



Labor Day 2010

◆ Page 10



Community gatherings

◆ Page 11



Senior Citizen Day

◆ Page 13



Fun in Wilburton

◆ Page 13

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BISHINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2010 Issue

Serving 201,463 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Tribal Council holds June session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session, June 12 at Tushka Homma.

Council Bills introduced and approved included:

- A grant continuation application for Counseling and Faith-Based Services for Crime Victims in Indian Country. All existing community-based services will be linked to the program through networking to serve with the best results and the best possible service delivery system can be developed.

- Application to the First Nations Development Institute for the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative to address the need of implementing a community garden that will strengthen the ability to use, create, leverage, retain and increase our agricultural and food-related assets.

- Application to the Federal Transit Administration for continuation of the Tribal Transit Program Grant which assists the Choctaw Nation in providing safe, affordable public transportation to its tribal members.

- Budgets for the Child Care Assistance and Food Distribution programs.

- Disposal of surplus equipment.

- A grazing lease in favor of Billy Perrin for 553 acres in Choctaw County.

- Revocable permits on acreages in Choctaw and Pushmataha counties.

- Allocation of funds to aid in protection of its natural resources, especially pertaining to Sardis Lake and the Kiamichi River Basin.

◆ What's inside

Notes to the Nation.....	2
Columns	3
Nursery News	4
Food Distribution Calendar...	4
People You Know	6
Obituaries	12
Crossword Answer.....	14
Iti Fabvssa	14
Pottery Classes	14

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.

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Chief Pyle speaks before Congressional Committee

'Self-governance is about tribal empowerment, accountability, responsibility and self-sufficiency'

By Judy Allen

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle was invited to testify in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources on legislation dealing with Tribal Self-Governance. His testimony requested that Congress pass HR 4347, which would create consistency between the Title IV Self-Governance initiative in the Department of Interior and the Title V Self-Governance initiative in the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to Chief Pyle and others who spoke in favor of passing HR 4347, Title IV and Title V have two different sets of administrative requirements. The legislation, which was introduced by U.S. Congressman Dan Boren (OK-Dist. 2), would minimize some of the existing administrative burdens and advance Self-Governance opportunities within other Department of Interior agencies.

"Self-governance is about tribal empowerment, accountability, responsibility and self-sufficiency," said Chief Pyle. "There are 260 tribes under self-governance because it places management responsibility in the hands of those who care most about seeing Tribal programs succeed and services to citizens improved – the Tribal government itself," said Chief Pyle.

The entire health delivery system of the Choctaw Nation has been managed by the Tribe since 1985 thanks to Self-Governance. This includes a hospital, eight clinics, two substance abuse in-patient centers and a wide range of preventative programs including nutrition counseling and a diabetes wellness center.



Self Governance witnesses offering testimony in favor of passing HR 4347 included Marcus D. Levings, chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota, Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Donovan Gomez, Tribal Programs Administrator for the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico. They are pictured here with Congressman Dan Boren.

Choctaw Youth obtaining valuable work experience

By Bret Moss

School may be out for summer, but the learning has not stopped. This is especially true for participants of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

WIA, an annual program lasting five weeks of the summer, began on June 14. It allows students, ages 14-21 to obtain a summer job at various worksites within the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. These students are able to gain work experience while employed at a multitude of businesses such as libraries, flower shops, day cares and convenience stores.

This summer 1,403 students are partaking in the program. All participants are able to work up to 40 hours a week and are paid for their work efforts. They will be able to learn from the ground up of the business for which they chose to work.

"We want to teach these kids to be dependable and responsible," stated Patty Mink, Director of WIA. "We want to give them valuable work experience and get them used to the workforce," she continued.

WIA is a beneficial program not just for the students, but



WIA youth attend a day of Xtreme Possibilities = Power hosted by the Choctaw Nation.

for all involved. Choctaw Nation pays for the wages of the participants, giving the worksites the resource of labor for only the cost of training a new employee. Also, the wages the

students earn are usually spent within the community, which boosts local businesses.

The students are allowed to choose the business where they would like to work. Once they have made their selection, counselors, usually school counselors and sometimes people appointed by the Choctaw Nation, will approve the choice and guide them through the process of gaining employment.

WIA has been around for many years, dating back to the 60s as more of an after-school program. The original name was "Man Power" and was on a smaller scale. "In the last 11 or 12 years, the Nation has helped supplement the program so we could hire more kids," stated Mink.

Mink has seen several impressive students while overseeing the program. One student that stands out to her is Destiny Sullens. Sullens, a 21-year-old who spent her years in WIA working at Red River

Museum in Idabel, impressed Mink by becoming a counselor at Harvard University.

While working for Red River Museum, Sullens would assist with various programs for children and help out with summer camps. She is a student at Columbia University, but spends her summers back in Idabel working at the museum.

Stories of success similar to that of Sullens are what keep the administrators of the program happy and the people of the Choctaw Nation proud. WIA has a positive impact on students, business and communities all over the Choctaw Nation alike and is another step toward the Choctaw mission to "enhance the lives of all members."

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of WIA, contact the WIA offices by calling 580-924-8280, ext. 2209. Applications for the next year will be available from Jan. 1 until April 15.



Presenting the award naming Chief Pyle Red Earth Ambassador for 2010 are board members David Campbell, President Jonna Kauger Kirschner, President-Elect G. Calvin Sharpe, Louise Painter, and grandson of the "Mother of Red Earth" Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger, Winston Scambler.

Red Earth 2010

More photos on Page 13



Jr. Miss Stephanie Tehauno, Little Miss Juanita Gonzalez and Miss Choctaw Nation Ashton Rachele Dinardo wave to the crowd.

NOTES TO THE NATION

Support given Veterans Airlift Command

I wanted to thank you for supporting the Veterans Airlift Command. Your support of this program made it possible for my daughter's fiancé, Cpl. Joshua Sweeney, USMC, to be able to attend her college graduation this past weekend. Josh suffered a bilateral above the knee amputations last October when he was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device while serving as a Marine sniper in Afghanistan.

He is an amazing young man with a great heart and a wonderful spirit. By allowing the Choctaw Nation's jet to provide service to this organization, Josh was flown from San Antonio, Texas, to Nampa, Idaho. My family lives less than half a mile from the Nampa airport's landing strip. This is a smaller airport and not many jets fly into Nampa. It was a wonderful feeling to see the Choctaw Nation's jet descend over our home knowing Josh was on board. We enjoyed a very memorable weekend with family and friends as we celebrated Amber's graduation on June 5 and Josh's 23rd birthday on June 6.

Amy Asqueta

Appreciates generosity to Ireland

I recently visited the Irish Famine commemoration centre located in Skibbereen in West Cork, Ireland (<http://www.skibberheritage.com>). It was my second visit to the place. It's small but haunting. They have a big poster on one of the walls showing where donations of food and money came from during the Great Famine of Ireland in 1847. On the list is the Choctaw Native American Indians. Seeing it and thinking about it fills me with teary emotion. How amazing that your ancestors would do such a thing. I'm born and bred Irish and I wondered has anyone ever e-mailed you to say thanks or acknowledge what you did for us – I know our former president, Mary Robinson, acknowledged some Irish people tracing your Trail of Tears.

From me, Owen Kelly, sincere thanks for doing what you did. I know it's not you personally that sent the donations but your blood relatives did and that's good enough for me. This may seem like a stupid rambling e-mail but I was so affected by seeing that the Choctaw Indians sent help to the remotest part of Europe during a famine where over 1 million people died and 1 million fled the island of Ireland that I had to acknowledge it to someone real that would be representative of the Choctaw Nation.

Go raibh míle maith agat, (thank you very much in Irish)

Owen Kelly

Proud to be Choctaw

I have just returned from a trip to Caddo to help clean the Turnbull Cemetery. This is a once-a-year project. It was my first time to go and what a wonderful experience. Not only did I meet cousins for the first time who made me feel so welcome, but it was a very moving experience to see the graves and headstones of my ancestors. The cemetery is in a beautiful area. I felt so honored to have been invited.

I am a descendant of Turner Brashears Turnbull and Jerico Perkins Turnbull, my great-great-grandparents; Angeline Mathis Turnbull and Daniel Mathis, my great-grandparents; Josephine Mathis Plaster and Henry Plaster, my grandparents; and Ruby and Vernon Plaster, my parents.

I took one day to go to our tribal headquarters in Durant. It is such a beautiful building and grounds. Everyone was so nice, friendly and helpful. I just want to say thank you for all of the help I received while at the headquarters and that I am so proud to be a Choctaw.

Sandy Van Der Linden, California

The touching of lives and hearts

On Monday, May 10, 2010, Elder Virgil Ott made his trip home to Heaven. God's promise to one day bring us all home has been fulfilled for Virgil. Our family has been blessed by his so many caring friends, countless co-workers, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

During the time leading to the loss of Virgil, he and our family received an overwhelming outpouring of care and concern that was displayed in so many ways. Personal visits to our home to show support and concern, phone calls from Chief Pyle and so many others to quietly see how we were all doing and to share in the hope that the love of each other brings, to the personal sacrifices and giving of themselves by untold numbers of employees of the Choctaw Nation you have touched our lives and hearts in ways never imagined. The generosity of so many have helped to bring us through this in ways we never imagined. The depths of compassion and true care and concern have been endless and so inspiring.

Often, we as individuals never know the full impact we have on our families, friends, and co-workers. We might not have understood how much others depended on us. How important just being there meant. The loss of a loved one suddenly brings this into full view. No amount of preparation can prepare us for the loss of a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a brother, an uncle, a wife's best friend, the Christian brother that Virgil was. Only the peace of a personal relationship with a loving God can take us through these kinds of times in our lives. Virgil had that relationship. Because of his family and church leadership, we too have this relationship in our lives.

We have been so humbled in spirit by the support and giving of so many. On family night we were honored by the presence of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Security Honor Guard. Present was a uniformed tribute that simply took our breath away and brought tears to our eyes. Virgil shared the same uniform in his service to the Choctaw Nation. Their presence during the funeral service was equally touching. How do you say "thank you" for their presence; we will be trying for a long time to come. Our words just seem so inadequate. The dignity and respect displayed by the Honor Guard must be mentioned again.

The honor, shown by the presence of the Tribal leadership, is a tribute to the true meaning of what the Choctaw Nation stands for in its pledge to support the life and ways of the Choctaw People. The presence of the Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation, members of the Tribal Council, and members of untold numbers of departments from all areas of the Choctaw Nation are so honoring. The sight of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Police, who escorted us to the Lone Star Presbyterian Church, will forever be pictured in our hearts. Once again we've asked ourselves, how do you say "thank you?" No words will ever touch these feelings.

This is where it became so apparent – you were saying "thank you" to Virgil. In the ways that only you could do so, in the ways that showed your love and respect. We are forever indebted to you for these acts of your love and respect.

From our family "Thank you so very much."

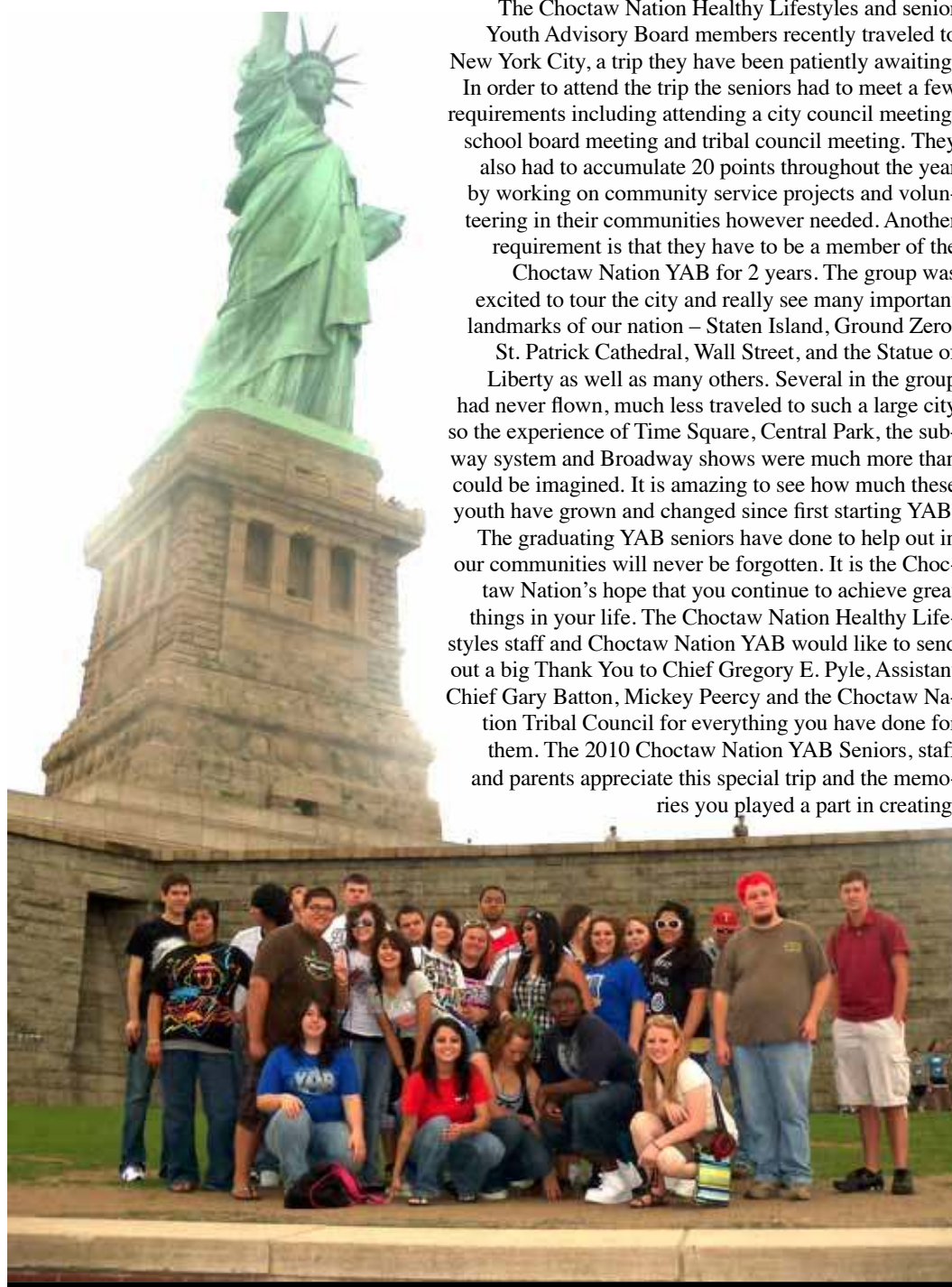
**The Family of Virgil Ott –
Louise Ott, Vince and Ladonna Ott,
Gayle Salinas, Lynn Ott-Clem,
Tina and Ricky Clem,
Mel and Gina Ott**

Member provided house ramp

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for my house ramp which is now finished. It is wonderful. It helps me so much to get out and in my house.

Mary Jo Washburn Sanbranno, Lawton

Senior YAB members visit NY City



The Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles and senior Youth Advisory Board members recently traveled to New York City, a trip they have been patiently awaiting. In order to attend the trip the seniors had to meet a few requirements including attending a city council meeting, school board meeting and tribal council meeting. They also had to accumulate 20 points throughout the year by working on community service projects and volunteering in their communities however needed. Another requirement is that they have to be a member of the Choctaw Nation YAB for 2 years. The group was excited to tour the city and really see many important landmarks of our nation – Staten Island, Ground Zero, St. Patrick Cathedral, Wall Street, and the Statue of Liberty as well as many others. Several in the group had never flown, much less traveled to such a large city so the experience of Time Square, Central Park, the subway system and Broadway shows were much more than could be imagined. It is amazing to see how much these youth have grown and changed since first starting YAB. The graduating YAB seniors have done to help out in our communities will never be forgotten. It is the Choctaw Nation's hope that you continue to achieve great things in your life. The Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles staff and Choctaw Nation YAB would like to send out a big Thank You to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Mickey Peercy and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for everything you have done for them. The 2010 Choctaw Nation YAB Seniors, staff and parents appreciate this special trip and the memories you played a part in creating.

Feeling blessed

In one month I celebrate 68 years of Choctaw life, and I am grateful for all that my tribe has given: fellowship, health services, encouragement, faith, pride, character, judgment, wisdom, financial assistance for my daughter's college tuition, and, "the last shall be first," our great humanitarian, Chief Greg Pyle. I am so blessed to be Choctaw as I celebrate this birthday.

