

Gratitude and hope

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle was among members of the National Congress of American Indians as they met on November 25.

"It is humbling that we are representing American Indians in the oldest organization in the country focusing on a better understanding between tribal and federal governments," said Chief Pyle.

"Indian Country was here at the beginning of our first national holiday," said NCAI President Jefferson Keel, Chickasaw, as he addressed his constituents on the eve of Thanksgiving. "We are still here four centuries later – grateful that we stand proud of our tribal cultures and contribute their strength to the sustaining diversity of America."

"Indian Country is grateful on many, many counts," Keel continued.

A president and his administration have heard the concerns of Indian nations at the first annual White House Tribal Nations Conference. The Embassy of Tribal Nations has opened its doors in the nation's capital. Congress is partnering to advance priorities of Indian Country as seldom before.

"We also have much to contribute to this great nation," said Keel. "Above all, our cultural heritage has positioned us to spearhead the historic task of restoring a human connection to the land, air, water, all living things and one another. We give thanks that the Creator has safeguarded our message of oneness in the web of life, for it is instrumental to restoring the global environment."

"We must give thanks for other safeguards – the warriors who guard our homeland, many of them far from home. Native men and women have steadfastly fought and died defending this country as the highest serving minority group in the U.S. armed forces."

"We give thanks," said Keel, "for all who defend our country."

"As always, Americans give thanks for their individual and community harvest. But especially this year, NCAI calls on them to join the many tribes and individuals in Indian Country who are going the extra mile to help their needy neighbors," said Keel.

Annual Livestock Show

The Choctaw Nation is hosting its annual Livestock Show the first weekend in February at two locations – EOSC campus, Wilburton, and the Event Center, Durant.

On the first day of the show, February 6, youth will be preparing their swine, goats and sheep to walk the arena. On February 7, heifers and steers will be shown.

For more information, rules and applications, log on to www.choctawnation.com or call 918-297-2518.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

Tribe initializes new court system

Choctaw history was made at the December monthly Tribal Council meeting with the swearing in of four new judges to form a Court of General Jurisdiction for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The Native American court system became defunct when the Dawes Commission eradicated tribal courts.

Sworn into office were Pat Phelps as Chief Appellate Judge, Mitch Leonard and Marion Fry as Appellate Judges, and Steven Parker as District Judge. The four judges will have staggered four-year terms, but their immediate terms will start at two, three or four years. The four men, two tribal members and two non-tribal members, were appointed by Chief Gregory E. Pyle and approved by the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council.

"These men are vitally interested in the success and well-being of the Choctaw Nation and its people and will be a valuable addition to the tribal court," said Chief Pyle.

The appellate judges have been asked to create a new code system for the Choctaw Nation court. Currently, the court is using the Court of Federal Regulations (CFR) Court Rules until a new code system has been created and approved.

The new court has jurisdiction in the 10-½



Council Speaker Delton Cox swears into office Marion Fry, Pat Phelps, Steven Parker and Mitch Leonard.

counties within Choctaw Nation's boundaries. The United States Supreme Court is the only court with jurisdiction over the Choctaw Nation Court of General Jurisdiction.

Judges David Burrage, Fredrick Bobb and Mitch Mullen preside over the current tribal court, which handles disputes for Chief Pyle and the Tribal Council, election disputes, guard-

ianship, and divorces.

With the new court, trust issues, civil disputes, probate and misdemeanor criminal cases will be able to be heard in the Court of General Jurisdiction. The appellate judges will handle disputes against the Tribal judges rulings and will also make decisions on sentencing or restitution.

Choctaw RV park wins awards

After being in business only a short six months, the Choctaw Casino Resort RV Park has proven itself to be among the "best of the best." The Choctaw Nation-owned Kampgrounds of America franchise is the proud recipient of two of KOA Inc.'s top customer service awards for 2009 – the President's Award and the Founder's Award.

Both awards are based on customer satisfaction surveys and camper feedback. Annual surveys are sent to more than 250,000 KOA guests to measure their experience while staying at a particular campground.

"We are very proud of the staff at our KOA park," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "To win such prestigious awards in our first year of operation is remarkable and evidence of the care and hard work put into providing an excellent camping ground for RVers rolling



Park Manager Charlie Tyree shows off awards.

into the Durant area."

For a campground to be awarded the Founder's award, it must score high in all areas of customer service, campground facilities and overall value.

To receive the President's Award the campground must not only score highly on its annual camper surveys, but must also receive excellent scores on the campground facilities review – a meticulous quality-assurance inspection performed by KOA Inc. "We're proud to rank so high among our guests," said RV park manager Charlie Tyree. "In fact, out of all the 480-plus KOAs across the country, our campground ranked first in five categories – physical facilities, amenities, recreation, first impression and store appearance."

The Choctaw Nation RV Park, which opened its gates to campers in June of 2009, has five employees who keep the grounds, inside and out, in

tip-top shape for guests.

See RV on Page 3

Helping others have a better holiday



The Choctaw Nation recently held food and coat drives among its employees to benefit families in need this season.

The food drive began this year at the annual Labor Day festivities and continued through Halloween parties, culminating at the annual Choctaw Nation employee awards banquet.

On behalf of the Choctaw Nation, Chief Gregory E. Pyle donated approximately 4,000 pounds of the non-perishable food items to the Bryan County chapter of Families Feeding Families during a fundraiser for the organization held on Dec. 21 at the Choctaw Event Center.

Also donated to Families Feeding Families by the Choctaw Nation were two sets of Lynyrd Skynyrd concert tickets, which were auctioned off, fetching \$705 for the organization.

Additionally, one pallet of food items from the employee food drive has been designated for donation to the Salvation Army.

Of the 300 coats collected during the coat drive, 200 were donated to Choctaw youth through the Choctaw Outreach Services and the remaining coats are being distributed on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to the food and coat drives, the Choctaw Nation purchased, wrapped and donated Christmas toys and presents to over 3,100 low-income Choctaw children throughout the 10-1/2 counties in the Choctaw Nation.

"The employees of the Choctaw Nation are a special group of people," said Chief Pyle. "Not only did they donate food and coats for families in southeastern Oklahoma, they gave many, many hours of their time this holiday season to ensure others would also have a good Christmas."

A unique community service in Durant



Every Friday for six weeks, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma had a new occupant to greet visitors in the reception area of the Administrative Headquarters in Durant. In an endeavor of servitude, Choctaw Nation employees reached out to help a local woman, Nancy Ledbetter, with the privately run Good Shepherd Humane Society and Rescue program.

Ledbetter, a certified animal abuse investigator, works with the Bryan County Sheriff Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and other law enforcement officials to rescue animals of all sizes. Each dog, from the first week's beagle-mix affectionately called "Copper"

to the last week's german shepherd mix, found a new loving home.

"We are happy to be teaming up with community partners to help provide homes for these rescued animals," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Also assisting with the placement of these animals was The Pet Place in Durant who offered pro bono grooming services for the Choctaw Nation Animal of the Week.

Each animal up for adoption had been given its shots. The adoptions were free, but any donations to Good Shepherd are always welcome.

Wilson completes basic training

Arizona Army National Guard Pvt. Zachery Eric Wilson graduated on Oct. 22 from U.S. Army basic combat training. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry Regiment, Company A at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. After BCT, he attended advanced individual training as a combat heavy machine operator at Fort Leonard Wood.

Zachery is a senior graduate from Mesa, Ariz. He is the son of Eric Wilson of Valliant and Karen Watson of Mesa. His grandparents are Carlo and Lottie Wilson of Valliant, Dennis Williams of Fallon, Nev., and Elizabeth Yazzie of Gallup, N.M.



Elliott deployed

Wesley Elliott was deployed November 9, 2009, to Iraq from Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas. Wesley completed basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., sent to Korea where he served for 15 months and upon returning to the United States, he was stationed at Fort Bliss.

He is the son of Larry and Theresa Elliott of Westhoff, Texas; nephew of Steven Elliott of Durant; and grandson of G.W. Lamb III and Elenor Jacob Lamb of Cuero, Texas. Wesley is the great-grandson of the late Calvin and Cora Bell Jacob.



Deweese graduates basic

Pfc. Brandon Thomas Deweese graduated from Army basic combat training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on Nov. 19, 2009, the same day as his 19th birthday. Many members of his family attended his graduation to celebrate this milestone with him. Brandon's mother, Paula Tally, is very proud of him and his accomplishments. He is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee William Isaac.



EDH program helps member

Dear Choctaw Nation,

A mere "Thank you" seems so inadequate for the size gift you have all given me. The EDH program paid for my new teeth! Health care costs are ridiculously high, no limit in sight. Thank God for folks like EDH who help those who can't help themselves.

**Genita Rhoda
Clinton, Arkansas**

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank all the people who helped me at the Housing Authority, especially Jennifer Davis. I have bugged her for a long time and don't even know what she looks like. I would like to thank Chief Pyle for being such a great Chief and would like to thank Emma Prince and Elaine Justice for putting up with me for all these years. My biggest thanks is to Councilman Ted Dosh for helping me every time I have asked him. Thank you all and may God bless you. You don't realize how much you have helped me.

Geraldine Pierce

Mora receives degree

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for your support over the past four years. Your educational assistance allowed me to graduate college with a degree in mechanical engineering.

**Ryan Mora
Waurika, Okla.**



ECU graduate is grateful

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to thank you for the tuition assistance that I have received for the past four years. I could not have done it without the help. The help of the people of the Choctaw Nation, in their willingness to help students further their education, is much appreciated. I am honored to be a member of the Choctaw Nation and grateful for the opportunity this scholarship provided me to pursue a degree in criminal justice from East Central in Ada.

**Krystal Countz Bennett
Stuart, Okla.**

<p>Gregory E. Pyle Chief</p>	<p>Gary Batton Assistant Chief</p>
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If you are receiving more than one BISHINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

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BISHINIK® 2010

Three generations of Choctaw veterans

Three generations of Choctaw veterans are pictured wearing their Choctaw veteran's jackets: Barney Mecom of Tulsa (U.S. Army – World War II, Korea); Richard Mecom of Covington, La., (U.S. Navy retired – Vietnam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm); and Richard "Rick" Mecom Jr. of Mandeville, La., (U.S. Navy Reserve – Iraqi Freedom).

Rick is soon to be commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He completed college with the assistance of the Choctaw Nation and is the first Mecom to reach officer's status.



NOTES TO THE NATION

Helping our country's military personnel

Dear Chief Pyle,

For years now, my family has been proud of the Choctaw Nation for supporting our troops in so many ways, and especially in the way of sending care packages and mail. For so many of us who would help, there seems to be no easy way to make contact with our service men and women.

This past year we made contact, through the Internet, with a group that connects service personnel with people who would like to write to them. For the past few months it has been our honor and pleasure to help support two Air Force dog handlers and their K-9 pals while they serve in the Middle East. They are part of the security forces, but beyond that we are not allowed to know their specific duties or location.

For the past six months they have been in the dust and desert heat, doing what they do, while their families have had to make do without them. For about five months now we have sent daily e-mails to both of the guys, and care packages to each of them and their dogs about every three weeks. The welfare of the dogs is very important to the guys, and they go through treats and toys pretty fast. The dogs live a tough life, and are highly trained in search and rescue, chemical and bomb sniffing, and protection. They even need protective gear, such as booties and "doggies" to protect their feet and eyes. The guys call them their kids and you can tell how strong the bond is.

J. celebrated the birth of his second child, and first son in September. We had the joy of being able to send along some chewing gum cigars and a few party things to help him celebrate, but we know how hard that time was for him as he worried about his wife and newborn. We also learned how important something as simple as a can of clam chowder can be for a guy far from his Massachusetts home. When we sent it we weren't sure how he'd take it, but he calls the boxes with cans of chowder, clams and oysters his "New England" boxes. J. was an EMT and joined right after 9-11. This is not his first tour.

L. has four kids at home from toddler to teenager, and this isn't his first tour either. L. tells us that his phone calls home and our e-mails are sometimes all that keep him going! You can imagine how upset we all were when he sent word through J. that his computer had overheated and burned out, and he would no longer be able to stay in touch. It took us over a week, but we managed to get a new one mailed out to him. When he got back online we



really came to realize just how much the loss of that computer had meant to him. He never asked for a replacement, but we weren't about to lose touch! We also sent each of the guys a cooler pad that sits underneath a laptop computer and helps reduce the heat with extra fans. L. is from Virginia and was (is) a musician, and he also joined right after 9-11.

Both of these guys are older, were already married, and both felt moved to do something proactive to defend their families and their country. Their families are as much participants in this sacrifice as they are. The guys have both honored us by arranging contact with their wives. We got to know about the birth of J.'s son almost as it happened. That contact has enriched our lives and helped us to understand the situations of many of our military families. We have conspired with the guys to play secret Santa to their kids, as the financial situation of the past year has hit military families as it has the rest of us.

We find that we have made what will probably be lifelong friendships. We have thought about this a lot, and feel that contact should be continued after their return home for as long as they wish.

Not long ago we heard retired Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré say "There's no shared sacrifice in this nation for these two wars we are fighting." We believe that, for the soldiers, this is a very real statement of the way the military personnel too often feel.

From the beginning, in 2001, we have continued to wonder at the lack of any call to the citizens to support the war effort. It seems that the support of the troops has been repeatedly lead by their family members, but that when the rest of us could find a way to help, we have risen to the challenge.

As we all go about our lives here in the security of our country we hope more people can search out a way to let the military members who protect us know that we do care, and that we are willing to give something to help them and their families so they are not carrying this burden alone. As one friend recently said "If there are about 100,000 troops overseas, surely there are 100,000 citizens who would adopt and support each one while they are there."

Again, thanks for all that you, Assistant Chief Batton, the Council Members, and the employees of the Choctaw Nation do to lead the way in this, our home front share.

P.K. Work



Family is Choctaw proud

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My Choctaw family are wearing the shirts we received at the meeting held in Fresno, Calif. We enjoyed hearing about the activities and events of the Choctaws. Thank you for coming to Fresno and for giving us the shirts.

Pictured are Betty Warnes; her children, Steve Warnes and Sharon Rudolph; and her grandchildren, Mark, Jordan and Jennifer Rudolph and Tim, Rachel and Bethany Warnes.

Betty Warnes

Scholarship a great help

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My family and I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for my Higher Education scholarship. I am a freshman attending California State University-East Bay in Hayward. I am a catcher for the baseball team. My family was financially devastated last year. We nearly lost everything we owned due to the poor economy. The Higher Education scholarship, coupled with my baseball and various other scholarships and grants, has been a great help to us and I cannot say yakoke (thank you) enough.



**Aaron Brown and family
Bakersfield, California**

Seeking family contact

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I noticed the passing of a niece, Carol Ann Hallcom Fortiere, in the November obituaries. Her father, my brother, passed away in the mid-'80s and we completely lost touch with the family. Her 90-year-old mother, my sister-in-law Edith, and her two sisters, Norma and Shirley, live in Grants Pass, Oregon. I would very much like to make contact with the family. Thank you.

