



Lending
a helping
hand

Page 3



1st Choctaw
Jingle Bell
Run

Page 5



Making a
difference
in Nepal

Page 7



Splitting
arrows
at Jones
Academy

Page 10

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CHOCTAW NATION

BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

January 2011 Issue

Serving 204,730 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Council holds December regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Dec. 11 at Tushka Homma.

Councilmembers were in agreement to assist the Poteau Valley Improvement Agency in acquiring an accurate, indepth study of Lake Wister, located in the San Bois Mountains on the Poteau River. The water from Lake Wister serves over 40,000 people in the area.

Other new business addressed included:

- approval of the Head Start Policy and Procedure Handbook;
- donation of a commercial stove to White Sands United Methodist Church in Bennington;
- donation of playground equipment to Blue Baptist Church in Blue;
- donation of a 1994 24-passenger bus to Brushy Missionary Baptist Church in Blanco;
- donation of a 1992 24-passenger bus to Grace Indian Baptist Church in Talihina; and,
- amend the revolving line of credit agreement with Choctaw Manufacturing Defense Contractors approved in CB-76-07.

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at Tushka Homma.

20th Annual Livestock Show

The 20th Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show will be held Feb. 5-6 at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, and the Choctaw Nation Event Center in Durant.

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

◆ What's inside

Notes to the Nation.....	2
Columns	3
Nursery News.....	4
Food Distribution	4
VocRehab Calendar	5
People You Know	6
Obituaries	8-9
Iti Fabvssa	10

The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

The BISKINIK is printed on recycled paper.

Packing up their boots

Staff of Choctaw Veterans Advocacy Program set to deploy to Afghanistan

By LARISSA COPELAND

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The staff of Choctaw Nation's Veterans Advocacy Program doesn't just "talk the talk" when it comes to understanding and meeting the needs of veterans they assist on a daily basis. They also "walk the walk." They've been in the same shoes, or in this case the same boots, as the veterans in their program. And soon, the three men who make up the staff in this department, Kelly McKaughan, Brent Oakes and John Lance, will be packing up those boots for a deployment overseas.

McKaughan, director over the program, along with Oakes and Lance, are all members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's (OKARNG) 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). The Brigade is currently on alert for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They are set to deploy early this year.

The CN Veteran's Advocacy program was created in 2005 to assist Native American veterans with filing claims for the benefits to which they are entitled.



Chief Pyle with Veteran's Advocacy employees Brent Oakes, left, John Lance and Kelly McKaughan.

They do this by establishing contacts with the Veterans Administration, helping to file claim forms, and answering any questions the veterans may have in the process. They also aid in obtaining copies of necessary documents such as medical and military personnel records.

"The men who work in the Veteran's Advocacy program at the Choctaw Nation have great pride in the job they do, assisting veterans and soldiers. This program has not only helped hundreds with government paperwork, they also send care packages to

the members of the military who are serving our country in war zones today," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "If there is something special a soldier in Afghanistan or Iraq wants or needs, our advocate here in the tribal office will make a tremendous effort to get that item mailed to them as soon as possible."

Oakes explained further how being service members themselves has helped them do their job more efficiently. "When this department started up, Chief Pyle's vision was to have a 'one-stop shop' to assist our veterans," he said. "The fact

that we all are in the military as well is an advantage because it makes it easier to relate to the veterans we're serving and understand the issues they may be facing. There's a kinship we share," he continued.

That kinship translates into smooth operations and likely a smooth transition as they hand off the responsibility to a recently

added staff member, Jason Burwick, also a member of the OKARNG. The operations within the department will still go on while the three men are deployed, but the logistics will be just slightly modified until they return next year. Burwick will take on the duties for the department with the aid of staff members from the Choctaw STAR (Success Through Academic Recognition) program.

John Jackson, executive director over the program, says the men will leave big shoes to fill but is certain Burwick will have no problem meeting the challenge.

"Obviously, it'll be difficult for one person to step in and fill the shoes of these guys," said Jackson. "It would be unrealistic to

See DEPLOYMENT, Page 10



Chief Pyle and Tribal Security employee Tony Collins discuss the up-coming deployment.

Choctaw Language Department announces Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship

By CHRIS DILL

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Language Department is making available a great opportunity for hard-working students. The Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship provides a full scholarship to a dedicated and capable Choctaw individual who is interested in completing the Teacher Education program while working closely with the School of Choctaw Language. Upon certification, the student will become a Choctaw Language teacher. "We're looking for students who have a CDIB, have an interest in teacher education and who wants to be a Choctaw Language teacher," said Choctaw Language Director Jim Parrish.

The School of Choctaw Language is looking for individuals who are committed in furthering their education as well as learning indepth about Choctaw language and culture. "Our purpose is to train people to become Choctaw Language teachers," said Parrish. "We now offer 18 hours of Choctaw Language credit at Southeastern, so the appropriate training is available." The requirements for receiving the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Schol-

arship are as follows: the student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, maintain full-time student status, have a Choctaw CDIB, work part-time at the Language School, attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, take 18 hours of Choctaw Language and take six hours of approved English courses. "We would like for the student to already have some Choctaw language experience, whether learned at school or in the home," explained Parrish. The course work for this scholarship must lead to a Bachelor's Degree in Education within the awarded time, and participants will be selected by the Scholarship Committee. According to Parrish, "there is a process in choosing the candidate for this scholarship. We will make our choices then conduct interviews with the finalists."

"It's not limited to incoming freshmen," stressed Parrish, detail of importance the Choctaw Language Department wants to remind applicants concerning this scholarship. "All Choctaw education majors working towards their teaching degree are encouraged to apply," he continued.

This scholarship provided by the School of Choctaw Language includes full

tuition paid which covers tuition, fees, books, a living stipend of \$1,500 per month, tutoring, testing fees, relocation assistance stipend (if necessary) and lap-top computer and printer. After the recipient of this scholarship has gained his or her teaching certification from the State Department of Education, he or she must teach in the Choctaw Nation School of Choctaw Language for five consecutive years. The purpose of working closely with the School of Choctaw Language is to "get a good idea about what's involved in being a Choctaw Language teacher and working with the department every day," said Parrish. "They will gain experience working firsthand with our teachers who are native Choctaw speakers, and they have the opportunity to learn a lot."

The application and related information concerning the Chahta Anumpa Teacher Education Scholarship can be found on the Choctaw Language website at choctawschool.com. It will be awarded to one individual and will begin in the fall semester of 2011 at SOSU. The application deadline for the scholarship is March 1. Anyone with questions can contact Jim Parrish, Language Director, at 1-800-522-6170, ex. 2250.



Chief Pyle visits with Chris Ribera from Performance Excellence and John Lance before they depart for their deployment.



• Cell Phones for Soldiers is a nonprofit organization that turns donated cell phones into pre-paid calling cards.

• Cell phones are collected from more than 40,000 drop-off sites across the country and are sold to a third party for refurbishing or recycling. The price paid for each phone sold will pay for approximately one hour of talk time for a deployed soldier.

• Since Cell Phones for Soldiers began in 2004, more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards have been distributed to troops overseas.

• The Choctaw Nation Veterans Advocacy has been an active partner in the collection of cell phones for the program since 2005. Any type of cell phone can be donated and to date, more than 500 cell phones have been collected from Choctaw Nation drop-off sites.

• The Choctaw Nation has drop-off sites at the tribal complex in Durant and at all the community centers throughout the Choctaw Nation. Anyone wishing to donate a used cell phone can drop it off at these locations or by calling the Veterans Advocacy Department at 800-522-6170, ext. 2160.



Military heroes are honored

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

In my opinion, the most honorable award in my office is the United States Freedom Award, which was presented to the tribe in 2008 for the extraordinary treatment of the men and women serving in the military. The Choctaw Nation has a tremendous history of respecting our soldiers, and we try very hard to make sure employees who are on active duty are taken care of properly. We want to make sure they do not suffer financially, and we want to ensure that their job is secure for their return.

The Veterans Advocacy Department was started a few years ago and has grown to three full-time employees who are members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. All three of these soldiers just recently were notified they will be deployed to Afghanistan this year, as well as several other of our tribal employees. I appreciate all of the men and women who serve our country, and the Choctaw Nation staff mem-

bers who are willing to be in the military have my deepest gratitude as well as my prayers.

The families of these soldiers are also foremost in my thoughts, as they also endure a great deal while loved ones are deployed.

The tribe has been sending care packages to soldiers in active war zones for several years, regardless of whether the soldier is Choctaw or not. If you would like to have a package sent to your loved one who is serving in an active war zone, send the address to the Veterans Advocacy Department, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or if you would like to donate to the program to help mail a care package to a soldier, you can do so at the same address or call 580-924-8280 to inquire about dropping off items.

The Choctaw Nation has a proud history of military heroes and this generation continues that history of heroes in service to our country.

Thank you, soldiers!

Tribe’s history of generosity apparent during holiday

From the desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The generosity of the Choctaw Nation is always most apparent during the holiday season – and this year it was especially evident. During Thanksgiving and Christmas, 5,956 food baskets were given out to help with families’ meals. In addition to the food baskets, Angel Tree gifts for 240 elders and 55 youth were delivered, and another 2,449 Christmas wish lists were filled for children whose families were in need of assistance. These vast numbers show the tremendous needs in our tribal boundaries.

The Tribal Council members each hold Santa parties with gifts and sacks filled with fruit and candy for Choctaw children in each district. They have all reported that each party was a huge success with happy children taking home toys

and treats from all over the Choctaw Nation. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to bring joy into the lives of the families with these events.

Council members also sponsor holiday meals for the communities to come together and celebrate. I appreciate being included in these and seeing first-hand the Christian love that neighbors have for each other.

I want to say a special “thank you” to all those who participated in the coat drive this year to help supply a warm coat to the youth outreach program for the needy youth of Choctaw Nation. This is a great program and the staff worked very hard to make sure that the kids all received what they needed before the cold weather set in!

The Chief, Council and I are looking forward to 2011 and hope this is the best year ever for your family!



Teaching His Plan of Salvation

May God bless you with a happy and successful new year in 2011.

I appreciate your encouraging letters and personal words on the Chaplain’s Corner. It is a privilege and joy to share God’s plan and purpose for us from His word. May God continue to bless you.

Let’s look at the apostle Paul’s first letter to the Church at Corinth. We read from 1 Corinthians 1:26-27:

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to con-

found the things which are mighty;”

The apostle Paul has tried to show us that if we want to be used of God, we must come to the place of yieldedness.

Many of us have a desire to be popular, but God does not use a person who is controlled by such desires. He has made the wisdom of the world ineffective and has elevated what the world calls foolish, that is, the simplicity of the preaching of the Gospel, in order that He might save the lost. Paul said that God has chosen those who the world calls foolish in order to confound or put to shame, the wise. This is God’s plan.

God has chosen that which the world considers weak so that He might confound that which the world calls mighty. This is the thought of this portion of Scriptures in 1 Corinthians.

Paul used these words in verse 28:

“And base things of the world, and things which are not despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are.”

He has done this in order to show God’s purpose and plan.

When God speaks of foolish things He does not necessarily mean that they are really foolish; but they seem foolish to the people of the world. For instance, the Gospel is very clear, and it seems nonsense to the world.

In First Corinthians 1:28 Paul uses three expressions:

“Base things of the world,” “Things which are despised,” “Things which are not.”

In the sight of the world these are the base things, the despised things, and the things regarded as nothing.