Naomi "Rita" Payton Phillips

Earns BA at Cameron University

I am a member of the tribe and a 2010 graduate of Cameron University in Lawton. I would like to thank the tribe for all the assistance I received throughout my college career. Your generosity has been and will always be appreciated. I am proud to say that I now have a B.A. in English Literature and the tribe helped make that possible. Again, thank you for your generosity and promoting higher education among Native students.

Kayla Leuch, Lawton

Appreciates transit program

I am proud to be a Choctaw. I have received excellent transportation from home to my destinations.

I have really enjoyed my drivers, Carol and Michelle Thomas. They have been so good to me.

I could not have made it here in Hartshorne if it had not have been for the Choctaw transit program.

I wish a big "God bless you" for everything.
Sharon Ann Ford

Watson School says thank you

Dear Chief Pyle,

We are so excited and we want to express our thanks and appreciation to each of you for helping make this happen. The staff of Watson School, board members, previous board members, parents, students and citizens went to Oklahoma City on May 27 to the meeting of the State Board of Education to save our school from the misunderstanding about our accreditation report. The board voted unanimously in favor of our school. Thank you so much for making it possible for the community to go.

Special thanks to Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Kenny Bryant who worked so hard to make this happen. Mr. James Wallace who delivered the bus and vans was extremely nice. He made it possible for us to pick up and deliver vans to Broken Bow. This was such a convenience.

You have done so much for us in the past. You have given money, playground equipment, bus or vans for student trips.

We will never forget what the Choctaw Nation has done for our school and community

The Watson Board of Education

Graduate pharmacist intern

Dear Chief Pyle,

My name is Cassidy Davis of Fort Towson. I am the proud grandson of Mary Louise Davis, formerly Mary Louise Buchanan of Spencer-ville, and Charles "Cotton" Davis of Fort Towson. My father is Charles Sam Davis of Fort Towson and my mother is Gem Davis, formerly Gem Percival of Hugo. My Native-American heritage stems from my father's side of the family giving me the proud blood of an Oklahoma Choctaw.

I attended Fort Towson High School, graduating with the honor of salutatorian. In the fall of 2003 I began attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University, majoring in chemistry. While attending undergraduate school the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma paid for my housing and helped me with tuition. In the fall of 2006 I had the good fortune of being accepted into the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy program and graduated June 1 with a Doctorate of Pharmacy. During pharmacy school I had received the IHS scholarship for health professionals that paid for three years of my tuition.

I am currently working for the Choctaw Nation in Poteau as a graduate pharmacist intern awaiting my board exam. After becoming licensed I plan to continue my career as a Choctaw Nation pharmacist and hopefully transfer to a clinic closer to my home town. I am ecstatic about having the opportunity to serve my native people in a way that will preserve their health.

With all of the good fortune I have had in my studies, I feel like I now owe my native people something in return since all the support I have gotten has originated from them. I am in great debt to you, Mr. Mickey Peercy and Mr. Perry Thompson. Besides helping me, the tribe along with its great leaders has helped my family in more ways than I can count. From helping with roofs to drilling wells the Choctaw Nation has shown great diversity in what we can accomplish for our people. Without the great leadership in the Choctaw Nation we would not be an elite member in the health care field like we are now.

In closing, I would like to say how proud I am to be an Oklahoma Choctaw. Our people have grown exponentially ever since I can remember. We have given people from all over southeastern Oklahoma job opportunities, setting an example for other organizations to follow.

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

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Our Goal: Aspiration to protect water resources in our state

From the desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It is important that this very serious information be shared with our Tribal members.

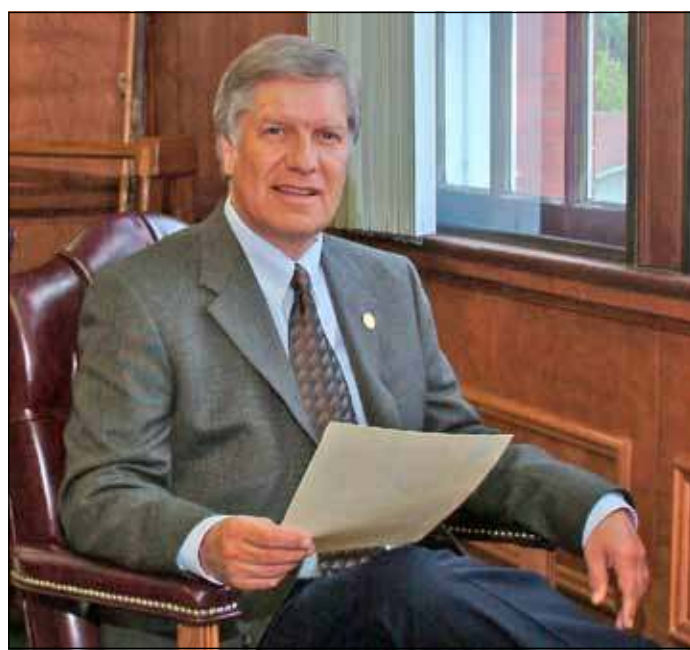
The Choctaw Nation has a deep-rooted history and heartfelt obligation to protect the nature's resources and our environment. Water is vital to our lives and we have been blessed in Oklahoma with beautiful rivers and lakes that have supplied our families, towns, wildlife, environment and recreational activities.

Sustainable development for all of Oklahoma is incredibly important. Future generations are depending on all of us to protect the resources that are available today so that those resources will still be accessible in the future.

Leaders of the tribe and citi-

zens of the area share a desire to see the results of an all-inclusive statewide water management study that will analyze important issues such as the quality and quantity of our regional water resources and the economic and environmental impacts of any changes in that supply. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) is working on a Comprehensive Water Plan that should have many of these results available next year. Good information leads to good decisions and we must have that data at hand before decisions about the future of our regional water should be made.

I spoke at the June OWRB meeting where, unfortunately, a vote was taken to approve the sale of the water storage rights of Sardis Lake to the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust.



Their own State Comprehensive Water Plan won't even be finished until next year.

I, along with several members of the Oklahoma State

Senate and House of Representatives, and members of the Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy citizens group, spoke at the OWRB meeting,

urging that they vote against the sale of the water storage rights from Sardis Lake. We wanted members to vote "no" because, in addition to this determination being premature, we believe the state does not have the legal authority to take such an action.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations had offered to make the necessary debt payment in connection with construction of the Sardis Reservoir that was due this summer in order to buy the time needed to get the Comprehensive Water Study finished. The OWRB did not respond to this offer.

On May 20, 2010, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which constructed the reservoir and dam, notified the governor, legislative leaders and state water officials that the Corps has not been asked

for approval of any transfer of storage rights. The Corps said such approval would be necessary by both the federal government and a U.S. District Court judge who ordered the state to repay the debt. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Interior wrote the ORWB and asked them to delay taking any action before consulting with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations and appropriate federal officials. But the board rejected the pleas in both letters.

What is the next step? We are evaluating all options, but the tribes are continuing to ask that the water transfer process wait for the appropriate studies to be completed, reviewed by experts and shared with all of Oklahoma's citizens. Our water is precious and worth fighting for.

Festival on September 2-6 highlights Choctaw traditions



From the desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

My family and I are very excited about attending this year's Labor Day Festival at our Tribal Capitol because of the all the homage being paid to Choctaw heritage. The theme of the event, "Heroes of the Past," is epitomized by the unveiling of the newest (and largest) piece of artwork commissioned by the tribe at Tushka Homma. This larger-than-life statue of a warrior poised with his bow and arrow will be unveiled in front of the Capitol Museum at the entrance to the history walking path. He will keep his perpetual watch over our grounds. To me this warrior symbolizes a keeper of traditions and the strength of our tribe.

This year the tribe also has a brand new arts and crafts building that has interior space for 138 vendors to exhibit their wares in air-conditioned comfort. It has taken the place of the pavilion that has served us in years past at the top of the hill beside the amphitheater. It will be great to know that our vendors and their customers will be comfortable all weekend, no matter what the weather! The design of the arts and crafts building is very attractive, incorporating colors and shapes that fit well with the landscape and coordinate with the cafeteria constructed last year.

The sports area has had some tremendous improvements as well. Shading is over all the bleachers, infields are being resurfaced with new sod, foul poles have been placed, and the tribe has installed huge 5'x16' scoreboards in each field.

The basketball court has been fitted with flooring that is the design of a huge Choctaw Seal. It looks great from a distance, and as you get close, you can see that it is interlocking pieces that are easy to clean, or replace if broken. The flooring not only looks great, the players should love to compete on it as well.

In addition to the improvements at the Capitol Grounds that make the Festival more enjoyable, guest will enjoy all of the other entertainment that is going on during the weekend. You should all be getting the Labor Day Festival brochure with the full printed schedule mailed to your home in July. Entrance to the Festival and concerts are free, and everyone is welcome. As always, the Princess Pageant is on Thursday, the Pow Wow on Friday, Village Activities on Saturday and Sunday and carnival rides are free all weekend. This year's concerts feature Stoney Larue, Travis Tritt, Vince Gill, Crabb Family and Casting Crowns. I hope to see you and your family at some of the events during the Festival weekend!

Understanding what God can and will do

Again, I must say it is a privilege to share with you a portion of God's Word for encouragement and for spiritual growth. God's Word, if believed and obeyed, changes lives.

In Joshua chapter two we have an illustration of something that is necessary to help us to understand more clearly what God can do, and will do in the Christian's life. We will begin to see how God in our Lord Jesus Christ has already won every victory for us.

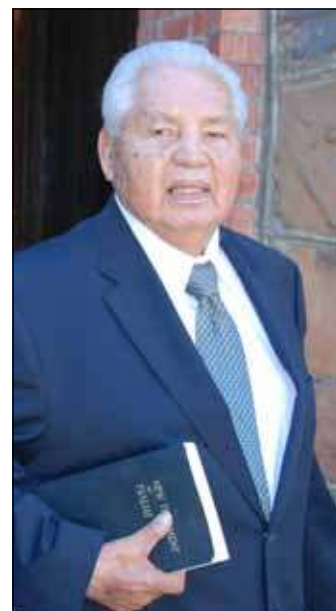
In the second chapter we learn that Joshua sent two spies into the Land of Canaan to find out what they could concerning the city of Jericho. This was the first city to be conquered and Joshua wanted to learn of the wealth of the land and the strength of the enemy. We note that the king was not asleep, right away he learns that two of the Israelites had entered Jericho.

The kings of Canaan are types of the principalities and powers mentioned in Ephesians chapter 6. It is possible that the king of Jericho was the most important of all these kings and became a type of Satan himself. The Devil is not asleep. He knows what is going on among the Christians in their work for the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a very good reason why we emphasize to the Christian to walk in the strength of the Lord.

This shows us that as Christians, we need to learn more about the inheritance we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to know the spiritual wealth that is ours in Him. We also need to get information on the strength of Satan just as Paul warns in II Corinthians 2:11, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

We need the information that Peter furnishes us, when he wrote in I Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seek-

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

ing whom he may devour."

We need to know the reality of Satan and his strength, yet at the same time we must recognize that he is a defeated enemy. He is afraid of God and God's people who believe God for victory. That is what happened in the heart of the king of Jericho. He was filled with fear. This is also true of the demons under Satan. We are victorious when we go against them in the strength of Christ. The Devil does not fear us, but he does fear Christ who is in us. John assures us in I John 4:4 when he wrote: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." The Devil is no match for the One who indwells us.

Our strength, our power, our victory, our ability to overcome Satan is in Jesus Christ.

Joshua's two spies entered Jericho, and they came to Rahab's house. Life in Jericho was going along as usual, business was in accordance

with everyday custom, but the city was under the sentence of the judgment of God. The people were proud of their city, what the people never realized was that within two weeks God would strike in judgment and the city would lie in a heap of ruins.

But within the city of Jericho there was one life that had faith in God, not a very strong faith, and not by any means a perfect faith, but Rahab believed in the living God, and was not ashamed to reveal that she did. Her faith was of such quality that we find reference to it in the list of heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11 verse 31: "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."

James also remarked in James 2:25 on Rahab's faith: "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and sent them out another way?" Unlike the faith of some, her faith resulted in works. Because of her faith, and the shelter she gave to God's people in her home, she became a sharer in all the blessings of the Land of Canaan. This woman's faith produced works, and her works brought blessings.

It was not the works of Rahab that resulted in her salvation. Rahab was a woman of low morals and it was only by the grace of God. Salvation is in the finished work of Christ, and salvation is not something we do for Christ but something He has done for us.

We might ask, "How did Rahab get her faith?" It was just by hearing of God and by the life of God's people, for she had never met God personally. She said in Joshua chapter 2 verse 9: "... I know that

the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you." This poor sinful woman, came to have faith in the reality of a living God because of what she saw in the life of God's people. All the people of the land had begun to faint because of the armies of God. When they saw the army of God's people beginning to prepare to cross the river Jordan, they knew that, in spite of their walls, they were helpless, because this army had God with it.

The most powerful witness in the saving of a soul is the life of a child of God that produces evidences for which the world looks for are not in what a Christian believes, but how a Christian lives.

Let me ask you what evidences of God living in your life are found in you?

I might ask you another question. What is your attitude toward your loved ones? Rahab was a poor woman who had gone down into the depth of sin, but had turned to God, and in her heart she cried out for the deliverance of her loved ones. If you are the only saved member among your loved ones, by faith cry out for salvation of your loved ones. Live Christ before them and look to God to bring them all to Himself.

There was a soul in Jericho to be saved, and that woman's faith resulted from the evidences of God she saw in the people of God.

Today, we live in a world that is under the judgment of God, but at the right hand of God the Father in heaven is a Savior whose blood speaks. He is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29). Will you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior? You do this by faith.

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



Tom Williams, the director of Real Property for the Choctaw Nation, visits with Margaret Mascorro of Carrollton, Texas, during the Durant meeting. Margaret and her siblings inherited property they have questions about, so this seminar was scheduled at a perfect time for her family.



Wayne Wright, the operations manager for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission Oil and Gas Conservation Division, assists Melba and Donald Horton of Bokoshe at the Mineral Outreach Seminar in Durant.

Oil and Gas Outreach program assists with mineral interest related questions

As a result of a growing concern of Choctaw tribal members regarding mineral rights, including oil and gas, Chief Gregory E. Pyle has started a new outreach program through the Natural Resources Office. This program was designed to assist individual Choctaw citizens with mineral interest related questions within the Choctaw jurisdictional area. The Choctaw tribe has had two meetings, the first in McAlester and the most recent in Durant. Two more will be hosted this year.

Several governmental agencies are invited to help with the meetings including the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mineral Management Services, Office of the Special Trustee, Office of the Field Solicitors, Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. The Choctaw Nation Realty staff will also be on hand to answer questions that you may have for them.

The date and time for the next meetings will be announced in the near future. Be sure and watch the BISHINIK and www.choctawnation.com for the dates and places if you are interested in attending these meetings.

We hope you will join with us to share in the information that is available. Your cooperation and involvement will expedite the growth of this new Outreach Program to assist our Choctaw citizens. For more information, you may call 800-522-6170, ext. 2259. We look forward to seeing you and addressing your concerns.

Summer's here!

Tips for child swimming pool safety

- If your child is missing, check the pool first. If the unthinkable has happened every second counts.
- If you're little one already knows how to swim they should still always be supervised. Knowing how to swim doesn't prevent accidents from happening.
- Pool Alarms. These can be used as an added safety feature and they are made for doors and for underwater.
- Are there empty homes on your street? Do they have swimming pools? This can be very dangerous even if the pool is empty. If you aren't sure if there is a pool, try using Google maps (satellite view) to check out your neighborhood. An empty home with a pool can be a hazard that is easily prevented by a phone call to the owner or real estate agent.

Simply ask them to please place a lock on the side gate to prevent the possibility of a child wandering back there.

- Long hair and limbs can get caught in pool drains creating a risk for your young swimmers. Make sure that no pool grates are broken or missing. Even better, if your child has long hair, pin it up to prevent accidental suction. Know where your circuit breaker is for the pool/spa and label it clearly in the event it needs to be shut off during an emergency.
- Have your child wear an approved safety device at all times while you are around the pool. Arm floaties can easily slip off when a child jumps in. A flotation device that is snug and goes around the torso is a better option.
- Identify other areas besides pools that pose a threat.

Things like small wading pools or plastic tubs can be enough to compromise the safety of your child.

- If you have a play date, ask if the child knows how to swim. If the answer is no, take extra precaution to lock all doors leading to the pool. If you are taking your child to a play date ask if there is a pool.
- If you are going to a park, find out if there is a pool and know where it is. Make sure that there isn't a way that your child can get in to the area.
- Pool fences should go around the entire pool and be at least 4 feet tall. There should be a secure latch and/or lock if your child can reach the opening.

