



Continuing publication
of recorded interviews of
Choctaw elders from 2007

This month – Ward Morrison
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Honoring
Choctaw
veterans

Pages 14-15



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CHOCTAW NATION

BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

July 2011 Issue Serving 207,346 Choctaws Worldwide Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success



Photo provided
JANIE DILLARD

Dillard named ‘Great Woman of Gaming’

Janie Dillard, executive director of gaming for the Choctaw Nation, has been honored as one of this year’s “Great Women in Gaming.” Hosted by Casino Enterprise Management magazine, the leading gaming industry trade publication and training event producer, and the “Official Publication” of the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM), the annual awards program honors female gaming executives for outstanding professionalism, perseverance, drive, commitment and mentorship.

“On behalf of the entire Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, we are proud to have Janie named as one of the Great Women of Gaming,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “Having been employed with Choctaw Casinos for more than 20 years – starting out as a bingo clerk and advancing to her current position of executive director – it is an honor for me personally to see Janie recognized by the national gaming community for her professional excellence and unconditional loyalty to our tribe and our casinos.”

“All of these women have much to be proud of, and Casino Enterprise Management is extremely honored to award them this recognition and share their stories with our audience,” said Peter Mead, publisher of Casino Enterprise Management magazine.

An in-depth article featuring profiles of this year’s 11 award winners will be featured in the August 2011 issue of Casino Enterprise Management. The winners will also receive a prestigious crystal Great Women of Gaming Award and the chance to be featured in a CEM Audio Edge podcast. For more information about the Great Women of Gaming Awards, visit www.greatwomenofgaming.com.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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



The BISKINIK is printed on recycled paper.

Choctaw Days festival draws record crowds to Smithsonian

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma partnered with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to hold the first-ever Choctaw Days in Washington, D.C. The four-day event in June brought in thousands of visitors, many of them tribal members who were happy to be a part of the historical event.

Each day of the festival featured traditional dancing, music, singing, food, art and demonstrations.

“It was a great opportunity to share our heritage,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “Tribal members traveled from as far as California to be a part of Choctaw Days. Our tribal history and culture have been shared with people from all across the United States and dozens of other countries.”



■ Choctaw Days pull-out photo section on Pages 9-12

Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton, both in red shirts, are joined by presenters and visitors in a snake dance on the opening day of the festival in front of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Paving traction for the tread: Choctaw Nation Transportation

By **BRET MOSS**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Traveling through the state of Oklahoma, the grandest sights and best scenes cannot be spotted from the likes of the interstate; they are only accessible via the side streets and rural roads.

These streets are essential, not only for great views and exploration, but for the transportation needs of the inhabitants of the rural communities. They are used on a daily basis for the necessity of the population, from the daily commute to emergency trips to hospitals.

Within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Transportation Department is charged with improving the roads used by members of the Choctaw Nation. Led by Executive Director Wayne Wylie and Director Bill Blankenship, the Transportation Department has been responsible for

miles upon miles of roads within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation for some years now.

In the words of Blankenship, “We oversee building of all the roads within the Choctaw Nation.” The department is funded by federal dollars from the Federal Highway Administration and the BIA. They partner with the state and county as much as possible on all of the road projects, to get the most miles built in the most efficient way.

Currently, there are three projects that were funded by Federal Stimulus money. The Council House North road at the capitol of the Choctaw Nation, Bentley Road in Atoka County and the streets of Wilburton. These are special monies appropriated to the Transportation Department over and above the normal appropriation. These stimulus funds were made available by the Obama administration to boost the

economy and provide jobs.

A notable stretch of road for which the Transportation Department had a hand was Highway 144. We partnered with the state and constructed a road from Bethel to Honobia in a five-year project to help the Bethel residents and residents in this area from having to take another lengthy route to reach the Choctaw Nation hospital in Talihina.

Though the Transportation Department’s main goal is to serve the Choctaw people, they make it a point to partner with the state, as in the situation with 144, because with a combined interest in the project, more money can be allocated to it, resulting in more miles of roads with a reduced construction time.