**Pastor Jimmy L. Hallcom, retired
804-541-8013 or gzslvsu@verizon.com**

Requesting info on family

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My father, Olen Lawrence, was a member of the Choctaw Nation and possibly grew up in the Red Oak area in Oklahoma. His parents were Olaf and Bessie (Threet) Lawrence. I am looking for any information I can about him.

I would like to get in touch with any family members or friends of his, and also find burial sites and information about any of the other family members I may have in Oklahoma. I can be contacted by e-mail at leetang83@live.com or by phone at 406-589-0103.

Thank you and I hope to hear from someone who knew my father.

Olin Lawrence

Sharing family information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I have the following information and wonder if anyone has more family info on either Lillian McAlvain or Rice Reeves. I am a descendant of Polk McAlvain.

Lillian McAlvain, 16, of Antlers married Rice Reeves, 29, of Antlers on August 22, 1911. The bride's guardian was H.J. Hudson. Ceremony was officiated by W.M. Keith, MG, M.E. Church south of Antlers. Witnesses were C.C. Hudson and J.U. Parsons, both of Antlers.

Please contact Curtis Pugh at curtis@abaptistvoice.com.

Thank you.

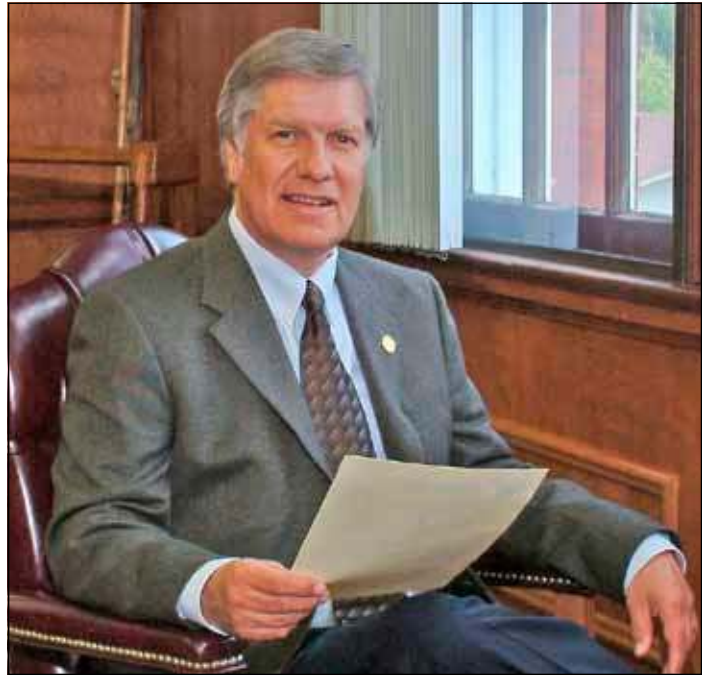
A family connection?

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I received this year's calendar and noticed the picture of Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer. I wonder if she is my great-great-aunt? My Dad always talked of Aunt Ruby and how she and my grandfather, Vinan Z. Davis, were among the last names on the roll book before they closed it. My great-great-grandmother was Sarah Ann Brewer Davis.

Please contact mtairmike@aol.com. Thank you.

We can all take steps to protect our environment



Construction plans under way for recycling center

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Land has been chosen to build a recycling center in Durant south of town. This will be a tremendous asset for the area, giving employees a place to bring recyclables. The tribe received a grant to construct the facility and we expect to be able to utilize it a great deal. While the first phase of use will be limited to employees, Phase II will allow tribal members to use the facility and Phase III will open the recycling center to the community. Construction will begin later this year.

Protecting the environment is traditionally seen as a heartfelt responsibility for Native Americans. The Choctaws have this sense of duty to protect the quality of land, water and air. We want to do our part in helping to ensure that the next generations have a better earth and this recycling center is just one path we are taking to accomplish that goal.

Energy-saving renovations to existing tribal facilities are also

under way. The Administrative Headquarters building in Durant has installed new windows, reducing the expense of both heating and cooling. More efficient T8 lights are replacing the older bulbs, energy misers are on the vending machines, occupancy sensors are in conference rooms and rooms not used consistently. All of these measures save energy and cost. The Choctaw Nation Day Care in Durant has benefited from a grant that installed additional insulation and a new heating and air system that is more energy efficient.

Our "GO GREEN" team at Choctaw Nation continues to educate all of us on ways to help the environment. The tribe sponsors quarterly highway cleanup in multiple areas and some highway beautification projects are on the horizon. Earth Day celebrations are being planned across the Choctaw Nation so that communities can participate in activities that make a difference in our world. We all want to make sure we leave this earth better than we found it – this is a great year to get involved!

New Resort and Casino at Durant opening in February



From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The new resort and casino opening in Durant February of 2010 is a great example of the growth and progress of the Choctaw Nation. In addition to the hundreds of construction jobs that were created through the building of the facility, there have been about 1,000 new, permanent employees added at the hotel, casino and restaurants located on-site.

The jobs help families and aid in improving the economy of the vicinity and of the two-state area.

Expanding the job opportunities, growing the businesses of the Choctaw Nation, creating additional revenues through bigger, better economic developments – these are all ways that Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council work



to accomplish the 100-year vision of achieving healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws.

Tribal businesses such as the new casino make profits that can be used to budget programs and services which provide tools for success. These tools for success can include higher education scholarships, training for a new

career, health care, home ownership assistance and much more. It is always exciting to open a new facility that the Choctaw people will be proud of, and the Resort and Casino in Durant is spectacular! The glamour and beauty of the hotel and casino are awesome, but the most amazing thing is what we as a tribe are able to do with the revenues it produces to help the people of the Choctaw Nation! The tribe really is growing with pride, hope and success.



The "lodge" of the Choctaw Nation's RV park.

RV continued from page 1

Currently, the campground, which received the highest customer service rating among KOA campgrounds in the state of Oklahoma, has 77 pull-through slots, with each site including a barbeque grill and a picnic table. Of those, 28 are premium sites, which also provide free Wi-Fi Internet, cable and a covered picnic area.

The park has served more than 3,860 guests and 13 motor home clubs since opening, all

of whom have enjoyed amenities such as a heated, saltwater swimming pool, a game room, computer lab, playground, dog park and fire pit, as well as a close proximity to the Choctaw Casino and Resort.

"This park is a great amenity to the casino. A lot of the guests to the casino have an interest in RVs, so the two go hand-in-hand. They can come up, sleep in their own RV, their own bed and still enjoy all the amenities

and facilities that are offered here and at the casino," said Tyree.

Tyree continued, "We plan to keep expanding in the future to accommodate our guests. Soon, we'll start on phase two of the park. The master plan includes 152 campsites and possibly future RV parks at the other casino sites in the Choctaw Nation."

Tyree traveled to Houston in November to accept the awards on behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and says his goal is to win both awards every year and to score the highest among his guests of any other KOA.

"To me, these awards mean that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing – taking care of our customers and making sure they have an enjoyable experience here so that they'll want to come back to visit us," said Tyree.

CDIB, new or reissued.

When a member dies death certificates are needed to put in his or her file. Death certificates will help prevent fraud to his or her lineage.

All documents are scanned, filed and become part of the member's permanent record.

Notes from Tribal Membership/CDIB

The Tribal Membership department is working hard to see that everyone who has submitted applications for a new or duplicate CDIB can receive it in a timely manner. The department must adhere to federal regulations that stipulate what can and cannot be issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

If you are applying for a duplicate CDIB and documents are missing from your file, you will receive a letter explaining what is needed before a CDIB can be reissued.

If you've never had a CDIB before, an original "full form" state birth certificate showing a state file number and a state registrar's signature must be submitted as no copies will be accepted. Tribal Membership has applications for all states to obtain what is required for a

Are you ready to purchase a new home?
The first step in the home-buying process is attending a
Homebuyer Education Class

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

- January 19, 2010 – Poteau Family Investment Center
- January 26, 2010 – McAlester Community Center

We are to be 'set apart'

May 2010 be a happy, prosperous and successful New Year for you. God blessed us real good in 2009.

Our message is found in the Epistle of First Peter chapter one. This letter was written by "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, ..." (verse 1).

Although the apostle Peter wrote originally to Hebrew Christians, he identifies them in his address with that which is true of all believers in Jesus Christ.

We read in verse 3, "Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ..."

He has given us a new life, born from above by the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, He has given us a new hope, "... unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Christians are the only people in the world who have real hope. This is getting to be an increasingly despairing world, but we have a wonderful hope in Christ. Future is as bright as the promises of God.

Verse 4 tells us that He has given us a new wealth, "... an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

Then in verse 5 we read of a new security, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

We have been given new life, new hope, new wealth and new security, and of these gifts Peter writes in verse 6, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, ..."

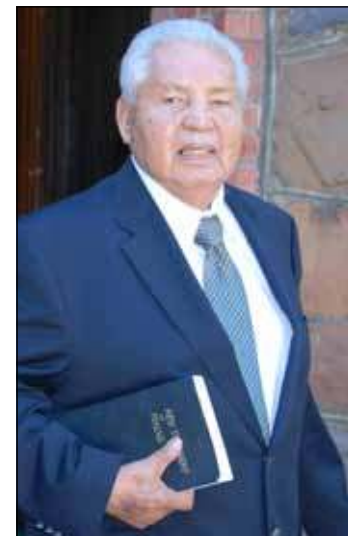
But then Peter adds this phrase, "... though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations."

Temptations here mean "testings." Joyful but sometimes with a heavy heart.

It is possible that a true believer can have a heavy heart. When you rejoice, you may have a heavy heart. It is possible for these dual emotions to be a part of a Christian's life.

You look out in one direc-

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

fluence, and we all touch many different lives. And by the events God allows or brings into our lives, He may have the salvation of others in mind when He deals with you.

So you can say that sometimes the trials and testing are sent to us and make us better people but also He may have our loved ones in mind.

Note the "Wherefore ..." with which Peter begins verse 13 of I Peter chapter one reminding us of the preceding thoughts. The apostle has been telling us that even though we may be suffering trials, we can rejoice in the wonderful salvation and Savior which we possess.

Old Testament prophets longed to know more of this salvation which is now fully revealed to us. And "... which things the angels desire to look into." (verse 12).

We who actually possess these divine blessings should live in a certain way. And Peter urges us to "... gird up the loins of your mind, ..." (verse 13).

In Bible days the outer garment was usually a long, loose robe. When a person went to work, to run, or even to fight, he would tuck the long outer garment under his girdle. So "... gird up the loins of your mind, ..." is a figurative expression a little like our "pull yourself together."

We are now to live for our heavenly Father "as obedient children, ..." (I Peter 1:14). And we are to be holy. (verse 16). The word holy in Greek means literally, "set apart." A holy person is one set apart from sin to righteousness. It has in it the idea of separation. It is a separated life of which Peter is speaking.

Will you read these three verses from I Peter 1:18-20?

Pray for America, pray for our leaders and pray for our brave Service men and women. Happy New Year 2010.

tion and meditate upon your new life and your new hope and your new wealth and your new security and in those you rejoice. Yet at the same time, you look around you at what is immediately happening to you in your life, or in your home or family, or in the world and you are in heaviness. In no way is that condition displeasing to God.

If we look again to I Peter 1:6, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, ..." we learn how it is possible to rejoice while still in heaviness.

First of all, we can be helped to rejoice because these testings are brief – for a season. They are not here to stay. They are here to fulfill some purpose of God in our lives. And when that purpose has been accomplished, they will pass away and be replaced by a different set of circumstances.

That new situation may bring some heaviness of heart as well, but it also may be that as circumstances change some other matters will be brought out into the light again.

Our testings are seasonal, they come only too soon pass away.

We will have a circle of in-

Be Prepared! Before The Storm Strikes

At home and work
Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone services and shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.
Have on hand: flashlight and extra batteries, battery powered portable radio or weather radio, extra food and water that does not require refrigeration or cooking, extra medicine and baby items, first aid supplies, heating fuel, emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater -- use properly to prevent a fire.

On the farm/pets
Protect pet and animals: move them to shelter, haul extra feed and water to nearby feeding areas. Most animals die from dehydration in winter storms.

In vehicles
Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!
Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins. Carry a winter storm survival kit: mobile phone, charger and batteries, blankets/sleeping bags, flashlight with extra batteries, first-

aid kit, knife, high-calorie, non perishable food, extra clothing to keep dry, large empty can to use as emergency toilet, tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes, small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water, sack of sand or cat litter for traction, shovel, windshield scraper or brush, tool kit, tow rope, battery booster cables, water container, compass and road maps. Also, keep your gas tank near full and avoid traveling alone.

If caught out in a storm
Stay in your vehicle -- you will become disoriented in wind-driven snow and cold, run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat, open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked. After snow stops falling, raise the hood to you need help.

Be visible to rescuers: turn on the dome light at night when running the engine and tie a colored cloth to your antenna or door.
Exercise from time to time to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

The Green Life

Follow these tips to save on energy costs:
Set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower and the air conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, health permitting. Three to five percent more energy is used for each degree the furnace is set above 68 degrees and for each degree the air conditioner is set below 78 degrees.

Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month. That not only increases water bills, but also increases the gas or electric bill for heating the water.
Wash only full loads in a dishwasher and use the shortest cycle that will get your dishes clean. If operating instructions allow, turn off the dishwasher before the drying cycle, open the door and let the dishes dry naturally.

Defrost refrigerators and freezers before ice buildup becomes 1/4-inch thick.
Install shades, awnings or sunscreens on windows facing south and/or west to block summer light. In winter, open shades on sunny days to help warm rooms.

Close the damper when the fireplace is not in use. Try not to use the fireplace and central heating at the same time.



Use compact fluorescent lamps. You can lower your lighting bill by converting to energy-efficient low-wattage compact fluorescent lighting and fixtures.
Replace old windows with new high performance dual pane windows.
Clean or replace furnace and air conditioner filters regularly, following manufacturer's instructions.
Set the water heater thermostat at 140 degrees or "normal," if you have a dishwasher. Otherwise, set it at 120 degrees or "low." Check your dishwasher to see if you can use 120 degree water. Follow the manufacturer's direction on yearly maintenance to extend the life of your unit.

Choctaw New Year Baby!

Ethan Estep

Ethan Estep was born to Kris and Clara Estep of Paris, Texas, on Jan. 1, 2010, at 11:54 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina.

Ethan weighed seven pounds four ounces and was 20 inches long.

The family received a Gift Basket from Choctaw Nation Health Care Center.



NURSERY NEWS

Mashawn Alan Lee Shields

Mashawn Alan Lee Shields was born at 3:53 a.m. on Sept. 16, 2009 at Claremore Indian Hospital. He weighed eight pounds 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Proud parents are Holly Jones and Morgan Shields of Glenpool. He is the grandson of Alan Jones of Glenpool, Anita Jones of Atoka and Cheryl Brooks of Dallas, Texas. Great-grandparents are Robert and Carol Schmidt of Sallisaw and E.J. and the late Marie Johnson of Atoka. His aunt and uncles include Misty and Emmit Lynch of Atoka and Marcus and Mario Shields of Dallas.