Choctaw Nation AFL Project
The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative pro-

gram focused on pregnant teens, their child, male partner and extended family members. The AFL program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and other agencies. Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, relationship enhancement programs, and parenting workshops. Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is our program goal. Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American. For more information or questions about eligibility please call: Angela Dancer, Project Director, at 877-285-6893.

NURSERY NEWS

Maisi May Sanner

Brett and Jennifer Sanner are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Maisi May Sanner. She was born at 6:57 p.m. on May 4, 2010. She weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces and was 19-1/2 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Doris Sanner and the late A.P. "Boots" Sanner, formerly of Duncan.



Whitley Rayne Sellers

Justin and Kariane Sellers of Livermore, Ky., are proud to announce the birth of their baby sister, Whitley Rayne Sellers. Whitley was born at 2:20 p.m. on June 4, 2010, in Owensboro, Ky., to the proud parents of Charles and Aretha Sellers Jr. She is the granddaughter of Charles and Lawanda Sellers Sr. of Aiken, S.C., and James and Noeleta Hillard of Livermore.



Peyton Phoenix Roberts

Chris Roberts and Iva Todd of Bennington are proud to announce the birth of their son, Peyton Phoenix Roberts. He was born April 28, 2010, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma Women's Center in Durant. He weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and was 18 inches long. Peyton has two brothers, Tyler Hammond and Levi Sanders. His grandparents are Glenda and Andy Singleton of Bennington and Jim and Joyce Todd of Butcherpen. His great-grandparents are Edna Roberts of Bennington and Iva Todd of Butcherpen.



Aleikae Ray Thies

Amy Davidson and Kenneth Thies are proud to announce the birth of their son, Aleikae Ray Thies. He was born at 10:32 a.m. on April 1, 2010, in Durant. He weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces. He joins sister Azlynn Ray Thies, 19 months old. His proud grandparents are Kathy and Kenneth Thies and Debbie Davidson and great-grandparents are Mary and Fred Pippin and great-grandfather Newman Tisho. His aunts are Kayla, Lindsey, Melissa, and Lacey, and uncles are Kevin, Kayson and Shaun.



Joseph David Rodriguez

Kimberly and Leonardo Rodriguez-Grados are proud to announce the birth of their new baby boy, Joseph David Rodriguez. Joey was born on Aug. 20, 2009, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. He joins proud big sister, Capri. His grandparents are Cheryl and Robert Farrar of Oklahoma City, the late Rick Ginn and Carmen Luisa and Atilio Rodriguez of Peru. His great-grandmother was Virginia Bond Grider and Charles Rikli. His great-great-grandparents are Leroy and Alma Leona Bond, and great-great-grandparents are Henry Jesse Bond and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Anderson Bond.



Audrey Lynn Caldwell

Jeremy Caldwell and Tera Bosserman of Hugo are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey Lynn Caldwell. Audrey was born April 22, 2010, in Durant. She weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Jerry Don and Mandy Caldwell of Hugo, Tonya Williston of Sawyer and Captain Bosserman of Broken Bow. Her great-grandparents are Pete and Claudia Chumley of Hugo, Dorris Ross of Hugo, the late John Williston of Broken Bow, the late Willie and Hanaha Caldwell of Broken Bow and the late Charles and Rita Bosserman of Broken Bow.



Brody Thomas and Brinley Danielle

Camryn Crowder proudly announces the birth of her twin brother and sister, Brody Thomas, who was 5 pounds 8 ounces, and Brinley Danielle, who was 5 pounds 1 ounce. They were born April 6, 2010, in Dallas. Proud parents are Geron and Miranda Crowder of Anna, Texas. Grandparents are Tommy and Dorothy Crowder of Boswell and Mike and Jan Scott of Mead. Proud cousins are Mariah Knight and Gabe Korf of Calera and Destiny and Maddie Dills of Bonham, Texas.



Serve up summer favorites...with a spin

Welcome to summer! With all the wonderful fireworks and family gatherings, let's not forget the enticing aromas of evening grilling. Another benefit that comes with summer time is the bounty of seasonal fruits and vegetables. What better time than summer to introduce some new and maybe some familiar foods with a different spin? Skewer and grill up some squash, zucchini, onion, peppers and tomatoes that have been marinated in a zesty Italian salad dressing or serve a mango salsa with some grilled fish or chicken. When we eat more of a variety of fruits and vegetables, our body is better



able to work more efficiently at maintaining blood sugar, cholesterol, blood pressure and burning body fat.

Chef Tyrel McNatt of Oklahoma City provided the following recipes.

Grilled Tilapia

Tilapia, whole H&G, 2 each
Pepper, Salt and Garlic, 1 teaspoon each

Olive Oil, 2 tablespoons
1. Rub fish down with the oil and season inside and out.
2. Grill over medium heat for 8-10 minutes on each side or until the internal temperature is 140 degrees.
3. Let fish rest for a couple of minutes. Remove the filets from each fish and serve with Mango Salsa. Serves 4.

Nutrition Information: Calories:167; Sodium: 629mg; Total Fat: 9g; Total Carbohydrate: 0g; Saturated Fat: 2g; Dietary Fiber: 0g; Cholesterol: 48mg; Protein: 22g.

Mango Salsa

1 Mango – peeled, seeded and chopped

1 jalapeno, finely chopped
1/4 cup red bell pepper, finely chopped

2 tablespoons lime juice
1 green onion, chopped
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro

In a medium bowl, mix mango, red bell pepper, green onion, cilantro, jalapeno, lime juice, and lemon juice. Cover and allow to sit at least 30 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

Nutrition Information: Calories: 21; Total Fat: 0.1g; Total Carbs: 5.4g; Cholesterol: 0mg; Dietary Fiber: 0.7g; Sodium: 1mg; Protein: 0.3g.



58th Men's & Women's All Indian State Fastpitch Tournament

Aug. 13-15, 2010 ♦ Reeves Park, Norman, OK ♦ Entry Fee: \$250 ♦ Deadline to register: Aug. 6

For more information: CeCe Floyd 405-943-7935 or Tony Hudson 405-408-8922

1st - 3rd place awards ♦ Sponsored by ONASA ♦ Host hotel available

Teen depression made worse with marijuana use

By Jessica Armbrister
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board



The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy sent out a clear message on teen pot use and depression. They're a bad combination. Issuing a report that analyzes around a dozen studies about marijuana use and mental health, the policy office warned that teens who use marijuana to "self-medicate" may worsen their underlying depression or other mental health issues. The intention of the report, says, John Walters, the director of the office of National Drug Control Policy, is to try to correct two misunderstandings: that teen depression is not a problem and that teen marijuana use is not a problem. Marijuana use is not safe. He is advising parents to talk to their children's pediatricians if they see signs of depression and suspect drug use.

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes

Beginning:
August 16, 2010
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation
Community Centers in Bethel,
Smithville and Wright City

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
1 – 4 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation
Community Centers in Atoka, Coalgate
and Talihina

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

Prevent child injuries


Children + summer heat + vehicle = deadly combo

Over the past few months, nine children have died while alone in a vehicle, and summer hasn't even officially begun. Did you know that a child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's? It only takes a few short minutes before a child can become dangerously overheated.

Every year, more than 30 children die because they are alone in a car. In just 10 minutes a car's temperature can increase by 19 degrees – and it continues to rise. There is no evidence that cracking the windows helps prevent the temperature in vehicle interiors from reaching dangerous levels. In fact, sunlight coming through car windows makes the car work like an oven.

Follow these tips to help prevent child injuries:

- Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window slightly open.
- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or whatever is to be carried from the car on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. This triggers adults to see children when they open the rear door and reach for their belongings.
- Set your cell phone or Blackberry reminder to be sure you dropped your child off at day care.
- Set your computer calendar program, such as Outlook, to ask, "Did you drop off at daycare today?"
- Have a plan that if your child is late for daycare that you will be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off little kids at day care.
- Teach children not to play in any vehicle.
- Lock all vehicle doors and trunk after everyone has exited the vehicle – especially at home. Keep keys out of children's reach. Cars are not playgrounds or babysitters.
- Check vehicles and trunks FIRST if a child goes missing.



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 2nd Wednesday
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	Daily
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 3rd & 4th Friday
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Daily
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

USDA accepting FSA County Committee member nominations

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that USDA will soon begin accepting nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA County Committees throughout Oklahoma. The nomination period is June 15 - Aug. 2, 2010. Almost anyone participating or associated with agricultural land and who is of legal voting age can be nominated as a candidate. Tribal members are considered landowners if their tribe has an agricultural interest in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) and they live within the LAA. All nomination forms must be received in a county FSA office or postmarked by Aug. 2, 2010. Voting takes place between Nov. 5, 2010, and Dec. 6, 2010.

This year elections are occurring in the following Local Administrative Areas.

Atoka County - LAA 1, includes all area south and west of Clear Boggy to the Johnston and Bryan County lines.

Bryan County - LAA 1, the northern third of Bryan County, includes the communities of Silo, Brown, Cobb, Kenefic, Caddo, Banty, Matoy, Bokchito and Bennington.

Choctaw County - LAA 1, the western third of Choctaw County from Bryan County

border to a north-south line 3 miles east of Soper from the Pushmataha County boundary to the Red River

Haskell County - LAA 5, the western half of Haskell County including the communities of west Stigler, Kinta and Whitefield.

Latimer County - LAA-1 includes an area that lies generally east of Highway 2 and includes the communities of Bengal, Buffalo Valley, Damon, Denman, Lodi, Panola, Red Oak, West Talihina, Yanush, and Wilburton.

Leflore County - LAA 1, the upper portion of the north half of Le Flore County including the communities of Cowlington, Spiro, Bokoshe, Panama, Shady Point, Fort Coffee, Arkoma and Pocola.

McCurtain County - LAA1, the western and northern most portion of McCurtain County including the communities of Valliant, Wright City, Battiest, Smithville and Watson area.

For more information about the election or to obtain an election map you can contact one of your local FSA offices in Atoka, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau or you can contact the Bryan County FSA office in Durant 580-924-4131, ext. 2, which serves as the contact office for the Choctaw Nation.

SBA Veteran Outreach coming to Oklahoma in August

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Veteran Outreach will be participating in the 4th Annual Indian Business Summit. The summit is being hosted by the Texas and Oklahoma American Indian Chambers and will be held on Aug. 16-19 at the Embassy Suites in Norman. The SBA has selected Heritage Global Solutions to create and provide the Outreach program for Native American Veteran Business Owners across the country.

The goal of the Veteran Outreach program is to increase awareness of SBA offerings, highlight financial and strategic business planning assistance available, detail agencies in both the public and private

sector that are available to assist in the growth of their business, and develop a network of Native American veteran business owners and veterans interested in business ownership.

Heritage Global has already successfully conducted SBA Veteran Outreach workshops in Montana and New Mexico. It will be a great opportunity for Veteran entrepreneurs to gain valuable resources to assist the growth of their businesses. For those who cannot attend, the materials from the workshop will be available upon email request to info@navbiz.net.

Heritage Global is owned by Jeff Estep, a member of the Choctaw Nation and a former Marine.

Project Bring it Back to Life, phase II

On May 8th the Battiest/Bethel Youth Advisory Board (YAB) met to complete a previous project of restoring basketball courts at the Bethel Community Center. The YAB chapter elected to remove a broken basketball goal, replace it and repaint the court. With the help of some special people of the community they were able to complete the project, and enjoy the beautiful day with a basketball game and cook-out. A special thank you to Councilman Mike Amos and his donation, Robbie for his expertise and artistry, Austin and Linda Jefferson, and the cooks.



Participants included Hailey Cusher, Vanessa Jefferson, Trent Bohanon, Dakota Ludlow, Te'a Noah, Macy Bohanon, Tyler Tehauno, Mia Bohanon, Michael Noah, Mariah Noah, and Brent Bohanon. This was also the last project for Brent, Trent, Dakota, and Tyler, the seniors in this YAB chapter.

Participants included Hailey Cusher, Vanessa Jefferson, Trent Bohanon, Dakota Ludlow, Te'a Noah, Macy Bohanon, Tyler Tehauno, Mia Bohanon, Michael Noah, Mariah Noah, and Brent Bohanon. This was also the last project for Brent, Trent, Dakota, and Tyler, the seniors in this YAB chapter.

WANTED: HISTORIC PHOTOS!

Choctaw Nation Housing Authority Cultural Initiative

Choctaw Nation Housing Authority is asking that anyone who has original photographs of old/original Choctaw family home places to please contact JoAnn Compton or Brenna Cody. We are eagerly seeking original photographs of homes that our Choctaw families or ancestors have lived in. These photographs could possibly be enlarged, framed and portrayed in the Housing Authority's main building. We are focusing on pictures of Mutual Help Homes built by the HACNO, and any other homes that portray the Choctaw heritage. Original photos are needed and will be handled with extreme care. Please include information about the photo such as date, location, etc. Please contact us or have the pictures to us before Aug. 9. For more information on the initiative call 580-326-7521, ext. 286 or 269.

Native American storytellers gather to inspire and educate



Stella Long hosts a gathering of Native storytellers.

The halls of the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance echoed with Native American storytellers and listeners May 22 as Stella Long hosted a second gathering of storytellers with Native stories of inspiration, culture, education, and a haunting tale or two.

Visitors were delighted beyond measure with storytellers like Choctaw language teacher Norris Samuels. He enchanted listeners with his story of the rabbit and his short tail, spoken both in English and Choctaw. Rochelle shared an experience close to her heart on how she traced her Choctaw roots. The group held their breath as Sharon intrigued them about two owls standing watch on a building top in the middle of the day. Were they there for her? Then only to learn the "messengers" were plastic! Kathleen's amusing childhood Bigfoot encounter in the mystical forest of southeastern Oklahoma renewed their respect for all critters. Anyone over 8 feet tall deserves respect, too! Many more stories followed.

Storytellers were Elizabeth Yahola, Okemah; Rochelle Foster, Blanchard; Grayson and Sharon Noley, Norman. From Oklahoma City were Windy Montemayor, Kathleen Goins, Norris Samuels, Phyllis Been, and accomplished storyteller Stella Long.

Long said with a smile, "We had a successful and fun time telling Indian stories. Those who had never been before a mic were a bit shy at first, but let go once they got into their story."

She encouraged all to learn the art of storytelling to preserve our history, knowledge and experiences. Greg Rodgers will host the next storytelling event in August.

OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance July activities

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance in Oklahoma City participated in the Libertyfest 2010 Parade in Edmond on July 3, the theme this year being "Celebrating 100 Years of Scouting". Last year the Alliance float took second place and this year is looking into the possibility of adding a children's float. For more information contact Phyllis Been at 405-634-6259, or by email, okchoctaw.princess@yahoo.com.

Their monthly taco sale will be on July 10 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This will overlap a pottery class from 1 to 5 p.m. being taught by Ian Thompson.

The General Meeting on July 12 will host speakers from the Choctaw Nation discussing Scholarship Advisement, the Bishinik, Genealogy and the Extra Curricular and Clothing Allowance program. This will be in addition to the normal

business at this meeting. We certainly hope the weather cooperates this month since the May meeting was somewhat marked by tornados zipping around all over the place.

The Alliance is also providing Indian Tacos and Grape Dumplings at the Synod of the Sun, Presbyterian Woman's Gathering, being held on July 17 at the First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. This is a conference for women from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas with this year's theme being Native American culture. Included is an arts and crafts show followed with the dinner, American Indian tribal dancing and an intertribal circle dance. For more information on this contact Janet Theus at 405-840-3838 or by email at windspirithan@aol.com.

On July 24, the Alliance is hosting a Choctaw Veterans

Auxiliary meeting with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. This meeting will include special guest Richard Adams from the Choctaw Veterans Association. This is the same weekend as the Indian Hills Powwow in north Oklahoma City where the Alliance will be serving Indian Tacos. The powwow is a three day event going from July 23 - 25. For information on the powwow contact Glen Rollo at 405-885-2569 or by email at glenrollo@live.com. For information on the Veterans Auxiliary meeting contact Phyllis Been.

These activities are in addition to the regularly scheduled Choctaw Language class on Tuesday at 7 p.m., the Beading and History of Indian Law classes on Thursdays at 6 p.m., and the Senior Outing and Clothes Closet from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Fridays.

AFL success story submitted for congressional report

Recently the Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life Program was selected by the Department of Health and Human Services: Office of Population Affairs/Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (OAPP) to submit a successful AFL participant story for the 2010 Congressional Report.

The program was greatly honored and selected Jessica St. John, a participant who has shown success in both her personal and career goals. Her AFL worker, Johnnie Sue Kemp, wanted to acknowledge all of Jessica's success and hard work in accomplishing her achievements.