Read this chapter again and again until you understand it, and you are willing to become what God wants you to be. Then He can use you. You may be the person whom the world despises. You may be regarded as nothing, as far as the world is concerned, but God can use you if you let Him.

God wants to show us that the efforts of men and the strength of their organization are useless, because He has chosen to

Chaplain’s Corner



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

use that which the world has despised. Why has He done this? We read in verse 29:

“That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

Because God uses those who are regarded as nothing to accomplish His work, people cannot say that it is done in the power of the flesh. They must admit that God has done the work, and they must glorify only Him.

God has said that He uses only that which the world considers worthless – the base, the despised, the weak, and the foolish. He does this so that no man might ever boast of accomplishments of the flesh in the presence of God.

If you are a Christian, you draw all your life from Jesus Christ. Paul emphasized this when he said in verse 30:

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus...”

Your life is in His life-giving power. Your life comes from Him, and you are a part of the body of Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. What we are in the sight of God is only what we are in Christ Jesus. When God looks at us, He does not see us, He sees His Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul continues in verse 30 that God has made Christ unto us “wisdom, and the righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

Jesus Christ has become these things for us once and for all. Once we are in Christ Jesus that matter is settled, and we benefit from the results.

Jesus Christ has been made unto us “wisdom.” Wisdom is more than knowledge. Knowledge is something that is gained from books, observation and experience. We have decisions to make, and we need wisdom in making them. That kind of wisdom is not found in books; it must come from God. Christ is made unto us this wisdom.

Christ is also made unto us “righteousness.” The righteousness which God sees as we stand before Him is not our own. Christ has become our righteousness.

Christ has become our “sanctification.” Sanctification means “separation unto God.” It is a relationship to God that is entered into the moment a person places his faith in Christ as Savior.

Christ has also become our “redemption.” To redeem means, “to deliver by paying a price.” Christ is the only one who could deliver us by this method, and He was willing to “...taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9).

God the Father is in Heaven, He has given to us a wonderful Plan of Salvation through His only begotten Son. Jesus paid the penalty for sin on the cross.

Will you confess, agree with God, that you are a sinner, and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior today?

Remember to pray for America and for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in service.

Tribe lends a helping hand

Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle, right, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton presented Amy Ford, the Bryan County chairperson for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, with a check for \$1,000 on Dec. 27. The funds are part of Oklahoma governor-elect Mary Fallin’s inaugural “Feeding Oklahoma” food drive.

Food drive county chairpersons worked within their individual counties to collect non-perishable food and monetary donations to deliver to food banks within their county, meaning money donated in Bryan County will help local residents.

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is the state’s largest private hunger-relief organization and feeds more than 77,000 Oklahomans each week.

“The Choctaws have a long history of generosity during times of need,” said Chief Pyle. “I’m reminded of when our Choctaw ancestors raised \$170 to aid the Irish people during the Potato Famine of 1847. Today’s donation is just another example of lending a helping hand to our neighbors and we’re glad we can help.”



Choctaw float takes top prize

The Choctaw Nation’s Tribal Events Department, along with help from some of “Santa’s Elves,” won 1st place for their float in the Durant Christmas Parade held on Dec. 7.

The theme of this year’s parade was “Past, Present, Future,” and the Choctaw Nation’s float won the prize in the Businesses with 150 Employees or More Division of the Present category. Congratulations to all of the people who helped put this float together and who turned out in the chilly weather to ride on the float or throw candy to the crowd.

Recycle – Reuse – Refurbish

Choctaw Nation sponsoring Electronic Waste Recycle Day

Every year tons of electronic equipment and appliances unnecessarily end up in landfills. To help divert some of these items and put them back into the manufacturing process, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is sponsoring an E-Waste Recycle Day to collect old or unwanted electronics for recycling, reuse or refurbishing.

The public is invited to the one-time event, a partnership between the Choctaw Nation and E-Waste Collections in Irving, Texas, being held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 22 at the Choctaw Nation Event Center in Durant. A collection truck will



**Choctaw Event Center
in Durant – Jan. 22**

be in the parking lot and volunteers will be available to unload items.

Some of the items the “Go Green Team” will be accepting are personal computers, laptops, monitors, fax machines and printers, cables, wires and networking equipment, kitchen appliances of any size, TV’s, gaming

equipment, cell phones, batteries of any kind, fitness equipment, and much more. If the item runs on electricity it can be dropped off for recycling.

Each item collected will be reviewed for potential reuse and refurbishing. The unserviceable items will be broken down for parts and materials, with any raw materials recovered for further processing with specialty recycling companies.

Anyone with questions can contact the Director of Project Management, Tracy Horst, at 580-775-4231. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Jan. 29.

Choctaw student excels at the University of Oklahoma

Clint Bryant, a 21-year-old Coweta native and graduate of Coweta High School, is yet another member of the Choctaw Nation who is furthering his education and being met with success in that endeavor.

Bryant currently attends the University of Oklahoma where he studies electrical engineering. He began his studies at OU in the field of meteorology, but preferred a field that led to more “hands-on” work.

Bryant says that he has always wanted to do work that involved science. With a degree in electrical engineering, he can experience the pleasure of scientific study along with the fulfillment of creating a physical product.

His enjoyment of the science shows in his grades. He recently was listed on the Dean’s Honor Roll for the College of Engineering because of his exceptional performance in the classroom.

Bryant is doing more than just making the grade; he is also taking up leadership among his peers. Bryant’s role as the vice president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) lends him to partaking in more than just classroom activity.



Bryant and other members of the organization hold regular meetings, as well as build robotics machines that compete in various competitions. These competitions allow the members to hone their skills in a competitive fashion.

Competitions follow a similar structure of the television show, “Robot Wars,” which originally aired on BBC. Bryant and his team develop a robot that is radio controlled, equipped with attacking mechanism and has exceptional mobility.

The object of the competitions is to defeat the opposing team’s radio controlled robot by disabling it utilizing their own attack mechanism.

Along with the competitions, the members of IEEE travel to high schools recruiting potential members by demonstrating the robotics and even a three dimensional printer.

As a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Clint Bryant is representing his tribe well by excelling in his field. He has close relational ties with the Choctaw Nation, as he is the great-nephew of Tribal Councilman Kenny Bryant.

NURSERY NEWS

Bricen Lei Pearce

Jay and Christy are proud to announce the birth of their son, Bricen Lei Pearce. Bricen was born Oct. 20, 2010, the same birthday as his late grandpa Bob. He weighed 7 pounds, 4.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is welcomed by big brother Brennan, grandmother Connie, grandfather Bruce and great-grandfather Walt.



Caleb Nathaniel Hood

Caleb Nathaniel Hood was born March 26, 2010, at Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina. He weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. Caleb is the son of Christie and Thomas Hood. He has a big sister, Makayla, and big brother, Dakota. His is the grandson of Lee and Linda Knight and Kathy and Charlee Hood.



Jackson Whitworth

Jackson Alexander Whitworth was born Nov. 1, 2010, in Tulsa. Jackson weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 22 ½ inches long. Jackson’s parents are Jeremy Whitworth and Jennifer Adams. Jeremy is a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma tribal member and Jennifer is a Muscogee Creek Nation tribal member. Jeremy and Jennifer make their home near Tulsa. Proud grandparents are Gerald and Pamela Whitworth of Glenpool along with James and Teresa Adams of Broken Arrow. Also celebrating Jackson’s arrival were his uncle Ian Whitworth and aunt Amanda Adams.



Xander Jaxon-Gabriel Underwood

Xander Jaxon-Gabriel Underwood was born Nov. 29, 2010, at 4:29 p.m., weighing 4 pounds, 3 ½ ounces and measuring 16 inches. Heather and Brent Underwood of Allen, Texas, are the pound parents. He was born at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Allen. Xander has two brothers, Brenton, 9, and Blake, 7, who are also residents of Allen.

His maternal grandparents are Gail Reamy of Allen and the late Pat Reamy. His paternal grandparents are Serena Underwood of McAlester and the late Melvin Underwood. His maternal great-grandparents are Carrol and Cleo Golden of Krebs, and his paternal great-grandparents are the late Thomas and Rena Brokeshoulder of Ardmore. Xander also has many aunts, uncles and cousins.



Five New Year’s resolutions for you and your child

Your young child is learning habits that will last a lifetime. Assume these resolutions, along with any other plans you may have for the new year to enrich both you and your child’s lives.

1. **Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day.** Serve at least one fruit or vegetable at every meal. Snack on fruits and vegetables.
2. **Drink more water.** Water is a healthy choice.
3. **Limit soda and other sweet drinks.** Order milk or water if you eat away from

WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

home. Serve milk with meals at home. Do not keep sweet drinks in your refrigerator.

4. **Choose whole grains for at least half of your grain foods.** Eat more whole grain breads, pasta and breakfast cereals.
5. **Play together as a family.** Go for a walk, visit the park or play in the yard. Enjoy a sport together. Try skating, biking or hiking with your child.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-23 , except for:
Feb. 2: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
Feb. 9: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)
Closed Feb. 21 for Tribal Holiday & Feb. 24-28 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 10 & 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Feb. 1-23, except for:
Closed Feb. 21 for Tribal Holiday & Feb. 24-28 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 1 & 9, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-23, except for:
Closed Feb. 21 for Tribal Holiday & Feb. 24-28 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 7 & 14, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Feb. 1-23, except for:
Closed Feb. 21 for Tribal Holiday & Feb. 24-28 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Feb. 3 & 16, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

Antlers: 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443

Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773

McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

Poteau: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

Bethel: Choctaw Community Center

Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center

Idabel: Choctaw Community Center

Smithville: Choctaw Community Center

Stigler: Choctaw Community Center

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Hugo Wellness Center awarded for ‘Outstanding Design’

The Choctaw Nation Wellness Center located in Hugo has received an award that has brought it much pride. This award was given to the wellness center by the Hugo Chamber of Commerce for its “outstanding design, landscaping and beautification of the city of Hugo,” according to facility manager Chad Arnold. The Choctaw Hugo Wellness Center currently employs 11 hard workers and offers a variety of exercise activities including aerobics, mixed martial arts and strength classes. There is a senior’s class that offers a variety of cross-training activities that aid



Facility Manager Chad Arnold displays “Outstanding Design” award.

in developing necessary life skills. They offer nutrition classes as well as an after-school program for children in kindergarten through the

eighth grade. A kid’s fitness zone is available equipped with the latest technology in exer-gaming, combining an arcade-type atmosphere with exercise equipment that children and adults both love. A childcare room gives parents the opportunity for their child to learn how to actively play while developing balance and coordination along with locomotor development. Massage therapy is also offered at a discount rate. “We are extremely happy that the Choctaw Nation has given us the opportunity to become a part of this community,” said Arnold.



Quick green tips

Office tip: Print Preview — Always click on print preview before printing to check your document for typos. Avoid having to print twice!

Home tips: Soda bottle — Help your toilet go green. Set a water filled plastic bottle in the tank to reduce the volume needed to refill it with each flush.

CD’s — Stop wet glasses from laying down tracks on the tabletop.

Packaging peanuts — Make ice last longer by putting packing peanuts in a sealable plastic bag and place on top of the ice in your ice chest. The ice will last longer and everything will stay cooler.

Aluminum foil — Have a nut, bolt or screw with stripped threads? Wrap a little aluminum foil around the bolt or screw and try gently tightening it again. A quick temporary fix.