Aiokpanchi Savannah Rain

Aiokpanchi Savannah Rain was born Sept. 9, 2009, to Ashley Nicole Perez and Jeff Sides. She is the great-granddaughter of Kicking Horse McCarter of Lancaster, Calif. and Master Sgt. Emerson M. McCarter of Centrahoma and Faye McCarter of Longview, Texas.

Aryn 'Khloe' Impson

Aaron and Tanya Impson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Aryn "Khloe" Impson. Khloe was born Aug. 13, 2009, at Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris, Texas. She weighed eight pounds and one ounce and was 20 inches long.

Her grandparents are Rick and Creda Impson of Idabel and Jackie and Vicky Allen of Boswell. Great-grandparents are Shelby and the late Joy Gee of Antlers, the late Bob and the late Maquita Impson of Antlers, Edgar and the late Etta Stevens, the late John Lewis Allen of Boswell and the late Norene Sanders of Bennington.



Lansdell now a certified Diabetes educator

Tawnya Lansdell from Choctaw Diabetes Wellness Center (DWC) in Idabel passed the Certified Diabetes Educator exam on Dec. 18, 2009.

She has worked for Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority for three years with two-and-a-half years at the DWC as a diabetes educator and case manager.

Tawnya holds several nursing degrees and licenses. She became a Licensed Vocational Nurse in 1997, Registered Nurse in 2002 and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2008 from Texas A&M.

She is currently working on a Master's of Science in Nursing, also from Texas A&M, and has a cumulative 4.0 grade point average.

She served for four years in the Air National Guard based out of Fort Smith, Ark., and received an honorable discharge.

Tawnya is a volunteer for the Red Kettle campaign for the Salvation Army. She also volunteers at her local church, community and for Foster Children Services.

She is devoted to her family and patients and she enjoys watching her son play select baseball.



Tawnya Lansdell

Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference

Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference, hosted by Ouachita Mountains RC&D Inc. will be held Jan. 26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Southeast Expo Center, west of McAlester.

"Cultivating dreams, breaking new ground, and harvesting profits" conference. As more women are becoming the principal operators and decision-makers on the farm, partnering with Oklahoma Agritourism the Ouachita Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Inc. hopes to assist them by providing educational and networking opportunities.

Please join us and learn about agritourism business, organic farming, grape and wine production, grass-fed beef, soil nutrient alternatives, Farm

Quicken, plasticulture, goat and dairy production, renewable energy, farm-to-school programs, pecan production, oil and gas leasing, funding resources for alternative energy, banking and farm financing, leasing for hunting, with many other topics that will improve for your farm/small business.

There will be \$20 fee for attendees with scholarships available for those who qualify (no one will be turned down). Counties targeted for this event include Atoka, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, McIntosh, Pittsburg and Pushmataha. Equipment and vendor exhibit space and sponsorships available. For more information please call 918-423-2479 or email bbgilbertson@wildblue.net.

Meet other women involved in agriculture, become part of a network of support while organizing your operation to accomplish your goals. Take home a wealth of contact information and reference materials. Keep "sowing the seeds of success" long after the conference is over!

Feel free to join the third Oklahoma Agritourism Rolling Workshop Jan. 27 following the Women in Agriculture conference. Agritourism bus tour includes: Whispering Meadows Winery, Rebel Hill Guest Ranch, Wakefield Country Inn and Vineyards, Triple S Wildlife Ranch/Resort and more.

For more information and registration, go to www.oklahomaaagritourism.com.

Delicious whole grains

WHOLE GRAIN VS. REFINED GRAIN VS. ENRICHED GRAIN

Whole grain: Contains all edible parts of the grain as it was when it was harvested from the farmer's field. The bran, the germ and the endosperm all remain in the grain.

Refined grain: Grain has been milled and the bran and germ removed. By removing the bran and germ the B-vitamins, iron and fiber are also removed.

Enriched grain: B-Vitamins (thiamin, riboflavin, niacin and folic acid) are added back to the refined grain. No fiber is added.

WHOLE GRAINS ARE CHOCK FULL OF NUTRIENTS!

Not only are whole grains delicious, they are a terrific source of many essential nutrients including: dietary fiber, B-vitamins, Vitamin E, Magnesium, Iron and disease fighting phytochemicals.

Some of the health benefits of whole grains are: protect against heart disease, lower total and LDL cholesterol, reduce the risk of developing many types of cancer, lower the risk of strokes, lower the risk for developing type-2 diabetes, improve gut health and lower the risk of becoming obese.

Try to make half your grains whole every day!

Feeling blue when your baby is brand new

After birth, your body changes rapidly. Your hormone levels drop, your milk comes in and you may feel exhausted. These physical realities can bring on the baby blues.

Emotional factors also contribute to the blues. You may feel anxious about your baby's well-being, your transition to motherhood or adjusting to your new routine. Your new responsibilities can feel overwhelming.

The good thing is that the baby blues aren't an illness, and they will go away on their own. No treatment is necessary other than reassurance, support

from family and friends, rest and time. Sleep deprivation can make the blues worse, so make an effort to rest whenever you can. Even a 10-minute nap can leave you feeling better.

Choctaw Nation AFL Project

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teens, their child, male partner and extended family members. The AFL program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and other agencies. Participants

will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, relationship enhancement programs and parenting workshops. Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is our program goal. Services are provided through Outreach Services to pregnant Native American teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American.

For more information or questions about eligibility please call: Angela Dancer, Project Director at 1-877-285-6893

Attention Choctaw Tribal Members

There has never been a better time to be a Nurse!



Did you know that by the year 2020, there will be an estimated shortage of 800,000 nurses? With the world population living longer and needing more care, the health care field is one of the best places to get a job, and will likely stay that way for many years to come.



Nurse Prep Workshops are forming now!

Contact Choctaw Nation Career Development to visit with a Career Counselor to see if Nursing is right for you!

866-933-2260



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

(Starting December 1)

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 3rd & 4th Friday
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Mon. & Fri., 1st & 3rd Thurs.
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	1st/2nd week - Mon., Tues. Wed., Fri.; 3rd/4th week - daily
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Daily
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro	918-962-5134	8:00-4:30	Every Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Monday & Tuesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday & Wednesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Canyon turns nine

The family of Canyon Lane Taylor would like to wish him a happy birthday. Canyon turned nine on Dec. 20. He is one-quarter Choctaw and proud. He is in the third grade at Hugo Elementary and is on the A-B Honor Roll. He loves to play baseball and football.

His parents are Becky Peters and Dwayne Taylor, of Hugo. Grandparents are William and Judy Taylor, Theda Lamb, the late Dodson Lamb of Hugo and Becky Shawhart of Fort Towson.

He has three nephews, two brothers and four sisters. His family would like to tell him they love and adore him very much!



Happy first birthday

Jaden Zachariah Wilson celebrated his first birthday on Dec. 27, 2009.

He is the son of Zachery Wilson and Stephanie Hughes of Mesa, Ariz. His grandparents are Eric Wilson of Valliant, Karen Watson of Mesa and Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, also of Mesa. Great-grandparents are Carlo and Lottie Wilson of Valliant, Dennis Williams of Fallon, Nev., and Elizabeth Yazzie of Gallup, N.M.



Happy first birthday

Griffin Liam Alexander's mommy, daddy and sissy would like to wish him a very happy first birthday. He celebrated his birthday at his Pops Alexander's house in McAlester. He is the son of Crystal and Joshua Alexander of Talihina. His sister is Cadence and grandparents are Pamela Beddo, Ronnie and Bunny Hampton, Judy and Kent Holt and Danny and Teresa Alexander.



Pughs celebrate 44th anniversary

Curtis and Janet Pugh will celebrate 44 years of marriage on Jan. 29, 2010.

Curtis, born in Heavener, is a grandson of Thomas Jay McAlvain, original Choctaw enrollee. Janet, born in Greenwood, Miss., is a descendant of the Burnett family of the Pottawatomie Tribe.

Janet and Curtis met and married in Memphis, Tenn. where they both attended Bible College. After several U.S. pastorates, Curtis served as Baptist preacher in both Ontario and the Yukon Territory of Canada and presently labors in Romania.

About June of 2010 they expect to return to LeFlore County and settle in Poteau. They are looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones after they move back home.

Curtis and Janet have two daughters, Ruth of Glasgow, Scotland and Anna of Holland, Mich. They have four granddaughters, two grandsons and one great-grandson.



Happy 14th, Jeffrey

Jeffrey K. Davis of Texarkana, Texas, turned 14 on Sept. 14, 2009. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis. He is the grandson of Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Happy 20th birthday

Happy 20th birthday Jack Daniels!

From your family, great-grandparents Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif., Carl and Janis Walker, grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson and Betty Witt, all of Joplin; parents Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina, brothers and sisters Matt and Megan Witt, Shawn and Alisha Valentine, Brandon Witt and Blake Witt, all of Joplin.

Aunt and uncles Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Terry Witt of Joplin and Kenny Rickey of Talihina; nieces and nephews Madison Witt, Tyson Witt, Natalie Witt, and Jayden Smith; and cousins Levi Rupe and Zack Rupe, all of Joplin, and Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair.



Wright-Pounds wedding

Kristen Michelle Wright and David Anthony Pounds of Owasso are pleased to announce their recent marriage.

The bride is the daughter of Michael and Betsy Wright of Claremore and Sherri and Kevin Lefler of Owasso. She is a 1995 graduate of Owasso High School and a 2000 graduate of the University of Oklahoma. She works as an associate editor at PennWell in Tulsa.

The groom is the son of Michael and Jeanie Pounds of Owasso. He is a 1995 graduate of Owasso High School, 1999 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and 2005 graduate of the University of Missouri-Rolla. He is a professional engineer and works as a project manager at Flinto Inc. in Tulsa.

The couple exchanged vows Dec. 31, 2009, at Catholic Charities in Tulsa. A reception followed at Cascia Hall Performing Arts Center in Tulsa.



Happy ninth birthday

Alexandria Caldwell celebrated her ninth birthday on Sept. 7, 2009.

She is in the fourth grade at Dewar Elementary School where she loves cheerleading for the Dewar Dragons.

Her parents Mark and Erin and brothers Caleb and Bryce wish her a very happy belated birthday.



Happy 75th, Bobby

Bobby Clark Holder celebrated his 75th birthday on Jan. 4. Bobby is a staff sergeant in the Texas Civil Defense and is also the flag officer and chaplain of the Braniff Airways Retirement Club.

Bobby and his wife Peggy raise their granddaughter Kristianna. Bobby and Kristianna are both proud to be Choctaw.



Celebrating 93 years

Opal Bray celebrates her 93rd birthday on Jan. 28. She loves to cook, sew and garden. Her father, Osborne L. Blanch, was a Choctaw interpreter for the government and served in other capacities as well.



Happy seventh birthday

Happy seventh birthday Blake Witt! From your family, great-grandmother Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif.; great-grandparents Carl and Janis Walker, grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson and Betty Witt, all of Joplin; parents Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina, brothers and sisters Jack Daniels, Matt and Megan Witt, Shawn and Alisha Valentine, Brandon Witt, all of Joplin. Aunt and uncles Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Terry Witt of Joplin and Kenny Rickey of Talihina; nieces and nephews Madison, Tyson and Natalie Witt, and Jayden Smith; cousins Levi and Zack Rupe, of Joplin, and Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair.



Happy birthday, Ella



Happy 97th birthday Ella Jones! Helping her celebrate are family members Bill and Louise Amos and Bob and Katherine Goombi, all of Lawrence, Kan., and Charlene Kilpatrick of El Paso, Texas. Ella was happy to receive her birthday card from Chief Pyle.

Happy third birthday, Zackery

Zackery D. Miller celebrated his third birthday with a John Deere party, surrounded by all his family -- mother Melissa Poore of Durant, father Michael Miller of Lawton, "Nanny" Vera Butler, "Pops" Sanford Jackson, Ricky and Rhoda Butler of Durant, great-granny Frances Farrell, and great-grandfather the late Billy "Sonny" Russell.



Happy birthday

Zack Brandt Ivie of Caney celebrated his 12th birthday on Jan. 7, 2010. He is a sixth grade student at Caney School.

Zack's family would like to wish him a happy birthday!



Happy third birthday

Happy third birthday Tyson Witt! From your family, great-great-grandmother Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif.; great-great-grandparents Carl and Janis Walker, great-grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson, Betty Witt and Donna, all of Joplin; grandparents Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina and Rob and Suzette Wilson Lanford, parents Matt and Megan Witt, uncles and aunt Shawn and Alisha Valentine, Brandon Witt and Blake Witt, all of Joplin, and Jack Daniels of Talihina.

Aunt and uncles Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Terry Witt of Joplin and Kenny Rickey of Talihina; sister Madison Witt and cousins Natalie Witt, Jayden Smith, Levi Rupe and Zack Rupe, all of Joplin, and Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair.



Hayden turns two

Hayden Spencer Culbreath turned two years old on Nov. 12, 2009. He celebrated with a Cars birthday party at his home in Pauls Valley. Guests enjoyed mini-hamburgers and jumping on the moon bounce in the backyard.

In attendance were grandparents John and Vicky Mayfield of Durant and J.D. and Donna Culbreath of Mead, great-uncle Lee Graham of Moore, great-aunt Jamie King of Midwest City, aunt Brande Serner of Calera and aunt Sara Mayfield of Durant. Also, cousins Jennifer, Bryce and Wade Petering, all of Moore, Kyle King of Midwest City, and Amanda, Harmony and Spencer Lee of Tulsa. Friends included were Brian and Kara Cloud of Pauls Valley.

Hayden is the son of Thomas and Grace Culbreath.



Happy 10th birthday

Happy 10th birthday Elizabeth from your uncle and auntie! Elizabeth is the daughter of Leanne of Oklahoma City. She has three brothers, two sisters and many cousins. Her uncle and auntie describe her as smart, pretty and a girl who will go far in life.



Savannah turns six

Savannah Whitley's family would like to send her a very happy birthday wish. Savannah celebrates her sixth birthday on Jan. 26.

She loves horses and her family wishes her "happy trails" throughout her life. Her parents, Steve and Belinda, wish her the happiest birthday yet.



Happy anniversary

Congratulations to Russell and Bonnie Horn on their silver anniversary. They celebrated 25 years in September.

Congratulations from their son Joseph and wife Valerie, daughter Heather and husband Tony, and daughter Stephanie.



McCord-Cauthens wed

Sheri McCord and Steven Cauthen are pleased to announce their recent marriage. The couple exchanged vows in front of family and friends on Dec. 4, 2009, at the Family Worship Center in Heavener.



Happy birthday

Rufus Amos is celebrating his birthday on Jan. 31, 2010. His sister and family would like to wish him a very happy birthday.



