson White.

Mary LaVerne was a homemaker. She was affiliated with the Pentecostal Faith and enjoyed sewing, needlework, fishing and gardening.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James Walter Pond; a daughter, Mary Hoover; a son, Earl Pond; sons-in-law, Albert Lovewell and Raymond Hoover; five granddaughters, five grandsons and a great-grandson.

Mary LaVerne is survived by her daughters, Tincy Lovewell and husband Clyde of Tom, Martha Pond Braddock and husband Jerry of Cookville, Texas, and Sissy Lovewell of Foreman, Ark.; sons, J.W. Pond and wife Janet of Dierks, Ark., Robert Pond of Tom, Paul Bond and wife Sherry of Seagoville, Texas, Walter Pond of Klute, Texas, James Pond of San Francisco and Mark Pond and wife Gwen of Broken Bow; a daughter-in-law, Pat Pond of Horatio, Ark.; a brother, Edwin McDonald of Clayton; 27 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.



Mary Ellis Louis Tolbert

Mary Ellis Louis Tolbert passed away Nov. 14, 2010, at the age of 67. She was born April 3, 1943, in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Mary was proud of her Choctaw heritage and served as a board member of the San Antonio Pow Wow Association.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Tolbert, and her father, Solomon Louis.

She is survived by her mother, Wahneta Louis; her sons Michael Peterson (Christina) and Donald Leavenworth; brother Michael Louis (Vivian); granddaughter Emily Peterson; niece Kathy Louis-Butts; nephew Kevin Louis; and many friends.



Meredith Elizabeth Anderson Huelsman

Meredith Elizabeth Anderson Huelsman, 48, of Midwest City, passed away Sept. 29, 2010, in Ada. She was born March 17, 1962, at Portsmouth, Va., to James Meredith and Elizabeth White Anderson.

Meredith attended Naranca Elementary School in El Cajon, Calif., and graduated from El Cajon High School. She married Gary T. Huelsman on Nov. 28, 1992, in Cocoa, Fla. They moved to Midwest City in July 2007 from Nashville, Tenn. Gary preceded her in death on July 22, 2010. Meredith was a homemaker and of the Presbyterian faith.

Survivors include one son, James Louis Huelsman of Midwest City; mother Elizabeth Anderson of El Cajon; three sisters, Yvonne Lema of Florida. and her sons Charlie, Paul and Jimmy, Sharon Stone of Virginia. and her daughters, Heather and Melanie, and Brenda Moniz of Rhode Island and her daughter, Sonya; two brothers, James Keith Anderson of El Cajon and his children, Cody and Kailin, and Sean Anderson of El Cajon; and numerous Huelsman relatives.



Carrie Louis

Carrie Louis, 60, of Durant, passed away on Oct. 1, 2010. The daughter of Leo Willie and Ethel (Watson) Battiest, she was born on June 9, 1950, in Wright City, and was a member of the River of Life Church in Hochatown.

On May 21, 1981, Carrie and Jesse L. Louis were united in marriage at the Tohwali United Methodist Church in the Oak Hill Community. Carrie had been blessed with a beautiful voice and enjoyed using that gift volunteering to sing at nursing homes, singing with the District 2 Choctaw singers (Golden Age Singers) and at church. She also enjoyed walking, visiting with friends, genealogy research and cooking traditional Choctaw dishes. Carrie loved and cherished her family and especially loved being “Grandma”. She enjoyed taking care of her family and always put their needs before her own.

Carrie was preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Ethel Battiest.

She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Jesse, of the home; three children, Michael John and wife Michelle of Stillwater, Shelly Louis and Kelli Louis of Durant; six grandchildren, Kayla Whitaker, Dathan, Zachary and Riley John, Caleb and Elijah Louis; two great-grandchildren, Gregory and Haley Whitaker; four siblings, Louis Battiest, Barbara Battiest, Haskell Battiest and Margaret Hernandez all of Broken Bow; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Ramona Fryer Bugg

Ramona Fryer Bugg passed away on Nov. 3, 2010, in Allen, Texas. She was born in Healdton, to Cecil and Callie Fryer on Feb. 26, 1939. Childhood homes included Fort Worth, Denton and Gainesville, Texas.

Ramona was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Walter Lee Bell Jr.; and her brother, Frankie Fryer.

She married Joe D. Bugg, June 25, 1971, in Gainesville. The family owned several businesses in the Oklahoma City area before entering into real estate. Ramona also worked in the areas of video production and public relations. In her retirement, she lived in McKinney, Texas. She was a very caring person.

She is survived by her husband, Joe D. Bugg; three children, Kent Bell of Oklahoma City, Nikki Hobbs of Bulverde, Texas, and Jeff Bell of Oklahoma City; seven grandchildren, Sommer Wildes, Jeremy Bell, Callie Hobbs, Sadie Hobbs, Ryan Bell, Hannah Bell and Katye Bell; five great-grandchildren, Drake, Beau and Dean Wildes, and Jayden and Aubree Johnson; four sisters, Pauline Lane and husband, Cleo, Hugh Gene Johnson, Shirley Broughton and Karen Jackson and husband, Jimmy; sister-in-law Wanda Fryer; and many nieces and nephews.