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., 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	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	Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday

OILS to provide free will and tax preparation clinics

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) will be holding a free Will Preparation Clinic and Tax Preparation Clinic Thursday, March 3 and Friday, March 4 at the Choctaw Nation Field Office in Durant (580-924-7810) located at 2750 Big Lots Pkwy.

Wills will be prepared by appointment only. You will need to sign up for an appointment and complete a wills questionnaire prior to March 3. Please contact Norma at the OILS office at 800-658-1497 to sign up.

OILS will also provide free income tax preparation to file federal and state income tax returns for individuals earning less than \$75,000 annually (no small or home businesses). All returns will be e-filed at no charge. You do not need to be a Choctaw Nation citizen to participate. Returns will be prepared on a first-come basis beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

OILS offers assistance preparing returns using the basic 1040 form with Schedules A, B, Earned Income Credit, Form 2441 (Child and Dependent Care Credit), Form 8863 (Education Credits), Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit), Schedule C-EZ (self-employment with less than \$5,000 in total expenses) and educator credits.

If you would like to utilize this free tax service the following documents must be provided at time of service: photo ID, Social Security cards for each person listed on the return, W-2's, 1099's, a copy of the previous year's tax return, documentation of deductions and bank account information for direct deposit of any refund.

Additional documents may be required, depending on the return. For joint returns, both spouses must be present to sign for e-filing.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS) is one of two legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corporation.

Should you have any further questions regarding the Free Wills Clinic or the Free Tax Clinic, please contact OILS at 800-658-1497.

Child Care Assistance launches new website

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Child Care Assistance Program (CCA) has launched a new Internet web site at cncca.org. "We hope Native Americans will view us online to discover how our program works and to see if it can help with their family's child care needs," says Program Director Marilyn Williams.

The CCA Program is funded by a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Administration for Children and Families for the purpose of assisting eligible families with their day care expense.

CCA helps low-income, Native American families with child care costs for children under the age of 13 who reside in the CNO's 10 ½ county service area of southeastern Oklahoma. "We currently provide assistance for just under 1,000 children and contract with 143 day care centers and homes for their care. The majority of the providers are licensed by the Oklahoma Department of Health and Human Services, but in some cases a relative of the child could be paid for their care," says Williams.

To qualify for Choctaw Child Care Assistance, parents or guardians of the children must be working, going to school, or in an educational training program, and therefore have a need for their child to attend a day care. Eligibility is based on the parents' income, the number in the household and their work schedule. Parents are required to pay a certain portion (co-payment) of their child care expense for each child. The program will pay the balance of the costs to their day care provider. In some cases, CCA may be able to pay for child care while parents or guardians search for a job. Applicants should ask about the Job Search program to see if they qualify.

Native American families who qualify for the CCA program are encouraged to visit the new web site at cncca.org or contact CCA at Choctaw Tribal headquarters at 580-924-8280 to learn how CCA can assist their family.

YAB joins Battiest Public School in fight against tobacco

The Battiest Chapter of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recently joined forces with McCurtain Tobacco Prevention Agency and held a "Great American Smoke Out" event at the Battiest Public School. The event focused on the number "16." Each day 16 Oklahomans die due to tobacco-related illnesses.

This statistic was news to the YAB group and weighed heavy with them.

They wanted to make sure their friends and family were also informed of the risks associated with tobacco use.

Thanks to the Battiest Public School administration and staff, on Nov. 18, the YAB and Battiest cheerleaders were able to perform a tobacco prevention skit at the student pep rally.

The event was held at the Battiest/Smithville High



School basketball game where the students had posted signs with tobacco statistics, randomly announced statistics and issued tobacco-related surveys.

The students worked hard to distribute surveys to all in attendance at the game and all the surveys were completed. With the information taken from the surveys the youth will be better able to help the community understand risks associated with tobacco use and provide the necessary awareness to the youngest generation.

The YAB enjoyed giving out door prizes such as gift cards, T-shirts, megaphones and palm cards with information concerning the use of tobacco products.

The YAB group thanks the Battiest Public School officials and community for the participation and encouragement in its efforts.

Choctaw Nation Jingle Bell 5K Run held

The Choctaw Nation Employee Health/Rapid Results Department held its first-ever Jingle Bell Run at the Choctaw Resort on Dec. 4, 2010. The event had 95 participants, each donating an unwrapped toy or canned food item as an entry fee into the run. The toys were donated to Indian Child Welfare for its foster children program and the food is being distributed to Choctaw Nation employees in need.

The top male and top female overall, along with the top three finishers in each age category, were awarded a medal.

The top male and female finishers were Brandon Slocum, who finished in 20:26, and Christine Taylor, coming in at 25:03.

The top male finishers by age category were: ages 1-17: Brandon Slocum, Chris Pollard and Justin Neal; ages 18-29: Aaron Minks, Chance Adams and Jake Boyd; ages 30-39: Brian Baldwin, Andrew Taylor

and Nathan Vaughn; ages 40-49: Jesse Cedillo, Trace Sherrill and Robert Cook; ages 50-59: James Scribner, Ernie Ludlow and Robert Rummell; ages 60-69: Don Tidwell, Ernest Short and Gary McIntire; and ages 70-98: Charles Hensley.

The top female finishers by age category were: ages 1-17: Tobi Latshaw, Mandy Steele and Stormi Waters; ages 18-29: Kayla Rummell, Lerran Preston and Lindsay Ratzlaff; ages 30-39: Christine Taylor, Sally Hilburn and Heather Burrage; ages 40-49: Janet Quaid, Jana Imotichey and Sandra Amos; ages 50-59: Elaine Bennett; and ages 60-69: Dena McIntire.

The Choctaw Nation Employee Health/Rapid Results department staff thanks each of the participants for making this first year successful.

The next Jingle Bell Run is planned for Dec. 3, 2011.



The top male and female finishers were Brandon Slocum, and Christine Taylor.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
FEBRUARY							
		1	2	3	4	5	
					Idabel 9:00-12:00 Broken Bow 1:30-3:00		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	Durant 8:00-4:30	Antlers by appt.	Talihina 10:00-2:00		Wright City by appt.		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Durant 8:00-4:30		McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler by appt.		Poteau 11:30-1:00		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Willburton 10:30-2:00 Durant 8:00-4:30		Atoka 9:30-11:00 Coalgate 12:30-2:30				
27	28	Phone: 580-326-8304 Fax: 580-326-2410 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com					
	Crowder by appt.						



A SALUTE

Share your military information with us – we will be running a monthly "A Salute" section for Choctaw military men and women.

Cobell trust fund settlement information update

On Dec. 21, 2010, the district court granted preliminary approval for the Cobell trust fund settlement and approved the plan to provide notice to the class. "Notice" is how members of a class are informed about their rights and obligations when a class action case settles. This is a necessary first step that must be taken before funds may be sent to class members in a case that has settled.

The judge's preliminary approval order establishes a number of important deadlines. The notice period starts on Jan. 20, 2011.

This is the date that the long form notice will commence to be sent to all class members with valid addresses that are maintained by the Department of the Interior and an extensive media campaign will start. Notices will be published in newspapers and magazines and will be aired on TV and radio in Indian Country and in other areas of the country where many class members live. An extensive series of meetings around Indian Country will also begin to explain the settlement and answer questions.

Anyone who does not receive a long form notice in

the mail can request one be sent by going to the website or calling the toll-free number: <https://cert.tgcginc.com/iim/register.php> or 800-961-6109.

The judge also has said that anyone wishing to opt-out of, or object to, the settlement, should do so by April 20, 2011. Instructions on how to opt-out or object will be included in the long form notice.

The settlement agreement provides general guidelines (see also <http://cobell-settlement.com/press/faq.php>). Those receiving a quarterly IIM statement do not need to register.

Numbers from 1 to 19

Use the "lh" instead of l for the aspirated l.

ACROSS

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1. Two | 13. Fourteen |
| 5. Seven | 14. Eleven |
| 9. Six | 15. Thirteen |
| 10. One | 16. Fifteen |
| 12. Nine | |

DOWN

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Three | 6. Five |
| 2. Ten | 7. Sixteen |
| 3. Seventeen | 8. Eight |
| 4. Eighteen | 11. Nineteen |
| 5. Four | 13. Twelve |

CNHSA Wellness Department holds annual fall races

The 6th Annual Bigfoot 5K was held on Oct. 2 in Honobia in conjunction with the Bigfoot Festival. This year's 5K drew a crowd of 187 participants, with 48 taking part in the 1 mile fun walk. The overall winners of the 5K were: females 1st place – Baylie Bray, 2nd place – Carissa Cousins, 3rd place – Keisha Brown; and males 1st place – Tysin Davis, 2nd place – Zach Hill, 3rd place – Brandon Slocum.

The 10th Annual Diabetes 5K was held on Oct. 30 in Talihina in conjunction with the Fall Foliage Festival. A total of 156 people participated in the 5K, and the 1-mile walk had 39 participants. The overall 5K winners were: females 1st place – Vania Williams, 2nd place – Shana Killer, 3rd place – Carissa Cousins; and males 1st place – Josh Snyder, 2nd place – Keith Willsey, 3rd place – Bryan Miller.

Additionally, the 8th Annual .5k 8 and Under Run was held following the 5K. The overall winners were: females 1st place – Joanna Loyd, 2nd place – Destiny Ludlow; and males 1st place – Austin Fenton, 2nd place – Michael Battiest. All other .5k participants received a participation medal.



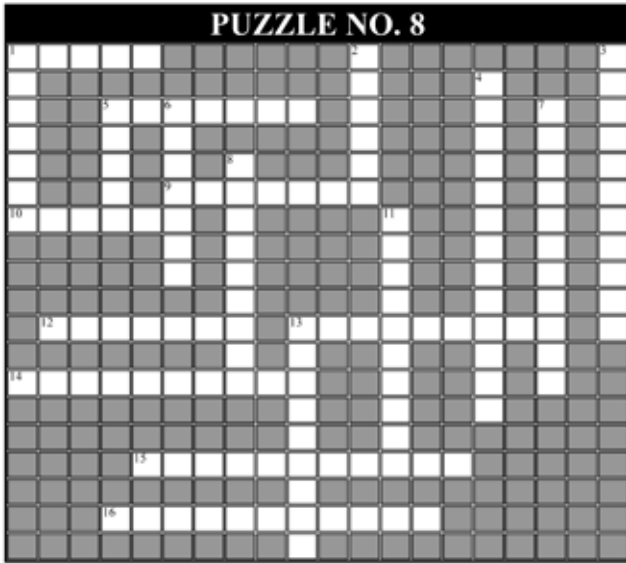
The 6th Annual Bigfoot 5K winners: Tysin Davis – 1st, Brandon Slocum – 3rd, not pictured, Zach Hill – 2nd, Baylie Bray – 1st, Carissa Cousins – 2nd, Keisha Brown – 3rd.



The 10th Annual Diabetes 5K winners: Bryan Miller – 3rd, Keith Willsey – 2nd, not pictured, Josh Snyder – 1st, Vania Williams – 1st, Carissa Cousins – 3rd, Shana Killer – 2nd.



The 8th Annual .5K 8 and under winners: Brandon Battiest – 2nd, Austin Fenton – 1st, Joanna Loyd – 1st, Destiny Ludlow – 2nd, not pictured.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Rising above limits and labels

My mother was the kind of woman you didn't want to say no to. When a pediatrician told her that I would never read, walk or talk, my mother responded, "My daughter will be walking by the time I'm through." It took me a long time to even sit up and stand on my own, but two and a half years later, my mother was right. I was able to walk.