Happy birthday, Hudson family

Birthdays for Hudson family members for December are: Peyton K. Caldwell on Dec. 3, son of Michael and Lindsay Caldwell; Kevin R. Scott on Dec. 4, son of Meg (Hudson) Scott; Alaina J. Hudson on Dec. 18, daughter of Shane and Tina Hudson; Deion Hudson on Dec. 19, son of Sarah (Hudson) Russell; Dexter Brady on Dec. 24, son of Timothy Brady; Eugene Hudson on Dec. 25, son of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson; Cordell R. Hudson on Dec. 27, son of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson, Meg (Hudson) Scott on Dec. 28, daughter of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson; Koda M. Hudson on Dec. 30, son of Dustin and Tasha Hudson.

Happy birthday, Bailey

Bailey Reid Thorne turned four years old on Nov. 29, 2009. His grandparents are Gene and LaHoma (Murphy) Crauthers of Oklahoma City. He is the great-grandson of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Parksions attend Choctaw meeting

The Parksion family attended the Choctaw Indian gathering in Fresno, Calif., in August of 2009. They were proud to meet Chief Pyle and all who helped put on the meeting.

Three generations of the family celebrated birthdays this fall. Nancy turned 67 on Oct. 9. She lives in Raymond, Calif., with Willard, her husband of 50 years. Nancy's daughter Dawnette Brewer turned 40 on Sept. 26. She and husband Vincent are from Fresno, Calif. Dawnette's daughter Salem Brewer turned six on Sept. 29. Nancy's granddaughter Kirsten Parksion of Madera, Calif., celebrated her 21st birthday on Aug. 14.

Nancy's grandmother Ethel Viola Hoover was an original enrollee and their family is very proud of their Indian heritage. They learned a lot at the meeting and were proud to be included.



Choctaws launch online scholarship database

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) has always believed strongly in education and was the first American Indian tribe to establish schools in Oklahoma. This August, the CNO will announce another Oklahoma Indian education “first,” according to Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The CNO is offering its students – and their parents – free online access to a unique Web-based database of scholarship, loan, grant, award, and internship funding opportunities that has been custom-designed for CNO members.

“Through a unique partnership arrangement with Reference Service Press, the nation’s leader in researching financial aid opportunities for diversity candidates, we firmly believe we are offering Choctaw students free access to the best possible scholarship database,” says Chief Pyle. “The database is customized for CNO students and parents. It will access thousands of transportable scholarships a student can take to any school. And CNO students are eligible for every scholarship in the database. I strongly urge all CNO college-bound students, graduate students, and their parents to take advantage of this program,” Chief Pyle adds.

Beginning in December 2009, CNO members can get free access to the Choctaw Scholarship Database on the CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) Internet Web site located at www.choctawnation-sap.com. To access the database, students or parents must first be enrolled in the CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program. To enroll in SAP, just click the “Apply Online” link at SAP’s Web site. Enrollment in SAP is free to CNO members. To access the Scholarship Database students or parents enrolled in SAP should email the Scholarship Advisement Program at scholarshipdatabase@choctawnation.com for further instructions. CNO students and parents will use their own self-generated SAP program username and password to also access the scholarship database.

Why Scholarships Are Needed

The Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program was created in late 2006 to help overcome consistently high Native American college dropout rates. SAP has two primary goals: Prepare students for college and, once enrolled, keep students on track for a college degree.

A 2008 report from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) underscores the drop-out rate problem and the role that financial pressures play on the drop-out rate for Native American students. At the same time, NCES’ report, Status and Trends in Education of American Indians, lists both good news and bad news for Native Americans seeking college degrees.

The good news is that 44 percent of American Indians age 25 or older had attended some college in 2007. Further, an encouraging trend has emerged: Indian enrollment in college has been increasing over time. In fact, Native American higher education enrollment has more than doubled in the past 30 years, according to the study.

But the bad news lies in the report’s second finding. Even though 44 percent had attempted college, only 9 percent of American Indians age 25 or older had earned a bachelor’s degree as their highest level of educational attainment. While there are many reasons for the high dropout rate, lack of money continues to be one of the big contributors. In Oklahoma one of every three Native Americans lives below the poverty level, compared to one in six people in the state’s general population, says Oklahoma Indian Legal Services. And no matter what a student or family’s financial position, rising college costs (increasing at 5 to 8 percent a year, according to the non-profit CollegeBoard.com) means finding money for college is more important than ever.

“Helping students and parents find money for college is the most common – and pressing – request made of our program,” says SAP program Director Jo McDaniel. “It’s a question we deal with on a daily basis.” The scholarship database will go a long way toward helping our members meet their higher education financial needs, says McDaniel.

“The desire to attend college – and earn a degree – is strong among CNO’s top student scholars,” says Chief Pyle. “The proof lies in the growth in enrollment in our Scholarship Advisement Program.” In less than two years, the CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program has enrolled nearly 2,000 students and parents and gets well over 1,000 visits a month to its web site.

Best Possible Scholarship Database Ingredients

A number of features make the Choctaw’s Scholarship database much different – and better – than anything else, according to

Save To Favorites	Title	Summary	Amount	Deadline
Save	3 Point Scholarships	To provide financial assistance for college to high school seniors in Tulsa, Oklahoma and the New York Tri-State Area.	\$2,000-\$2,999	March of each year.
Save	A. Patrick Charmon Scholarship	To provide financial assistance to entering or continuing undergraduate students who demonstrate a commitment to their community.	\$1,000-\$1,999	March of each year.
Save	Academic Competitiveness Grants	To provide financial assistance for undergraduate education to students who can demonstrate financial need and completion of a rigorous high school program.	\$1,000-\$1,999	Deadline not specified
Save	American Finalist Scholarships	To provide financial assistance for Native Americans interested in working on an undergraduate or graduate degree in fields of business and technology.	\$5,000-\$7,499	April of each year for undergraduates; May of each year for graduate students.
Save	Auxiliary Undergraduate Scholarships	To provide financial assistance for college to Native American high school seniors interested in majoring in fields of business and technology.	\$5,000-\$7,499	April of each year.

Sample image

SAP Director Jo McDaniel.

• **Unique Partnership with Reference Professionals** – The engine powering the CNO’s scholarship database is provided by Reference Service Press (RSP), a California-based business born in 1975 from an idea of reference librarian Dr. Gail Schlachter (Ph.D./Library Science). Schlachter, who admits to being driven by a passion to identify and fill information needs, found just such an opportunity over 30 years ago for a largely ignored diversity segment: college-bound women.

Working nights and weekends for two years – and using the resources of the University of California library system – Schlachter collected and published the first reference book of its kind: The Directory of Financial Aids for Women. It was a collection of highly detailed descriptions of hundreds of funding programs representing millions of dollars – all set aside specifically for women. “The letters and comments I got told me the book changed women’s lives,” says Schlachter. It also created a business – Reference Service Press.

Over the next 30 plus years, Schlachter expanded upon her original idea. By hiring other reference librarians, RSP kept adding diversity and other specialized titles to its unique list of offerings. The company now publishes more than 25 financial aid directories for a wide variety of diversity and specialized segments of the population, including Financial Aid for Native Americans. RSP’s massive database of scholarships, loans, grants, awards, and internships has now grown to over 40,000 records and identifies billions of dollars in financial aid. This is the database that, through a unique arrangement, the CNO has tapped and RSP has customized for CNO college-bound students and parents.

• **Expertly Researched** – Results Not Found Anywhere Else – The great majority of the listings in this database are not found anywhere else. These scholarships have been identified and verified by reference librarians using trained research skills. These scholarships aren’t found browsing the Web or on so-called free Internet scholarship sites. They’re found by people who know what they’re seeking – and how to find it.

• **No Spam Business Model** – One hundred percent of RSP’s revenue comes from providing access to the best researched financial aid database for its specialized categories. RSP never sells personal information it collects from users. That information is used solely to make user searches more relevant. Compare RSP to the business model of so-called “Free” scholarship Web sites, where invasive pages-long questionnaires of personal preference information must be filled out before free access is granted. In that business model, “free access” to a database of (often marginal) opportunities means users must “opt-in” to allow their name and information to be sold to marketers anxious to fill inboxes and mailboxes with soup-to-nuts offers.

• **Transportable Scholarships** – The vast majority (more than 90 percent) of the scholarships listed in the Choctaw Scholarship Database are completely transportable. The funds can be used at any college or university.

• **Uniform – Logical Arrangement of Information Fields** – Each record in the Choctaw Scholarship Database provides the right actionable information. The field list for each record is as follows:

- Program Title – Popular and official titles of scholarship, loan, grant, award, or internship
- Sponsoring Organization – Name, address and phone number, toll-free number, fax number, e-mail address and Web site
- Summary – Identifies the major program requirements
- Eligibility – Qualifications required of applicants plus information on application procedures and the selection process
- Financial Data – Financial details of the program, including funds offered, expenses for which funds may and may not be applied, and cash-related benefits supplied (e.g. room and board)
- Duration – Period for which support is provided, renewal prospects
- Additional Information – Any unusual (generally nonmonetary) benefits, features, restrictions, or limitations associated with the program
- Number awarded – Total number of recipients each year or other specified period
- Deadline – The month by which applications must be submitted
- Subject focus: Fields of study supported by the program
- Where you can go: Where the money can be spent
- Online links: To information about and applications for the funding program

• **Profile-based Query Structure** – A database finds opportunities that suit you best when the database knows what you’re seeking. That’s why the Choctaw Scholarship Database first asks each user to fill out an online questionnaire. Completing the questionnaire helps target funding opportunities that match student and parent plans. By answering the questions, students and parents customize and narrow search criteria to create their own best-match list of scholarships, loans, grants, awards, and internships. The more questions students answer (some questions are required, but others are optional), the more precise and focused results will be. As students go through the questionnaire, they may not be exactly sure how to best respond. That’s why each question has a link to a page of tips to help students and parents best answer each question. Once the questionnaire is completed, students and parents can view their completed profile and edit or change any responses any time they wish.

• **Summary Search Results** – A well filled-out questionnaire produces between 50 and 100 records that best match the student’s profile. Search results are first displayed in a summary table that lets students quickly view key information to determine if they want to know more about the opportunity. The summary table lets students and parents read a brief overview of each opportunity, the award amount and the deadline for application. The title of the opportunity is a clickable link to the program’s complete report. A “save” button lets students or parents put any opportunity in a “favorites” list which students and parents may review any time.

Custom Designed for CNO Members: Database Identifies Free Money, Loans, and Internships

The CNO’s funding database doesn’t just list scholarships. The database is also rich in information on available awards, grants, loans, and internships. The database is updated constantly by RSP’s staff of reference librarians. With search rules custom designed specifically for the Choctaw Nation, the database of tens of thousands of funding opportunities will only produce opportunities for which CNO members are eligible and will automatically delete opportunities not available for CNO students.

Greatest Amount of Listings – Always Most Current Information

RSP’s reference books have long set the standard for financial aid reference books in U.S. libraries. But directly accessing the RSP online database is actually better than using a book. That’s because RSP edits/updates most of its more than 25 reference books on a two-year cycle. New opportunities posted after a book’s publication must necessarily wait for the next edition. But, not so with the CNO’s Scholarship Database, which is updated continually by Reference Service Press. As a result, CNO users searching the online database are assured of finding up-to-the-minute information on all types of funding opportunities available to them.

SAP’s top summer recommendations – now is the time apply

“So, what did you do this summer?” It’s a question of critical importance for any high school student with college ambitions. One of the best responses, according to Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), is to have participated in a leading summer program aimed at preparing Native American high school students for college and ongoing success. “It’s not too soon to begin planning for college preparation summer programs,” Chief Pyle says. “Early winter is the time to fill out applications to meet many of the best program deadlines.”

In addition to College and Graduate Horizons (please see article in this issue of Bishinik) The CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) has identified three other summer programs with Native American emphasis that are highly recommended for CNO students.

LEAD (Leadership Education and Development) Program – in Business

The Leadership Education and Development Program encourages outstanding high

school juniors from diversity backgrounds to pursue careers in business. Every summer, for three to four weeks, students live on campus and participate in interactive classes, site visits, and one-on-one sessions conducted by the nation’s leading business school professors and corporate executives. The curriculum covers a wide range of fields including: marketing, accounting, finance, economics, computer science, and ethics. Over 40 major U.S. corporations and foundations support LEAD including Goldman Sachs, Google, Pfizer, Credit Suisse, and Apple. Details on program eligibility and an application can be found at <http://business.leadprogram.org/>. Deadline for LEAD 2010 applications is February 5.

WINS – Washington Internships for Native Students

The Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) offers Native American students the opportunity to build leadership skills while living, studying, and interning in Washington, DC. WINS offers qualified students full scholarships funded by American University and sponsoring organizations. Stu-

dents gain professional work experience through interning at a federal agency or private firm and take courses focusing on Native American public policy concerns.

Participants gain knowledge, skills, academic credit, and practical work experience. American University provides full academic support for the internship and additional course work in the evenings. Students meet other Native American students from across the country.

This program is offered free of charge to eligible students through a scholarship grant funded by American University and sponsoring organizations. More detailed information on WINS can be found on their Web site at <http://www1.american.edu/wins/>. Deadline for summer program internship application is February 1.

Native American Congressional Internships

The Morris K. Udall Foundation provides a 10-week summer internship in Washington, D.C., for Native American students who wish to learn more about the federal government and issues affecting

Indian Country. The internship is fully funded and the Foundation provides round-trip airfare, housing, per diem for food and incidentals, and a stipend at the close of the program.

Interns work in congressional and agency offices where they have opportunities to research legislative issues important to tribal communities and network with key public officials and tribal advocacy groups.

The Foundation awards Internships on the basis of merit to Native Americans who:

- Are college juniors or seniors, recent graduates from tribal or four-year colleges, or graduate or law students.
- Have demonstrated an interest in fields related to tribal public policy, such as tribal governance, tribal law, Native American education, Native American health, Native American justice, natural resource protection, cultural preservation and revitalization, and Native American economic development.

Complete information is available on the Web site at <http://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/NACInternship/NACInternship.aspx>.

The deadline for 2010 applications is January 29.

IMAGINE
the possibilities...

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Educational Talent Search and Scholarship Advisement Program are co-hosting an

ACT Prep Workshop
High school students, grades 9-12, are welcome to attend

January 22 • 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon
at Kiamichi Vo-Tech
301 Kiamichi Dr. in McAlester, Oklahoma

ETC, SAP and Choctaw students are admitted free of charge.
Please bring a copy of your membership card.
Non-ETS students should call 800-522-6170, ext. 2711, to request an application.
ACT materials, mid-morning snacks, drinks and lunch will be provided.

TRIO SCHOLARSHIP ADVISEMENT PROGRAM

Educational Talent Search is federally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education



Students attend Wildlife Expo

The Jones Academy elementary students grades 3-6 attended the Fifth Annual Oklahoma Wildlife Expo on Sept. 25, 2009, in Guthrie. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and hosted several thousand school-aged children. The purpose of the event was to educate participants through wildlife exhibits, outdoor activities and live demonstrations about our state's natural resources.