Judy F. Hultz

Judy F. Hultz, 67, of Whitefield passed away Oct. 16, 2010. She was born on July 27, 1943. Judy was saved at the age of 10. She served the Lord for 57 years.

She married Roy Hultz, on Valentine’s Day in 1984. She moved to Oklahoma City in 1985 where she was involved in the Bus and Deaf ministries and was a member of the Windsor Hills Baptist Church.

Judy retired from the federal government after 43 years of employment with the EEOC. Judy moved to Hoyt in 2006 where she became a member of the Antioch Baptist Church

Judy is survived by her husband, three daughters, a son, her mother, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

Lorine Gray

Lorine Gray, 87, of McAlester passed away on Oct. 14, 2010, in McAlester.

Born Aug. 23, 1923, in Le-Flore to Boe and Lillie (Stotill) Isaac, she married Harold Gray on Nov. 17, 1958, in McAlester. She was a homemaker. She enjoyed traveling, dining with her friends and time spent at the casino.

Survivors include her sons, Al Gray, James Gray and wife Judy, Richard Isaac and Lashon, all of McAlester, Jimmy Steele and wife Carla of Krebs; eight grandchildren; sisters, Helen Prescott of Jacksonville, Fla., Louise Boyd of McComb, Miss.; brother Joe Charles Isaac of Talihina; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Boe and Lillie Isaac; her husband, Harold Gray, on Oct. 26, 2004; sister Lora Mae Evans, and a brother, Presley Junior Isaac.

Mary Ruth Crowder Coats

Mary Ruth Crowder Coats was born July 29, 1927, in Boswell, to William “Buck” and Ruby Crowder. She passed away on Jan. 2, 2010, in Queen City, Texas. Mary worked for many years for Jordan Home Health and was a member of Salem Baptist Church.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde; her parents; three sisters and four brothers.

She is survived by sons, Frankie Coats of Bloomburg, Texas and Freddy Coats of Atlanta, Texas; daughters, Kathy Murray of Queen City, and Barbara Edwards of Lewisville, Texas; sisters, Lucy Ellington of Huntsville, Texas, La Roma Ball of Jasper, Texas, and Dorothy Adcock of Houston, Texas; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Ricky ‘Little Rick’ Roberts

Ricky “Little Rick” Roberts, 45, formerly of Wright City, passed away Sept. 16, 2010, in Albuquerque, N.M. He was born May 8, 1965, in Talihina to Elias and Josephine Roberts Sr.

Ricky was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed traveling, fishing and visiting with friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Marvin Roberts.

Ricky is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Elias Jr. and Phyllis Roberts of Broken Bow; six sisters and brothers-in-law, Evelyn and Nicholas Tom of Phoenix City, Ala., Donna and Domingo Rodriguez of Wright City, Virginia and Melvin McCleskey of Wright City, Barbara and Willie Giddens of Broken Bow, Faye and Wayne Anna of Wright City, Betty and Willard Crosby of Durant; six aunts, seven uncles, 15 nieces, 11 nephews; numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Edward Henry Hayes

Edward Henry Hayes, 60, passed away on Sept. 21, 2010, at his home in Tygh Valley, Ore. Hays was born the first child of Sam and Juanda (Gould) Hayes on June 4, 1950, in Prineville, Ore. On Dec. 13, 1977, at the Tygh Valley Tavern, in Tygh Valley, Ed married Dawn Marie (Cameron) Hayes.

Sam and Juanda moved their family to Tygh Valley in 1952 and raised their three boys. After attending school in Tygh Valley, then graduating from Wasco Union High school in Maupin, Ore., class of 1968, Ed went onto working for the Tygh Valley Mill until its closing in the 1990s. He then worked at the Mt. Fir Chip Mill in The Dalles, Ore., until its closing. He then went to work for Dodge Logging, following in the footsteps of his dad. Ed worked as an equipment operator until the spring of 2010. Ed was very proud to be a Choctaw.

Ed is survived by his wife, Dawn; two daughters; two brothers, Dan and Mary Hayes Selah of Washington and Larry and Darlene Hayes Dufur of Oregon; Uncle Joe Ray and Aunt Kathryn Hayes of Stringtown; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins of Oregon, Texas, Missouri, and Oklahoma; grandchildren, all of Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, many aunts and uncles. Ed had never met a stranger and had many friends.

Calvin McLish

Calvin Coolidge Julius Caesar Tuskahoma McLish, 84, passed away at his Edmond home on Aug. 26, 2010, after a long battle with leukemia.