Jessica St. John is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and is a teen parent. Jessica became a participant in the Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life Program in August of 2008. She was 18 when she began the program and is now 20 years old. Throughout 18 months of services provided by the AFL project, she and her outreach worker, Johnnie Sue Kemp, developed her life plan assessment which entailed both short and long term goals. Jessica shared many of her aspirations and was very committed to the program which

lead her and her husband to a successful case completion date in February of 2010.

Jessica is married to the father of her baby and he has remained very active with the support of the AFL program in-home services. Jessica and her husband have benefited from the AFL services by applying the skills taught by their outreach worker in the enhanced relationship skills curriculum. The young couple has learned how to compromise without conflict to meet each other's goals and how to support each other in future endeavors. Once a decision was made about Jessica's education, she, her husband, and their baby moved several miles away from their hometown so that she could begin college. Her husband found a job and is currently working to support his family and plans to seek training in order to obtain a better job. Jessica worked very closely with her outreach worker to obtain financial assistance for her college class tuition. She accomplished her short term goal in March of 2010 when she received her associate's degree from Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee.

Jessica's career goal is to work as a medical transcriptionist and she plans to continue her higher education by earning a bachelor's degree in business.

She is a very devoted parent and wants to provide a better life for her family. She learned to do some of this by staying engaged with her outreach worker as the Positive Indian Parenting curriculum was being taught. She and her husband continue to support their child through her college career and have been truly dedicated in accomplishing their goals by maintaining an open communication relationship, postponement of future family plans (second pregnancy), and being actively engaged with their outreach worker and potential resources while in the AFL Program.

CNO awarded federal grants

On Feb. 13, 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The goals behind this act are to create new jobs and save existing ones, spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth and to foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending.

As a result of this act, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) received an "80 percent funding increase in a single year," remarked FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff in his address to the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) in Long Beach, Calif., on May 26.

According to Rogoff, finding a way to spend the sudden increase in money in the best interest of America was a

tough job, but was done skillfully by the staff at the FTA. "Our efforts have included the purchase of over 11,000 vehicles, both buses and para transit vans," Rogoff asserted.

Grants have been awarded to deserving organizations via the FTA, and one of these organizations is the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO). "We've made just over a thousand grants... the awarding of our one thousandth grant to the Choctaw Indian Nation in Oklahoma," stated Rogoff.

These Recovery Act funds are given to deserving organizations that the federal government believes will help the American economy out of its recession. The Choctaw Nation is sure to use these funds to spur economic growth in the area.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays August 2-26, except for:
August 4: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
August 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)
Closed August 27-31 for inventory

DURANT

Market open weekdays: August 2-26, except for:
Closed August 27-31 for inventory

McALESTER

Market open weekdays August 2-26, except for:
Closed August 27-31 for inventory

POTEAU

Market open weekdays August 2-26, except for:
Closed August 27-31 for inventory.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Ward Graduates from Air Force Academy

Darren James Ward, of Edmond graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy on May 26. Darren entered Basic Cadet Training in June of 2006. Cadet First Class Darren Ward was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. Darren graduated with military honors for outstanding military performance during his four years. Darren's father and both grandfathers served in the Air Force.

Cadet Ward is engaged to be married to Laura Over of Edmond. They will be married on August 7, 2010, in Edmond. Miss Over will graduate from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She is the daughter of John and Sandra Over of Edmond and is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Darren is the son of Jerry and Rita Ward of Edmond, grandson of Robert and Caroline Ward, also of Edmond and grandson of Robert Har-



lett and Greta Harlett of Dayton, Ohio. Cadet Ward is the nephew of Kenneth and Alma Ward of Tamaha, Okla. Darren is also an Oklahoma Choctaw and descends from the Choctaw Folsom family of Haskell County. He is proud to join the long line of Choctaw Indians in the service of our great Nation.

Darren is an Eagle Scout and an honors graduate of Edmond North High School and participated in the school's Air Force Junior ROTC program all four years in high school. Prior to entering the Air Force Academy, Darren earned his civilian private pilot's license. Cadet Ward has earned an Air Force pilot training assignment and will report to Vance Air Force Base, near Enid for a year of Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) after graduation. After UPT, Second Lieutenant Ward will train on his selected aircraft type and will be assigned to an operational flying unit to defend freedom around the world.

Happy anniversary!

Happy second anniversary to Dwayne and Brenda Taylor. We love you from Theda Lamb (Mom) and (kids) Tahasha Steed, Ashley Heady and Matt, Cody Taylor, Rachel Taylor, Canyon Taylor, Amber Fisher, Bub Fisher, Tina Barlow and Gary Tarborn, (Grandkids) Cayden, Nevaeh, Harmony and Future Brylee. And from all the sisters and brothers.



Tahasha turns 24

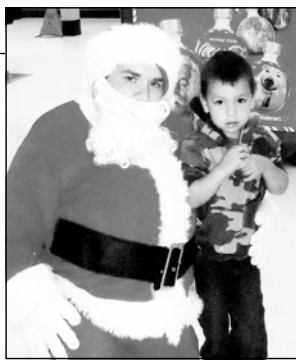
Tahasha Steed (Taylor) celebrated her 24th birthday on July 3. Tahasha is the daughter of Mary Payne of Texas and William Dwayne Taylor of Hugo. Tahasha has a beautiful little boy, Cayden Hostletter, and she is expecting another baby boy. We are all so proud of her, her husband Matt and Cayden.



Tahasha has three sisters and three brothers, step-mom Becky Peters, little nephew Drake Stubbs and her best friend Amber Ward (Hagger). Happy 24th birthday!

Cayden is 4 years old

Cayden Lee Hostletter celebrated his 4th birthday on June 3. Cayden's parents are Tahasha and Matt Steed of Swink and Ricky Hostletter of Hugo. He is the grandson of Becky Peters and Dwayne Taylor, both of Hugo, and Mary and Marc Payne of Texas.



Birthday wishes are also from Aunt Amber and Uncle Cody Ward, Uncle Canyon Taylor and cousin Drake Stubbs. Happy birthday!

Newlyweds

Amy Leigh Herring and Larry Joseph Bourque where married on May 15, 2010, in a intimate ceremony amongst close friends and family.



Amy is the daughter of Madeline and Dudley Comeaux. Larry is the son of Betty Bourque and the late Lloyd Bourque.

Townsend's 50th anniversary

Sam and Carol Townsend of Clay Center, Neb., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at the activities building at the fairgrounds in Clay Center on June 6. The event was hosted by their children and grandchildren. Sam has served as a teacher and administrator in schools in Iowa and Nebraska for the past 50 years.



Sam Townsend and Carol Lewis were married in the First Methodist Church in Stillwater on Jan. 27, 1960. Sam is very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He is a native of Valliant and is the son of the late Clark Townsend, an original enrollee.

Scholarships for Talesa!

Talesa Jefferson, a 2010 graduate from Idabel High School, has been awarded the AB and Murray Scholarship for \$2,500. She will receive \$12,572 from Oklahoma's Promise and she is eligible for \$6,400 in scholarships from the Choctaw Nation. Talesa has also been awarded a tuition grant to OSU-TI for \$1,800. She will be attending Langston University in Langston this fall.



Talesa is the daughter of Vicky Bailey and Greg Johnson of Idabel. She is the granddaughter of Truman and Bertha Jefferson and Henry and Betti Johnson, all of Idabel.

Happy first, Lucia!

Lucia Catherine Nelson turned one-year-old on June 9. Lucia's parents are Courtney Brown and Jonathan Nelson of Oklahoma City.



She has three older brothers, Craig, Dylan and Manny. Lucia's grandparents are Lucretia and Francis Brown of Oklahoma City. She also has a late grandmother, Catherine Louise Nelson, of Oklahoma City. Elizabeth would also like to wish her a happy first birthday.

Kindergarten graduate

Kayla Ann Humphrey graduated from kindergarten to the first grade at Swift Elementary in Arlington, Texas, on May 28, 2010. She is the daughter of John and Mandy Humphrey, and granddaughter of Ina and Brian Lawhorn from Goodly, Texas. She is also the granddaughter of Ronnie and Sandy Nixon from Newport, N. Carolina. Especially from grandma and grandpa Nixon, we are so proud of her and even more excited for the future. Go Girl.



Happy 21st birthday

Cody Peters celebrated his 21st birthday on June 25. Cody is attending his third year of college at Nova State University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



Cody's parents are Becky Peters of Hugo and Cary Peters of Broken Bow. His paternal grandparents are Samuel and Wynona Peters of Hugo and the late George Clarene Hagger. Cody has a sister, Amber Ward (Hagger) and brother, Canyon Taylor. He has two nephews, Drake Stubbs and Xanden Ward. Happy 21st birthday, Cody!

Amber turns 24

Amber Ward (Hagger) celebrated her 24th birthday on June 17.



Amber is a college student in Idabel and she also works in home health. She lives in Swink with her husband Cody Ward and two sons, Drake and Xanden.

Amber's maternal grandparents are Betty Shawhant and the late I Shawhant of Fort Towson. Her paternal grandparents are the late Rev. Harvey and Cora Dodds of Valliant. Her mother is Becky Peters of Hugo and she has two brothers, Cody Peters and Canyon Taylor.

Happy birthday, Dwayne!

Wishing a happy 45th birthday to Dwayne Taylor from mother Theda, wife Brenda, children Tahasha Steed, Ashley, Cody, Rachel and Canyon, Amber Fisher, Bub Fisher, Tina Barlow and Gary Tarborn; grandchildren Cayden, Nevaeh, Harmony and Future Brylee; and all of his brothers and sisters. Dwayne enjoys trucking and spending time with family.



Proud parents of excellent students

Les and Heidi Brown of Norman are pleased to announce the academic recognition recently awarded their college-age children.

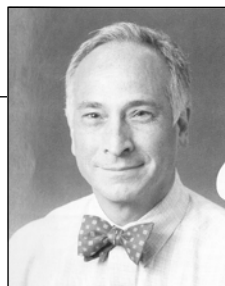
Tucker Brown was named to the Spring 2010 President's Honor Roll at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Ivy Brown was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive semester at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. In addition, Ivy was named National Delegate and Initiate Advisor for the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity.

Tucker and Ivy are proud of their Choctaw Heritage and, along with their family, want to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Miko Gregory Pyle, Director of Higher Education Larry Wade, and his staff for their on-going support.

Carney named number one doctor

Dr. Mark Carney, son of the late Sidney Carney and Ema Carney of Anadarko was selected as one of 48 top specialists and 92 leading physicians by a survey of peers and readers. This survey was conducted in a state-wide survey in the state of New Hampshire. Dr. Carney has been a pediatrician in Concord, N.H., for 14 years. Dr. Carney was the top vote-getter in the reader's choice selection of the survey.



Dr. Carney attended Dartmouth Medical School, graduating in 1982. He worked for the Seneca Indian Tribe at Salamanca, N.Y., P.H.S., Indian Health Service for six years before moving to New Hampshire.

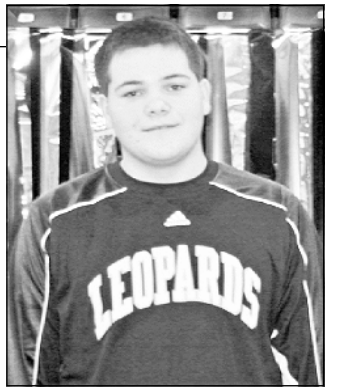
Congratulations, Alexandria!

Alexandria Cummins has graduated into the 8th grade! Proud parents are mother Amy Bourque and stepfather Larry Bourque. Grandparents are Madeline and Dudley Comeaux and great-grandmother is Ruth Keel.



Colbert athlete excels

Colbert High School junior, Nathan Roach has been selected for the Junior Nationals Oklahoma basketball team. He will participate in the USA Junior Nationals International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio this summer. The competition will include teams from 45 states and Canada.



The selection came after an outstanding performance in the USA Junior Nationals All-State competition on May 16 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. His performance at the tryout, which consisted of playing several games, earned him an invitation to represent Oklahoma at the International Sports Festival.

Happy 90th birthday!

Happy 90th Birthday to John William Wood. He was born in Woodtown, Okla., on June 5, 1920. He now lives in Dallas where he was in the paint business for over 50 years. He celebrated his birthday at a party with friends and family. He has two daughters, one grandson, and one great-granddaughter. He is the son of Thomas L. Wood, an original Choctaw enrollee.



Layla is one year old!

Layla May Hasson celebrated her first birthday on May 25, 2010. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late David Adam LeFlore on the original roll; great-granddaughter of the late Lucille Hyacinth LeFlore Crow, Wheelock Academy graduate of 1930; granddaughter of Phyllis Hasson Crow of San Juan Capistrano, Calif. Layla is the daughter of Jerad Hasson and his wife, Marina, of Bailey, Colo.

Congratulations, graduate!

Krystle Countz-Bennett has graduated from East Central University in Ada. She graduated Dec. 15, 2009, with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice (juvenile justice). She is employed at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.



Krystle is the daughter of Pamela and Eric West of Stuart and Jimmy and Donna Countz of Savanna. She has a son, Payton Ryan Bennett.

She is the granddaughter of Harold Buck and Frances Jones of Arpelar and Sue Countz of McAlester and Taylor and Barbara Countz of Indianola.

She is the great-granddaughter of Malcom "Mack" and the late Vera Jones and Lorene and the late Edgar McClendon of Arpelar, James and the late Billie Dean Countz of Indianola and the late Ben and Ora Lee Thomas of McAlester.

Other grandparents are Roger and Leonda Shields, Edith West of Stuart, and Ronald and Becky West of Tulsa.

Happy 17th, Jennifer

Jennifer Lynne Williams of Idabel celebrated her 17th birthday on May 14. She is the daughter of Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. Her grandparents are the late Arvel and the late Pauline Williams of Summerfield and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel.



Happy birthday, Mace!

Mason Samuels was all smiles as he celebrated his second birthday on April 20 in Altus with friends and family. He is pictured with his great-aunt, Mary (Gardner) Watson of Altus. Mason is the son of proud parents Roderick and Sharlette Samuels of Oklahoma City; the grandson of the late Deloris (Gardner) Miller and Lillian Patton of Oklahoma City; and the great-grandson of the late Green Gardner.



Your family wishes you many more prosperous birthdays to come!

Benedict earns doctorate

Bret Colin Benedict of Dallas, Texas, would like to thank Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance provided during his post-graduate studies. On May 15, he received his Juris Doctorate Degree from Southern Methodist University - Dedman School of Law, Dallas. "This aid from the Choctaw Nation helped me with many of my expenses while I was in school. Again, I want to express my thanks for the help you have given me."



Congrats on athletic scholarship

Antlers High School Graduate Tori Jones has signed a letter of intent to play softball, where she received a full scholarship, at Western Oklahoma State College in Altus beginning next season. Looking on are father Cullen Jones and Western Oklahoma head coach Mike McBrayer. Tori is the daughter of Cullen and Jana Jones of Antlers, granddaughter of Rhonda Juarez of Albuquerque, N.M., and Starlene Jones of Antlers. She is also the great-granddaughter of Leroy Ward and the late Alice Ward of Antlers.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Falknor named All-American Scholar

The U.S. Achievement Academy has announced that Dylan Falknor of Bay City, Texas, has been named an All-American Scholar.

The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor, or other qualified sponsor are accepted.

Dylan, who attends Bay City High School, was nominated for this honor by Mrs. Debra Grebe. Dylan will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, students recognized



as All-American Scholars should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the U.S. Achievement Academy.

The Academy selects All-American Scholars upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors.

Dylan is the son of Ronald Falknor and Kimberlee Duhon from Bay City. His grandparents are Dorwin and Twyla Busha and William Richard and Mary Falknor, all of Bay City.

Dylan will graduate from Bay City High School in the top 10 percent of his class in 2011.

Congratulations Dylan!



Choctaw Language graduates

Phases 1 and 2 of the Choctaw Language classes at Atoka held a graduation April 20. Ron Scott is the Choctaw Language instructor and Richard Adams is assistant director of the Choctaw Language Department at Durant. Both are very fluent in Choctaw language and have worked in their capacity for a number of years.

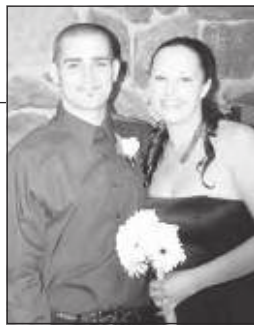
Many of the students have never learned the Choctaw language. Some just needed brushing up and others have learned to write in the language. All have learned much and have enjoyed the classes. Each received a certificate.