The third- and fourth-graders got a "Taste of The Wild." They sampled fish, deer, and buffalo chili. The sixth-graders got to smell and taste homemade chicken noodle soup cooked in a Dutch oven.

The students also practiced skeet shooting as well as throwing the tomahawk at a standing target. Other students were able to enjoy the great outdoors through mountain biking.

Students also learned techniques on how to survive in the wild. They were taught how to start a fire without matches; identify and prepare edible plants; call, track, and trap animals; fish and learn how to use a map and compass.

The annual event is sponsored in an effort to promote and develop appreciation for Oklahoma's wild-life and natural resources.

Kennedy speaks at EOSC dedication



Kelbie Kennedy of Buffalo Valley addressed the crowd at Eastern Oklahoma State College's New Student Center Building Dedication recently in Wilburton. Kelbie was an invited speaker along with our state legislators, senators and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Kelbie is a sophomore at Eastern where she serves as Student Government President. She is a Presidential Scholar in the Honors Program, serves as the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, serves on the Leadership team at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, and is a member of the NASA and Aggie clubs. Kelbie has been on the President's Honor Roll both semesters of her freshman year, received the Outstanding Student Award in the department of Language and Communication for 2008-09, and has maintained a 4.0 gpa. She is majoring in English with long-term goals of going to law school concentrating in International Affairs.

Kelbie wishes to thank the Choctaw Nation for its continued educational financial support and a special thanks to her Tribal Councilmembers, Kenny Bryant and Jack Austin, who have always been a tremendous help to her.



Graduating with many accomplishments

Ta'na Eliza Dianna Alexander has attended Dibble school for the past 13 years. She is involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, Show Choir and is senior class treasurer. Ta'na will graduate May 14, 2010.

She has been involved in sports since she was 3 years old. Softball, basketball, track and cheerleading have been her way of life for the past several years.

Some of her accomplishments and activities include: in 2005, Ta'na had the opportunity to spend time at the State Capitol with Representative Lisa Billy; in 2007, her cheerleading team placed runner-up in State competition; in 2008 she was the only female to participate in track. It was the first time she ran in the 400 meter dash. She placed eighth in the region, third in the high jump, and cleared 5/4 in the high jump.

In September 2008, she was also selected to participate in the Chickasaw Nation Chickasha Apihchi Ikbi leadership program in Ada. In the 2008-09 season she received the Big 8 basketball conference all-tournament team player in Elmore City and Lindsay. She also received the girls all-conference in USAO's Big Eight basketball conference.

Also, in October of 2008, Ta'na was nominated as an all-region cheerleader and in October 2009, she was football homecoming queen.

On Nov. 11, 2009, she competed in and won the All-State Oklahoma Coaches Cheerleading Association. She is the first student from Dibble to win All-State in cheerleading. The school presented her with an All-State jacket for her achievement and will display a stand-up photo of her at the school. Her peers at Dibble voted her Ms. DHS, best personality, most spirited, most outgoing and class clown. Also, in Dibble's "Who's Who," Ta'na was voted most memorable, most likely to be in the Olympics, and most likely to be in the Guinness Book of World Records in the categories loudest, best car and most likely to stay in Dibble.

Ta'na is the daughter of Nuchi Nashoba. She has two brothers, Ben Talako Williamson and Tanchi Nashoba Williamson, along with numerous relatives who reside within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation.

A descendant of World War I Choctaw Code Talker Ben Carterby, her motto is to "live, laugh and love." She plans to become a physical therapist.

Crank honored as 'EMT of the Year'

Cierra Crank, an Emergency Medical Technician for the Talihiina Station, was recently honored as the EMT of the Year for Leflore County.

Crank was raised in Talihiina and a graduate of Talihiina High School, class of '05.

She received her EMT training at the Kiamichi Area Technology Center in Poteau.

After completion of her training last January, she was hired by Leflore County Emergency Medical Station and placed at the Talihiina station.

"I am the baby here. I went to work here in February, right after I graduated," said Crank. "This (receiving the award) has really, kinda, left me in shock."

Crank is a member of the Choctaw Nation and is also a Choctaw Nation firefighter as a wild-land firefighter. These firefighters assemble as 20-man crews and are dispatched by the U.S. Forest Service to major forest fires throughout the United States.

Contributed by Tracey Lacie



Leflore County Emergency Medical Service – Talihiina Station captain, Kenny Lickly, is pictured with Cierra Crank, Leflore County EMT of the Year for 2009. (Photo by Tracey Lacie)

Volunteers make a difference in McAlester

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Senior citizens, single parents and many who are physically challenged benefitted on Make a Difference Day in McAlester. Volunteers gathered Oct. 24, 2009, to make minor home repairs. Pictured are volunteers Maureen Harrison, coordinator; Matt Dunham, LifeRide, Illinois; and Youth Advisory Board members David Batton, Adolfo Martinez, Howard Grogan and Alex Barrs.



Family attends Choctaw gathering

Three generations attended a Choctaw gathering on "Choctaw Hill" in Springtown, Texas. In attendance were Becky, James, Mary and Lisa Nicholson, Josh Sepulveda, and George, Mahli and Bethanie Webster.



Ethridge receives FFA degree

Stroud High School graduate Kyle Ethridge received the American FFA Degree on Oct. 24 while attending the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

The degree is the highest awarded by the national FFA organization, recognizing the leadership abilities and outstanding achievements of Ethridge in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs.

Ethridge is the son of Randy and Kay Ethridge of Stroud and is currently a sophomore at Oklahoma City University.

The national convention is the nation's largest annual gathering, welcoming students, parents and educators from all across the United States.

Crain wins Nammy



Choctaw tribal member Samantha Crain was presented a Native American Music Award for Songwriter of the Year for her album, "The Confiscation: A Musical Novella."

"The Nammys" is a national music awards show that celebrates and honors outstanding achievements of today's leading Native American artists.



Congratulations on graduation

Brother and sister Ryan Belindo and Allison Belindo Benton graduated in May from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan. Ryan earned his bachelor's in mathematics from the Faimount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Allison graduated with her bachelor's of business administration from the Barton School of Business. Ryan resides in Wichita, working as a computer programmer. Allison and her husband reside in Midwest City where she works at a bank and is planning to begin working in real estate. She is also benefitting from the Choctaw Career

Development Program and would like to say thanks for all of their help and support.

Ryan and Allison would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial support while attending college. It made a tremendous difference in their education.

Chambliss recognized as Principal of the Year

Annette Chambliss, member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and great-granddaughter of original enrollee Thomas Goings, is the Alexander Middle School principal and will represent the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals as the Region 4 Outstanding Middle School Principal of the Year.



Each year TASSP recognizes outstanding principals and assistant principals from the state's 20 regional education centers.

Peers within each region nominate candidates based on their exemplary performance and outstanding leadership. As a Region 4 winner, Chambliss will compete for the title of "Texas Middle School Principal."

Chambliss has headed Alexander since the campus opened in 2007. Prior to that, she served two years as principal of Sablatura Middle School. A former teacher, assistant principal and grant coordinator, she has worked in education more than 20 years.

Pearland ISD's 2007 Principal of the Year, she holds master's degrees in administration and curriculum and instruction.

Region winners will be recognized during the Texas Heroes Awards Dinner at the Hilton Downtown Austin Hotel on June 8. Each will receive an award and recognition in a commemorative booklet titled "Texas Principals, Texas Heroes."



Fastpitch state champions

Congratulations to the Fort Cobb-Broxton Lady Mustangs who took home the Class A Fastpitch State Championship on Oct. 17. Choctaw tribal members on the Lady Mustang team include junior Morgan McCullough, senior Chelsea DeVaughan and sophomore Ashley DeVaughan.

To the Youth of the Nation

Tobacco use in minors

By Caitlin Roebuck
Choctaw Nation YAB

The Centers for Disease Control has some staggering numbers about tobacco use in minors. Smokeless tobacco is becoming more and more popular among school-age children. Tobacco contains nicotine. Nicotine is the psychoactive drug in tobacco products that produces dependence. Most smokers are dependent on nicotine.

Did you know that twice as many high school students use smokeless tobacco than adults? Many times peer pressure influences them to try it. Some kids are so desperate to fit in they are willing to try almost anything to get other kids to like them. Do you think they have a problem obtaining the tobacco? Not really. They convince a parent or older sibling to buy it for them.

Some minors believe that smokeless tobacco is less harmful because they aren't inhaling toxic fumes; however, smokeless tobacco contains 28 cancer-causing agents. It has also been proven that adolescents who use smokeless tobacco are more likely to become cigarette smokers.

According to a fact sheet found on the Web site, www.cdc.gov/tobacco, 20 percent of high school students in the United States admit to being cigarette smokers – approximately 19 percent of females and 21 percent of males.

As a member of our local Youth Advisory Board, we strive to come up with ways to help prevent tobacco use in minors. As an adult, you can also help.

Did you know that 7 percent of adult smokeless tobacco users are Native Americans? What kind of example is being set for the future of our nation? The only way to prevent future users from starting is to educate them now on the dangers associated with its use.

There are many programs available to help. For support in quitting, including free quit coaching, a free quit plan, free educational materials, and referrals to local resources you can call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Art competition announced

Bringing Honor Through Education is the theme for the U.S. Department of Education, Office Indian Education's 2010 Native American Student Art Competition. The competition, which celebrates the values and successes of education in Native American communities, is open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students in pre-K through 12. The deadline for submissions is January 29. The Student Art Competition rules require that a student register their entry online or over the phone prior to submitting their entry. For additional information, rules, and entry form, please visit <http://kids.indian-education.org>.



Claremore's Choctaw language class completes Phase I

Phase I Choctaw Language Class graduated on September 15 at the Christ United Methodist Church in Claremore. The class was taught by Community Teacher Rev. Margaret Battiest. Richard Adams, Choctaw Nation Community Teachers Director, was guest speaker. Pictured in the front row are Clifford White, Roger Collier, Karey Young, Jared Young, Cindy White, Dylan Collier, Becky Sexton, Myra Lucille Harjo and Kevin Coleman; second row, Tammy White, Anthony White, Brandon White, Rev. Margaret Battiest, Richard Adams, Rod Lester, Gwen Lester, Pastor Eli McHenry and Michael Barnett. Other graduates not pictured are Guy Burris, Cordelia McHenry, Dakota White, Genevieve White and Kody Young. The class would like to thank Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for their support in sponsoring this class.



Tulsa State Fair winning lamb

Congratulations to Nikki Schuth who won in her class of lightweight Hampshire market lambs at the Tulsa State Fair. Nikki's lamb was one of only 45 selected for the premium sale out of more than 1,000 lambs competing. She has been raising and showing lambs since she was 9 years old.



Morgan attends dance audition

Frank Morgan II auditioned during the summer for the Tremaine Dance Convention Inc. in Los Angeles. He was selected as a company member, enabling him to attend a minimum of seven conventions across the United States assisting the instructors and dancing in the programs. He has been in dance for nine years, attending numerous dance conventions, competitions and the Oklahoma Art Institute Program at Quartz Mountain. Frank is a junior at McAlester High School and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. He is the son of Frank and Linda Morgan, McAlester, and grandson of Myrtle Morgan and the late Clarence Morgan, Hartshorne.

Summer 2010 College/Graduate Horizons Programs for Native Americans announce two enrollment deadlines in February

February 1 and February 26 are respective enrollment deadlines for first and second rounds of College Horizons and Graduate Horizons – four to five day crash courses held each summer to help prepare Native Americans for college or graduate school.

College Horizons and Graduate Horizons are among the most important summer programs for Native American students, according to Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "The achievement statistics are impressive. Ninety-nine percent of College Horizon alumni go directly to college and 85% graduate within five years," says Chief Pyle. "I strongly encourage all CNO students and parents to take advantage of this special opportunity for Native American students."

College Horizons 2010 will be a five-day course held at three locations: University of Hawaii (Hilo, Hawaii), Lawrence University (Appleton, Wisconsin) and University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, Washington). Graduate Horizons 2010 is a four-day course held at Arizona State University (Tempe, Arizona). Cost for each program is \$200 plus airfare. Financial aid is available to participants for program fee and airfare by filling out the aid section on the application. Complete details for each program, including eligibility and application information, can be found on the Web at www.collegehorizons.org.

College Horizons is a non-profit group organized in 1998 by Dr. Whitney Laughlin, at the Native American Preparatory School. Its mission is to encourage and facilitate the education of Native American young people. College Horizons, is a five-day "crash course" in preparing for college. Students learn about a broad variety of colleges and universities, and establish personal relationships with admission representatives and college counselors that continue long after the program is over. At each site, 90 students from across the nation work with over 70 expert college counselors and college admission officers to help students:

- Write memorable essays and create a resume
- Complete winning applications, including The Common Application
- Become a test-prep "whiz kid" learning test-preparation strategies for ACT and SAT

- Navigate the financial aid/scholarship jungle, complete a preliminary Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Attend Informational Sessions & a College Fair consisting of over 35 colleges and universities.

Graduate Horizons is a four-day "crash course" for Native American college students, master's students, and college graduates in preparing for graduate school (master's, Ph.D. or professional school). Faculty, admissions officers and deans from 40 graduate and professional schools and representing hundreds of graduate disciplines will help students:

- Select suitable graduate programs to apply to and consider potential career paths
- Complete quality applications and resumes
- Write effective statements of purpose and memorable personal statements
- Receive test-taking strategies on the GRE, GMAT, LSAT & MCAT
- Learn how to finance your graduate education
- Explore special issues and strategies for Native students' success in graduate school
- Develop relationships and network with faculty and student professionals

Over 1,550 students have attended College Horizons. Per site, approximately 50 Tribal Nations are represented from over 20 states; 40 percent are first generation college students; 42 percent receive need-based financial aid; 70 percent are female and 30 percent are male participants. Approximately 40 percent of College Horizon's faculty counselors are Native American. Between 2007 and 2009, 37 College Horizon alumni have been named Gates Millennium Scholars. In 2009 seven Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma students participated in College Horizons.

- Select 10 suitable colleges to apply to

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-23, except for:
Feb. 3: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
Feb. 10: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).
Closed Feb. 15: Tribal Holiday.
Closed Feb. 24, 25, 26 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 5 & 18, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Feb. 1-23, except for:
Closed Feb. 15: Tribal Holiday.
Closed Feb. 24, 25, 26 for inventory.
Food Demo: Feb. 5 & 18, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-23, except for:
Closed Feb. 15: Tribal Holiday.
Closed Feb. 24, 25, 26 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 3 & 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-23, except for:
Closed Feb. 15: Tribal Holiday.
Closed Feb. 24, 25, 26 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 1 & 11, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

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Choctaw storyteller entertains

Choctaw storyteller Greg Rodgers made a special visit to the Hartshorne Public Library on October 24. Jones Academy students and staff were able to attend the workshop and enjoy an afternoon of riveting ghost stories and traditional flute playing. Rodgers is an especially gifted storyteller. His stories were filled with suspense and scary moments. Some of the tales came from his book, "The Ghost of Mingo Creek." According to Rodgers, the narratives originated from the long and rich, Native American oral tradition. Rodgers added that in telling these stories, he is perpetuating the Choctaw culture. The event was hosted by librarians Cathy Tucker and Cindy Bedford.