A lifetime resident of Oklahoma, Cal was born on Dec. 1, 1925, in a dirt floor dugout in Anadarko to John and Lula (Edwards) McLish. He grew up in Oklahoma City and attended Central High School. Cal left school in 1943 to play baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers, beginning a professional baseball career as a player, as a coach and as a scout with several MLB organizations and spanning over 60 years. He could pitch both right- and left-handed. He was inducted into the Jim Thorpe Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. Cal was honored to serve his country in World War II as an infantryman with the U.S. Army, 3rd Division, and proud of his Choctaw heritage. An avid golfer all of his adult life, Cal logged eight holes-in-one over his lifetime. An athlete and a competitor, he was also a man who loved words and expressed his thoughts often through one of the many poems that he wrote. Always ready with a story or quick with a joke, Cal made many friends from all walks and stations of life and they will remember his humble wit and wisdom fondly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and three sisters, his daughter, Ruth Ann McLish in 1972, and his granddaughter, Kallie Beth McLish in 2002.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ruth (Lamer) of the home; brother Ed and wife Esther and family of Texas; sons, Cal Jr. and wife Kathy of Norman, John and wife Pam, Tom and wife Ginny and daughter Luanne Howell and husband Brian, all of Edmond; along with 13 grandchildren.



Bobby Douglas Highfill

Bobby Douglas Highfill, 38, passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 13, 2010. He was a San Diego native, who attended Valhalla High School, Cuyamaca College, and San Diego State University. Highfill was husband to Amy Highfill, father to Nathan, Eldon and Silniria. He was a loving father, husband, son, brother, uncle and friend. Bobby was a stranger to no one, always “preaching” on the importance of philanthropy and education. He brought out the best in the people he surrounded and never gave up on anyone.

He was proud of his Choctaw heritage, and prided himself as being a player on the three-time national champion Choctaw Stickball team, Beaver Dam. He was an active contributor to many local organizations, a youth wrestling coach for Valhalla Kids Club for 10 years. He was passionate about family, hiking, surfing, Native American singing, dancing, and the environment. He strived to keep the Native American community thriving as a member of numerous councils.

Bobby founded Highfill Group Engineering, which did consulting on water pollution prevention. Many of his accomplishments in science included computational modeling of calcium uptake of the cardiac muscle, Halo bacterium growth, and phyto-chemical assay of medicinal flora of Northern Peru.



Delbert Allen Hotubbee

Delbert Allen Hotubbee, 82, of Yanush passed away Sept. 5, 2010, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. He served with the Army Air Corps during World War II in North Africa and Germany. He enjoyed crappie fishing with his family and especially his brother-in-law, Jack Pate. He enjoyed building furniture and gardening. Delbert was an avid reader of the Bible, American History and he loved the Lord. He was especially knowledgeable of Choctaw history and proud of his heritage. His energy, skills and sense of humor made him fun to be around and he will be missed.

Delbert was preceeded in death by his parents, Allen Hotubbee and Ruthie Hotubbee, and his sister, Syble Reed.

Delbert is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lahoma Hotubbee; their four children, Kenneth and Jan Hotubbee of McAlester, Karen and Wayne Goodner of Tucson, Ariz., Keith and Dawn Hotubbee of Booneville, Ark., Carl Hotubbee of Albuquerque, N.M.; nine grandchildren, Kendra Hotubbee, Ruth Russo, Carly Goodner, Erin Northrop, Lukas Hotubbee, Sarah Hotubbee, Lindsey Fauteck, Lauren Latter and Adam Hotubbee; four great-grandchildren, Joslin, Parker, Madison and Jackson; brother Ben Hotubbee of Wilburton; sisters, Aline Shelton of Yanush and Hazel Ridgeway of Tulsa; as well as many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Marshall Smith

Marshall Smith passed away Nov. 5, 2010, in Paris, Texas, at the age of 81.

Marshall Smith was born July 8, 1929, in Boswell, the son of Eric and Dixie (Holder) Smith. He married Mary B. Pillars on Dec. 23, 1949, in DeQueen, Ark. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Boswell, the Boswell School Board and various other Agriculture Committees. He was a rancher and enjoyed working with cattle. He loved listening to gospel music, spending time with his friends at the Choctaw Nation Senior Citizen Center and his family was an important part of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one granddaughter, Wendy Lynn; one brother, Pete Smith; three sisters, Lila King, Sally Savard, Barbara Mixon; one niece, Karen Kelsae.

Marshall is survived by his wife, Mary, of the home; three sons, Marshall Smith Jr. of Durant, Ronnie Smith of Boswell, and Gary Smith and wife Denise of Boswell; daughter Linda Woolbright of Boswell; five grandchildren, Kevin Smith of Lewisville, Texas, Scott Smith of Oklahoma City, Cole Smith and wife Jamie of Kolleen, Texas, Dalton Smith of Boswell, Lindsey Smith of Durant; three great-grandchildren, Tristan Smith, Skyla Smith, Shyla Smith; brother-in-law, Denvil “Pete” Mixon; two special friends, Keith and Kylie Edge.