For more information about the class, call Ron Scott at 580-239-9678. The classes meet on Monday evenings at 5:30 and 6:30.

Pictured are Phillip Duty Jr., Phillip Duty Sr., Ron Scott, Consetta LeFlore, Neomi Moore, Richard Adams; center, Betty Work and front row, Quenton LeFlore and Liliana LeFlore.

Brignardello and Piereira wed

Marla Brignardello and Wesley Piereira were married on April 20 at the Family Mountain Cabin in Westpoint, Calif.. A spring outdoor wedding was planned but due to an unexpected snowstorm, the vows were taken in front of a lit fireplace. A wedding reception was held at their home on April 24 at Pinale, Calif.



Wesley is a direct descendant of Joe Hoklotubbee. He is the great-great grandson of the late Adeline Hoklotubbee-Price, great grandson of the late Garrett H. Price and grandson of Rosemary Price-Dugger. His mother is Lori R. Dugger Pereira.

New member of the Wahkinney family

Gena Ranea Isom and Joseph Randall Wahkinney were married on June 12 at the Grandison Inn in Oklahoma City. Officiating was Jody Kellogg from the Emmaus Baptist Church.



Gena is the daughter of Patricia Roberts of Wilbur, Ore., and the late Harold Isom. Joseph is the son of Kevin and Vera Wahkinney of Lawton. She attended Willamette University and graduated in 1997. She is now a salon leader at J.C. Penney. Joseph attended the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences and graduated in 1994. He is now a billing manager at Encompass Home Health.

Joseph and Gena will reside in Moore.

Meadows, Ferguson marry

SSgt. Jonathan D. Ferguson, USMC, of Ohio and Diane E. Meadows of San Diego were married May 7 in Las Vegas. The couple was attended by their parents, David and Helena Ferguson of Ohio, John Jacobson and Esperanza Meadows of California and Vincent E. Ferguson of Pennsylvania.



The groom is the grandson of the late Homer and Minnie Voyles, formerly of Talihina.

The newlyweds plan a delayed honeymoon. They will temporarily reside in California.

Jones and Hamrick wed

On June 20, Charles Jones and Kristy Hamrick were married in Eureka Springs, Ark. Together they have six children and five grandchildren. Charles and Kristy currently reside in Tulsa. They will relocate to southeast Oklahoma in the near future. They are looking from Spiro to Talihina.



Sapphire is 21!

Sapphire Storm Alexander celebrates her 21st birthday July 2. She is the daughter of Gena and Joey Wahkinney and Guy Alexander. Her grandparents are Patricia Roberts of Wilbur, Ore. and the late Harold Isom, Vera and Kevin Wahkinney of Lawton, Ernest Alexander of Spencer, Ernestine Alexander of Atoka and very special great-granny is Doris Moton of Atoka. Sapphire has six siblings: the late Shytesa Tenequer, Page Tenequer, Jordan and Nicole Alexander of McAlester, Raven Wahkinney of Norman and Lillian Wahkinney of Moore. She enjoys cooking, travel and the arts. Happy birthday, Sapphire!



Happy birthday, Dylan

Dylan Eugene Brown turned 4 years old on May 6. His proud parents are Courtney Brown and Jonathan Nelson of Oklahoma City. He has two older brothers, Craig and Manny, as well as a baby sister, Lucia. His grandparents are Lucretia and Francis Brown of Oklahoma City. Dylan also has a favorite cousin, Elizabeth that would like to wish him a happy birthday.



Congrats to Jeromy

Congratulations Jeromy from your Dad and Leann and the rest of your family. You did a great job. Make the most of the rest of your life. We know you can do it.



Happy birthday, 'young' man!

If you know this "young" man from Broken Bow be sure to wish him a happy 80th birthday on July 3. Happy birthday from your kids and grandkids.



'Dubby' turns 38

Lloyd B. "Dubby" Morris II turns 38 on July 11. He is the son of Lloyd L. Morris of Milton, W.Va., and grandson of Lloyd B. Morris of Stidham.



Happy birthday to Geraldine

Geraldine Price Stephenson celebrated her 86th birthday on May 14 at the ranch of her nephew, Gary Ray Dugger, in Grass Valley, Calif. She was joined by her two daughters, Rebecca Trauerso and Sandra Looney, and two sisters, Norma Price Petko and Rosemary Price Dugger, as well as her nephew, John Dugger. The weekend was spent barbequing, enjoying a huge bonfire and dancing.



Geraldine was raised in Hartshorne and attended school there. She has lived in Antioch, Calif., for 64 years and also has a son, Sam, who is Sandra's twin brother.

She is the great-granddaughter of the late Joe Hoklotubbee, granddaughter of original enrollee Adeline Hoklotubbee Price and daughter of the late Garrett H. Price.

Congrats, Councilor!

Charles Jones of Tulsa was appointed by the Mayor of Tulsa to serve on the city council on June 10. His job as city councilor will be to serve on the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission.



Congrats, Paige Ryan!

Paige is a graduate of Martin High School in Arlington, Texas. She is a part of the Sundancer's Dance Team and plays on the volleyball team. She is the daughter of Angela and Edwin Jones, the grand daughter of Doris Jones from Texas and Jill Harmon on Mansfield, Texas. She is the niece of Ronnie and Sandy Nixon of Newport, N.C., and Stan Kerns of Fort Worth, Texas. Congratulations, especially from her aunt Sandy who is so proud of her.



Mountain Fork Gospel Singing

The Mountain Fork Gospel Singing Convention, which meets on the third Saturday of January and July, will meet at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Smithville on July 17. Morning singing will be at 10 a.m. There will be a potluck meal at noon, then afternoon singing starts at 1 p.m. For more information, call Ben and Helen Caldwell, president and vice president, at 580-244-7370, or call Meg Scott, secretary-treasurer, at 580-244-3523.

Choctaw Princesses

District 1

Little Miss, Whitney Griffith; Junior Miss, Mona Jones.

District 2

Little Miss, Callie Battiest; Junior Miss, Nikki Amos; Senior Miss, Ashlin Choate.

District 3

Little Miss, Jessica Schoon; Junior Miss, Joyce Cummings.

District 4

Little Miss, Brianna Battiest; Junior Miss, Callie Curnutt; Senior Miss Andrea Ford.



District 5

Senior Miss, Kristie McGuire.

District 6

Little Miss, Haley Scott.

District 7

Little Miss, Mahala Battiest; Junior Miss, Melissa Gueli.



District 8

Little Miss Summer Moffitt is the daughter of Johnny and Barbara Moffitt. Junior Miss Sarah James is the daughter of Tony and Brenda James. Senior Miss Rebecca Boykin is the daughter of Sam and Jana Boykin.



District 9

Little Miss Heaven Williams; Junior Miss Kayleigh Powell; Senior Miss Autumn Cooper, pictured with Councilman Ted Dosh.



District 10

Junior Miss December Pittman, and Little Miss Ataiya Jim, pictured with Councilman Anthony Dillard.



District 11

District 11 Little Miss Anna MaKenzie Kenieutubbe is the 8-year-old daughter of Teressa Kenieutubbe-Hamilton and Bryan Hamilton.

Jr. Miss Cherish Ann Wilkerson is the 16-year-old daughter of Christy Cantrell and Dwight Wilkerson and the granddaughter of Dennis and Dena Cantrell.

Also pictured are Councilman Bob Pate and Miss Choctaw Nation Ashton Rachele Dinardo.

District 12

Little Miss, Rachel Fletcher; Junior Miss, Neiatha Hardy; Senior Miss, Leandra Morgan.

Jones Academy students successful at Oklahoma Youth Expo

B.J. Nunn of the Jones Academy 4-H Club exhibited the second place class VIII Hampshire barrow, Reserve Division I and third Hampshire barrow overall out of over 720 Hampshire barrows competing at the Oklahoma Youth Expo. This event is the World's Largest Jr. Livestock Show with over 2,400 market barrows participating. A total of only 65 market barrows qualify for premium sale honors.

B.J. and her barrow, "Second Chance," were among the very elite group selected for this honor. This barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy. B.J., a Choctaw and from Sallisaw, is an academic honors student.

Courtney Wallace, also a member of Jones Academy 4-H, showed the first place Class 10 crossbred barrow at OYE. Courtney won first competing against 46 other exhibitors throughout the state in her weight class. Courtney and her barrow, "Cool Whip," went on to qualify for the premium sale being named the 10th cross

barrow overall. There were 19 weight classes of crosses, and more than 850 crossbred barrows competing at this event. Only 19 crossbred barrows were selected for premium sale honors.

"Cool Whip" was bred and raised at Jones Academy. Courtney is Choctaw and from Oklahoma City. She is a member of the Lady Miner softball team and enjoys raising and showing her swine projects.

Other Jones Academy 4-H students participating in the Oklahoma Youth Expo were Tyler Dressman and Justin Daniel. Tyler exhibited a third place Class 14 cross barrow, and Justin showed a ninth place Class 10 cross barrow. Student Bryan Goodbear went along on this trip to help assist his teammates.

Jones Academy 4-H students appreciate Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their continued support at livestock premium sales.



B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy student, and Brandon Spears, Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor.



Courtney Wallace, Jones Academy student, and Brandon Spears, Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor.



Jones Academy Super Students

Front: Jordan Hayes, first grade; center: Jimmie Yeager, second grade; Samantha Lopez, third grade; Wilmer Guerrero, fourth grade; back: Ava Trujillo, sixth grade; Enrique Guerrero, fifth grade; Kirklan Loman, sixth grade; Alfred Delaware, Campus Alternative School; and Araceli Ortiz, fifth grade.

Rock Creek FFA student raises champions

Ashton Thompson of the Rock Creek FFA participated in the 2010 Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City. Ashton exhibited the Division 2 Champion Cross Gilt (which she raised) and was the third gilt overall at the Expo.

She also had three gilts she raised make the Gilt Sale and placed fourth with her Duroc barrow.

Ashton exhibited the class winner with her CHI steer which made the Sale of Champions and was a class winner with her Brahma heifer.

Ashton would like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, and Councilman Ted Dosh for supporting her at the Bryan County Premium Sale and the Sale of Champions at the OYE.



COME JOIN US THIS FALL!



Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2010 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. **Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms.** Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/ Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post- Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

Please call for a tour or an application @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or access www.jonesacademy.org or write to:

Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshorne, OK 74547

Rosiere awarded scholarships

Jones Academy student Maranda Rosiere has received the Eastern Oklahoma State College Academic Leadership Scholarship and the John T. Liebrand Memorial Scholarship to assist her at EOSC this coming fall. The academic grant will provide \$500 each semester toward her tuition and cover housing.

The Liebrand award, which is administered by the McAlester Scottish Rite, will fund \$1,000 toward Maranda's college expenses.

Maranda was also accepted into the Honors Program at EOSC. This program will cover her full tuition for up to 15 hours. Maranda is the daughter of Calvert and Melissa Reading of Stigler. She is enrolled in the nursing program at EOSC.



Three inducted into Oklahoma Honor Society

Three Jones Academy students were inducted into the Oklahoma Honor Society for the 2009-10 academic year. The students were selected based upon their GPA during the spring and fall semesters of 2009.

The students who were recognized for their academic performance are, pictured at right, eighth-graders Alisha Picone and Billie Jo Nunn and ninth-grader Cheyenne Neal.



Agriculture Outreach meeting planned in Hugo

The Choctaw Nation will be hosting a USDA/OSU/ODA outreach meeting on July 20 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 408 North M Street in Hugo. Entering Hugo from the west on Jackson Street you will see where the Choctaw Nation is completing new construction. M Street is on the east end of the new buildings. Turn north on M Street and go about two blocks, the Community Center will be on your right. This meeting is being funded by the Farm Service Agency Outreach Program and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Speakers and planned topics include:

Marty Montague, Oklahoma State University Extension Office – the economics of inside versus outside hay storage.

Micah Anderson, Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture – Plasticulture irrigation.

Danny Hole, Farm Service Agency – Farm Storage facility loans (hay or grain storage and vegetable cold storage).

Joanna Morgan, Farm Service Agency – loan programs and cash flow.

Jose Mendoza, Natural Resources Conserva-

tion Service – CSP and EQIP.

Greg Robertson, Kiamichi Conservation District Manager – State Cost share and Equipment Rentals.

The Choctaw Nation will be providing a meal for the first 150 registered guests. Please contact the OSU extension service at 580-326-3359 to register for the meal by no later than July 16.

All agriculture producers are welcome to attend the meeting which will begin at 7 p.m., but only the first 150 persons registering in advance will receive a meal registration. The meal will be served at 6 p.m. prior to the meeting.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS: Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact Danny Hole, at 580-326-3655, ext. 2, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and danny.hole@ok.usda.gov by July 16.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity employer and provider.



McAlester Travel Plaza Manager Lisa Byington watches as Sonny Billy signs up for a chance to win this great camping equipment during customer appreciation week. Customers could also add their name to the drawing for a Skeeter bass and ski boat which will be on the display for a time at each of the Choctaw Nation's 13 travel plazas before September. The drawing for the boat will be held during the Labor Day Festival.

Scholarship Advisement Program launches web presence upgrade

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) has unveiled a major upgrade of its Internet Web site and online presence at www.choctawnation-sap.com. The update is much more than a cosmetic facelift according to SAP staff. It's a major communication boost that meets the needs of SAP's dramatic growth over the past three years. In addition to its enriched content, SAP's new web site also provides access to a trio of new social media communication tools including a Web log (blog) at <http://choctawsap.blogspot.com> as well as a Facebook page and Twitter.

The new site nearly triples the content of the original and includes a new section for college preparation and a new section strictly for parents. College Preparation features nine separate pages dealing with topics ranging from college entrance test preparation to tips on college selection. A new Parents section offers link-filled pages on resources, finances, planning and a page titled "Free Money," that helps parents access and use SAP's custom-built online scholarship database.

SAP was formed in 2006 to fight discouragingly high college dropout rates in the Choctaw Nation. SAP's mission: Focus on college preparation and retention for Choctaw students. From its beginning in 2006, SAP has grown to more than 3,000 enrolled student members and nearly as many actively involved parents. The combination of students, parents and others interested in SAP has led to dramatic increases in the program's web traffic.

In the two years since it first launched its web site, Scholarship Advisement Program's web traffic has increased by 180 percent in visits and more than 85 percent in page views and visitation time. Today SAP's web site receives more than 3,000 visits per month. An average visitor spends nearly eight minutes on the

site browsing five different pages. The growth in SAP's online newsletter has been equally dramatic. Nearly 13,000 now receive SAP News, the bi-weekly online newsletter of the Scholarship Advisement Program.

SAP's revised website can be found at the same URL address: www.choctawnation-sap.com. In addition to the new sections for college preparation and parents, the new SAP web site includes a long list of other new pages, listings and updated or expanded topics:

- Staff
- Peer Advisors
- College Partners
- FAQs
- Favorite Web links
- Other Choctaw Youth Programs
- ACT Test Preparation, Schedules, and Workshops
- College Selection Guide
- College Planning Timeline
- College Counseling
- Internships
- Summer programs
- Resume Building
- Online Newsletter Signup
- News Archive
- Facebook, Twitter, and blog links
- Videos
- Calendar
- How to donate to SAP
- Friends of SAP

Get latest news from SAP's Blog – Chahta Anumpa



How can students improve their ACT/SAT score and when should they take the ACT/SAT tests? What's the CLEP test? Does SAP help graduate students who want to take Kaplan's Graduate Test Prep Course?

What's the best way for college bound students to spend their summer? Should students take summer college classes?

All of these questions – and their answers – have been posted within the last 30 days at the same place for Choctaw students. That place is Chahta Anumpa (it means Choctaw Message) and it's the new blog of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP). Chahta Anumpa can be found on the Web at <http://choctawsap.blogspot.com>.

"Much of the information we deal with, or that our students need, is time-sensitive. Our blog is a big part of our effort to give students, parents and anyone else interested in our program a place to get vital facts and urgent news that can help them prepare for and achieve college success," says Twauna Williams, SAP's College Prep Counselor and frequent Chahta Anumpa contributor.

Chahta Anumpa is part of a larger SAP effort to upgrade its Web presence that also includes an updated Web site, online newsletter, Facebook page and Twitter. The blog is also an interactive tool for SAP. In addition to reviewing a blog post, readers are encouraged to comment, ask questions, or start their dialog on any posted topic. Contributors to the blog currently include those who are most involved in the SAP program. Future contributors may include notable friends of SAP or experts in specific college preparation and retention fields.