Students to play in honor band at SOSU on January 30

Two Jones Academy students made the All-District Honor Band for Hartshorne Junior High in Hartshorne, Okla.

Eighth-grader Eleasah Horton and Cheyenne Neal, ninth grade, will perform with an all district band at 2 p.m. on January 30 in Montgomery Auditorium on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Eleasah is a tuba player from Ontario, Calif. Cheyenne plays the trumpet and hails from Davis, Okla.

Both students are Choctaw.



Miss Choctaw Nation receives four-year Bacone scholarship

Miss Choctaw Nation 2009 Ashton Rachele DiNardo ChuckLuck, 19, has accepted a four-year scholarship to Bacone College, Muskogee. The Bacone president interviewed Chel and extended the four-year scholarship based on her extensive pageant titles. Ashton, a former Jones Academy student, graduated from Hartshorne High School in the spring of 2009. Her pageant experiences include 2009 Miss Choctaw Nation Princess which includes a \$1,000 scholarship; District Princess; 2006 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation; 2006 District Princess; 2007 Miss Owa Chito; 2007 Miss Muskogee Aza-lea Festival Queen; 2007 Miss Muskogee Independence Day Queen; including opportunities of being in Arrowhead Mall commercials and modeling for Sears, Dillard's and Hibbett stores; second runner-up in the 2005 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma pageant; Miss Oklahoma Cover Girl and on to the nationals in Orlando, Fla.; 2004 Miss Sunburst; 2008 first runner-up Miss McAlester; prelim to Miss Oklahoma pageant with a \$600 cash scholarship; 2008 Miss Oklahoma Teen USA top 10 finalist with scholarship to Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Chel is competing in the prelim to the Miss Oklahoma pageant 2010 part of the Miss America pageant system.

She is a Bacone Warrior cheerleader with a major in Science. She is the granddaughter of Ray and Jean DiNardo and Richard and Pauline ChuckLuck and the great-granddaughter of LeeRoy Ward of Antlers and the late Alice Ward. Parents Reggie ChuckLuck and Danielle DiNardo-ChuckLuck.



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*Must be a Players Club member.

Durant Senior Citizens have memorable trip to Nashville

A diary of their four-day adventure

Choctaw Senior Citizens from District 9 began the Christmas season with a four-day trip. At 6 a.m. on December 7, thirty-one eager travelers boarded the bus in front of the new center and prepared for the 12-hour drive to Music City, USA – Nashville, Tennessee. After arriving at the hotel in Nashville, the group took a few minutes to check out their rooms and put up their belongings, then once again boarded the bus, bound for dinner at Cracker Barrel Restaurant.

After an early breakfast on Tuesday, they took their seats on the bus and met Jim, their guide for the next two days. The group enjoyed a tour of Nashville to begin the day. Approaching the downtown area, Jim asked them to notice the AT&T building, a multi-storied building topped by two spires. He said the spires made the building resemble Batman's helmet, therefore the people of the city called the building the "Bat building."

Other sights included the Tennessee State Capitol, the Bruton Snuff Co., and the large stadium where the Tennessee Titans play. The Titans were formerly the Houston Oilers.



At the Ryman.

This stadium seats over 68,000 people. Also on the tour was Fisk University where rock guitarist, singer and songwriter Jimi Hendrix got his start.

As the bus passed the Baptist Hospital, Jim told the seniors that June and Johnny Cash, in their later years, lived in Jamaica for much of the year but when they needed medical attention they always returned to the Baptist Hospital in Nashville.

Another hospital on the route was the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center. Sarah Ophelia Colley Cannon was better known to most as Minnie Pearl. She lent

her name to the facility and even after she had been diagnosed with cancer in 1985, she continued to look for ways to aid in cancer research.

Centennial Park, another downtown attraction, was built to house numerous buildings and displays during the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897. One of the more famous remaining buildings is the full-scale replica of the Parthenon of Athens, Greece. This building now functions as an art museum.

The group passed Vanderbilt University, known as the Ivy League of the South. The

university was begun with a \$1 million gift from Cornelius Vanderbilt, the railroad and shipping tycoon.

They drove down 16th Avenue, known as Music Row. This area gives the city one of its many names – Music City, USA. Many of the buildings were owned by or named for country music stars, including the Roy Orbison building, the Reba McEntire building and the ASCAP building.

The tour took the group past several recording studios. Jim said that the famous recording studio, Studio B, where country music greats such as Roy Orbison, Porter Wagoner, Dolly Parton, Charley Pride and the Everly Brothers recorded some of their hits. Elvis Presley also recorded many songs there.

The last stop of the morning was at the Ryman Auditorium and Museum. The former home of the Grand Ole Opry is now a National Historic Landmark. The Grand Ole Opry returns to the Ryman for performances November through February.

After lunch, the District 9 seniors went to the Country Music Hall of Fame. They were there for two hours but said they still didn't have time to hear and see all of the displays.

On Tuesday evening, the

group enjoyed dinner at the Santa Fe Cantina and then headed back to the Ryman Auditorium for a performance of the Grand Ole Opry.

The seniors began Wednesday with a tour of the Belle Meade plantation, a 30-acre historic site six miles west of Nashville. It is known as the Queen of Tennessee Plantations. It was begun in 1807 by John Harding and in the early years, Harding boarded horses for people, including Andrew Jackson. By 1817, Harding was breeding thoroughbreds and many of his horses became world famous. One of the more famous was Bonnie Scotland. Some of his descendants are still racing today. One of the most famous of Bonnie Scotland's descendants was the 1973 Triple Crown winner, Secretariat.

From the plantation, they headed for Opry Mills Mall where they had lunch and shopped for souvenirs. Later, the bus headed to the Hendersonville Memory Gardens in Henderson, a few miles northeast of Nashville. This is the burial site of June and Johnny Cash, "Mother" Maybelle Carter, Sheb Wooley and others.

The group boarded a boat, riding through the interior of the Gaylord Opryland Resort

Hotel and had dinner at the Water's Edge in the Gaylord Hotel.

The highlight of the day was the spectacular performance of the Radio City Rockettes at the Grand Ole Opry House. There were 11 scenes of singing and dancing that portrayed different Christmas season events, such as the "12 Days of Christmas," "The Nutcracker," and "Christmas in New York."

The concluding scene was titled, "The Living Nativity," a scene in which many of the traditional Christmas carols were sung and Mary, Joseph, the Babe and the wise men were portrayed. Also, there were real camel and sheep. The performance ended with the singing of the Hallelujah chorus of George Fredrick Handel.

After breakfast on Thursday, the 31 travelers boarded the bus and departed for home. They had an action-packed two days in Nashville and had become better acquainted during the trip, finding that they were indeed a very harmonious group. If God is willing, the group will find themselves on another bus, ready to see different sights.

The District 9 Senior Citizens are grateful to Monica Blaine for making all arrangements and coordinating activities and for the support of Councilman Ted Dosh.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

FEBRUARY 2010

A Vocational Rehab representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Antlers By Appt.	3 Durant 10:00-2:00	4	5 Idabel 10:00-2:00	6
7	8 Talihina 10:00-2:00	9	10 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	11	12	13
14	15	16 Poteau 11:30-1:00	17	18	19 Broken Bow 10:00-2:00	20
21	22 Crowder By Appt.	23 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	24 Atoka 10:00-2:00 Coalgate 10:30-1:30	25	26 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	27
28						

CNVR co-hosts national conference

The Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation (CNVR) program was honored to be a co-host to the Annual Consortium of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) conference held Nov. 29 – Dec. 2, 2009, in Norman. CANAR functions as a national platform for advocating the needs for effective rehabilitation service delivery for American Indians and Alaska Natives with disabilities so that they may engage in gainful employment.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton, representing the CNVR program by being part of the Tribal Leaders panel, welcomed the CANAR organization and conference to Oklahoma. Assistant Chief Batton touched on his own personal experience of having a family member with a disability and how he was once Executive Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

The Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program is devoted to assisting American Indians who have a disability that keeps them from gaining the skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment.

The program seeks to as-



Assistant Chief Gary Batton welcomes CANAR to Oklahoma.

sist with training at vocational schools, colleges and universities or by providing on-the-job training. Services include counseling and guidance, training such as tuition, books, room and board, job coaching, and placement in suitable employment, assistive devices, and other goods and services that can be reasonably expected to benefit an individual with a disability in terms of employment.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. You must have a documented physical or mental impairment that keeps you from working.

2. You must be a member of a federally recognized tribe.

3. You must live in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

Examples of disabilities: learning disability, diabetes, high blood pressure, orthopedic impairments, visual impairments, hearing impairments, seizure disorders, amputations, alcohol and drug addiction, mental illness

For more information or to make an appointment to meet with a counselor, please contact our office at toll-free 1-877-285-6893 or 580-326-8304.

Staff, members attend DFW expo



Peggy Larney with granddaughters Sage and Lilly.



Samuel Hussey and son Colin present Chief with a Dallas Police hat during Native American DFW Chamber of Commerce's annual expo.



Dr. Rodney Stapp, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and tribal member Mike Rose.



Chief Pyle and Mary Folsom



The Director of Scholarship Advisement, Jo McDaniel, with John Williams.



Lana Sleeper gives Arnold Taylor a bag with the Choctaw Nation's environmental logo.

Jones Academy names Super Students

Jones Academy has named its top students for the second nine weeks of the 2009-10 school year.

Pictured are, front row: Lena Goodbear, third grade; Hector Bernal, second grade; Nicole Davis, first grade; Daisica Rice, fourth grade; back row: Acea Duran, Sophomore; Lili-ana Bernal, sixth grade; Joseph Simpson, fifth grade; Jennifer Yeager, fifth grade; Tyler Dressman, sixth grade; and Lane Red Owl, a junior.

Congratulations!



YAB helps with McAlester community dinner



With the help of State Rep. Terry Harrison, members of the Choctaw Youth Advisory Board made peach and apple cobbler on November 26 for the 24th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the McAlester National Guard Armory. Councilman Bob Pate joins the group for a break at the newly remodeled Travel Plaza. YAB members include DaNetta Wilkerson, Cherish Wilkerson, Anna Rolland, Olivia Rolland and Mikaya Rogers.

OBITUARIES

Bill 'Andy' Anderson

Bill "Andy" Anderson, 78, of Ok-taha, passed away on Aug. 12, 2009, in Muskogee. Andy was born on Sept. 6, 1930, in Yanush, the son of Frank Hamilton and Lillie Josephine Anderson. Andy faithfully served his country for over 25 years in the United States Army. His service included working with the Military Police, as well as work in Secret Intelligence and other duties throughout his career serving all over the world. He was one of the fastest teletype operators with over 140 words per minute sent. Andy continued his work in the loan guarantee division of the Veteran's Administration Regional Office where they called him "Mr. Wonderful."



He married Inez Hill on May 12, 1978, in Muskogee. Andy was not only a patriot to his country but also a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He leaves a wonderful legacy of love for God and country for his family to cherish.

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

Andy is survived by his wife, Inez, of the home, children Glenda Anderson and husband Wayne of Bristol, Tenn., Diane Cullum and husband Melvin of Muskogee, June Hall of Oktaha, Deanna Moore and husband Jack of Muskogee, Cassie Horn and husband Nick of Wagoner and Johnny Matthews of Muskogee; sisters Justine Starr of Arizona and Lurline Hamburg of McA-lester; grandchildren Nikki Matthews, Kara Matthews, Davey Matthews, Chad Cullum, Lorrie Anderson, Bethany Anderson, Brandon Hall, Samantha Luscomb, Rachael Hall-Dunn, Chris Matthews, Rebeka Rowan, Aaron Moore, Caleb Horn, Austin Horn and Lacey Horn; nine great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Pamela Bounds

Pamela "Pammy" Marie Bounds, 56, of Phoenix, Ariz., passed away Sept. 8, 2009, with family by her side. She was born on Sept. 25, 1952, to Phillip and Nellie Bounds. She retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2008.



Pamela was a proud Choctaw Tribal member and the granddaughter of original tribal enrollee Frances (Giddens) Willis.

She is survived by her mother, brother Michael, children Shannon and Adrian, along with grandchildren Frankie, Jackie, Ally and her three cats.

She was preceded in death by her father, sister Phyllis, brother David and her beloved cat Artemis.

Her love for small animals extended to a fondness for meerkats. In March of 2009, she took her grandkids to visit the meerkats at the Fellow Earthlings' Wildlife Center in Morongo Valley, Calif. They will cherish this memory forever.

She loved Las Vegas, especially her winnings, talking about and trying to interpret her dreams and playing computer games with her friend Frannie. She also enjoyed making jewelry and soap and drinking iced tea with a lot of ice. She had a big heart and touched the lives of many people. She will be missed dearly.

Ryan Stewart Allen

Ryan Stewart Allen, 16, passed away on Oct. 26, 2009. He was a resident of Steamboat Springs, Colo., and was born in Redlands, Calif.



Ryan was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and took great pride in his heritage. His great-great-grandfather, William Ellison Vail, was an original enrollee. His great-grandmother, Mary Frances Kuykendall, preceded him in death and was in Heaven waiting for him.

Ryan was beloved by all he touched and is survived by his parents Tammy Stewart and Daniel Allen and his sister Shilah Allen. Other surviving relatives include his grandmother Sally Ferguson, uncle Dave Stewart and aunt Lysa, cousins Abram, Jason, Laine, and his dear girlfriend Camille.

Ryan attended Steamboat Springs High School as a sophomore. He was involved in sk8 church youth group, and attended a mission trip to Costa Rica. He was a good student. He was actively involved in community service. He was an avid snowboarder and skateboarder. He had a kind heart and was one of the funniest kids you would ever meet. Ryan was a blessing and a light to all he touched. There is no way to replace the loss of Ryan.

His family is thankful for the 16 beautiful years that God let them share with him. He was pure love, joy and sunshine.

Doris L. Harriman

Doris L. Harriman passed away Nov. 30, 2009, in Scribner, Neb. She was born in Caddo on July 13, 1911, the eldest of nine children born to Samuel Gaither and Ada Boydston Pherigo.



She graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1929 and also attended East Central State Teachers College in Ada.

Doris and Arthur "A.J." Harriman were married on May 25, 1935, a marriage that spanned 66 years. They lived in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Arizona and California. She was a longtime homemaker but found time to assist in the family business in Ventura, Calif., for a time. She enjoyed growing flowers, reading poetry, dancing and music. Following A.J.'s death she moved to Nebraska near to her daughter.

She was also preceded in death by sons Charles and Wayne and grandsons Eric and Scott Sleeper.