At the age of 18 months, I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The cause: severe brain trauma from a forceps injury during birth. No one volunteered this information; a receptionist accidentally left my medical records on the desk and my mother decided to look through them.

But I never really accepted the fact that I was "disabled" with a capital "D." As a child, I convinced myself that I was an ordinary girl who possessed some extraordinary gifts.

Other people didn't see it that way. I was teased daily by other children in the small town in Arkansas where we lived. On the first day of first grade, I heard the teacher say to my mother, "She belongs in the retarded class." My mother boldly replied, "She belongs in this class." As the days progressed, I realized I could read better than any other kid in that room.

Every day after school, I exercised, practiced, read, did my homework and learned to walk – with the help of a 20-pound metal day brace and a 40-pound metal night brace. From the age of four to 13, my mother and I went through the same grueling ritual with the braces. We fought constantly. Often I would wait for her to fall asleep so that I could take the night brace off. In the morning, when I realized my mother had put it back on me in the middle of the night, I would throw a temper tantrum.



SHANNA MCCOY

Even though I had cerebral palsy, I still had to perform daily chores around the house. And although it took me a long time to complete simple tasks, I thrived on the feeling of independence and accomplishment this gave me.

I moved on to the second grade, then third, fourth and fifth – in spite of the fact my teachers and classmates often treated me unfairly and with cruelty. One teacher said to me, "Instead of your mother putting pretty bows in your head, she should have given you a brain." My fifth-grade math teacher said she wasn't going to treat me special just because my mother insisted on "window dressing a retarded kid." For nine long years my mother met with teachers, school board officials and principals demanding that I not be judged unfairly on the basis of a physical disability and labeled "retarded."

In junior high and high school, I began to make the honor roll. I joined the marching band and became heavily involved in speech and drama classes. When I was accepted into college, I was overjoyed. I had finally made it! Or so I thought.

During the winter of 1990, my mother passed away. I was devastated and told myself I couldn't finish college. But I reflected on her confidence in me over the years and finally earned my degree. It was the fulfillment of a childhood dream.

I have a child of my own now, a very bright 11-year-old boy named Justin Tyler Abraham. Doctors had told my mother that I would never be able to have a child, just as I would never be able to read, walk or talk. Justin is a reminder of my mother's words – and her love.

Altus honors veterans

Veterans were rightly honored on Nov. 11 at Jackson County War Memorial in Altus. A 21-gun salute took place as well as taps and the Fallen Soldier Prayer. Altus Air Force Base Commander Col. John Thomas, VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Post 4465 Clinton Jordan Weese placed the first wreath. The fourth wreath was placed by Altus DAV Chapter 33 Commander Virgal Williams, Moe Rime and 8-year-old Senior Princess Altus DAV Chapter 33 Mykenzee Weese, elected May 25. Jordan and Mykenzee Weese are the daughters of Michael and Brandi Weese of Burns Flat.



Happy birthday, Clark

Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Clark Holder turned 76 years old on Jan. 4. Clark is part of the Texas Civil Defense located in Red Oak, Texas. He is also chaplain for the Braniff Airways Retirement Club in Irving. He has been going to Gospel Lighthouse Church for 35 years and loves taking his wife and granddaughter with him. If there is a Choctaw event in Dallas, Clark tries to make it.



Happy birthday, Sarah

Sarah Ann Arles celebrated her 17th birthday on Dec. 10. Sarah is Chickasaw/Choctaw and is in 11th grade at Ardmore High School. She is the daughter of Joe and Armetta Looney of Davis, and Albert and Francis Lewis of Ardmore.



Way to go, Luc

Congratulations to Ronald "Luc" Lucas II on being selected for All State Football Player, East Defense. Luc plays football for the Ada High Cougars.

Luc's proud family – his mother, Madysen, Caymen, Jayse, and his grandparents – also congratulate him on his upcoming graduation in May 2011.

Luc also celebrated his 18th birthday on Nov. 26. His family also send him happy belated birthday wishes.



Lizzie enjoys church activities

Lizzie King is a Choctaw member originally from the Broken Bow area and now resides in Cherokee, N.C. She attends the Cherokee United Methodist Church. Members from the United Methodist Church of Chihowa visited with Lizzie on their recent mission trip to Cherokee Reservation as she was in attendance at her church. She is a Choctaw-speaking tribal member yet she sung Cherokee hymns during this year's mission trip. She is a beautiful Choctaw lady who enjoys reading the Biskinik.



Congrats, Daniel

On Dec. 15, 2010, PFC Frank Daniel Holson graduated from his third training for the Marine Corp. Daniel is a 2010 graduate of Sallisaw High School. He is a proud Choctaw and the great-great-grandson of enrollee Eddie Brown, the son of Frankie and Shana Holson and the grandson of Glenn and Mary Midgley of Wister. Congratulations, Daniel.



Congrats to the Taylors

Roy Taylor of Eufala and Tandra Wilder of Canadian were married at the Crowder Choctaw Senior Center on Dec. 16. There were 42 guests consisting of family and friends attending the old-fashioned traditional wedding with cake and refreshments. Congratulations from Ron and Judy Wilder.



Happy birthday, Rufus

Louise and Bob would like to send their brother Rufus a very happy birthday wishes. Rufus will be 39 years young on Jan. 31.



Birthday girls

Bethany Anderson celebrated her 4th birthday and Haley Clinton celebrated her 2nd birthday with a princess birthday party on Sept. 3. Their parents are Sharena Ward and Tony Clinton. Great-grandparents are Lloyd and Mary Ward of Paris, Texas, and Linda and Lee Knight of Hugo.



Happy birthday, Dillon

Carla and Teddy Boehm would like to wish Dillon Boehm a happy 14th birthday on Jan. 10. Dillon is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Thomas Going/Goins.

Wilson takes role as OKACTE president

Raymond Wilson, a longtime teacher in the McAlester school system, Choctaw member and Broken Bow native, takes over as President of Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education (OKACTE).

Wilson is currently the Technology Engineering instructor at the McAlester Middle School and began his presidential duties at the 43rd Annual Career and Technology Education Summer Conference at the Tulsa Convention Center on Aug. 2. The conference is one of Tulsa's largest, attracting more than 4,800 CareerTech educators from across Oklahoma.

Oklahoma ACTE is the professional organization for the state's CareerTech administrators, educators and staff members. Wilson will represent the Oklahoma ACTE membership, along with other officers Lorri Carlile, past-president, and Molly Kyler, president-Elect, at various state and national meetings throughout the year.

"For the past 20 years, Raymond has worked for CareerTech system and has been active in the association," said Patrick McGregor, Oklahoma ACTE executive director. "The membership of Oklahoma ACTE looks forward to Raymond's service as president of our association. He is a proven leader and will serve our association well."



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:

- Feb. 8, 2011, at Wilburton Choctaw Community Center
- Feb. 9, 2011, at Atoka Choctaw Community Center
- Feb. 22, 2011, at Poteau Choctaw Community Center

These classes begin at 4:30 p.m.

Happy birthday, Alyce

Alyce Udorah (Folsom) Caldwell will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 29. Sneding her very happy birthday wishes are her son, Deen, and daughter-in-law Lisa.

Happy birthday, Brianna Wirtz

Brianna Wirtz will celebrate her 18th birthday on Jan. 26. Brianna is a senior in high school. Happy 18th birthday, Brianna!



Thompson and Musselman to wed

Jerry C. Thompson and Martha R. Musselman of Durant announce their engagement and pending marriage on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Pastor Darel Bunch will officiate the ceremony at the Calvary Baptist Church in Durant at 1 p.m. A reception will be held in the church fellowship hall immediately following the ceremony.



Bailey turns 5

Happy birthday to Bailey Thorne who turned 5 years old on Nov. 29. Bailey celebrated with his parents, Mike and Kristy Thorne, and brother Ryan at Disneyland. His grandparents are Gene and LaHoma Murphy Cranthers of Oklahoma City. His great-grandparents are the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Family birthdays

Happy birthday to Bill Brown who celebrated turning a year older on Oct. 17, along with his grandson, Clyde D. Jorgensen, whose birthday is Oct. 14. Bill is the son of Lucile Wright Brown. His granddaughter Jennifer Martin's birthday is Oct. 18 and her husband, Kris Martin's, is Oct. 9. Happy birthday Bill, Dougo, Kris and Jennifer.



Happy birthday, Henry

Happy birthday wishes go to Henry Byington. His birthday is Jan. 29 and his family would hopes he has a great one.



Congrats to the Cardiffs

Congratulations to David and Jenny Cardiff who were married on April 2, 2008, and will be celebrating their third anniversary this year.





Choctaw youth dance in Tulsa’s BOK Center prior to the Oilers’ Dec. 28 game against the Missouri Mavericks.



The princesses are all smiles as they enjoy the hockey game.

Oilers host Choctaw Night

Choctaw hockey fans turned out Dec. 28 to watch as the Tulsa Oilers battled the Missouri Mavericks. Choctaw Night at the BOK Center began with the Choctaw Youth Dancers of Southeast Oklahoma. People arriving at the game were able to stop and learn more about the Choctaw culture as they watched the group. The bright colors of the traditional clothing along with the music and steps of the dances were a welcome attraction. The longest standing team in Tulsa, the Oilers have an average attendance of 6,000 at their home games. Assistant Chief Gary Batton was on hand to welcome



Assistant Chief Gary Batton cheers on the Oilers.

Tulsa’s hockey enthusiasts to Choctaw Night and wish the team good luck. Councilman Mike Amos was invited to walk out to the center of the rink and drop the first puck to begin the game. The Oilers held a 1-0 lead until the last three minutes when the Mavericks forged ahead, winning 2-1. The excitement of the game has turned many of the first-time hockey game attendants into loyal fans.



Councilman Mike Amos drops the first puck.

Choctaw student to lead visit to Nepal orphanage

When she was only six weeks old, Arun Storrs was adopted out of Bal Mandir Orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal, by a loving family in Oregon. In 2008, as a Yale University graduate, she created a program to “give something back.” Storrs, who majored in Ethnicity Race and Migration and Theater, created the YNepal (Yale-Nepal) program to help support the more than 250 children – babies to children 16 years old – at Bal Mandir Orphanage. This spring Storrs will soon make her fourth trip to Nepal. No longer leading YNepal, Storrs is now working to create her own non-profit entity, one that will help Nepalese women and children of Bal Mandir obtain much needed job skills.

Bal Mandir was created in 1964 by the Nepalese Royal Family following an appeal by its queen. The orphanage is housed in a former palace badly in need of repairs. It relies almost totally on donations by overseas sponsors, adopting parents and volunteers. When children turn 16 they must leave the orphanage and enter a very class-structured world in which they typically occupy the lowest position.

When she learned of the leadership void in Storrs’ YNepal program, Yale University Choctaw Chelsea Wells decided she and two other Yale women should keep the venture going. Home in Hugo during winter break from Yale, Wells, a Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program Spotlight Student, is raising money to fund her Nepal trip this spring by baking and delivering homemade desserts as well as using her photography skills to take senior pictures and other portraits.

“Last year I went with nine other Yale students,” says Wells. “At Bal Mandir we worked mainly with kindergarten children. We taught them songs and they taught us songs. We simply tried to show the Nepali children that there are other people who care about them and to give them some perspective on other cultures. We know we’re not going to solve their problems, but we learned much from them



as well. Now we’re raising money for our trip in the spring and I will be one of the leaders.”