Charles B. Falconer

Charles B. Falconer Sr. passed away on Nov. 15, 2009. Falconer was born on Jan. 11, 1921.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene, and son, Don.

Survivors include three children, Doris Schmitt of Washington, Charles B. Falconer Jr. of Oklahoma and Diana Rich of Washington; seven grandchildren, Lori, Dwayne, Daniel, Jeanette, Chris, Stephanie and Jenny; 14 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, all of Washington.

Charles was a World War II veteran, manager of Chevron Stations and had a small farm in Spokane, Wash. He worked in Juneau, Alaska, as manager of Chevron and then worked for State of Alaska doing restoration work on the Capitol Building. He returned to his family homestead in Oklahoma and did cattle ranching.

His father, William Charles Falconer, was an original Choctaw enrollee. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was a great historian about Oklahoma, family history and much more. His grandchildren will miss his history lessons and stories he told to them. He was hardworking and honest. He was a humble man who did not care about worldly appearances. His daughter, Doris, had the privilege of seeing him saved. He is greatly missed by all of his family in Washington.



Lucy B. Johnson

Lucy Johnson, 98, of Little Rock passed away Oct. 6, 2010, at home. She was born July 10, 1912, in McAlester. She was a member of New Life Baptist Church of Alexander, Ark.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmie; her son, Richard and wife, Ruby and two grandchildren.

Survivors include three children, Mary Anderson (Wally) of Waunakee, Wis., Ray Johnson of Russellville, Ark., and Nancy Griffith (Curtis) of Little Rock; 11 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.



Timothy Roy Vermillion

Timothy Roy Vermillion passed away on Sept. 22, 2010, in Tulsa. He was born in Chula Vista, Calif., on June 28, 1967, to Lloyd Vermillion and Beverly Sheppard, who was the granddaughter of Gus T. Crawford, original enrollee from Stonewall.

Tim attended Webster High School in Tulsa where he was a member of the Blue-T wrestling team. In 1983, Tim enlisted into the service of the United States Army and served an overseas tour of duty in Germany.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Beverly, and stepfather Wayne T. Dodd of Tulsa.

He is survived by his girlfriend, Shauna Robinson, and their son, Adam Vermillion, of the home; father Lloyd Vermillion of Alabama; and siblings, David Vermillion of Tulsa, Lisa Peek and Tracey Duncan of Georgia, Kimberly Christensen of Indiana, Nancy Butts, Beverly Buttrey and Cleveland Southern of Vian.



Phoebe F. Fisher All Runner

Phoebe F. Fisher All Runner, passed away on Sept. 19, 2010, surrounded by family. She was born March 13, 1917, in Stigler to George and Otis M. Fisher.

Phoebe served her country during World War II as a member of the Women’s Army Corps. Following her Army service she became Dorm Matron for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools at Fort Defiance, Ariz., and then retired from the Albuquerque Indian School. She was a member of North American Indian Women’s Association and WAC Veterans Unit 60. Phoebe was also a proud member of the Carlisle Community Baptist Church for many years.

Phoebe was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Cedric All Runner Sr.; sisters, Alice Fisher, Norma Ruth Bacon and Susie Jane Morris; and brothers, Israel, David James, Job, and Robert Noah Fisher.

Phoebe was survived by her son, Cedric All Runner Jr., and numerous nieces and nephews.



Mattie Belle Jones

Mattie Belle Jones, 75, of Kiowa, passed away Nov. 2, 2010, in Tulsa.

Mattie was born on Sept. 9, 1935, in Pittsburg County, to Ida Jefferson and Jefferson Wade.

Mattie enjoyed spending time with her family, friends and especially her grandkids. She also enjoyed reading her Bible, fishing, camping and cooking outdoors. She was a member of Cedar Indian Baptist Church for many years. She will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Lester Jefferson, Robert Prock, Calvin Dean Prock; and nephew, Lester Prock.

She is survived by her brother, Buster Jefferson and his wife, Jerry, of Oklahoma City; sister, Doris Grayham and her husband, Bentley, of Oklahoma City; sons, Fred Warden and Jefferson Jay Warden of McAlester; daughter Ann Etta Baskin and husband Daniel of Durant; grandchildren, Crystal Morgan, Rachel Moore, Brett Warden, Tommy Warden and Billy Warren; many nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren; and special friend Quinnie Day.



Ben Colbert Sr.

Ben Colbert Sr. passed away Sept. 25, 2010, in Soper at the age of 82. Ben was born June 6, 1928, in Soper, the son of Frank and Salor (Homer) Colbert. He lived in that area all of his life.