She is survived by her children, son Darrel and wife Sandy Harriman, Devine, Texas, daughter Sandra and husband Dennis Sleeper of Fremont, Neb.; brother Don and wife Mary Pherigo of Oklahoma City; daughter-in-law Leana and husband Dave Marshall of Corona, Calif.; grandchildren Sheryl and husband Cory Hull of Scribner, Kevin Sleeper of Longview, Texas, Kandy and Isabella Sleeper of Fremont, Shannon and wife Candice Harriman, Michelle and Dwight Thompson, all of Dallas, Texas, Gail Harriman of Austin, Texas, Michael Scillich of San Antonio, Texas, Michael and Celeste Harriman of Corona, April and husband Gabe Jauregui of Memphis, Tenn., Paul and wife Maxine Sleeper of Dallas; and nine great-grandchildren.

Jack Nail

Jack Nail, 83, passed away on June 28, 2009. He was born Jan. 20, 1926, in Boswell to Charles C. and Lillian Nail and his grandparents were Joe and Paralee Mullins Nail. He was a member of Ironworkers Local 29.



He was married to Ruth Nail of Oregon. Other family include siblings Wanda Nail and Annetta Nail, aunts and uncles, Mary, Susan, Minnie, Dolly, Austin, Grace and Jenkins. His father also had two half-siblings, Riley Winship and Nettie Lorene Nail.

Jack is survived by his wife Ruth, sons Terry, Larry and Gary and daughters Donna and Dian.

Jimmie N. Cotton

Jimmie N. Cotton, 87, of Wilburton passed away Sept. 7, 2009, at McAlester Regional Hospital. She was born in Washington on Aug. 13, 1922, the daughter of James and Addie Almeta (Jennings) Love. Jimmie was a homemaker and she was of the Baptist faith.

She was the wife of William Cotton. Jimmie and William were married Oct. 18, 1942, in Franklin County, Ark.

She is survived by her husband William Cotton of the home, sons William Davis Cotton Jr. of Wilburton, James Wayne Cotton and wife Carolyn Chris of Oklahoma City, John Timothy Cotton and wife Joan of McAlester, 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Renah Bell Craig

Renah Bell Craig passed away Sept. 11, 2009, in Shafter at the age of 96. She was born to Finn and Lenore (Autrey) Green in Brooken on Nov. 5, 1912.

Renah had moved to the Wasco area in the 1970s where she spent her time raising her family and spending as much time as she could with her grandchildren. Renah also enjoyed working in her garden and it is said she could grow anything.

Renah was also a member of the First Southern Baptist Church and worked in the school nursery. She was a good Christian lady who will be sadly missed.

Renah was preceded in death by her husband Fred in 1963. She is survived by her sons Wiley and wife Delois Craig of Bakersfield and Don and his wife Susan of Florida, daughter Diana and husband Marvin Williams of Louisiana, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Lomedia Faye Taylor Ash

Lomedia Faye Taylor Ash, 60, passed away Aug. 24, 2009, in Ardmore. Lomedia was born Nov. 12, 1948, to John and Stella Mae (Johnson) Taylor in Madill. She was known by her family and friends as "Mead." She graduated from Dickson High School and received her associate's degree in childcare from East Central University in Ada.



Mead married Doug Ash on May 3, 1976 in Durant. She served as a dormitory parent at Carter Seminary. She taught Head Start students at the Chickasaw Nation and she served as a Johnson O'Malley chairperson for many years. She enjoyed spending time laughing with her family and friends and spoiling her grandchildren. Her passion was arts and crafts of all kinds. She excelled in quilting, bead work and cake decorating. She was also an avid bingo player and a fan of the Oklahoma Sooners.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Austin Ray Taylor and Leo Ray Taylor and sister Louise Bird Taylor.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Doug, sons Ked Cree Ash and wife Carla Jean, and Kurt Taylor Ash, granddaughter Skylar Cree Ash and grandson Xaryk Anthony Ash.

Also surviving her are brother Leonard Taylor; eight sisters, Johanna Boston, Marquita Grater, Marcella Wilmond, Myrna Boston, Doreen Martinez, Tammy Stiles, Terry Sampson and Mary Ann Taylor; stepmother Pauline Taylor, aunts Josephine Taylor and Ahnawake Taylor; special sister Vivian Sue Murray and husband Ronnie; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Florene Starnes

Florene Starnes was born Jan. 28, 1934, in Tishomingo. She passed away Dec. 26, 2009, in Durant.



Mrs. Starnes loved her family, her friends and her church. She enjoyed teaching youth girls Sunday School for nearly 20 years. Mrs. Starnes was blessed with lifelong and loyal friends she made over the years at Calvary Baptist and First Baptist Church.

She opened and owned the local Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio in 1970. Soon after, she became a member of the Durant Chamber of Commerce and local chapter of B&PW. She later expanded and added gifts to her cosmetic studio and was able to pursue her lifelong hobby of shopping and decorating. She truly enjoyed purchasing beautiful things, not just for her own home, but for her customers' homes as well.

She married Willie Starnes in Durant on Dec. 25, 1952. Mr. and Mrs. Starnes had two children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She attended every football game, every choir concert and any other function where her family was represented. She formed an individual, unique relationship with each of her grandkids and great-grandkids. Each felt they were "Granna's favorite." Mr. and Mrs. Starnes celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on Christmas day. They celebrated with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; all of whom will remember her as a loving, sweet, kind Christian woman.

She is survived by her husband, Willie, of the home; daughter Beverly Hill and husband Bruce, and son Ronald Starnes, all of Durant; granddaughters Melissa Hill of Durant, Michelle Hill of Coleman, Krystle Harbert and husband Jeff and Kayleigh Rambo and husband Sam, all of Frisco, Texas; grandson Jeff Hill of Tulsa; great-grandchildren Bailey Brown and Kevin Terrell both of Coleman, Kinlee Hill and Cecilee Hill both of Durant, Cobyn Harbert of Frisco and sister Glenna Christman and husband Gene of Normal, Ill.

She was preceded in death by parents Edwin and Irene Kelley and sister Jean Beal.

Beverly Sue Dodd

Beverly Sue Dodd passed away Nov. 9, 2009, in Tulsa. She was born in Tulsa Nov. 21, 1941, to Roy C. Sheppard and Desa Crawford.



Beverly graduated Webster High School in Tulsa and went on to attend Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Mo. She was a vocalist in the Revival Time Choir of the nationally syndicated radio program, "Revival Time Hour" with C.M. Ward of the Assemblies of God. She was also an accomplished pianist, composer and loved gospel music. She spent her life singing and playing in gospel tent crusades and churches from California to Georgia.

She was preceded in death by her husband Wayne T. Dodd, her parents and siblings Rowena Jenkins, Naomi McNeese and Gene Sheppard.

She was buried at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with her husband. Her legacy and testimony of the redemptive plan of salvation through a new life in Christ Jesus lives on in all her family who miss her dearly and are anxiously awaiting a glorious reunion with her.

Her survivors include her eight children, David and Tim Vermillion of Tulsa, Nancy Butts of Alabama, Lisa Peek and Tracey Duncan of Georgia, Kimberly Christensen of Indiana, Beverly Buttrey and Cleveland Southern of Vian; sisters Betty Rhoades and Rosemary Sheppard of Tulsa; brother Roy G. Sheppard of Broken Arrow; 11 grandchildren, and a plethora of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Joseph 'Chock' Boone

Joseph "Chock" Boone of Spiro was born Oct. 17, 1924, in Adell to Milam J. and Donnie Violet (Robbins) Boone and passed away Oct. 27, 2009, in Spiro at the age of 85.



He is survived by his wife, Anna Lee, of the home; daughters JoAnne Boone of Spiro and Janet Rogers of Oklahoma City; brother Jack Boone of Lovington, N.M.; grandchildren Jennifer Sebo and husband Gary, Christopher Wall and wife Corey and Jeremiah Wall and wife Sherry; and eight great-grandchildren, Whitney and Kaitlynn Sebo, Jordyn Wayt and Taylor, Emily, Colton, Madison and Jacie Wall.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Albert Boone and sister Patsy Malone. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Talihina and active in the men's ministry until he moved his church membership to First Baptist Church of Spiro. He loved hunting, fishing and woodworking.

Herrell R. Bird

Herrell R. Bird passed away Nov. 15, 2009, at the age of 84. The eldest grandson of original Choctaw enrollee John Jenkins, he was born Dec. 2, 1924, in Conway, Ark.



A longtime resident of Jacksonville Beach, he served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was a Paratrooper. He worked for Missouri Pacific Railroad, Federal Railroad Administration and retired from Union Pacific Railroad.

Family members include his loving wife of 60 years, Virginia, son Mike Bird, daughter Mary Ann Staton and husband Charles, brother Wayne Bird and wife Marlene, sister Dorothy Jean Jelinek and grandchildren Ryan, Carey, Lauren and Matthew.

He was preceded in death by his sister Wilma Irene Norton and his parents, Ray and Edna.

Overton Washington

Overton Washington, born Jan. 21, 1919, departed this life on Nov. 9, 2009, at Claremore Veterans Center. Mr. Washington retired from Liberty Glass and pastored four area churches with Opportunity Baptist being the last. He was a proud veteran, serving during WWII with the U.S. Army.



He was full-blood Choctaw. He attended Jones Academy and graduated from Chilocco in 1939.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Lee and Carsey Bakin Washington, brothers Benson, Lester, Roger, Bill, Ben and George Washington; his first wife Marie, the mother of his children; and one daughter Dorothy Tiger.

Mr. Washington is survived by his wife, Daisy, of the home; sons Overton "Johnny" and wife Charlotte of Broken Arrow, Robert "Bobby" and wife Lavinia of Sapulpa; daughter Pat Potter and husband James; and step-daughter Virginia Scouter and husband Keith, all of Sapulpa, many grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Steven Gibson

Steven Gibson, 31, of Hartshorne, passed away Dec. 9, 2009, in Tulsa. Born Jan. 13, 1978, in Talihina, Steven was the son of Earl Steven and Sharon Kay (Smith) Gibson. He worked for the Parks and Recreation dept. for the city of McAlester where he worked on city vehicles. He enjoyed hunting and horses.



He is survived by his wife Thelma; son Hildrie Lee Gibson, stepchildren Amy Mainus, George Mainus and wife Brandy, Bobby Perez and husband Steven, Mary Helbert and husband Keith; granddaughter Alexis Mainus; father Earl Steven Gibson and wife Diane of Indianola, brother Isaiah Gibson and wife Carrie of McAlester; sister Sondra Hatcher and husband Chris of Indianola; nieces Rochelle Hatcher, Chloe Hatcher both of Indianola; grandfather Bob Karr of McAlester; aunts Angie Karr of McAlester, Carol Williams of Hartshorne, Janet and husband Stewart of Washington, Carol Crouch and husband Bubba; uncles Gary Smith and wife Susan, all of Hartshorne, Royce Smith of Pittsburg, Leslie Gibson and wife Cindy of Shawnee, Robbie Karr and wife Tammy of McAlester; and numerous cousins and other family.

OBITUARIES

Leon Dale Stevens

Leon Dale Stevens was born the fourth child of James Cully and Aran Lee Stevens on Dec. 5, 1922, in McAlester and left this life on Aug. 9, 2009, in Oklahoma City.

He married Cora Lee Opal Monroe on Nov. 18, 1944, in McAlester.

He was a minister in the Pentecostal Holiness Church for 67 years having served as a pastor in the East Oklahoma Conference for many years. He pastored churches in and around the Ada area for a number of years. He was also an Evangelist during his time in the ministry. During his very early years of ministry he made a missions trip to Mexico with then Bishop J. H. King which left a lasting impression upon his life. He began preaching at the young age of 16 on the streets of California.

Leon was preceded in death by two sons, Leon Dee and Timothy Eugene. He was also preceded in death by his parents and sister Pearla Browne, and four brothers, JC, John, Monroe and Willie. He is survived by sister Mary Lee and brothers Woodrow and Joe.

Leon is also survived by his wife, Cora, of 64 years; seven children, James Woodrow Stevens and wife Pat Givens, Mary Lee Stevens, John Cleveland Stevens and wife Donna Goad, Priscilla Ann Stevens and husband John Krittenbrink, Douglas Monroe Stevens and wife Nancy Calabrese, Carolyn Jo Stevens Branch, Joe David Stevens; grandchildren, Steven Garrett Rhynes and wife Jennifer Duncan, Lori Nicole Rhynes and husband Michael Clay, Zachary Lance Rhynes, Johna Marie Stevens, Justin Cole Stevens, Ashley Anne Branch and husband Yance Vaughn, John Clinton Branch, Clifford Jackson Branch, Sofia Frances Stevens and four great-grandchildren, Cale Thomas Rhynes, Kameron James Burns Branch, Heidi Nicole Clay, Valor Dane Vaughn.

He leaves a lasting legacy of faith for his family for many generations to come.



Thelma Ramirez

Thelma Lola (Jefferson) Brooks Ramirez passed away peacefully in her sleep in Davis, Calif., on Dec. 5, 2009, at the age of 77 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Thelma was born on April 26, 1932, in Duncan, to the late Perry William and Evelyn (Winship) Jefferson.

Thelma and her siblings were educated at the Goodland Indian Orphanage School, where she graduated in 1949.

She married Charles "Chuck" Brooks. They lived in Oklahoma and North Carolina until military assignments and her work in civil service with the Air Force brought them to California, where they eventually settled in Fairfield.

After 22 years, Thelma and Charles went their separate ways and she moved to Woodland, where she lived her retired life. While living in Woodland, She was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir and served many years with the children's church.

She was an avid tennis player all of her life. She enjoyed sewing and taking care of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren as well as anyone else she felt needed her care. In 2004 she married her friend and tennis partner, Albert A. Ramirez.

She is survived by her husband, Albert A. Ramirez, of Woodland; daughter Chris Todorovic and husband Dana of Woodland; sons Karl Brooks of Elk Grove, Charles Brooks "Junior" of Woodland, John Brooks and wife Jackie of Lincoln; brother Roy Gibson of Midwest City.

She is also survived by seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Perry and Evelyn Jefferson, brothers Thurman Jefferson and Theodore Jefferson and sisters Sue Sali and Thelia Clevenger.



Marvin Henry Roberts

Marvin Henry Roberts, 49, of Broken Bow, passed away Nov. 8, 2009, at his residence. Marvin was born March 20, 1960, in Lawton, the son of Elias and Josaphine Roberts.

Marvin and Lisa Roberts have been together for 13 years. He was a painter at Larry's Body Shop and was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was an avid Broken Bow and OU fan and enjoyed watching NASCAR and pro-football.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Josaphine Roberts.

Marvin leaves to cherish his memory his wife Lisa of the home, three daughters, one stepdaughter and three stepsons, Monica Jefferson and husband Randall of Idabel, Lindsay Roberts of Idabel, Robin Baker and husband Jerome of Broken Bow, Amy Anna and husband Jason of Broken Bow, Max Williston of Oklahoma City, Keith Williston of Broken Bow, and Ramsey Williston and Shay of Tahlequah.