Wells admits she has learned to appreciate the little things in life we all take for granted. “I remember one time I had a bottle of water on a day we were taking care of toddlers. When you got your water out, they all congregated around you and wanted some. They only get their rations once for the day and water is a big treat for them. We’re so blessed here we don’t realize it sometimes. These children don’t get a lot of affection or attention. There’s only one woman for each age group. Sometimes it’s just good to show them love.”

Nepal is a landlocked developing country bordering Tibetan China and India. Pollution is so bad that people wear masks, Wells says. Water is unsanitary and during the day blackouts are scheduled to conserve energy. “But the people are wonderful. They are sweet and cordial and willing to talk and help us understand their language and songs. It’s a rich mix of South Asian and Tibetan culture. Buddhism started in Nepal yet there are many Hindus. I am going back for a second year because I enjoyed the culture and the people. It’s beautiful there.”

From Dec. 17 to Jan. 8 Wells is shooting portraits and senior pictures as well as baking and delivering pre-ordered sweets (Momo’s Italian Cream Cake, Banana Nut Muffins, Oatmeal Cookies, Buffalo Chip Cookies, Martha Washington Chocolate Sheet Cake and Pecan Pies “made from my Daddy’s pecan trees”). To order or donate, email Wells at Chelsea_Wells@hotmail.com or phone 580-317-7793.

“We always bring a lot of donated items when we go to Bal Mandir,” Wells adds. Other than cash contributions, many items are needed for the orphanage residents. Wells says the list of needed donated goods includes mostly basics such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, brushes, socks, shoes, clothing, coloring books, paper, pencils, school supplies, toys and balls to play with and arts and crafts.

Boswell Native Attending Mesalands Wind Program

Jeremy Layton of Boswell is currently attending Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, N.M., majoring in Wind Energy Technology. Layton is one of 58 students receiving real-world experience at the North American Wind Research and Training Center (NAWRTC) at Mesalands.



The Wind Energy Technology program at Mesalands provides instruction in various aspects of safety, wind turbine technology and turbine maintenance. As part of their training, wind energy students have the opportunity to climb the college’s 1.5-megawatt wind turbine that stands about 300 feet tall. The college recently constructed a 26,000 square-foot wind center that provides state-of-the-art facilities for training qualified technicians in wind energy technology and research.

In 2008 the college signed a memorandum of understanding with Sandia National Laboratories of Albuquerque to conduct research related to operations maintenance and reliability at NAWRTC. The college has recently partnered with major universities, including the University of California and Washington University in St. Louis. These partnerships will give Mesalands students and Layton the opportunity to observe research being conducted to advance the growing industry of commercial wind energy technology.

“This program allows our students to gain invaluable work experience in wind energy technology,” John Hail, Jr., Wind Energy Technology Director/Instructor at Mesalands said. “Obtaining a degree in this growing industry will definitely help our students succeed in the future.”

Hale graduates with honors

Ramona Kay Hale earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Oklahoma during the December 2010 commencement ceremony. Kay graduated with Special Distinction and a cumulative grade point average of 3.9. She earned the President’s Honor List every semester, was a member of the Student Oklahoma Education Association and was a member of many honor societies. The societies include Gamma Beta Phi International Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society and National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi chapter. She also volunteered with several charitable organizations, tutoring local elementary school students and volunteering at the City Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter in Oklahoma City. A native of Norman, Kay is the daughter of Robert Hale and Ramona Hale. Kay plans to pursue an M.Ed in Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision and plans on becoming a principal after gaining experience in the elementary classroom.



Congrats, Kimberly

Congratulations to Kimberly Nicole Krebs for her graduation from the University of North Texas in Denton with a Bachelor’s of Science in Kinesiology and a minor in Health Promotion. Kimberly is a spring 2010 graduate and is employed as a personal fitness trainer at 24 Hour Fitness in Dallas. She is the daughter of Lynn and Janet Krebs of Howe and granddaughter of the late Ernest and Jewel Young and the late Kenneth and Ima Jean Krebs.



IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES...



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

ACT PREP WORKSHOP

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

February 11, 2011 | 8:30 AM until noon
Durant Vo-Tech
810 Waldron Road
Durant, OK 74701

ETS, SAP and Choctaw students are admitted free of charge. Please bring a copy of your membership card. To apply to SAP, visit www.choctawnation-sap.com Non-ETS students should call 800-522-6170, ext 2711, to request an application ACT materials, breakfast, and lunch will be provided.



Choctaws... Growing with pride, hope and success.

OBITUARIES

Alto Battiest

Alto Battiest, 89, of Boswell, passed away Dec. 14, 2010, at his home. He was born Aug. 28, 1921, in Boswell, the son of Stephen J. Battiest and Cassie Lela (Furlong) Battiest. He was raised in Boswell and moved back in 1975.

He married Joyce King on Jan. 13, 1973, in Glendale, Calif. Alto was a World War II Army veteran, a member of the Choctaw Nation Honor Guard, the VFW and the American Legion. He enjoyed feeding his cattle, playing poker, walking and was a proud veteran. He was a great man and a kind soul. He gave generously of his time and energy to his nation, his tribe, his community, friends and family. His smile, laughter, sense of humor and thoughtfulness will be deeply missed. Alto was a member of Victory Life Church of Boswell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son John Jeffrey Battiest; daughter Sandra Bushard; brother Stephen J. Battiest; two sisters, Beulah Milam and LaVonne Keener.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Battiest; two daughters, Diana Crane of Boswell and Anita Chelf and husband Jody of Dansville, Mich.; brother Charles Ray Battiest of Carthage, Mo.; grandchildren, Lisa Crane, Angela Kopplin, Alex Chelf and Matthew Bushard; great-grandchildren, Isobel Kopplin and Jessica Kopplin; along with many other relatives and friends.



Delores Elaine Aubrey Harper

Delores Elaine Aubrey Harper, 79, of Moore, passed away on Nov. 3, 2010. Delores was born to Glenn and Edith Cudd Aubrey on Dec. 7, 1930.

She married John Harper Jr. on Nov. 7, 1947.

Delores attended schools in the Capitol Hill area. She was a great asset to her husband as they were partners in the home building business in the Moore area for some 30 years. Delores listened to gospel music all the time and was a faithful member of the Harvest Assembly of God. She enjoyed all types of sports and was an avid OU Sooner fan.

Delores was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and one sister.

She was survived by her husband, John Harper Jr.; children, John Harper III and wife Debbie, Michael Harper and wife Renae, and Tina Simon and husband Joe, all of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Eloise Breault of Clovis, Calif., and Margaret Spradley and husband of Odessa, Texas. Delores's proud heritage is her seven grandsons and four great-grandchildren.



Max Dominick

Max D. Dominick of Stillwater passed away Dec. 7, 2010, at the age of 75 in Stillwater. He was born to Crawford Altus "C.A." and Clemmie Arlie (Gardner) Dominick on April 15, 1935, the day after "Black Sunday," in the two-room house on the family land east of Hartshorne.

Max was proud of his Choctaw heritage from his mother's side and was descended from great-grandparents, six generations ago, who had taken the "Long Walk" from their Mississippi homeland (Okla Hannalli Iksha) arriving in Indian Territory in 1831. On his father's side he was descended from German immigrants who were South Carolina Patriots in the Revolutionary War.

Max grew up on the small ranch and roamed the hills hunting, fishing, riding horses and being a boy. He attended Linwood and Hartshorne schools. He met Mary Ellen Guest when he was 16. Mary lived in nearby Wilburton so he transferred to Wilburton High School for his senior year and became class president. He graduated from Wilburton and was part of the first generation of his family to attend college, graduating from Eastern Junior College with an Associate Degree in engineering in 1955.

He married Mary on April 15, 1954, in McAlester. Mary helped him get through college, which was a struggle. They were married 48 years when Mary passed away in 2002.

They moved to Stillwater to attend Oklahoma State University where he graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Engineering in January 1958. He then went to work full time for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Max was a second generation employee of SCS.

Max made a difference in life by working as an Area Engineer in Muskogee and then moved to Wewoka as a Project Engineer constructing upstream flood control structures. He then was transferred to Sallisaw and was responsible for the construction of many structures that provide flood control and municipal water for towns in eastern Oklahoma that still exist today. He was transferred to Okmulgee in 1970 and was the project engineer for the eastern half of the state. He worked on the Okmulgee Creek clean-up and was the engineer on Dripping Springs Lake. In 1978, he became a Construction Engineer for the SCS State Office in Stillwater where he eventually had statewide responsibilities for upstream flood control construction. He worked on over 200 of the 2,100 structures in Oklahoma. Max also served as a concrete instructor for over 12 years at the SCS Fort Worth Technical Center. Max retired in 1990 with 35 years of public service and received many awards for his work throughout his distinguished career.

Max was an over 50-year member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and a member of the Elks, SCSA and NARFE. Max enjoyed church activities and was very involved for many years with the Presbyterian Church. He was a very giving person and was often called upon by ministers when there was a financial need or needy family. Max gave freely and quietly of his time and money.

Max was preceded in death by his wife, Mary, and sisters, Willene Jackson and Jacqueline Bauer. He is survived by a brother, Donald Dominick of Arlington, Texas; son M. Darrel Dominick and wife Gwyn of Stillwater; son Don T. Dominick and wife Kathy of Stillwater; grandchildren, Erin (Dominick) Anderson and husband Josh of Heiskell, Tenn., Becca, Nathan, Brenden, and Hayley Dominick, all of Stillwater; and nieces and nephews.



Lena Ann Walker

Lena Ann Walker of Bokoshe was born Aug. 8, 1927, in Milton to Guy Q. and Monte Olean (LeFlore) Horton. She passed away Nov. 12, 2010, in Fort Smith, Ark., at the age of 83.

She is survived by two daughters, Barbara Jean Morton and husband Austin, and Rita Broom and husband Ronnie, all of Spiro; son Michael Joe Walker and wife Stacy of Spiro; three brothers, Guy Loren Horton of Bokoshe, Donald Eugene Horton of Bokoshe, and Larry Joe Horton of Rogers, Ark.; four grandchildren, Penny Gragg, Amanda Minks, Bailey Walker and Jared Walker; three great-grandchildren, Walker Wayne Gragg, Parker Wayne Minks and Maci Ann Minks

She was a member of the Church of Christ in Bokoshe and Spiro.

She was the widow of Billy Joe "Pete" Walker. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Guy and Olean Horton; grandson Horton Howery Walker; and brother Jerry Wayne Horton.



Fred Franklin 'Duke' James Sr.

Fred Franklin "Duke" James Sr., of Wilburton passed away Dec.16, 2010, in Fort Smith, Ark., at the age of 71. Duke was born Aug. 21, 1939, to Fred and Maggie Mae (Harvey) James in Damon Valley. He graduated from Wilburton High School in 1958.

Duke served in the Oklahoma National Guard. He owned and operated Duke's Auto Repair for over 36 years. He served on the Wilburton City Council for 16 years. He was a member of Panola Baptist Church. Duke enjoyed collecting and restoring Ford Mustangs.

Duke is survived by sons, Fred James Jr. and wife Mary, and Bryan James; daughter Pam Flener and husband Glenn of Wilburton; grandchildren, Ben Kline, Daniel Flener, Bryan Flener, Freddie James, Jared James, Taleena Beauchamp, Shannon Duncan, Michael Flener; great-grandchildren, Christian Beauchamp, Abigail Beauchamp, Kaison Kline; brother Delmer James and wife Jan of Glenpool; sisters, Pat Fish of Moore, June Chancellor and husband Terry of Prague, Judy Atkins and husband Billy of Ravia, and Donna James of Wilburton; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Duke was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Maggie James, and a sister, Mary Poss.