He married Wilma Jean Colbert on Dec. 2, 1947, in Paris, Texas. For about 40 years he worked in construction, working on bridges for a majority of that time. Ben enjoyed fishing and coon hunting, and spent some time raising and training bluetick hounds. He was known for his gardening, which included greens, polk salad, cayenne and jalepeno peppers. He could always be found near the coffee pot.

He was preceded in death by parents; his wife, Wilma Jean Colbert; one son, Jimmy Harold Colbert; one sister, Estherline James; one brother, Hampton Colbert.

Benjamin is survived by eight children, JoEllen Davenport of Hugo, Jeanette Hudlin and husband Calvin of Soper, Patricia Rodriguez of Garland, Texas, Benjamin Colbert Jr. and wife Debra of Soper, Beverly Colbert of Soper, Leslie Flanagan and husband Jerry of Garland, Rita Colbert of Soper, and Karen Sant of Mesquite, Texas; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Andrew Colbert, Richard Colbert, and Royce V. Colbert; one sister, Freda (Colbert) Ashby; and numerous neices and nephews.



OBITUARIES

Eunice Frances Gardner Moore

Eunice Frances Gardner Moore passed away Sept. 11, 2010. She was born Sept. 30, 1919, in Banty to M.L. and Minnie Gardner. She married Webb Moore on Nov. 16, 1944, in Lubbock. They operated farms in Lubbock and Hockley counties. They were also partners in business, owning and operating Webb Moore Drug and the In-N-Out Grocery, retiring in 1983. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage. She was a member of several Lubbock quilting guilds, and the oldest member of Women's Studies Community Connection.

She was preceded in death by her husband; sisters, Altha Allard and Moina Dean Spears, and brothers, Gene Gardner and Luther Gardner.

Survivors include a sister, Edith Elsik of Albuquerque, N.M.; a brother, Charles Gardner of Hanford, Calif.; a daughter, Carolyn Frances Moore and son-in-law Ralph H. Brock of Lubbock; a son, Dr. Lewis Daniel Moore of Lubbock; three grandchildren, Mary Elston Pressler of Dallas; Daniel Moore of Marina del Rey, Calif.; and Nicholas Moore of Cedar Park; and numerous nieces and nephews including Loren Wayne Langston, Dan Moore, Vicki Steen and Terri Guajardo, all of Lubbock; and her special caregiver, Linda Villela.



Bobby Jamerson

Robert "Bobby" Lee Jamerson, 62, of Garvin, passed away on Nov. 16, 2010, in Idabel.

Jamerson was born Feb. 13, 1948, in Garvin, the son of Buster Jamerson and Marie (Haynie) Jamerson. He lived all of his life in the Wheelock community. He was a 1966 graduate of Valliant High School and a Vietnam War Veteran, serving in the U.S. Army from 1967-1969. Bobby married Sarah J. Dodds on Nov. 8, 1969, in Garvin. He retired from Brown & Root-Valliant as a rigger and heavy equipment operator. He enjoyed his horses, hunting, visiting with his friends and playing pranks.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Betty Bastible; his granddaughter, Jordan Harrington, and a nephew, Jamie Don Gammon.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah Jamerson of the home; one son, Lee Jamerson of Millerton; two daughters, Shamee Jamerson of Valliant and Kim Harrington and husband Wayne of Valliant; three brothers, Curtis Jamerson, Danny Jamerson and Alvin Jamerson all of Millerton; two sisters, Jessie Gammon of Broken Bow and Lenora Dempsey of Valliant; four grandchildren, Hannah Harrington and Shelby Harrington, both of Valliant, and Emilee Jamerson and Reece Jamerson, both of Millerton; a special nephew, Harvey Dodds of Idabel; several nieces and nephews, along with many other relatives and friends.

Jottie Lea Epley

Jottie Lea Epley, 79, passed away at her home in Ratliff City, on Oct. 4, 2010.

Jottie was born March 16, 1931, in Allen, Okla., to the late Jesse Edward and Mary Ellen (Roberts) Jones. As a young girl, her family moved to the Alma area. She and Billy Joe Epley, graduated from Velma Alma High School in 1949. They were wed on Dec. 24, 1950, in Waurika, the beginning of almost 60 years of marriage. She and her husband made their home in the Ratliff City area where they raised three children.

She was an active homemaker while also working outside the home. She was a talented seamstress who enjoyed quilting and crocheting. Working in her garden, tending her flowers, and canning fruits and vegetables were other things she enjoyed. After her retirement from Michelin Tire in Ardmore, Jottie was fond of traveling with her husband and taking trips with the family. Many of Jottie's trips were family motorcycle adventures covering thousands of miles through scenic locations and national parks. Jottie's church home was at Duncan Christian Center.

Jottie was preceded in death by her parents; brother Jonsey Jones; and sister Jane Morgan.

Jottie, a mother who felt "family and children" were her most important purpose in life, is survived by her husband of the home, Billy Joe; two daughters, Kathy Dickerson and husband Charles of Duncan, Tina James and husband Greg of Salina; and one son Vance Epley and wife Toni of Ratliff City.