Over the past three years, 96 miles of road have been built in the Choctaw Nation, along with numerous other projects such as parking lots and walking tracks. The miles are

divided among the districts to make sure everyone gets the benefits of the Transportation Department. As of this date, some counties have received over 20 miles of road, with other counties waiting to receive an equal amount or more in the near future.

Blankenship describes the process as a long one, taking about three or four years. “It’s not something you can get done in a year,” said Blankenship as he described the intricate process. The first step to getting a road on the agenda is contacting the Councilperson who oversees their district; the Councilperson decides whether the proposed road is both necessary and financially feasible.

If the Councilperson feels it is necessary it is brought to the Council, who will then take the request to the Transportation Department. From here, it will be analyzed to find all the specifics on what it will take to create

See **ROADS** Page 5



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation Adult Education Program holds GED graduation

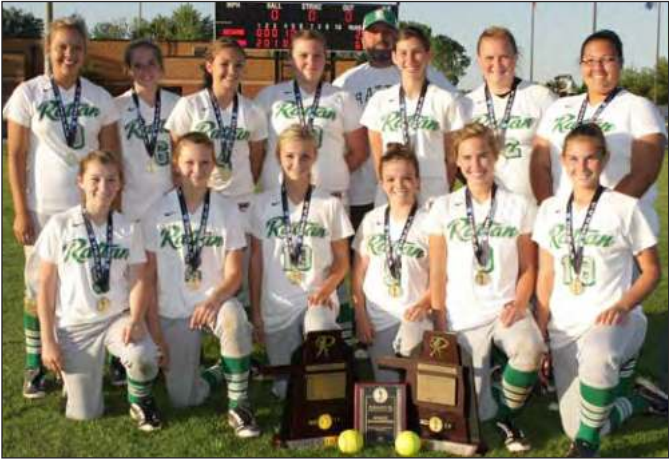
The Choctaw Nation Adult Education Program held a graduation ceremony for its GED recipients on June 10 at Eastern Oklahoma State University in Wilburton.

Pictured in no particular order is the proud graduating class of students, Levi Adair, Ellen Amos, Misty Armstrong, Jaron Baker, Floyd Ball, Terry Barkhiemer, Terry Battiest, Shannon Bays, Autumn Beagles, Shavonne Beagles, Robert Beesler, Matthew Billy, Shania Billy, David Boggs, Jim Bowen, Shepanie Brewer, Allana Brown, Julya Buckner, Dakota Callahan, Jordan Carneyt, Ryan Carpenter, Anthony Chavira, Thomas Christy Jr., Matthew Churchwell, Christopher Cleckler, Stacy Colbert, Cody Cook, Kike Cook, Amanda Crews, Cory Cross, Jericah Deramus, Tuesday Dickens, Acea Duran, Carla Enriquez, Emerald Finley, Joseph Ford, Caitlyn Franklin, Leslie Gibson, Tiffany Gilmore, Shyla Gullick, LeeAnn Harjo, Otho Head, James Hendrix, Dylan Henson, Brian Hernandez, Miquel Hernandez, Douglas Hilburn, Maekayla Holloway, Lona Howard, Paul Inacio Jr., Athina Jefferson, Jacob Jones, Tracy Jordan, Natasha Lawrence, Joseph Lawrence, Lisa Le-

flore, Megan Long, Dakota Mantaghi, Jerrica Martin, Jennifer Massey, Kelly McCoy, Jodie McKinney, Cynthia McReynolds, Derek Meaders, Gloria Melton, Shenia Mick, Keyrene Moffitt, David Montes, Michael Montgomery, Sherry Ann Montgomery, Jessica Mulligan, Cheyenne Murray, Jeri Myers, Derek Myers, Emily Myers, Elizabeth Nicholls, Tony Pelayo, Colton Pickens, Caleigh Poole, Megan Powless, Jerald Renteria, Jill Robinson, Kayleena Routh, Kori Royal, Della Sam, Christine Simpson, Amy Smallwood, Heather Steer, Tracy Strain II, Jason Sulser, Ashley Thielen, Gary Thomas, Dalton Thomas, Josephine Tiger, Justin Tisho, Sarah Trevino, Tessa Tucker, Jo Eva Underwood, Donna Valdez, Natasha Warden, Sierra Watson, Trevor White, Kaitlynn Whitson, Ashton Williams, Kimberly Williams, Jeanita Wilmoth, Klent Wolf and Jeri Wolfenbarger.