"There are a variety of ways readers can keep abreast of the news flowing into Chahta Anumpa," says Williams. The simplest method is to simply add the Web site to your Web browser's Favorites or Bookmarks list, then visit the site at least once or twice a week to stay current. Readers can also subscribe to posts and comments from the site through a variety of search engine reader services (including Google and Yahoo). Just choose the search engine you like and follow their online directions to deliver blog content directly to your desktop.

"However they view it, we hope SAP students, parents and fans will frequent our blog and use it as a two-way street to give us their feedback," says Williams. "It's the best place for the latest news and information from SAP."

For other opportunities, visit the Scholarship Advisement Program web site at www.choctawnation-sap.com.

Chief Pyle receives copy of Resolution of Apology

Eugene Taylor, Terry Cole, both left, and Presley Byington, far right, present Chief Gregory E. Pyle with copy of the Resolution of Apology to Native Peoples of the United States signed by Sen. Sam Brownback, an instigator of the passed legislation.

Taylor, Cole and Byington took part in a rededication ceremony at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., on May 19 where the apology was read aloud for the first time ever and they accepted the signed copy of the Resolution on behalf of the tribe.

Along with the reading of the apology, a rededication ceremony was held for the Native Americans buried in the



cemetery, which included two former Choctaw Chiefs – Peter Pitchlynn and Pushmataha.

Taylor and Byington portrayed the Chiefs in traditional Choctaw regalia and told sto-

ries of their lives to the crowd on hand.

"It was a tremendous opportunity to share Choctaw heritage and the history of Native Americans," Chief Pyle said

of the ceremony.

"It is important that we put our focus on the future to work with people on the local, state and national levels to improve life in all of our communities."

Choctaw SAP students win Udall Scholarships

Three Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) members are among 80 students from 63 colleges and universities selected as 2010 Udall Scholars.

The three CNO/SAP members – Kelbie R. Kennedy/Eastern Oklahoma State College, Chayla C. Rowley/University of Colorado and Lauren A. White/Oklahoma State University - were selected from a record 537 candidates nominated by 256 colleges and universities for one of America's most prestigious scholarships.

The Udall Foundation provides federally funded scholarships for college students intending to pursue careers related to the environment, as well as to Native American students pursuing tribal policy or health care careers. The Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency that was established by Congress in 1992 to honor Morris K. Udall's 30 years of service in the House of Representatives, and Stewart L. Udall's vast public service.

Kelbie R. Kennedy/Eastern Oklahoma State College



Kelbie Kennedy



Lauren A. White



Chayla Rowley

Kelbie is a sophomore English major graduating this spring from Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. She will be attending University of Oklahoma in the fall as a communications major with minors in Native American studies and international studies. She plans to pursue a career in International Law.

Her Native American heritage has greatly influenced her path, and she will use the knowledge she gains to help the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with their future international interests. Kelbie takes great pride in being a positive role model for students through her many leadership roles on campus. She enjoys spending spare time with friends and family, traveling abroad, and reading.

Lauren A. White/Oklahoma State University

Lauren, a Choctaw from Idabel, is a rising junior of

Environmental Science Policy major at Oklahoma State University. She plans to pursue a career in international sustainable development after getting her master's degree in sustainable business. She is the president of the OSU chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society, and she dedicates her time to promoting sustainability and environmental and cultural awareness on her campus. She recently founded the program "WaterColor," which holds silent and live art auctions to raise money for WaterAid America, a non-profit organization that builds wells and sanitation systems in developing nations.

Chayla C. Rowley/University of Colorado-Boulder

Chayla is majoring in civil engineering with an emphasis on developing communities at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She plans to cre-

ate a foundation dedicated to training Native American tribes how to improve their water quality and self-sustain their water quality programs. The foundation will then train tribes with well-functioning programs to help develop the programs of other tribes and third world communities. During her breaks, she volunteers on work trips both nationally and internationally. She believes there is nothing like learning from new cultures and finding ways she can give back to them.

"These students are the future environmental and tribal leaders of our world and the Udall Foundation is proud to help them advance their education," said Terrence L. Bracy, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Udall Foundation.

Each scholarship that the Udall Foundation awards provides up to \$5,000 for the Scholar's junior or senior year. The foundation has generated 1,155 Udall Scholars since the first awards in 1996.

To learn more about great opportunities like Udall visit www.choctawnation-sap.com and sign up for SAP's e-newsletter.



Blake Redwine – SAP Spotlight Student

As an undergraduate at the University of Texas, Blake Redwine was a Finance and Accounting major interested in the financial system and its effects on the economy. Now, after completing his first year as a law student at Southern Methodist

University Dedman School of Law, Redwine is interested in pursuing a career in a legal specialty related to finance. Based on his first year of law school, Redwine should be in excellent position for law firm recruiting that he says usually begins in August.

Redwine is one of four students featured as 2010 Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) Spotlight Students.

The first year of law school is said to be the most brutal. The main objective is survival – especially at a top school like SMU's

Dedman School of Law. Redwine has done more than survive. He was in the top 25 percent of his class and made the Dean's List his first semester. He is now spending his 2010 summer working a variety of legal internships that span the legal field from appellate court to research to county court.

In May, Redwine worked for Judge Elizabeth Lang-Miers of the Texas 5th District Court of Appeals. In June, he did research for SMU Dedman School of Law Professor Julia Forrester on various property law issues dealing with restrictive covenants. In July he will intern for Dallas County Court-at-Law Judge Ken Tapscott.

Blake's father, an attorney in Tulsa, influenced his decision to pursue the law. "From him I learned the benefits of a graduate degree and how satisfying a law career can be despite the hard work and long hours."



Career Development Marketing Coordinator Kelli Ostman and Robin Counce, Director of Career Development.

Career Development receives marketing award

Choctaw Nation Career Development received an American Marketing Association Award of Excellence for its marketing efforts at their annual Career Expo.

At the Oklahoma City American Marketing Association Awards ceremony last week Kelli Ostman of Choctaw Nation Career Development accepted the award for marketing efforts of the 2010 Career Expo held in McAlester. The competition was fierce and each campaign was judged in the following areas: insight, objectives, strategy, tactics, budget, and measurable results.

The Career Development Program saw the Career Expo as an opportunity to promote their program along with the Choctaw Asset Building program. The marketing tactics implemented at the event included: sponsorship, print ads, digital advertising, and face-to-face marketing. These tactics proved to be a success!

"This was the first year our team entered the competition, we were not sure what to expect. We are honored to have won against such strong competition. This award comes as a result of a strong and talented team," said Kelli Ostman, Marketing Coordinator.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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

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

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

Museum exhibits are fun, educational, emotional

By Chrissy Dill

The Choctaw Nation Museum, located on the capitol grounds of the Choctaw Nation in Tuskahoma, is the site you need to visit if you're interested in learning more about the Choctaw culture and history. Museum director Regina Green has been at her position for 10 years, and she has seen many historical Choctaw artifacts in the museum throughout her time there. She also serves as acting curator, which puts her in charge of maintaining and setting up the exhibits and caring for the artifacts and collections.

The Choctaw Museum was remodeled a few years ago. About 15 permanent exhibits were added. "Every Labor Day we try to open a new exhibit," said Regina. Last year, the Choctaw historical path was added and is located in front of the museum.

One of the newer exhibits is the Choctaw baskets exhibit, added in 2008. Probably the most important exhibit, according to Regina, is the Trail of Tears exhibit. There are actual artifacts that were carried on the trail. "It is a very emotional exhibit," said Regina. The Trail of Tears exhibit also contains

actual quotes from people who experienced the trail firsthand.

The most-loved exhibit by children would be the Choctaw language exhibit, Regina says. There are several animals on display and you can listen to a Choctaw children's story told in the Choctaw language.

When asked what her personal favorite was, the museum director and caretaker just couldn't choose one. "I put my heart and soul in every exhibit that is here," Regina said. Regina has set up and maintains all of the exhibits on display.

The museum not only holds Choctaw artifacts and exhibits, it also is home to the Choctaw artist gallery. The annual Choctaw Art Show is held at the museum over Labor Day weekend each year.

Regina has had official training with the Smithsonian, so she has expertise in museum and artifact care. All artifacts are housed by museum standards and the museum is well-equipped with a live-monitored alarm system. Regina encourages the people of the Choctaw tribe to share their artifacts and family history. "I want people to feel secure enough to leave their family stuff here so all Choctaws can enjoy it," she said.



The Choctaw Museum is visited by a large variety of people. The guest book contains signatures from visitors coming from across the United States in every state, as well as foreign countries such as Germany and Japan. There is a gift shop that has hand-made Choctaw items that are available for purchase.

The museum is open seasonally, during the summer months. Its hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

7th Annual Art Show

Saturday, Sept. 4,
at 10 a.m. on the second floor
of the Choctaw Capitol Museum.

Artist applications must be postmarked
by 4 p.m. July 31.



T-shirts & Souvenirs

Order Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____

ITEM	Size	Qty	Total Price
Waterproof drawstring backpack with seal	Blue - \$10.00	N/A	_____
	Yellow - \$10.00	N/A	_____
Labor Day Shirt - White		_____	_____
Labor Day Shirt - Black		_____	_____
Labor Day Cap - White		_____	_____
Labor Day Cap - Black		_____	_____

T-shirt sizes available are: (Price includes postage & handling)

Children - (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) & (14-16)

Adult - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large

Order Total

To order, send payment (No Personal Checks) with completed for to:

Labor Day T-Shirts
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702

Quilt Show

Labor Day Festival Quilt Show entries need to be dropped off at the Information Center from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3, and picked up by noon Monday, Sept. 6.

New times for Buffalo Tours

Festival tours to see the buffalo will be:
Saturday, Sept. 4 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 5 - 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Youth Advisory Board Labor Day Schedule

Members of the Youth Advisory Board will be on the playground during the Labor Day Festival weekend.

Saturday, September 4

9 a.m. - Craft
11 a.m. - Craft
1 p.m. - Craft
2:30 p.m. - Craft
Closes at 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 5

9 a.m. - Craft
11 a.m. - Craft
1 p.m. - Craft
Closes at 2:30 p.m.



3-on-3 Basketball September 4

Category / Division

Team Name _____ • Kids Co-ed 10-13
Contact _____ • Teen Co-ed (HS only)
Address _____ • Men - Young Guns
City/St/Zip _____ • Men - Old Timers
Phone _____

Mail entry form + \$40 Cashier's Check or Money Order
by August 28, 2010, to:
Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball
P.O. Box 1909, Durant, OK 74702
ALL PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE RETURNED
- NO EXCEPTIONS



40 Yard Sprint • Vertical Jump • Standing Long Jump • 20 Yard Shuttle

Friday, Sept. 3, on the Council Chambers lawn

Event is for youth 8 to 18 years of age

Registration at 5 p.m. - Contest starts at 6 p.m.

A T-shirt will be given to each participant who finishes the challenge.
For more information, call Jason Campbell at 800-522-6170, ext. 2787

TOUGH. TOUGH CHOCTAW



Saturday, September 4
on the
Council Chambers lawn

Registration at 4:30 p.m. • Contest starts at 5:30 p.m.
Prizes awarded for first and second places.

- No entry fee -

Anyone under 18 years of age must have parent sign waiver. Free T-shirts to participants.

For more information call Jeremy Loper at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2407, or e-mail jloper@choctawnation.com.

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival 5k Run

Race Begins at 8 a.m.

September 4

Tushka Homma, Oklahoma

Race day registration is from 6:30-7:45 a.m. in front of Crossroad Cafe on U.S. Hwy. 271, 5 miles north of Clayton. Pre-registration is \$10.00.

All entries must be postmarked by August 30, 2010. Race-day registration is \$12.00.

Age Categories and Awards

Age 12 & under • 13-15 years • 16-19 years and succeeding 5-year age brackets up to 70 and older for women and 75 years and older for men.

Top three finishers in each age bracket for men and women will receive medallions.

RACE DIRECTOR

Neal Hawkins - 580-924-8280, Ext. 2319
Race Coordinator - DG Productions, LLC

I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that although police protection will be provided, there will be a possibility of traffic on the course. I assume the risk of running traffic. I also assume any and all other risks associated with running this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including extreme cold and wind, and the conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Furthermore, I agree to yield to all emergency vehicles. I also am fully aware that baby strollers and wheels of any kind (except competitive wheel chairs), animals (aside from canine participants in canine and human race) and head phones are strictly prohibited and I agree not to go back onto the course after finishing. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive and release and discharge any and all race sponsors, race officials, volunteers, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma employees and volunteers, tribal police including any and all of their agents, employees, assigns or arising out of, or in the course of, my participation in this event. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind of nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. The undersigned further grants full permission to sponsors and/or agents authorized to them to use any photography/videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose.

Please Print

Name _____

Signature _____

Waiver must be signed Date _____

Applications for minors accepted only with a parent's or guardian's signature.

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Age as of September 4, 2010 _____ Sex (M/F) _____

Check one T-shirt size only
(Adult) S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Detach and send entry form and fees to:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Neal Hawkins
5KM Road Race/Walk
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210

Community gathering held in Bentonville, Arkansas



Emily Henry had fun helping with the door prize drawings at the Bentonville meeting.



Chuck Bass talked with Assistant Chief Batton. Chuck is the nephew of Choctaw Circulation employee Dorie Denney.



Margaret and Chase Thompson visit with Chief Pyle.



Phil and Kaye Forrest visit with Chief Pyle.



Tom Marshall from Huntsville, told Chief Pyle he enjoyed getting the BISHINIK each month.



Talking with Choctaw Language Teacher Lillie Roberts are Mitch and Rebecca Ring of Rogers. They moved from Ada, Oklahoma about three years ago.



Laura Leterman holds her 14-month-old daughter Melody.

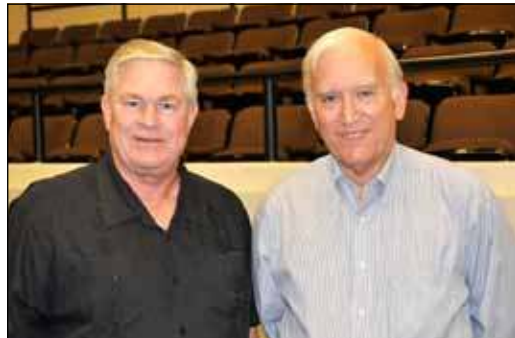


Patti and Lauren Latta are pictured with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Muskogee-area Choctaws meet at Civic Center



Jason Reece sports his OU shirt at the Muskogee meeting. He is pictured with Cheryl Hensley and Chief Pyle.



Chris Sallee visits with Speaker of the Council Delton Cox.



Judy Sanguin Long greets Chief Pyle.



Helping with door prizes for Muskogee is Kaden Pippin. He received a ball and glove as a gift.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton enjoys talking to Myrtle Honeycutt of Coweta.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and State Representative Jerry McPeak visit at Muskogee.



Choctaw Casino employee Kimberly Campbell visits with State Representative John Auffet and his wife, Shirley.



Seth Fairchild of Choctaw STAR (Success Through Academic Recognition) explains the program to Fay and Wayne Foyil.

The Spirit of Blackjack Mountain: The Story of the Choctaw Pony

Contributed by Francine Locke Bray, research consultant and great-granddaughter of Victor and Susan (McKenney) Locke

On April 30, Bryant Rickman, president of the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association, and I gave a presentation at the Oklahoma Historical Society's Annual Meeting in Durant. The title of the presentation was, "The Spirit of Blackjack Mountain: The Story of the Choctaw Pony."

Over the past year, it has become evident that there is quite a bit of misconception about how and why we call the horses that lived on Blackjack Mountain, "Choctaw ponies."

This strain of Colonial Spanish horse claimed the mountain as home in Pushmataha County for well over 120 years and was developed from horses purchased and collected from Native Americans in the region in the early 20th century. The discovery and documentation of their origin includes four important aspects: 1) oral and written history; 2) location; 3) phenotype evaluation; and 4) genetic testing.

Written history of the horses, of their use and value to the Choctaw people has been sketchy. However, one of the most important sources is the missionary journals. Henry C. Benson (1860) was a missionary at Fort Coffee between 1842 and 1845; and H.B. Cushman (1899) grew up among the Choctaw in pre-removal days. Both published their memoirs. In addition, James Taylor Carson (1995) has done extensive studies and writings on Choctaw horse culture.

In the 1600s the Choctaw probably obtained their horses through raids on the Caddo and several other tribes living west of the Mississippi. Throughout the history of the Choctaw in Mississippi, the horse played a very integral part in the social, economic, and spiritual life of the people.

While they at first used horses for food, their value as pack horses was quickly recognized. Before acquiring horses, the women would carry the food home from the hunt on their backs and were responsible for the movement of the household goods during their seasonal relocations. With the evolution of a horse culture these practices changed and the horse became important to not only these daily activities but also as a means for transporting trade goods, thus widening the range of trade.