He is also survived by six sisters and brothers-in-law, Evelyn Tom and husband Nicholas of Alabama, Donna and husband Domingo Rodriguez of Wright City, Barbara Giddens and husband Willie of Broken Bow, Fay Anna and husband Wayne of Wright City, Betty Crosby and husband Willard of Calera, and two brothers and sisters-in-law Ricky Roberts of Tulsa and Elias Roberts and wife Phyllis of Broken Bow.

Also nine grandchildren and seven step-grandchildren, special friend Mike Battiest and pet Missy, numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Alsace 'Lorraine' Pebworth

Alsace "Lorraine" Pebworth, passed away March 9, 2009, in Danville, Calif. Daughter of original enrollee, Louis A. Pebworth, and great-granddaughter of Sam "Bear Killer" Williams of Sam William's Mountain near Idabel, she was born on June 12, 1928.



She moved with parents Louis and Lorene Hodges Pebworth to Pawhuska and graduated from high school in 1946. She attended the University of Oklahoma for two years majoring in Fine Arts. On March 7, 1952, she married Dick Wilkinson. The couple resided in Tulsa before moving to Redwood City, Calif. They had three children, Kathy, Richard "Tony," and Charles Wilkinson.

She later married Bill Feeney on June 29, 1977, and moved to San Carlos, Calif. She was preceded in death by her husband and son Charles Wilkinson.

She is survived by daughter Kathy, son Tony and wife Cynthia, daughter-in-law Tammy, grandchildren Zacharia and wife Lisa Marie, Samantha and Anabelle and great-grandchildren Josiah, Annalise and Zoe, all of California and Colorado.

She is fondly remembered and dearly missed.

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

Choctaw County

March 1, 2010

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Choctaw Nation
Community Center
219 N. Broadway
Hugo, Okla.

Pittsburg County

March 1, 2010

Mondays and Wednesdays

1-4 p.m.

EOSC
McAlester Campus
1802 E. College Ave.
McAlester, Okla.

McCurtain County

March 2, 2010

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1-4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Family
Investment Center
Broken Bow, Okla.

Haskell County

March 2, 2010

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1-4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation
Community Center
Hwy. 82
Stigler, Okla.

The classes will meet two days a week for approximately three months. 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 at 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280 ext. 2319 or 2122. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.



Jones Academy Angels

Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Education Executive Director Joy Culbreath and Jones Academy Administrator Brad Spears gather with students at Jones Academy in Hartshorne to celebrate Christmas with fun and a great holiday meal.

Every year, employees of the Choctaw Nation choose a "Jones Academy angel" to shop for, wrapping up everything from gift cards and music CDs to sneakers or video games.



Ray Tobey was a guest speaker at the McAlester Choctaw Community Center for the Monday evening Choctaw language class taught by Shelly Westbrook and the Thursday evening Choctaw language class by Rhoda Anderson.

Tobey spoke about "Choctaw History - The Trail of Tears." He covered the early years of when and where the placements started, most from Mississippi around 1801 through 1830.

He spoke about how some Choctaws were placed on riverboats and sent south on the Mississippi River toward Louisiana and were then led northeast on yet another river. They were disembarked about 40 or 50 miles up river from where

they began their march toward Indian Territory.

He also mentioned another group of Choctaws that were led northwest from Mississippi toward Arkansas and were eventually split up into two groups. They both headed toward the Indian Territory but by a different passage.

He did an outstanding job in presenting his lecture to the classes and was well informed on Choctaw history.

Church invites public to singing event

The Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church would like to invite everyone to their first annual birthday singing for Silas Blaine and Robert Sanders on Feb. 13, 2010.

The singing will be held at the Choctaw Nation Senior Citizens Center in Durant. It will begin at 1 p.m. M.C.'s for the event will be Bubba Johnson and Robert Sanders.

The Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church will be providing a concession stand with all chata food and drinks.

All groups are welcome, as well as soloist.

Contact Lorene Blaine at 580-924-9411 or 580-380-1559 for further information.

Choctaw Nation recognized for Laserfiche innovation

In October, Laserfiche presented the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with its Visionary Award at the TribalNet 2009 conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

Choctaw Nation Administrative Manager DeAnna Moore and Information Technology Director Dustin Stark accepted the Visionary Award on behalf of Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which is the third largest tribe in the United States., with 175,000 members and 12 districts. The Choctaw Nation has used Laserfiche since 2001.

"The Choctaw Nation continually strives to find ways in which to better serve our tribal members and we have found that leveraging technology has helped the Choctaw people," Stark says.

The Choctaw Nation uses Laserfiche to manage documents and maximize productivity through increased data organization, accessibility and availability.

With Laserfiche Rio enterprise content management, the Choctaw Nation automates business processes in the Tribal Council, Head Start, Housing Authority, Choctaw Language, Career Development and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs.

Laserfiche reseller InterTribal Software Consultants (ISC) has worked with the Choctaw Nation for the last 12 years. ISC has also developed Tribal Assistance Manager, a Tribal member tracking software, and integrated Laserfiche in order to help tribes manage member

assistance programs, automate workflow and track different funding sources.

ISC is headquartered in Durant and is a certified Woman Owned Minority Business. ISC's President is Ida Curley Wilcox, a full blood Navajo from the Window Rock area of Arizona.

ISC's Tribal clients include the Absentee Shawnee HA, Choctaw Nation HA, the HA of the Seminole Nation, the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma, the Comanche Nation HA, the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe, the Muckle-shoot Indian Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux, the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux, the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma and the Susanville Rancheria Tribe, Calif.



Choctaw Nation Information Technology Director Dustin Stark and Administrative Manager DeAnna Moore accepts the Laserfiche Visionary Award from Charles Suzara, Laserfiche Regional Manager and Steve Wilcox, Vice President Intertribal Software Consultants.

How important was the bow and arrow to our ancestors?

Question: *Dear Iti Fabvssa, I know that our tribal seal has a bow and arrows on it, and I have seen bows for sale at the Council House gift shop and other places around Choctaw Nation. How important was the bow and arrow to our ancestors and what were they like?*

Answer: For centuries, bows and arrows in the hands of skilled Choctaw men protected our communities from military attack, supplied meat for our families, and provided important animal products like hides. For a significant period of time, the bow has been intertwined with our history, Tribal identity, and prosperity.

Many early Choctaw oral traditions mention the bow (e.g., Bushnell 1909:32-33; Mould 2004:85-88). At least one of these depicts the bow as a supernatural gift given to us at a certain point in our history (Claiborne 1880:519).

Archaeology also tells us that Choctaw people have used the bow for a very long time, but that we did not always have it. Before about 700 A.D. most ancestral Choctaw hunters and warriors used spear throwers known as "atl-atls" However during the 1,100 years spanning 700-1800 A.D. nearly every Choctaw warrior had a bow.

A good idea of the way our ancestors used the bow and arrow to protect themselves is given in the chronicles of the de Soto expedition. In the 1540s, Hernando de Soto lead an invading Spanish army through what is now the Southeastern United States. They faced our ancestors on the battlefield and wrote about them:

They [the Natives] are never quiet but always running and crossing from one side to another so that the crossbows or the arquebuses [guns] can not be aimed at them; and before a crossbowman can fire a shot, an Indian can shoot three or four arrows, and very seldom does he miss what he shoots at. If the arrow finds no armor, it penetrates as deeply as a crossbow (Elvas 1993:59 [1557]).

At the battle of Mabila, a Choctaw-speaking archer shot an arrow through the hardwood shaft of a lance held by a Spaniard (Rangel 1993:294 [ca. 1540]). Only an extremely powerful bow and archer could do this. An Apalachee man (a tribe related to the Choctaw) shot an arrow at close range that entered a horse's chest and nearly passed through the animal length-ways (Garcilaso 1993:235 [1596]). Another Apalachee man shot a single arrow through two thicknesses of chainmail (Spanish armor) and a tight-weave basket at a distance of 150 paces.

Later generations of Choctaw soldiers used bows on the battlefields of the American Revolution and the American Civil War (Lees 2002:5-6). Although no longer a military weapon, today, some Oklahoma Choctaw hunters use traditional Choctaw archery tackle to hunt deer.

To be effective, Choctaw archery equipment represents a skillfully crafted and well-balanced match between the bow, arrow, and all of their parts. Today, most Choctaw speakers refer to the bow as iti tanampo or literally "wooden gun." An older Choctaw name for "bow" may be tanamp shibata (Byington 1915:341). Most of the surviving old Choctaw bows are straight when unstrung, and D-shaped when strung. Made of all wood, these D-shaped bows appear to have originally had two forms. War bows were as tall as the archer and very powerful. Hunting bows, sometimes also used for shooting fish, were perhaps a foot shorter and less powerful. Interestingly, the bow on the Choctaw Tribal seal is not a Choctaw-style bow. The shape of its limb tips identifies it as an English bow.

Oksak vpi (hickory) was probably the bow wood most commonly used by our ancestors in Mississippi, although many other hardwoods such as ukof vpi (persimmon), kampko (hackberry), and iti



Iti Fabvssa

kvfi (sassafras) were probably also used. Upon arriving in Oklahoma, most Choctaw bowyers started to use kuti lvkna (bois d'ark) (Byington 1915:470, 358, 213).

In the Choctaw language, the bow string is called "tanamp shibata isht talakchi" (Byington 1915:341). Bow strings were most often made from shredded fibers of animal tendon, rawhide from small animals such as red squirrels, cleaned intestines, and plant fibers such as the inner bark of the mulberry tree.

A bow is almost useless without an arrow that has been carefully matched to it in terms of stiffness, length, and weight. Choctaw arrows are traditionally made from oskish (switch cane), and shoots from several types of hardwoods, probably including hakchulhkvp (dogwood), iti kosoma (sourwood), and iti hishi halupa (yaupon holly) (Byington 1915: 307, 131, 213, 212).

In the Choctaw language, arrows made from cane are referred to as oski naki, literally "cane projectile." Wooden arrows are referred to as iti naki. Many arrow points were made from chipped flint, shaped deer antler, scales from the garfish, and carved wood. Most Choctaw arrows that were not intended for fishing, had feathers attached to their back ends in several different styles.

From surviving photographs, it appears that early Choctaw archers drew their bows by pinching the arrow between the thumb and forefinger and pulling the bowstring back with the ring and middle fingers. Multiple arrows were held in the bow hand for rapid firing.

Traditionally, archery skills were passed on to Choctaw youth through formal training (Bossu 1771, cited by Swanton 2001:124). Bow-making skills were honed through contests and rivalries between bow-makers.

Today, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma maintains its traditional archery skills and knowledge through bow shoots held every second Saturday at the Tushka Homma Council House Grounds beginning in March. Please come and learn how to make and use these amazing tools of our ancestors!

Much, much more information is available on the history of Choctaw archery. Please call 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2216.

Bushnell, David Jr.



An early Choctaw Freedman's bow, Tuskahoma Council House Museum

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1993[1596]La Florida. In The De Soto Chronicles., edited by Lawrence A. Clayton, pp. 25-560. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

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2001 Source Material for the Social and Ceremonial Life of the Choctaw Indians. Reprint-University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Help us find old Choctaw bows and arrows or stories about them!

Do you own or know about the location of an old Choctaw bow or arrow? Please contact us at 580- 775-0914. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office is currently trying to locate and document every old Choctaw bow and arrow still in existence. Currently, we are aware of only four old Choctaw bows from southeastern Oklahoma.

Photographs and measurements of these are being put into a database so that Choctaw people will have a record of our ancestral archery equipment, to help us hold onto our traditional archery indefinitely into the future. We're also trying to document stories from Choctaw elders about Choctaw archery. If you know any and are willing to share them, please contact us!

Pottery Class at Tushka Homma

In addition to the regular classes, a Choctaw Pottery Class will be held at the Tushka Homma Council House Grounds on February 13 from 1-5 p.m.

Please mail your questions to Iti Fabvssa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.com with "Iti Fabvssa" in the subject line.

Editor's Note: Due to the volume of the response to this column our writers will prioritize the questions according to topics and space availability. We will publish as many as possible in future issues of the newspaper.



Belt teaches beading

Debra Belt teaches a beading class at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance in Oklahoma City. Debra is showing how to bead a lady's Choctaw collar worn with the traditional dress. The class is exciting for first-timers and seasoned beaders alike. There are more classes to come in pottery, moccasin, and shawl making.

Debra placed first in the ladies' Choctaw traditional dress dance contest in November at the Choctaw Nation Pow Wow in Durant.

Please come join in the classes at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, or call 405-681-0869.

Chahta Words of the Month

English	Choctaw	pronunciation
mosquito	sapuntak	sapó'tak
blood	issish	is'sish
translator	anumpa tosholi	anó'pa to-shó-li
help	apela	api-la
war	tvnnpv or tvnnpv ittibi	tap-nap it-ti-bi
fight	ittibi	it-ti-bi

Choctaw Word Find Puzzle

C u b n m b h v a k d h
 h h e T e j t m b a a o
 h a a e n v o h i h i l
 N i t n a k k o i b p i
 H u l l u n s f a a o t
 C h i t o e v a s j p t
 o y i a n t l h a d h o
 v e w p y b i i n c s p
 a o k m p s a h w z v a
 n a v l h t a k l a b h
 a k a k o t i h C i l d
 o k h i s s a C o a j b

Find the Choctaw words and learn the pronunciation and meaning at the same time.

January - Chanueli - cha.no.wi.li
 walk - nowa - no.wa
 work - toksvli - tok.sa.li
 lock - ashvnni - a.shan.ni
 door - okhissa - ok.his.sa
 knife - bvshop - básh.po
 orphan - vlhtakla - alh.ták.la
 hair, of head - pasha - pan.shi



Travelers enjoy Christmas in the Park

Chief Gregory E. Pyle greeted visitors to the Choctaw Nation's Christmas in the Park at Tushka Homma. Little Piper Erwin, above, is chewing on a candy cane received from the Chief. This is the second year tribal employees have decorated the Capitol grounds, holding a friendly rivalry between departments to see who can put up the best light display. Over 1,000 votes came in from travelers through the park. Taking home the traveling trophy for first place is Outreach Services; second place is Health Services; and winning third place is the Maintenance Department.



Choctaw language students learn to make traditional pottery

A traditional Choctaw class was taught Oct. 31 at the home of Olin and Bernice Williams. The pottery class is one of the ongoing projects of a Choctaw Language class taught by Olin Williams. The cleaning of the local natural clay, kneading it with sand to provide cohesiveness, and shaping it to desired object shape and size took a lot of effort.

Choctaw words were taught for each step of the process. Firing the pottery with traditional fire was done a few weeks later. The experience is adding depth of aestheticism to the study of the matrilineal order of concept in the early Choctaw society. The Biblical doctrines of the Choctaw hymns are also taught and sung.

The class is held each Monday night at the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Bennington.

Proudly pictured with their pottery are Amy Eyachabbe, Dr. Ian Thompson, Willie Walley, Diana Bundrant, Bernice Williams, Gaylia Green, Bob Green, Shirley Barboan, Shanelka Barboan, Angela Cross, Kerwin Moore, Sydney Branson, Jacob Cross and DeAnn Cross.