Milo Myrick Hallcom

Milo Myrick Hallcom, son of Pastor Jim and Bonnie Hallcom of Hopewell, Va., passed away on Dec. 1, 2010, in Langen, Germany, where he had lived for the past 34 years.

Born in Denton, Texas, Milo is survived by his parents; two sisters, Jimanne Hays and husband John of Felton, Calif., and Leah Teague and husband Charles of Gettysburg, Pa.; one brother, David Hallcom and wife Debra of Chester, Va.; and several nieces and nephews. His immediate family was privileged to be with him in Germany the last eight days of his life.

Milo was known in life as a helpful and compassionate friend to all who knew him. He was a wonderful Christian man. He worked for several aerospace companies and U.S. government contractors in Europe as an employee of Martin - Marietta

He helped dismantle the Pershing Missiles during the Cold War. His last position was refurbishing the Black Hawk and Apache helicopters sent back to Germany from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sally Ann Eades

Sally Ann Eades, 56, passed away Dec. 3, 2010, in Ardmore.

Sally was born Dec. 1, 1954, in Ardmore to Willis Eades and Rosie (Sam) Eades. She attended Dickson Schools and went on to Murray State College working toward a degree in Behavioral Science.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willis and Rose Eades; nephew Breck Eades; niece Rena Genn; sister Dorothy Glass; grandparents, Wallace and Jane Sam and John Walter Eades and Sallie Eades.

Sally is survived by her husband, Dennis Lee, of Ardmore; daughter Missy Pearce and husband Jerry of Springer, Crystal Vantine of Ardmore; son Jeremy Vantine and wife Kerry of McAlester; sisters, TeAta Dolezal of Springer; brothers, Willis Eades Jr. of Mustang, Billy Lewis Eades of Ardmore, Donald Eades of Chickasha; grandchildren, Andrew St. Clair of Springer, Caleb St. Clair of Springer, Rhonda Pearce of Ardmore, Sarah Rivera of Ardmore, Jeremiah Pearce of Ardmore, Tylor Pearce of Springer; great-grandchild Alexis Rivera of Ardmore; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.



Phillip Lee Riddle

Phillip Lee Riddle, 49, a resident of Old Fort, Ohio, passed away on Dec. 2, 2010. He attended Valley View Baptist Church. Phillip worked at Bradley Memorial Hospital and local healthcare facilities as a nurse for 25 years. He was a licensed antique gun dealer and loved the outdoors and the mountains. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

His father, Coleman Riddle, preceded him in death, as well as a daughter, Jessica Riddle.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Riddle of Old Fort; mother Carolyn Riddle and father Joe Smart; daughters, Rachael Riddle, Ramanda Riddle, Reanna Riddle, all of Cleveland; son Randon Riddle of Cleveland; stepchildren, Chelsea, Kaleb and Brittany; brothers, Coleman "Billy" Riddle and Paul Riddle and wife Stephanie, all of Cleveland; sister Joy Benson and husband Kenny of Georgetown; special nieces, Stephanie Joy, Paula Ann and Amber Fawn; and special nephew Paul Andrew.

Arthur Barnett Jessie

Arthur Barnett Jessie, 80, of Bokchito passed away Dec. 26, 2010, in Hugo. Arthur was born Jan. 12, 1930, in Valliant to Philistine Jack Jessie and Elizabeth (Lewis) Jessie.

He grew up in Broken Bow and Wright City, and then worked in Kilgore, Texas, for 30 years before moving to Bokchito in 1993.

Arthur liked to dance and take care of his cattle. He served in the Army as a paratrooper from 1946-1947. He was a member of Faith Baptist in Bokchito and retired from Mobil Oil Company.

Arthur was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Arthur Ray Jessie and Jeff Jessie; twin sisters, Leona Tidwell and Neoma Ives; and brother Clyde Raymond Jessie.

Survivors include daughter Carolyn Jones and husband Eddie of Bokchito; grandchildren, Mark Jones, Chris Jessie and Xandi Jones; along with a host of other family and friends.



James Robert Pusley

James "Jim" Robert Pusley was born June 6, 1939, in Bakersfield, Calif., to Collins Gordon and Dorothy Frances Owens/Pusley. He passed away Oct. 26, 2010, in Rapid City, S.D.

Jim spent his first three years of his life living in Glenville, Calif. When World War II broke out, the family moved to Oildale, Calif., so his parents could work at Lockheed Aircraft Plant. He started school at standard school where eventually all the siblings attended.

After the war ended, the family moved to his grandfather Owens' ranch at Kernville, Calif. This is where Jim spent his most enjoyable years of his youth.

A family friend taught Jim how to fly an airplane by the time he was 12 years old. Jim and this friend spent many hours in the air.

Sometime in the '60s, he went to work for American Van Lines driving long line trucks. He had driven in every state except Hawaii and Alaska.

Eventually Jim met and married Bonnie Andersen in Wisconsin. Being young and adventurous, they moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where Jim worked for the state for several years. After a few years in Alaska, they decided that the "Black Hills" were calling them back to Rapid City. This is where Jim spent his final years. He loved taking out-of-state visitors up into the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park and Crazy Horse.

Jim was a man of many talents. He enjoyed restoring old cars and trucks. His pride and joy was his 1956 Ford pickup, which won many awards through car shows. His greatest talent was carving and leatherwork. He made many Indian figures, medicine wheels, Kochina dolls, peace pipes, lances, etc. All of his work was always signed "Jimmy Two Bears - Choctaw."

Jim's father, Collins Gordon Pusley, and grandfather, William Wiley Pusley Sr., were original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Peggy and Rita.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie, of 40 years; brother William of Elko, Nev.; sisters, Betty Simmons of Squaw Valley, Calif., Susan Crissman of Oakdale, Calif., Kay Tucker of Bakersfield, Calif., and Mildred Shaw of Tusahoma.

Jim was always very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

Randy Paul Puckett Sr.

Randy Paul Puckett Sr., born July 12, 1957, in Oklahoma City passed away at his home in Katy, Texas, on Dec. 24, 2010.

Randy was a veteran of two wars. He served in the Marine Corps as well as the Reserves. He had been a federal employee for the last 36 years. He was working at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston when he passed away.

Randy is survived by his mother, Patsy Puckett; wife Lena Puckett; children, Mark and Olivia Powers, Randy Puckett Jr. and Vladimir Moroz; grandchildren, Ayshia and Gabriel; siblings, Stacey, Denise, Jerry, Scottie and Margaret; and several nieces and nephews.



Earnestine Locke

Earnestine Locke was born Oct. 14, 1922, in Messer, the daughter of Wilson and Susan (Hampton) Locke. She had lived in the Hugo area most of her life after moving there from Oklahoma City. She was a member of the 4th & Jackson Street Church of Christ. Earnestine loved her church and church family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, five brothers and three sisters.

Earnestine is survived by two sisters, Lynn Locke of Oklahoma City and Dessie Locke of Purcell; several nieces and nephews, including Caral Parker of Sawyer, and many other family members.

William Herman Frizzell

William Herman Frizzell of Pocola passed away Dec. 4, 2010, at the age of 86. He was born March 26, 1924, in Heavener.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jennie.

Survivors include his four daughters, Evelyn Bothell and husband Richard of Port Townsend, Wash., Linda Stewart and husband Ivan of San Diego, Cathie Frizzell of Poteau, Janet Bosley and husband Donald of Howe; son William E. Frizzell and wife Helen of Nieceville, Fla.; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Joan J. Colwell

Joan J. "Jody" Colwell, age 88, of Shawnee passed away Nov. 5, 2010. She was born July 10, 1922.



OBITUARIES

William Ainsworth Pierce

Lt. Col. William Ainsworth Pierce, U.S. Army (Ret) of San Antonio, passed away on Dec. 14, 2010, at age 91. He was born in Shawnee on Sept. 26, 1919.

William was a Registered Pharmacist, employed by Walgreen Drug Co. in Dallas and Ft. Worth. He entered the U.S. Army on April 7, 1942, as an enlisted soldier. He graduated from O.C.S. in Nov. 1942, as Second Lieutenant and served in World War II under General Patton. He worked on the exchange of prisoners in Korea and retired as Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army, Department of Defense. Next, he worked at Air Training Command at Randolph A.F.B and retiring for the second time after more than 22 years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Grotto, Scottish Rite, Commandry and Shrine, and Rolling Oaks Christian Church.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth Sweat Pierce; parents, Mark Pierce and Alice Lewis Pierce; and brother, Maurice Pierce.

He is survived by wife Mary Dale Pierce; daughter Carlye Weber and husband Mike and their two sons, Todd and Justin; daughter Alicia Anderson and husband Gary; step-grandchildren, Diana Welsch and Mark Welsch.



Jo Lee Brumley Tipton

Jo Lee Brumley Tipton of Ada, passed away Dec. 3, 2010. She was born Aug. 6, 1919, on Rushing Fruit Farm in Colbert, to Virgil Brumley and Mary Rushing Brumley.

She married Ray Ellsworth Tipton on March 26, 1996. He passed away in 1996.

Jo attended Colbert Grade School and she graduated from Byng High School. She then entered East Central State College at the age of 16 and was the youngest student to enter ECSC at that time.

She worked at several different professions in her life, such as a professional photographer, a girls basketball coach in Ethol, Idaho, and a genealogist.

She was also a member of the Victory Life Fellowship Church for many years and a lifelong resident of Ada. She had been a member of the Ada Garden Club for 50 years. She was very proud of her Choctaw lineage.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ray Tipton, and her parents, Virgil and Mary Brumley.

Survivors include a son, Judge Virgil Tipton and wife Penny of Pauls Valley; daughter Billie Conlee and husband Jim of Wayne of Oklahoma; brother Bill V. Brumley of Lexington; sister Dennis Faye Miller and husband Thomas of Springfield, Ill.; four grandchildren, Kathy Roberts Nabors and husband John of Chickasha, Monty Bryan Roberts and wife Brenda of Fort Worth, Nicki Tipton Watkins and husband Scott of Norman, and Chad Shelton and wife Sue of Calgary of Canada; four great-grandchildren, Bo Roberts, Jeremy Thomas, Jared Thomas and Zane Watkins; great-great-grandchild Taylor Thomas; nieces and nephews, Prissy and Tracy Miller, Mike Roberts, Emm Lou Roberts, Rick Weartherall and Kay Weartherall; and favorite cousins, Twanah Guest, James and Jackie Lollar, Bob Brumley, Charles McDaniell, Charlen Smith, Carolyn Rushing, and Yachma Brumley.



Randy Allen Colwell

Randy Allen Colwell of Bokoshe, was born July 30, 1970, in Fort Smith, Ark., to Darryl and Linda Lowe Colwell and passed away Dec. 3, 2010, in Rock Island, at the age of 40.

He was a 20-year veteran of Law Enforcement.

Randy was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Norman Lowe and Pocahontas Alford, as well as his paternal grandparents, Jesse and Nyna Colwell.