When a Choctaw child was born, it was customary to give that child a pony, a cow, and a hog. Thus, when reaching adulthood, the young adult would now have herds of his own. Cushman (1899) tells of the use of the "famous little Choctaw pony" as a means of transportation for children. Once a child was too large for his/her mother's back sling, he/she would be placed on the back of one of the ponies and secured to the saddle. At approximately the age of four or five he/she would be considered old enough and skilled enough to ride without any restraints. "They were all equestrians, men, women, and children; each had his pony and saddle, and to ride on horseback was the first lesson ever learned" (Benson 1860).

According to Carson (1995), the Choctaw horse played an important role in the funeral practices of the Nation. In the 18th Century, when a man died and after his bones were placed in the "village bonehouse," the horse(s) of the deceased were slaughtered and a feast held in honor of the deceased's passage, reaffirming the bonds of community and kinship. By the late 18th Century, the Choctaw were beginning to bury their dead men, including in the



A panel of experts spoke at the Sovereignty Symposium on Choctaw horses. Experts included Chairman of the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association Bryant Rickman, Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Madeline Pickens, Former Senator and Seminole Chief Kelly Haney and was moderated by Supreme Court Justice Tom Colbert. The panel spoke of the importance of saving the mustangs and the history of the horses.

grave the deceased's guns, tomahawks and favorite horse(s). The above practices ceased sometime in the early 19th Century as both men and women began to depend on the horses for their transportation and livelihood.

By 1828 the Choctaw herd is said to have numbered 15,000, a ratio of 0.7 per capita, similar to Mississippi's 1840 ratio of 0.8 per capita. The missionaries estimated the average horse's worth at \$60, putting the value of the Choctaw horse herd, in 1828, at \$900,000 (Carson 1995).

There are numerous records on the removal of the Choctaw horse during the migrations to Oklahoma Territory in 1831, 1832, and 1834 in the National Archives Indian Emigration records. One of interest is a letter cited in Forman (1932). "Nine hundred Choctaw horses crossed the Mississippi river that winter; 500 passed Little Rock, 300 going to the Kiamichi river, and 200 to Fort Smith; 400 went to the Red river country by way of Ecor à Fabri (Brown to Gibson, April 30, 1832, *ibid.*, 444, and OIA, "Choctaw Emigration")."

We have been able to trace ownership of herds of Choctaw horses, since removal, through one Choctaw family, the McKenney-Locke family of Antlers. John McKenney owned a stand on the Robinson Road in Mississippi and was captain of a group that emigrated in the first removal in 1831. In 1836 he was elected Chief of the Mush District. The National Archives has a letter John wrote discussing the stock held by himself and his neighbors. In addition, in the 1835 claim filed by the Choctaws against the government for lost horses, John is listed as having lost several horses on that emigration. All told, over 2,300 horses are listed in this document as "lost," worth approximately \$80,000.

In 1871, Susan, Thomson's daughter, married Victor M. Locke from Ten Mile Stand, Tenn. They raised a large family in the Pushmataha County area and founded Antlers. We have traced their land holdings throughout the county, specifically in the Blackjack Mountain area. This was a very large family, including Victor's two brothers who followed him to the Territory and married Choc-

taw women. Most family members had extensive land and stock holdings, many original allotments.

Victor and Susan's children were prolific storytellers and writers. Dollye Locke Archer, in the late 1940s, wrote her nieces of her mother, as a young "girl," riding across Winding Stair Mountain from Skullyville to Fort Towson on her "pony." She concluded the story, saying, "...after all, not a small feat, it was 100 miles and she rode side-saddle." Dollye's brother, Ben, wrote while a patient in the Muskogee VA Hospital stories of his childhood, most of which include the use and love of the horses. Ben's grandson, in 1998 wrote a letter telling of going to the Antlers area in the late 1930s to see if he and his Dad could find some of his father's horses. They had been branded "VL" and, much to their surprise, they did find one being used by an Indian family as the family pet. One family treasure is a photo album, predating 1913, which includes a number of pictures of the horses with riders.

Gilbert Jones came to the Antlers area in the early 1950s and subsequently owned and lived at Medicine Springs on Blackjack Mountain. He was an owner and breeder of Spanish Mustangs and began to search out the "elders" of the area and collect what he could of the oral history of the horses. Many of his findings are scattered throughout his large collection of books, including the statement that the Locke family at one time owned a herd of over 700 horses. During this time and up until his death, Gilbert also collected and bred the best of the horses he found on Blackjack Mountain, preserving the strains that were owned by the Indian families of the area. In the late 1970's Gilbert began working with Phil Sponenberg of both Virginia Tech and the American Livestock Breeders Conservancy (ALBC) to conduct phenotypic evaluations and DNA testing on the herd. Sponenberg's initial physical evaluations indicated that the herd had strong Spanish-type conformation across the board and, to his trained eye, were classic Colonial Spanish horses. To support these findings DNA testing was then conducted with the end results proving that the Choctaw horses on Blackjack Mountain were indeed direct descendants of the horses that first arrived with Spanish settlers in the 1500's. The scientific findings combined with oral and written history and location prove that these horses are the animals Native American tribes would have kept and raised in the region.

Acknowledgement: I would like to acknowledge the help of Jeannette Beranger, Research and Technical Programs Manager, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy for her assistance with this article, especially for the comments on the phenotypic evaluations, DNA testing, and the scientific findings.

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OBITUARIES

Lory Lynn Johnson

Lory Lynn Johnson, former resident of Ponca City, passed away May 30, 2010, at her home in Blackwell at the age of 50.

Lory was born on July 4, 1959, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Robert J. and Diane Edith (Sommers) Johnson. As an infant she moved with her family to Oklahoma, where she lived in various communities before settling in Tonkawa.

She moved to Blackwell to make her home in 1991 before moving to live with her aunt in Arkansas in 1999. In 2002 she returned to Oklahoma and resided in Ponca City where she lived until the spring of 2010, where she again moved to Blackwell. In 1986 she participated in the Special Olympics where she was awarded both gold and bronze medals. She enjoyed camping, fishing, crocheting, attending garage sales and spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Rick Johnson and his wife, Mary, of Blackwell; two daughters, Amber Johnson of Tonkawa, and Barbara Hutchinson; a sister, Bobbi Peach of Blackwell; three brothers, Chris Johnson of Braman, Billy Johnson of Ponca City, and John Johnson; a granddaughter, Shantel Spracklin of Blackwell; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Ron L. Morehouse; and a niece, Jennifer Morehouse.



Jonathon 'Jack' T. Taylor

Jack Taylor was born on Dec. 10, 1938, in McAlester to Maudette and Harry Taylor. After a long and valiant battle with COPD, he passed away on May 23, 2010, surrounded by his family.

Jack grew up in Colbert, graduated from Colbert High School in 1957 and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1961. He served his country in the Oklahoma National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves.

Jack married the love of his life, Patricia Mae (Umland) Taylor, on Dec. 29, 1962, and together had three children, Dawn, Mark and Jill. Jack was proudest of his work for the State of Wisconsin in Geriatric Health Care management and reforms, ensuring lasting improvements in the quality of life and care for seniors and the disabled.

Jack was an avid golfer who took the greatest pleasure on the golf course and in marshalling major professional golf tournaments. He loved spending time with family and was always very proud of them.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Mark R. Taylor.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of 48 years, Patricia Taylor; his daughters, Dawn Sorenson and Jill Toloso; his grandchildren, Caleb, Christian, Glorja, Nicole and Megan; his brother, Robert Taylor, and his sisters, Billie Bean and Harriet Jane Krayenvenger. He also leaves cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and extended family, as well as his dearest dog Mike. He was also a grandson of original Choctaw enrollees Ida and John Self of McAlester.



Ida Anderson Thomas

Ida Anderson Thomas, 97, passed away June 7, 2010, in Oklahoma City. She was born August 10, 1912, on a farm in Connorville to Ella (Frye) and M.D. Anderson. She attended Connorville Schools, Chilocco Indian School and graduated from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in Stillwater in 1933 with a degree in Home Economics. She married Spencer H. Thomas Sr. and had two children. Her husband preceded her in death in 1963. Ida accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior while she was attending Chilocco Indian School. She elected not to pursue a career but to cook in the cafeteria where her children attended school. When they graduated, she began working at Riverside Indian School and retired from there in 1984. Ida was so proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and was so excited when she got her picture taken with the Chief, Greg Pyle. She was an avid fan of OSU football and went to the games as long as she could. She then listened to the games on the radio. She was always ready to fight for her team!

She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Maxwell and husband, Dennis, of Yukon; two grandchildren, Billy Wells of Canton, and Kathy Rene' Wells of Tulsa; two great grandchildren, John Wells of Moreland and David Wells of Oklahoma City; one sister, Jewell Thompson and husband, Howard, of Lawton; one nephew, Tommy Thompson, wife Carol and children of Anadarko; one niece, Debbie Thompson of Scottsdale, Ariz. She also leaves behind her beloved pet who brought her so many wonderful memories, her dog, GoGo.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Sam and Doc; Sisters, Nora, Deborah, and Myrtle; husband, Spencer Thomas, and her son, Spencer Thomas Jr.



Paul S. Bench Jr.

Paul Spurgeon Bench Jr. of Comanche passed away June 11, 2010, at the Duncan Regional Hospital. He was 61 years old.

Paul was born Jan. 27, 1949, in Mobile, Ala., to Paul Sr. and Barbara Jean (Nurse) Bench. Paul served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a retired drilling and production consultant. He enjoyed fishing and playing golf.

He is survived by four sons, Paul S. Bench III and wife April of Clearfield, Utah, Shayne Bench and wife Shari of Bradenton, Fla., Beau Bench and wife Joanie of Comanche and Boone Bench of Okarche; daughter, Danielle Bench of Fremont, Calif.; mother, Barbara Bench of Guthrie; father, Paul Bench of Stockton, Calif.; brothers David Bench and wife Rhonda of Guthrie, and James Bench and wife Donna of Bethany; sister Patricia Bench of Guthrie; and four grandchildren: Gabrielle Bench, Recy Bench, Jacey Bench, and Autumn Brienne Young. He was preceded in death by brother Edward Bench.



Joe Emmitt Barrick

Joe Emmitt Barrick of McAlester died June 8, 2010, in McAlester at the age of 89. Joe was born April 7, 1921, in Pauls Valley to Joe and Ethel (Lewis) Barrick. He graduated from Fanshawe High School. He served eight years in the U.S. Coast Guard following World War II. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Conner in 1961. Joe settled in Los Angeles in the late 1940s, working as a carpenter and began making musical instruments.

In the early 1950s he started making a series of electrified instruments--guitars, mandolins, and doublenecks--that incorporated bull skulls, complete with horns, as the central body. Joe built about a dozen of these "cow skull" guitars before moving on to other important ventures, including his one-man band. He invented a device called the "piatarbajo," a combination piano, guitar, bass, and banjo, which he played with his feet while playing the guitar, mandolin, or fiddle with his hands and singing or playing harmonica with his mouth. Joe was featured in Guitar Player magazine, several books and news articles.

He played annually at the Tuskahoma festival and Sanders Blue Grass Festival.

Joe worked for the Choctaw Nation Clinic for 20 years and was a member of the American Legion and VFW.

Joe is survived by his wife, Mary of the home; daughter, Jodie Barrick and son-in-law, Chris Strang of McAlester; sisters, Virginia Ward of Cameron and Jane Brown of Fanshawe; brothers, Marshall Duncan and wife Helga of Red Oak, and Eugene Duncan and wife Shirley of Fanshawe; grandson Christian Dowell; numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Joe was preceded in death by his father, Joe Barrick; mother, Ethel Duncan; stepfather, Martin Duncan; brother, Earl Duncan and a son, Ralph Dowell.

Military honors were provided by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard.



Dortha Lorraine (Horn) Haggerty

Dortha Lorraine (Horn) Haggerty, 89, passed away on June 16, 2010.

She was born in Durant on April 28, 1921, to Ira Joseph Horn and Mattie Marie (Owens) Horn. She was the daughter and granddaughter of original Choctaw enrollees, whose ascendents came from Mississippi to Oklahoma over the Trail of Tears.

She attended and graduated from Caddo Public Schools and attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

She married Donald James Haggerty on November 29, 1940, in Aylesworth, of Marshall County. They recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary. Except for accompanying her husband during his four year service to the U.S. Army in World War II, she lived her entire life in Oklahoma.

She was a housewife, mother and a devoted companion of her husband in their farming and ranching operation. She was a faithful member of the 7th and Beech Church of Christ in Durant and for many years taught children's Bible classes and conducted home Bible studies.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Catherine Marie (Horn) Joines and two brothers, Clarence E. Horn and Ernest F. Horn.

She is survived by her husband, Donald James Haggerty; only son, Don Michael Haggerty and his wife, Chris Haggerty, of Caddo. She had grandsons, Don Michael Haggerty II of Madill and Donald David Haggerty of Altus. Her three great-grandsons are Don Michael "Trey" Haggerty III, Ryan Paul Haggerty, Kyle Joseph Haggerty of Dickson, and a host of other relatives.

Kenneth O'Dell Hart

Kenneth O'Dell Hart, born Dec. 16, 1927, in Centrahoma to Silas Calvin and Minda Luticia (Monds) Hart, passed away on May 18, 2010 in Yukon at age 82.

Hart, a veteran of the U.S. Army, attended Lone Oak School. He married Toleta Batchelor on July 21, 1951, in Coalgate. He worked as a welder at Tinker Air Force Base and was a member of Southside Holiness Church.

Hart was preceded in death by parents, Silas Calvin and Minda Luticia (Monds) Hart; sisters, Letha Mae Breed, Ola Bell Smith and Sadie Francis Hart; brothers, Beck Hart, Junior Hart, Arvard Hart and R.C. Hart.

Surviving him in death are his wife, Toleta Hart of Mustang; son, Shane Hart of Coalgate; daughter, Shanna Vandruff and husband Joel of Mustang; grandchildren, Brooke Ross and husband Greg, Kelsey Hart, Blake McIntosh and Makenzie Vandruff; great-grandchildren, Colton Ross and Jack Hart; sisters, Faye McCurry and Avo Brown, along with numerous other relatives and friends.



Walter Noah Durant

Walter Noah Durant, 79, of Poteau passed away May 8, 2010. He was born Oct. 22, 1930, to Walter Nathaniel and Cleo Virgil (Collins) Durant, who preceded him in death.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. He was with the Thunderbirds, 180th Infantry, and a Colonel in the 45th Division.

He was a welder by trade.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Carl Durant, Robbs Durant and Johnny Durant, all of Poteau.

Walter leaves behind wife Verna Louise Durant of Poteau; daughters, Donna Durant-Macon of Tulsa, Sandra Durant-Kemp of Tulsa and Cheryl Durant-Hayes of Houston, Texas; sons, Walter DeWayne Durant of Tulsa, Jerry Troutman of Scottsdale, Ariz., Clayton Troutman of Tahlequah, Joseph Troutman of Catoosa, Tony Troutman of Catoosa and Frank Troutman of Oklahoma City; four sisters, Jean Bass of Poteau, Mildred Huddleston of Oklahoma City, Pearl Bost of Poteau and Carolyn Baca of Poteau; two brothers, Paul Nichols of Poteau and Charles Durant of Poteau; 24 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren; as well as a host of many other loved ones.

He was given full military honors and a 21 gun salute by the Choctaw Color Guard of Oklahoma as he was laid to rest.



Bernice Heinen

Bernice Heinen, 84, passed away on April 30, 2010, after a lengthy illness. She was a devout Catholic and very proud Choctaw, born to Robert and Harriet Goode. She is survived by daughters, Bobbie Hale and Wendy Owen, husband John of Tulsa and son, Christopher Simon and wife, Debbie of Casper, Wyo. She was preceded in death by another Hack Hale. In addition she was blessed with seven grandchildren. Bernie loved to travel, string beautiful glass and cloisonné beads and square dance, but her real passion was real estate. In the 1960s she was hired as a receptionist for a local real estate company. She passed her realtor's exam and became a broker. She was in an elite group of "Million Dollar Sales Associates." She owned Camelot Real Estate, the first, all-woman real estate company in Tulsa. She then started the first independent real estate school in Tulsa. Bernie was highly admired and respected by her peers. Her honesty, true professionalism, work ethic and love of her profession earned her many awards. Whenever she had a student who showed the same characteristics and promise to get ahead, she would mentor them to be as successful as she was.

But her family always came first. Her family, friends and professional associates will always remember her for what she gave them.