Other surviving family members include eight grandchildren, Kirk Dickerson, Jason Epley, Jennifer Hunziker, Tara Cape, Torrey James, Desa James, Jessica Vandenburg, and Jennifer Fisher; 10 great-grandchildren, Nikki Dickerson, Kaden Hunziker, Masin Cape, Brysin Cape, Axson Hunziker, Jadasin Cape, Colten Epley, Kaylee Vandenburg, Trinity Epley, and Cash Cape; bother Joel Jones; and five sisters, Joan Lambert, Juanita Cox, Jearldine Doyle, Joella Clark, and Johnnie Davis.

Dickie 'Butch' Bond

Dickie "Butch" Bond of Bethel passed away Oct. 13, 2010, in Idabel. Born Feb.17, 1959, in Talihina, Dickie was the son of Osbine and Maecian Jefferson Bond.

Dickie had lived in McCurtain County all of his life and was a counselor for the Choctaw Nation. He was well known in the county for his fast pitch. He also enjoyed playing volleyball, hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Kulli-Chito Presbyterian Church of Bethel.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Dwight Bond, Lester Bond and Travis Bond; sisters, Loretta Bond, Donna Rios and Elizabeth Tonihka; and nephew Barry Tonihka.

He is survived by his son, Dickie Bond Jr. of Bethel; daughter, Andrea James and husband Jeremy McKinney of Oklahoma City; brothers, Larry Bond and wife Marietha of Bethel, Loyd Bond and wife Jean Wade of Bethel; sister, Sandra Byington and husband Buck of Holly Creek; best friend and mother of his children, Annette James of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Erin Noah and Alexandria James, both of Oklahoma City; nine nieces; 13 nephews; and a host of other family members and friends.



Janelle Fay Marshall

Janelle Fay Marshall of Springfield, Ore., passed away Oct. 21, 2010, at the age of 61. She was born Feb. 28, 1949, to Nelson and Dorothy (Adams) Hall. She previously worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation and PneuMed in Eugene. She was also a 30-year member of the Gamma Kappa Chapter and the Alpha Zeta Chapter of ESA International. She also

previously owned and operated a hair and nail salon in the town of Coburg, Ore. She married Dennis Marshall in Nevada on July 24, 1995.

Janelle is survived by her husband, Dennis; daughter Tancy Lou; and her sister, Caroline Manley.



Gletis Wordell Sampson

Gletis Wordell Sampson, 62, passed away on Nov. 17, 2010, in Durant.

Gletis was born March 9, 1948, in Kingston, to Adam Sampson and Betty (Morris) Sampson. He was married to Wanda Oldrock.

Gletis worked at the Choctaw Plaza in the maintenance department and was a member of Grace Baptist Church of Durant. He was always putting a smile on people's faces and will be remembered as a good-hearted man and a wonderful father and grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

Gletis is survived by one son, Emmanuel Sampson; two daughters, Carol Sampson and Judy Sampson, both of Ardmore; 18 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a brother, Andrew Sampson of Ardmore; an aunt, Clarice Hudson of Mansville; and a niece, Andrea Sampson of Ardmore.

Sidney Floyd Carshall

Sidney Floyd Carshall, 57, of Wilburton, passed away Oct. 10, 2010, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

Born June 15, 1953, in Talihina, Sidney was the son of Neoma Sockey and the late Alvin Carshall. He served in the U.S. Navy.

Survivors include his mother, Neoma Thomason, of Hailleyville; son Jamin Jay Carshall of Wilburton; daughter LaRia Kay Carshall; seven brothers, Alvin Carshall, Harold Carshall, Larry Thomason, Michael Thomason, Kenny Thomason, Wesley Thomason and Chris Thomason; four sisters, Brenda Dupire, Betty Smith, Dakota Thomason and Jodi Oliver; special uncle, Bill Sockey; an aunt, Lavada Kitchell special friend Daniel Wayne Almy of Wilburton; grandchildren, Jacob Wayne Carshall, Joshua Lee Carshall, and Journey Lynn Marie Zaste, all of Wilburton.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alvin Carshall, and stepfather, Floyd Thomason.

Sandra Lee Kuehlem

Sandra Lee Kuehlem, 62, of Burleson passed away Sept. 21, 2010.

Sandra was born in Bakersfield, Calif., July 23, 1948, to George and Mattie Langley Latta.

Suvivors include her husband of 40 years, Charles F. Kuehlem; sons, Franklin Earl Kuehlem and Jeffrey Allen Kuehlem and wife Theresa; daughter Rikki Lynn Frazier and husband Billy; grandchildren, Jeffrey, Charles and LeAnn Kuehlem, Randi and Robyn Samuelson and Justin Logsdon; sisters, Linda Gayle Robinson and husband Edward, and Diane Lynn Davila and husband Ronald.