He is survived by his wife, Lori, of the home; two daughters, Kaitlynn Colwell of Stigler and Bethany Johnson of Bokoshe; five sons, Logan Colwell of Flower Hill, Garrett Ware of Keota, Hayden Colwell of the home, Andrew Colwell of the home and Zack Johnson of Bokoshe; parents, Darryl and Linda Colwell of Keota; two sisters, Traci Bond and husband Glenn of McCurtain and Katrina Asbury and husband Shawn of McCurtain; one brother, Darryl Colwell and wife Thelma of Panama, Okla.; and one granddaughter, Kylie Ware of Bokoshe.



Samantha Elizabeth Smith

Samantha Elizabeth Smith was born Jan. 19, 1992, in Paris, Texas to Billy Sam Smith and Amy (Alexander) Barnett. She passed away Dec. 29, 2010, in Oleta, at the age of 18.

Samantha graduated from Rattan High School in 2010. She was a member of the Methodist church and she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, but most of all she loved hunting with her brother and playing with her little sisters.

She was most recently attending Eastern Oklahoma State College. Samantha enjoyed playing basketball, softball, riding horses and camping.

Samantha was preceded in death by her grandfather, Clyde Smith.

She is survived by her father, Billy Sam Smith and wife Lisa of Antlers; mother Amy Barnett and husband Shawn of Antlers; grandparents, Les Alexander and wife Jane of Antlers and Naomi Smith of Antlers; brother Broc Smith; two sisters, Lexi Barnett and Sidnee Barnett; and many other relatives and friends.



Carloyn Marie Maguire

Carloyn Marie Maguire went home to be with Jesus on Dec. 26, 2010. She was born April 27, 1948, in Garvin, to Lamos and Ester (Johnson) Belvin.

She attended Valliant High School, worked at Kelwood and Warren's Idabel for many years, and most recently was employed at Wal-Mart.

She was a kind and loveable woman that showed great perseverance and much faith in Jesus Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother Vernon Johnson.

She is survived by her brothers, Anthony Belvin of Moore and Sam Belvin of Oklahoma City; husband Mel; sons, James Belvin and wife Glenda of Oklahoma City and Melvin MaGuire of Oklahoma City; daughters, Thelma Gregory and Michelle Torralba, both of Oklahoma City; 10 grandchildren; and many other loving family members and friends.



Paul S. Bench

Paul S. Bench, 85, passed away on Dec. 29, 2010, at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City, with his family by his side. Paul was born Jan. 24, 1925, in Boswell, to Daniel and Katie Bench.

Paul served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He spent much of his life in Guthrie, working 30 years at the Oklahoma Furniture Manufacturing Company.

In 1995 Paul married Flora and moved to Stockton, Calif., where he lived until November and then he moved back to Oklahoma.

Paul is preceded in death by his wife, Flora; his parents; 14 siblings; and two sons, Paul S. Bench Jr. of Comanche, Okla., and Edward Wayne Bench of Strawberry, Ariz.

He is survived by two sons and their wives, David and Rhonda Bench of Guthrie and James and Donna Bench of Bethany; daughter Patricia Bench of Guthrie; two step-daughters, Donna and husband Ray Gowdy and Deborah Garcia, all of Stockton, Calif.; 12 grandchildren, Paul Bench, April Bench, Shane Bench, Shari Bench, Danielle Bench, Boone Bench, Beau Bench, Edward Bench, Brandy Bench, Cameron Fuller, Jami Fogle, Jerome Fogle, Nicholas Bench, Shana Bench, Dennis Swanson, Torrey Inestroza, Moya Inestroza, and Taylor Bench; and 13 great-grandchildren, Autumn, Kaycee, Reecy, Gabriel, Shelby, Austin, Chelsea, Gage, Jacob, Makenna, Gabriella, Joci, and Jace. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.



Grady Anderson

Grady Anderson, 82, of Smithville, passed away at his home on Nov. 17, 2010. He was born Dec. 28, 1927, in Smithville, the son of Emmitt and Daisy Jones Anderson.

He was a contractor and a member of the Holiness Church. Grady had lived in McCurtain County most of his life and enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling and spending time with his family and friends.

A self-taught musician, Grady enjoyed music and playing the steel guitar. He and Maxine Smith were united in marriage on March 29, 1949, in Mena, Ark., and they shared 61 years together.

Grady was preceded in death by his parents; brother Jimmy Anderson; and sister Hazel Webb.

He is survived by his wife, Maxine, of the home; sons, Paul Anderson of Smithville, Terry Anderson of Chehalis, Wash., and Mark Anderson of Onalaska, Wash.; daughters, Sharon Mahoney, Linda Gammel and Lanna Fell, all of Smithville; brother Bennie Anderson, also of Smithville; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one niece and a host of friends



James Semple Wright

James (Jim) Semple Wright was born on May 10, 1926, in Durant to James Roland and Alta Semple Wright. His family moved to Vernon, Texas, in 1932, where he attended Vernon schools and lived most of his life.

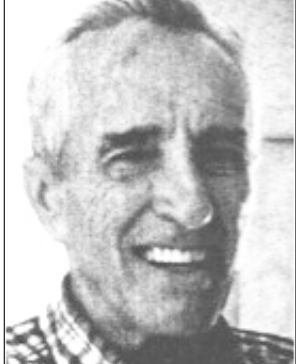
He attended N.M. Military Institute and graduated from Texas Christian University, where he met his wife, Ruth. After graduation he worked for the Treasury Department as a bank examiner.

In 1954, he established Wright Insurance Agency along with his brother Richard (Dick) Wright.

He was an avid sportsman who loved to go hunting and fishing. He was a co-founder, charter member and past president of Kiwanis Club since 1953. He was a past president of the Red Cross and an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Vernon.

For many years he devoted his time to the church and the community. He was part of the Boy Scouts Troop Committee and a volunteer at the Vernon Victory Field Youth Correctional Center. Jim was a gentleman and a true mentor. He had a way with words that could make anyone laugh. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend who will forever be missed.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ruth Alice Moody Wright; daughter Susan Jane Nichols; two sons, James Roland Wright II and Thomas Alan Wright; eight grandchildren, Courtenay Nichols, Daniel Nichols, Allison Wright, Victoria Wright, Natalie Wright, Jennifer Wright, Naomi Wright and Deborah Wright; five great-grandchildren; nephews, John T. Wright and his wife, Meredith, and three children, Betsy, Annabelle and Randal, and Rick Wright and his wife Peggy; and many lifelong friends.



Simpson Evans Jr.

Simpson Evans Jr., Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.) passed away on Dec. 27, 2010.

Simpson Evans was born in Cartersville, on June 22, 1918, and was the only child of Bella and Simpson Evans. Evans' father, a Choctaw, died of tuberculosis when he was 18 months old. Simpson's mother married Earnest Burt eight years later and moved the newly formed family to Tulsa. In 1933, the family moved to Cartersville and then to Arkoma, where Simpson graduated from Spiro High School in 1937.

Following high school, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp, a public work relief program purposed to employ young men during the Great Depression. After spending two years working in Wyoming and Colorado where the Corp, in Simpson's own words, "made a man out of me," he returned to Oklahoma and farmed 140 acres of the family's property.

Eight months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. Navy. Later, his application to become an aviation cadet was accepted and he received orders to attend civilian pilot training at the local flight school in Fort Smith, Ark. Soloing the primary trainer aircraft in just eight hours, his initial pilot training was completed in only three months. From December 1942 through January 1944, Evans stepped through the various stages of flight training required to become a Naval Aviator. This included initial training in Pensacola, flying SNJ "Texan" advanced trainers to operational training in Melbourne, Fla., piloting F6F-2 "Hellcat" fighters. Although he had no way of knowing at the time, this recently introduced "Hellcat" fighter would be the aircraft that he would fly in parade over the USS Missouri during the historical signing of the surrender by Japan. He would soon earn his aircraft carrier qualification and build experience as an instructor pilot before being assigned to combat duty in the South Pacific. During his combat tenure off the shore of Japan during World War II, he participated in numerous missions bombing and strafing enemy airfields but never engaged a Japanese aircraft in aerial combat.

Simpson continued his role as an accomplished instructor pilot following the end of World War II while teaching at the Naval Air Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, in a variety of aircraft. His skill was formally recognized by a commanding officer when he was given the option of joining a newly formed Navy flight demonstration team that would later be called the "Blue Angels." Not realizing the significance of this opportunity, he passed on the "Blue Angels" to serve with a former commanding officer on the USS Valley Forge in an all-weather fighter squadron. During his tour, the USS Valley Forge became the first aircraft carrier to sail around the world.

In June 1948, he attended the first Navy Test Pilot Training Class. Now a Lieutenant Junior Grade, his test pilot training put him in the seat of some of the first military jets, including the P80 "Shooting Star" which was the first operational jet fighter used by the United States. Because of his jet experience and combat tours during the war, he was selected in a pilot exchange program with the Air Force. While participating in the e program during the Korean conflict, he flew the F86 "Sabrejet" with the 4th Fighter Group in the 336 Fighter/Interceptor squadron. During a mission near the Sinanju area of North Korea, escorting B-29 bombers, he received a call for support from several bombers under attack by North Korean Mig15 jet fighters. Quick to respond, he and his flight group encountered 16 enemy aircraft. This moment of aerial combat yielded his first of two victories and merited him being awarded with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He rose to the rank of Commander and served in numerous command roles. He was a test pilot and Flight Test Director at McDonnell Aircraft, piloting aircraft such as the F4 "Phantom" and F101 "Voodoo", Operations Office on the USS Hornet and an atomic bomb delivery pilot. Even though he was busy flying twice the speed of sound during this time period, the 39-year-old bachelor also made time for dating and he met his wife, Julia while stationed at Virginia Beach, Va. They married in 1957 on Simpson's birthday, June 22. In 1964, he was promoted to Captain. Over the next ten years, he further distinguished himself by leading the innovative Fleet Work Study Group and serving as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Facility in El Centro, Calif., and the Naval Reserve Center in Tulsa.

He retired in July of 1974, after 40 years of military service, over 6,000 hours of flight time, 300 aircraft carrier landings, flight combat in two wars, piloting over 21 different types of aircraft, soaring at twice the speed of sound, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldiers Medal, Air Medal, with two Silver Stars and one Oak Leaf Cluster.

After retiring from the Navy, Simpson returned to the Fort Smith area where he ranched and farmed for several years before devoting his time to his two children, Kandy and Scott; his wife, Julia, and a legacy that would grow with eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Although Simpson never actively flew as a civilian pilot, he remained very supportive of the aviation community. He was a charter member of the Fort Smith chapter of the Quiet Birdmen, which is an aviation fraternity. He was also a member Emeritus of the Golden Eagles, which is an aviators association that honors significant contributors to naval aviation. He touched the lives of so many providing inspiration, encouragement and love for his family and country. He will be remembered as a man of honor, integrity and a true patriot.

Vernon Woodrow Walters

Vernon Woodrow Walters passed away at his home on Nov. 18, 2010. He was born June 16, 1918, to Elmer and Alzona Labor Walters in Blue.

The family moved to Chickasha when he was in the third grade. It was in the Chickasha High School that he met Mary Ruth Williams and they became good friends. After high school Vernon and Mary Ruth were married June 27, 1937. They celebrated their 73rd anniversary in 2010. Vernon was a Christian of Baptist faith, having accepted Jesus as a young boy. He was a World War II veteran of the Army, serving from 1944 to 1946. Vernon, Mary Ruth and their two children moved to Joplin, Mo., in 1948 where they started a business that became Walt's Shoe Store.

Vernon was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Aaron and Carl Dean; and special granddaughter, Terri Reneau Pittman.