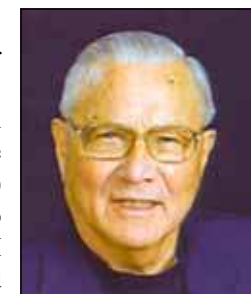
Robert Oakes

Robert Oakes, 81, of Decatur, Ill., passed away on May 20, 2010, at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Bob was born on June 26, 1928, in Soper, a son of original Choctaw enrollee Edgar Omega and Annie Marie (Rives) Oakes. He was raised in Soper and Hugo and attended Eastern Oklahoma A & M and Southeastern State College. He served his country in the Air Force during the Korean War. Bob earned his bachelor's degree from Millikin University and his master's degree from the University of Illinois. Robert and Constance Ann Bennett were married on July 17, 1954, in the Church of Holy Communion in Maywood, Ill. Bob spent his entire career in education, including a year at Goodland Academy, a year at Grant High School and 33 years in the Decatur Public Schools. He retired in 1988 after 19 years as the Decatur Superintendent of Schools. Bob was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church for over 25 years, where he served as Parish Warden.

Surviving are his wife, Constance, of Decatur; daughters, Elizabeth Ann Crowder of Germantown, Tenn., and Margaret Jane Oakes of Greenville, S.C.; sister, Betty Lyles and her husband Roy of Hugo; grandchildren, Martha Ann Crowder, Aaron John Crowder, John Robert Tillman and Peter Bennett Tillman; sister-in-law, Barbara Bennett of Pewaukee, Wis., and brother-in-law, James Bennett and wife Jane of Villa Park, Ill.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers; Thomas, Edgar Junior and Jack, four sisters; Wilma Hammond, Edna Lucille Montgomery Loftin, Nadine Hamby Petty and an infant twin sister.



William Kenneth Odell

William Kenneth Odell was born on August 29, 1930, in Mead, to original enrollee William "Willie" Timothy Odell and Bessie (Smith) Odell. He passed away April 1, 2010, at the age of 79.

The youngest of five children, William Kenneth grew up in Mead and then moved to Fort Worth, where he spent the remainder of his life.

William Kenneth was a veteran and served during the Korean War. He worked in the manufacturing, trucking and auto industries, and was the owner of three businesses during his lifetime.

William Kenneth loved travel, fishing, playing poker, watching wrestling and Bonanza, and listening to country music, especially Hank Williams and Johnny Cash. He was humorously witty and liked by many.

William was proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was a grandson of Ada Odell(e) Spring, granddaughter of William and Mary Ann (Homma/Homer) Ro(e) buck and his ancestry includes the Ro(e) buck, Homma (Homer), Spring, and Bohanna(o)n families.

William Kenneth was a beloved son, brother, husband, dad and papaw. Preceding him were his parents, wife Jean and all but one sibling, Evelyn.

Survivors include his eldest sister, Evelyn Smith of Durant, daughter, Lynda Kay (Odell/O'Dell) Sawyer of Canton, Texas, with her husband Ara, and children, Jon Sawyer, Sarah Sawyer, Doug Davis, The Woodlands, Texas; children, Tyler and Cameron Faith; Clint Davis, wife Jody, children Colton, Kyle and Kirstyn; daughter, Sherry Odell (O'Dell) McFerrin of Paris, Texas and her family: children, Crystal Watkins (son Michael), Jennifer Powers (children Austin and Chelsea) and Robert L. McFerrin III (children; Brandon, Ashlee and Braden); step-daughter Wanda Pharris and her family: husband Mike, and children, Christopher Pharris, April Bolton (children Lake, Kanon and Averie), Bryan Pharris (wife Stefanie, children Braylon and Brooklyn) and Laurie Harrison (children Cody and Cooper); step-daughter Barbara George and her family: husband Skeet, and children, Jason (wife Storm) and Gina; step-granddaughters Angie and Christina; and many nieces and nephews.



Marie Matherly

Marie Matherly was born June 18, 1918, in Bengal to Daniel and Emily Blue. She was just shy of her 92nd birthday when she passed away on May 27, 2010, in Oklahoma City. She is survived by three daughters, Myra Dorety, Sondra Locke, and Karen Galloway, all of Edmond; 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Matherly, and her son, Jerry Matherly.

She was a member of the First Methodist Church of Edmond, Eastern Star, and was a Gold Star Mother with the local chapter of VFW. She was either 'Mom' or 'Grandma' to those whose lives she touched.



Chief Pyle is 2010 Red Earth Amabassador



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, 2010 Red Earth Ambassador, rides in the annual parade.



Sisters Mary Ann Allen, Betty Flurry and Joyce Robison are happy to Chief Pyle in Oklahoma City.



Miss Indian Oklahoma Dayla Amos is driven in the Red Earth parade by her dad, Councilman Mike Amos, and brother Andrew.



Choctaw Color Guard Rhonda Willmott, right, is pictured with Lt. Gov. Jari Askins.



Choctaw Senior Citizens gather for annual event



Hat winners in the men's division are first place, Jim Cox; second place, Roy Espenshade; and third place, William Johnson.



Women winners in the hat contest are first place, Sylvia Compton; second place, Eva Lanning; and third place, Shirley McLain.



Traditionally dressed Willahemina and Howard Bryant of Poteau speaks to Chief Gregory E. Pyle while waiting in line.



Durant Gospel Singers win first place.



Second place is the Gospel Singers from Broken Bow.



Idabel Senior Citizens win third place in the gospel singing contest.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle greets Garnett Metcalf and Patricia Barringer as they enter the Events Center for Senior Appreciation Day.



Linda Willis speaks with Assistant Chief Gary Batton as she walks by the information booths.

Wild Onion Dinner held in Wilburton



Candace Baker, 2007-08 first runner-up Miss Choctaw Nation, and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Juanita Gonzalez.



Councilman Joe Coley is pictured with Frances Daugherty, Margaret Rizer and Betty Thomas at Wilburton's Wild Onion Dinner on June 7.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Councilman Joe Coley and Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The Chief and Assistant Chief were given bolos with the Choctaw Seal.



Rep. Brian Renegar, right, honors William McCord as Oklahoma House of Representatives Veteran of the Week.



Chief Pyle visits with sisters Christen and Raven Noriega.



Assistant Chief Batton stops to say hello to Willhemina Bryant and son Kenneth Baker.



Chief Pyle and Ruthie Samuel, Martha Mackey and Aveline Wilson.



Bobby Coley and Jones Academy Administrator Brad Spears.

Stickball – the Choctaw national sport

Question:

I'm curious about the importance of stickball to Choctaw communities past and present. How was it used to settle disputes between communities? How was it played in the past? How is it played today?

Thanks, Gary

Answer:

Stickball has been the Choctaw national sport for unknown centuries. Generations of Choctaw boys have grown up, stickball sticks in hand, with aspirations of becoming famous players as young men. For hundreds of years, Choctaw women have also played the game; while big sections of communities have enjoyed watching these exciting contests and setting high stakes on their outcomes.

by other Tribes by having a handle with a square or rectangular cross section, and a cup that flairs outward towards the front. Hickory was and is a favorite wood for making the sticks, although others can be used. Lacings were traditionally made from raccoon or deer rawhide.

The two sticks used by each player are made to fit the left and right hands, with one being larger than the other. The larger, or male, stick is used for catching the ball, while the smaller, or female, stick is used for throwing it. In Choctaw thought, the ball is considered the child of the male and female sticks. The game itself represents a detailed microcosm of Choctaw family structure and gender roles and has been used as a basic teaching aid for the youth.



“Tukkoek-chish-ko, Drinks Juice of the Stone,” George Catlin 1834-1835.

In the Choctaw language, the game of stickball is known by the names kapucha or ish-taboli. According to at least one Choctaw oral tradition, it was created by a Choctaw man named Mosholeika (Swanton 2001:153). Stickball is described in written accounts of Choctaw communities that date back to the French period (e.g. Anonymous 1755), and it appears that by that point the game had already been a part of Choctaw life for a long time. Stickball games, basically similar to the Choctaw version, are played by most of the Southeastern Tribes, and are part of a much wider tradition of ball and stick games shared by Tribes all the way up into southeastern and south-central Canada.

Choctaw stickball is played on a large, flat field, called atoli in the Choctaw language. The size of the field is determined by the number of players. Early descriptions of Choctaw stickball mention playing fields anywhere from 100 yards to perhaps several miles in length. Today, the game is often played on a 100 yard football field.

A goal post is located at each end of the field. Today, the goal post, known as fabvssa, is usually a large pole set vertically into the ground. In the past, it was also sometimes made from two halves of a split log set vertically into the ground with their flat faces oriented towards the center of the field; sometimes it was made from three poles lashed together to form a structure somewhat like a soccer goal without the nets.

The total number of stickball players participating in a contest has never been important, as long as the numbers on each team are equal. George Catlin described a Choctaw stickball game in 1834, about six miles from the present town of Spiro, OK, in which the teams had several hundred players each (Catlin 1844). Other stickball contests have had twenty or fewer players on each side.

Stickball games were and are major community events, and a great deal of preparation usually accompanies them. In the past, games would often be planned between the leaders of two Choctaw communities months in advance. According to at least one source, they were arranged to coincide with the full moon of the summer months (Culin 1907:602). The games often accompanied diplomatic meetings, and their



Tuskahoma pottery class fires their pots. Pictured are Ryan Spring, Edna Johnico, Flying Clouds Moore, Carolyn Grigsby, Aialhi, Beloved Sharp, Taloa, Onna, Brian Moreland (co-instructor), Carla Perez, and Mary White.



Iti Fabvssa



Stickball game, Tvshkahomma Labor Day, 2007.

outcome is said to have sometimes been used to settle disputes between Choctaw communities.

Two documented instances exist of the Choctaw and Muscogee (Creeks) attempting to use a stickball game to settle land disputes around the last decade of the 1700s. One of these was over a productive beaver pond located near the Nuxabee River, in what is now Mississippi, the other, over a strip of land between the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers in what is now Alabama. Interestingly, both of these stickball games were highly contested and broiled into actual battles! A game between the Choctaws and Chickasaws in Oklahoma in 1903 led to a massive brawl that had to be broken up by Federal Marshalls and the Lighthorsemen (Busby 1962:34-35). Thereafter, stickball was officially banned in southeastern Oklahoma, but Tribal people continued to play the national sport anyway. Over the last 30 years the game has seen a major resurgence in Choctaw country.

Today, stickball games are played at major Tribal gatherings, such as the Choctaw Labor Day Festival and the Mississippi Choctaw Fair, held every July. The Stickball World Series tournament, hosted at the latter is arguably the biggest, most hotly contested Indigenous ballgame in the country. This year, a Choctaw

team from Oklahoma will be traveling there to compete against the best Mississippi Choctaw teams.

In the past, the day before a game was to take place, the two communities would make camp on opposite sides of the stickball field, bringing their own fires (Bossu 1768). Betting was traditionally a major part of the game, especially for the women. Items to be wagered were placed on the sideline near the center of the stickball field and watched. Families often kept their children away from the game area for fear that spells cast by the opposing team could cause them harm.

For days preceding the game, the players would observe certain fasts. The night before the game, they would be under the care of the team's alikchi, or Choctaw doctor. Prayers would be offered, and herbs ingested to purge the players' bodies and prepare them for the game.

In the past, a stickball dance was usually held before the game. Its exact form seems to have differed between communities and changed through time. During the 1800s, most stickball dances seem to have shared the following in common: a line of young women representing each team would come onto the field and each form two lines facing each other near their team's goalpost. They would dance and sing “Onnakma abihoke!”, “To-

morrow we will win!”. Then, the male players would rush onto the field from the woods, encircle their goalpost, striking it and shouting. This was often repeated twelve times during the night. Sometimes similar dances were also held on the morning of the game. The lyrics for two of the old songs sung on that day have been written down: “Himmak nittak achukma abihoke” meaning “Today is good; we will win it”, and; “Towa itonla achukma abihoke”, “The ball lies so handy, we will win it” (Halbert manuscript reproduced in Swanton 2001:148-149).

Traditional ball player dress included only a breecloth and perhaps paint made from clay. Players also often wore feathers or the tails of animals known for their swiftness. Today, players go barefoot and often wear jerseys and shorts.

Traditionally, the players arranged themselves into three strategic groups on the field. One group called hattak fabvssa or “pole men”, was located at their team's end of the field (Cushman1899:185). These players sought to throw the ball against their goal post, or to touch their sticks to the goal post while the ball was cupped between them. Either of these would score a point for their team. A second group of players was located near the center of the field. Their purpose was to get the ball and advance it towards their goal post. The third group, falamolichi, or “returners”, would stand at their opponent's goal post and try to prevent them from scoring. Basically similar strategy is used today.

In the past, as today, the game begins with a referee throwing up a jump ball at the center of the field. Players use their athleticism and every tactic possible to try to get the ball from their opponent and score a goal. It was and is an amazing scene: “In the ancient ball-play, the activity, fleetness, strength, and endurance of the ... Choctaw warrior and hunter, were more fully exemplified than anywhere else; for there he brought into the most severe action every power of soul and body” (Cushman 1899:189). During the game, each team's alikchi would stand near their goal post and attempt to call the ball to himself. Following an old Choctaw belief that the sun shining on a person helps him to be successful, the alikchi would sometimes take a reflective object and focus it on his players (Halbert in Swanton).

In the past, the only rules were that players could not touch the ball with their hands and that they could not head butt each other. Fatalities were common in those early games. Today, other rules about blocking and tackling have been added to protect the players, although broken bones still happen. Even after a vicious hit, players are expected to jump up and keep playing; showing weakness to opposing team is seen as a loss of one's dignity. Choctaw stickball players are also trained to keep their cool on the field, and fights were and are much less common than in a modern NFL game. Traditionally, women helped the male players from the sideline, during the game passing out drinks, and whipping the players with cane switches to help them get psyched up and maintain their mental edge (Cushman 1899:188).

Sometimes the game is and was played to a certain number of points, other times to a time limit. In the past, the score was often kept by sticking a wooden peg in the ground each time a point was made; today it is sometimes kept on an electronic scoreboard. After one team scores, the referee again throws up a jump ball at the center of the field.

When the time limit or top score is reached, the game is over. After the men's game is concluded, the women often pickup sticks and play (c.f. Bossu 1768). In years past, after the game successful betters took their new property home, while the successful players and teams were recognized as heroes by their communities. Now, players and fans usually find themselves back in work or school the following morning.

In 1899, Horatio Cushman predicted that the game of Choctaw stickball would soon be dead (189). He was dead wrong. Today, stickball is enjoying a major resurgence. This ancient and passionate game is bringing more excitement to more Choctaw communities than it has at any time in the past 100 years. We invite you to come to the Labor Day festival and watch or play in a stickball game, or come to the Mississippi Choctaw Fair and root for our Oklahoma Team. We think you will enjoy the experience!

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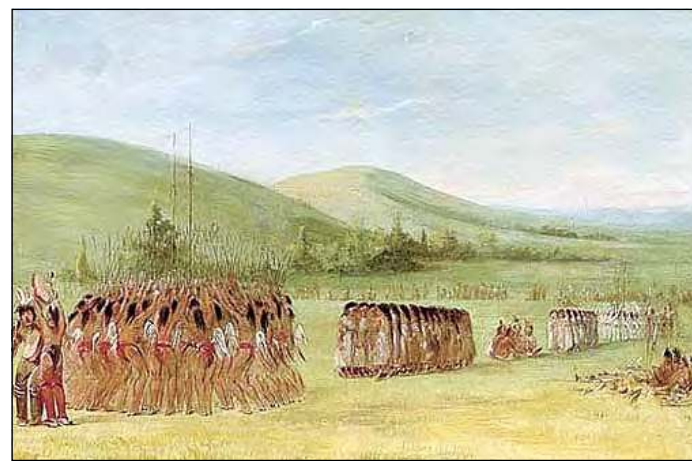
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Please mail your questions to Iti Fabvssa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.com with “Iti Fabvssa” in the subject line.



“Ball-play Dance,” Choctaw, George Catlin 1834-1835.

Choctaw Traditional Pottery Class

DURANT
July 18th, August 1st, August 15th
5:30-9:30 PM
Special Projects Building, 4451 Choctaw Rd.

POTEAU
July 19th, August 2nd, August 16th
5-9:30 p.m.
Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

IDABEL
July 20th, August 3rd, August 17th
12:30-4:30 p.m.
Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

ATOKA
July 22nd, August 5th, August 19th
5:30-9:30 p.m.
Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Rd.

COALGATE
August 2nd
6-10 p.m.
meet at Coalgate Field Office, 103 E. California Ave.

Answer to last month's crossword puzzle