Charles Allen Stultz

Charles Allen Stultz, 77, of Duncan passed away Oct. 31, 2010. He was born June 30, 1933, in Duncan to Charles F. and Vinia (Robinson) Stultz. He was the grandson of Stulger E. Robinson.

Charles served in the U.S. Army from 1949 to 1950. He was self-employed, working 50 years installing floors and cabinet tops.

Charles loved fishing, dancing, baseball and telling jokes. He was a member of Highland Park Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Barbara Tucker.

Charles is survived by six children, Vickie Boyer and husband Gwin of Azle, Texas, Lana Gantt of Duncan, Chuck Stultz of Howe, Okla., Ginger Giles and husband Jon of Duncan, Russell A. Stultz of Duncan, and Rebecca N. White and husband Melvin of Midwest City; brother Carlos Stultz of Snyder, Texas; sister Joyce Teakell and husband Ray of Duncan; brother-in-law Windell Tucker of Marlow; special friend Joyce Eykamp of Lawton; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Ruth Whitworth

Ruth Louise Jefferson Jackson Whitworth, 69, of McAlester passed away Aug. 13, 2010, at her home. Born Dec. 17, 1940, in McAlester, she was the daughter of Wallace and Delphia Pearce Jefferson.

She worked as a waitress for more than 24 years for the Highway Lodge before her retirement. She married Jay Whitworth on Oct. 26, 2009, in McAlester.

She was a life member of the Richville Baptist Church. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, Johnny Jefferson, Wallace Jefferson Jr. and Ulis Jefferson.

Survivors include her husband, Jay, of the home; three daughters, Twila Atkins of McAlester, Sherrie and husband Ronnie Faulconer of McAlester and Robin and husband Victor McIntyre of McAlester; seven grandchildren, Colby DeGiacomo, David DeGiacomo, Chase Lallii, Jericah Faulconer, Anthony Faulconer, Robert Hodges and Joey Thompson; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Alice Hayes of Kansas, and Loretta Wooley of McAlester; three brothers, Otis Jefferson of McAlester, Thomas Jefferson of McAlester and Cleno Jefferson of California; and good friend Paul Sullivan of McAlester.

Jimmie Loman Sr.

Jimmie "Shorty" Louis Loman Sr., 74, of Tulsa passed away on Oct. 29, 2010, with his family around him.

Jimmie was born on April 6, 1936, in Haworth, to Louis and Mattie B. (Litchford) Loman. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. After his discharge, he worked maintenance for Kerr Glass for over 30 years before moving to Washington, D.C.

Jimmie was preceded in death by his parents; daughter-in-law, Shelley R. Loman and sister-in-law, Virginia Loman.

Jimmie is survived by his children, Ava Evans of Tulsa, Jimmie L. Loman Jr. of Tulsa, Charles Loman of Whichita, Kan.; brother Isaac "Sonny" Loman of Moore Craft, Wyo.; sister Sillena "Peach" and husband Darrell Roeder of Tulsa; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.



Barry W. Tonihka

Barry W. Tonihka, 45, of Bethel passed away July 12, 2010. He was born Feb. 14, 1965, in Talihina to parents Flader and Elizabeth (Jefferson) Tonihka.

Barry was a member of the Bethel Hill United Methodist Church. He was a leader, and very active in his church. He enjoyed hunting, and always "killed the biggest buck." He enjoyed spending time with family and friends and giving them a hard time. Barry worked for the Broken Bow Water Department for 26 years as a backhoe operator. He was very skilled and knowledgeable in his work and took great pride in it.

Barry is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Osbine and Maecian Bond and John and Rosie Tonihka. Barry is survived by his wife, Tracie (Franklin) Tonihka; three sons, Joshua Colbert of the home, Jeremiah and Katherine Colbert, and Gabriel Bill Tonihka of the home; a daughter, Shacy Tonihka, of the home, two brothers and sisters-in-law, Dewayne and Michelle of Battiest and Kirk and JoLynn of Bethel; two nephews, Delano Zahgotah and Derek Anderson; two nieces, Dedra and Enchil Tonihka; and one granddaughter on the way; many other relatives and a host of friends.



Osborne Kenieutubbe Jr.

Osborne "Bones" Lewis Kenieutubbe Jr., 62, of McAlester passed away May 13, 2010, in Tulsa. He was born July 3, 1947, in Tannehill to Osborne and Anna (Wade) Kenieutubbe.

He served in the U.S. Army. He married Martha Lou Hampton on June 20, 1978, in McAlester. He had worked for the Choctaw Nation driving the Choctaw Nation CHR van. He had also worked for Dr. James Hicks as an Optometry Aide. He retired from Frink-Chambers Public School where he worked in maintenance for 19 years.