Survivors are; daughter Caroljane Walters Reneau and husband Dale; son Larry Gene Walters and wife Linda; six grandchildren, Lori Ann Reneau, Todd Joel Reneau, Robert Reneau, Mark Reneau, Mary Beth Walters Cope and Lucy Ann Walters Bloom; twelve great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.



Choctaw smoking pipes and tobacco

Dear Iti Fabvssa, My interest is in learning something (anything) about the historical ceremonial use of the pipe by our people. I would like to know what kinds of pipes were used, what was smoked, and in what ceremonial context. Can you help me?

Dear Argus, Thank you for your great questions. Smoking pipes and tobacco have been a significant and visible part of the Choctaw traditional lifeway for a very long time, but they have not received much written attention.

We'll begin with your question about what was traditionally smoked in the pipes. Tobacco is a New World plant, whose origins are not well understood, however, some varieties are known to have been grown and smoked in eastern North America at least 2,000 years ago. The Choctaw name for tobacco is "hakchuma" (Byington 1915:131). According to a Choctaw cultural authority with whom we consulted on this article, tobacco plants were traditionally planted and tended by Choctaw medicine people, both male and female. After the plants matured, their leaves were removed and stored as dried rolls, tied up with bark strips. In the 1700s, some Choctaw communities grew enough tobacco both to supply themselves, and to export it to Euro-American traders (Romans 1775:84-85).

These early Choctaw tobacco horticulturalists made a lasting contribution to the American tobacco industry. One of the traditional tobacco varieties that they developed, today known as "Perique," may be the most expensive grade of tobacco in the world. The story is that in late 1700s, Pierre Chenet, a French Canadian, emigrated into what is now St. James Parish, La., and observed Choctaws preparing a special variety of tobacco using a traditional pressure fermentation method (Ehwa 1973). They put the tobacco leaves into hollow tree trunks and pressed them with long poles, held down by weights. The pressure made the juice come out of the leaves, and they were left in this position long enough to ferment. Today's Perique is grown in the unique soils of St. James Parish and prepared using a variation on the old Choctaw technique. It has a strong taste of figs and black pepper, and it is often mixed in tobacco blends. Choctaws often add-



Fragments of ancestral Choctaw clay pipe bowls, (Lubbub Creek Site, Ala., 1000-1600 AD).



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

dried and rubbed into small pieces before they were mixed with the tobacco (Romans 1775:85). In times of scarcity, Choctaws of the past, and some people still today, smoke a wild native plant called "rabbit tobacco," or bvshuchak in the Choctaw language (Swanton 2001: 237).

Before Removal, smoking was mostly the prerogative of Choctaw men. Choctaw society considered smoking tobacco to be unladylike, and so only a few of the older women engaged in it. In the 1800s, as Euro-American influence grew, more Choctaw women began to smoke. The uses of snuff and chewing tobacco were also adopted by Choctaw society at this time (Cushman 1899:172-173).

An old Choctaw term for the traditional style of tobacco pipe is "hakchuma shuti," literally meaning "tobacco pot" (Byington 1915:131). Pipe bowls were made from fired clay, from a kind of white limestone that outcrops on the Mississippi River, and probably other local carvable stones. A few were made from red pipestone traded in from what is now Minnesota. The earliest pipes in the Southeast were simple tubular, cone-shaped forms. A few of the pipes made during the centuries before European contact are large and very elaborate effigies of people or animals, while others were simple elbow pipes. Surviving Choctaw pipes from the 1800s suggest that the elbow pipes predominated in later years.

For our ancestors, and for some Choctaws today, tobacco-smoking, "hakchuma shuka," is approached in a spiritual way. The rising puffs of smoke are seen to carry one's words or prayers upwards to the Creator. Traditionally, Choctaw men smoked pipes in several specific settings that include: Tribal Council meetings, meetings with other tribes to establish peace, meetings with other tribes to establish war alliances, when soliciting supernatural aid, and also on informal occasions, such as meeting a friend on the trail. The following paragraphs contain a few details about these different uses:

At Tribal Councils, Choctaw men sat in three concentric circles around a central fire, corresponding with their three social rankings, Beloved Men, Warriors, and Young Men (see Iti Fabvssa 4/10). The council pipe was lit, and passed around the inner circle of Beloved Men, and was then passed outwards to the other groups. According to Henry Halbert: "To every mingo and captain was attached his official pipe lighter [the Tishomiko] who was elected by the people and who had charge of the council pipe and lighted it at the opening

ed various ingredients to their tobacco to produce different flavors, including leaves from the sweet gum tree and the leaves of two different species of sumac. These leaves were

of a council. The council men sat in a circle and the council pipe, from which each one inhaled one or more whiffs, passed from right to left, which was supposed to symbolize the course of the sun. The pipe lighter held his office from one council to another, when he was either reelected, or a new man elected in his place" (n.d.). The pipe was passed and smoked again at the close of the meeting.

When a Choctaw community wished to establish a peaceful relationship with another community or tribe, it sent a delegation to that group carrying a pipe, called a "calumet," by the French. According to an early writer, "This calumet has a stem about two or three feet in length, surrounded by red feathers artistically worked, and from which hangs eight or 10 black and white feathers," (Anonymous 1918[1755]:67). These eagle feathers were important as a visual symbol of peaceful intentions. A person carrying a calumet through foreign territory would not be harmed. Upon the arrival of the peace delegation, talks would proceed, and if an alliance could be arranged, the calumet pipe would be passed around and smoked by both groups. In the early days, the group who brought the pipe would choose a man from the other party to keep it for them. This man was given the title Fvnmiko, or "squirrel chief." With it came the responsibility of representing the other group's interests with his own people, as a sort of ambassador. By the mid 1700s, the Fvnmiko position began to fall out of use, probably because the Euro-American men who the Choctaw selected to hold this office failed to understand or live up to the responsibility (O'Brien 2005:63).

When a Choctaw community wished to establish a war alliance with another group against a mutual enemy, they would send a delegation to that group, carrying a war pipe. This pipe is said to have looked very similar to the peace

calumet, but its main colors were red instead of white. If the war alliance could be negotiated, the war pipe would be passed and smoked to seal the agreement.

Many Choctaw men also had their own personal pipes. Most of these were smaller and less elaborate than the council pipes, calumets, or war pipes. At least some of them had short stems of hollow river cane. These personal pipes were smoked in individual prayer or reflection. They were also smoked at times when supernatural aid was sought. When Choctaw men met each other out away from home, if one had a pipe

and tobacco, it was customary for him to sit down and share it with the other travelers (Halbert n.d.). As they reached the later part of their lives, some Choctaw men chose a member of a younger generation to entrust with their pipe. Others preferred to have their pipes go with them when they passed into the next life.



Choctaw clay elbow pipe (4 views), made around 1900, Bayou Lacomb, La.

Tribal employees prepare for deployment

Continued from Page 1

bring in someone who has not had their experience and knowledge and just expect him to pick up where they left off. But I'm confident Jason (Burwick), with the assistance of the STAR staff, will do a great job and the department will continue to make the Choctaw Nation proud."

And by knowing they're leaving their jobs in good hands the men can focus on what matters most to them - their families.

The three men, all married with children, know that leaving their families for a year will be a difficult undertaking, but realize it is just one of the burdens they unselfishly take on as citizen-soldiers.

"This is just one of those things that we always knew was a possibility," said McKaughan, a married father of two, saying it's the nature of serving in the military.

Oakes echoed that sentiment, stating, "I'm excited about the experience, but I know it'll be hard to leave my family," referring to his wife and two children. "I know it [deploying] is just part of the territory though," he continued. "My wife has worked hard to prepare herself for me being away."

Lance, also a husband and father of two, says his family is also very supportive of him and being away from them will be the hardest part of this mission.

McKaughan, a Lieutenant Colonel assigned to the 45th IBCT headquarters in Oklahoma City as head of the Provost Marshal, volunteered to go on the deployment, which will be his second trip overseas. With



Chief Pyle presents a Choctaw flag to several of the deploying employees to take to Afghanistan. Accepting the flag, from left, Chris Ribera, Brent Oakes, John Lance, Tony Collins and Kelly McKaughan.

nearly 25 years of service under his belt, he is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, and has twice mobilized for stateside missions. He also served in Cuba.

The deployment will be the first for Oakes and Lance, both Specialists previously assigned to Camp Gruber as Military Police. Oakes has been in the OKARNG for three years and served four years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force. Lance has nine years of service with the OKARNG.

Along with McKaughan, Oakes and Lance, several other Choctaw Nation employees are also deploying to Afghanistan this year. Those employees are Chris Ribera from Performance Excellence (Tribal Complex); Jeremy Quinn from Tribal Security (CN Health Care Center in Talihina); John Michael Grubele from CMDC (McAlester); Bradley Johnson from the Dietary Department (CN Health Care Center in Ta-

lihina); Duston Heflin and Steven Ensey from Gaming (Durant Casino Resort); and Kevin Rond Jr. and Tony Collins, both of Tribal Security (Durant Casino Resort.)

For many of them, this will be a case of "been there, done that." This will be the third deployment for Ribera, a logistics officer with the IBCT. He previously deployed to Iraq in 2007 and the Sinai Peninsula in 2003. Collins, an infantryman, will be deploying for a second time, his first being a year in Iraq in 2007. Heflin will be making his third trip overseas. The infantryman served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Johnson has deployed twice, first to Afghanistan in 2003, then Iraq in 2007.

Chief Pyle recognized their sacrifices when he met with several of the men recently. He also presented the group with a Choctaw flag to carry with them to Afghanistan.

He expressed his support and gratitude and made sure

they knew they could turn to the Choctaw Nation while they're away.

"Thank you for the incredible sacrifice you are willing to make for all of us here at home," said Chief Pyle to those getting ready to deploy. "We honor you and respect you for the job you are taking on."

Additionally, Chief Pyle hosted a farewell reception for the soldiers at the community center earlier this month to allow employees the chance to show their support and wish the men luck on their mission.

"The Choctaw Nation has been 100 percent supportive," said Lance. "That makes this experience much easier."

So, with preparations in place for a smooth road ahead as they deploy, it's business as usual for these employees as they continue to serve tribal members until time for them to pack up their Army boots and serve the country.

Choctaw Traditional Pottery Class

Durant

Jan 23, Feb. 6, Feb. 20 - 4:30-9 p.m.
Cultural Events Building, 4451 Choctaw Rd.

Poteau

Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21 - 5-9:30 p.m.
Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

Idabel

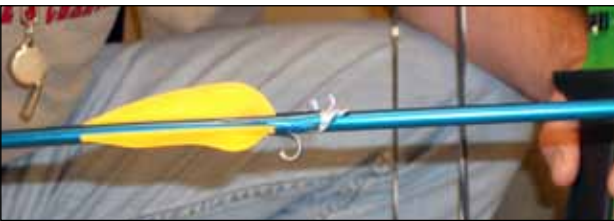
Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 - 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

Antlers

Jan. 27, Feb 10, Feb. 24 - 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Antlers Library and Community Building
202 N. High St.

Sherman, Texas

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



Instructor makes 'Robin Hood' shot

Is it possible to split an arrow with another arrow? Fifth grade students at Jones Academy will say "yes."

They actually observed it happen on Nov. 5, 2010, while practicing shooting their bows in the gym at Jones Academy. During the practice archery instructor Joe Sirmans was able to hit the bulls eye and then split that arrow with a following arrow. This is sometimes referred to as a "Robin Hood" shot.