He was a member of Title VII Johnson-O'Malley Parent Committee for McAlester Schools, serving as chairperson for almost 10 years. He was a member of Double Springs Baptist Church where he was the Sunday School Superintendent, church groundskeeper and trustee. He was ordained as the church deacon in 2001. He also served on the executive board and the Sunday school convention board for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Association.

Survivors include his sons, Travis Kenieutubbe, Thurman Kenieutubbe, Taylor Kenieutubbe, Truman Kenieutubbe, all of McAlester; daughter Teresa Hamilton and husband Brian of McAlester; three grandchildren, Anna, Ethan and Austin Kenieutubbe; a brother, Howard John "Johnny Boy" Kenieutubbe, of Las Vegas, Nev.; sisters, Wanda Byington of McAlester, Janie Bear of Bell Gardens, Calif., Regina Kenieutubbe of Anadarko; great-nephew "Curly Joe" Amari Smith; and numerous other nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Osborne and Anna Kenieutubbe; wife Martha in 2006; an infant son, Kenieutubbe Hampton; brother Dwight Kenieutubbe; sister Oleta Kenieutubbe; and mother-in-law Gladys Hampton.



Elizabeth Tonihka

Elizabeth Tonihka 62, of Bethel passed away May 14, 2010, on her way home from Tulsa. She was born Nov. 19, 1947, in Talihina to parents Osbine and Maecian Jefferson Bond.

Elizabeth and Flader "Bill" Tonihka were united in marriage on June 29, 1964, at the Bethel Hill United Methodist Church.

Elizabeth was a member of the Bethel Hill United Methodist Church, and a lifetime resident of McCurtain County. She enjoyed going to Choctaw Community Center Senior Citizen lunch, going to singings, watching her grandkids and their ballgames, going to church camp meetings, and cookouts with her family.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her mother, Maecian Bond; her father, Osbine Bond; her husband, Flader "Bill" Tonihka; two brothers, Leonard Bond, Lester Bond; and two sisters, Donna Rios and Loretta Bond.

She is survived by her three sons and daughters-in-law, Barry and Tracie Tonihka of Bethel, Dewayne and Michelle Tonihka of Battiest, and Kirk and Jo Lynn Tonihka of Bethel; three brothers and their spouses, Loyd Bond and Jean Wade of Bethel; Larry and Marietha Bond of Bethel, and Dickie Bond; a sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Rolston Byington of Holly Creek; eight grandchildren, Joshua Colbert, Jeremiah Colbert, Delano Zahgotah, Derek Anderson, Deedra Tonihka, Gabriel Bill Tonihka, Shacy Tonihka, Enchil Tonihka; numerous nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.





Veterans Day November 11



Posting the colors.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle with Marvin Jefferson of Smithville, who has returned from Afghanistan.



Chief Pyle receives special presentation from Code Talker Association representatives Nuchi Nashoba and Chester Cowen.

Choctaw Nation Color Guard at attention.



Chief Pyle shakes hands with Cassel Lawrence.



R.A. Lindsey of Wilson.



Choc Charleston.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Andrew Colbert of Haskell and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Cornelius D. Henry of Redding, Calif., and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.



L.H. Labor of Pittsburg, Leon Labor of Kiowa and John Labor of Pittsburg, Frank Labor of Mead, Troy Oldham of Hockley, Texas, Edward Walker of Blue, and Jim Labor of Red Oak.



Goodland Director David Derringer, Councilman Perry Thompson, Boy Scouts Hunter Smith, Christian Benson, Odis Smith, Montana Holley and Roger Schow

South Carolina Veterans Day celebration

Choctaw veteran Freddie Bench Jr. of Iva, S.C., took part in a Veterans Day ceremony at the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson, S.C. The ceremony was attended by South Carolina Senator Billy O'Dell, State Rep. Brian White, 2010 Miss South Carolina Desiree Puglia, Air Force Col. Michael Mendonca, and a host of other state and local dignitaries, along with a crowd of about 150 veterans and supporters. The event was

held to honor the men and women who bravely served their country in the armed forces. Nursing home coordinator Greg Osborne served as emcee for the ceremony. One of the many groups he recognized was the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I. As a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Bench represented the tribe as Osborne read to the audience the role the Code Talkers played in the war. "It was really great to be



FREDDIE BENCH JR.

there," said Bench. "It was an honor to be invited and be able to stand in for the Choctaw Nation from so many miles away."

Jones Academy student participates in Veterans Day activities

The American Legion Post 180 in Harts-horne celebrated Veteran's Day on Nov. 11. There were about 120 in attendance to commemorate the sacrifice and service of men and women who had performed their duties honorably in the military. Post Commander George Bishop conducted the ceremony. Colonel Beckner, from the McAlester Ammunition Plant, was the guest speaker. Jones Academy's own Tasina Lone Elk performed the national anthem after the posting of the colors. Tasina is the daughter of Riva Red Feather from Porcupine, S.D. She is a member of the Oglala Sioux Nation.



COLONEL BECKNER and TASINA LONE ELK