Teaching the courses were Vicky Alford, Martha Childs and Charles Thompson, with Charles Clark as the GED examiner. The Adult Education staff includes Joy Culbreath, executive education director, Neal Hawkins, adult education director, and Kathy Springfield, administrative assistant.

NOTES TO THE NATION



2010-11 Rattan Lady Rams softball team – back row from left, Jaimie Williams, Paige Pillars, Kayli Winship, Macy Williams, Coach Paul Watts, Lyndsi Winship, Jadyn Gibbs and Makayln Harley; front row, Megan Birchfield, Jordan Awtry, Brenna House, Kenya Griffith, Carleigh Crowley and Stephany Roden.

State champions say thank you

The Rattan Lady Rams softball team had a great year. They relied on their coaches and teachers for instructions and guidance and each other for leadership and encouragement. They also relied on their community for loyalty and support, which has been given through attending ballgames, speaking positively within the community and contributing financially.

Through their efforts and dedication, they were able to achieve the goals they’d set. On the field, they became Slow-Pitch State Champions. In the classroom, they earned the State Academic Team Championship title. With the Choctaw Nation they were able to obtain state championship rings to help honor, celebrate and remember these special achievements. They would like to humbly thank the Choctaw Nation for its assistance and for helping them celebrate their success.

Appreciation

The expressions of concern for Sarah Belvin through prayers, phone calls, food, flowers and visits are sincerely appreciated. A special thanks to Dr. Rowland and staff, Encompass Home Health, Tri-County Hospice, the Good Springs Presbyterian Church, Miller and Miller Funeral Home, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson, Choctaw Nation employees including Community Health Representative Patricia Ensey and Brenda James. They made many welcome contributions during our period of loss.

The family of Sarah Belvin

Thank you

Hanna Corsello and Rose Wadlow would like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, Richard Adams and Roger Scott for giving them the opportunity to learn and teach the Choctaw language. They are both looking forward to teaching the children and adults in the Sulphur and Pauls Valley areas.

Important address information

Please ensure that all correspondence mailed to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is marked with the correct address: **P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702**. The post office in Durant has received several pieces of mail addressed to the physical address of the tribal headquarters recently, which lacks a mail receptacle. Any mail sent to the physical address instead could possibly be lost or returned to sender. Anyone with questions can contact the Choctaw Nation Mail Center staff at 800-522-6170.

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

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If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you. Address changes can be made by calling (800) 522-6170, ext. 2116.

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BISKINIK’ 2011

Seeking realtives

I am the mother of Caroline J. Hawkin, who passed away March 4, 2011. I am trying to locate her half-sister, Ida Shelton, and brother to tell them, but I don’t have their current contact information. She also has another sister, Nickie Mickle, in Spokane, Wash. If you have any information, please conatct me, Lola Neeley, at S. 10th Ave. Yakima, WA 98902 or at 509-457-3346.

Thank you from veteran

I am a World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. I’d like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the use of buses to the Tulsa Airport for the Oklahoma Honor Flight, which left Tulsa on June 8 for a trip to Washington, D.C. I’d also like to say thank you for furnishing the prestigious Honor Guard for the flag ceremony during the program. They were very professional and exacting and did a wonderful job of adding so much to this program with their expertise. Again, many thanks, and I would like you to know that I am very proud of my Choctaw heritage.

Wallace B. Henry

Proud of Choctaw family

My name is Ginger Stevens and I am part Choctaw through my great-great-grandmother. My grandmother’s name is Lucille Haire Cates, born in Laurel, Miss. Her ancestors immigrated through the Bahamas and part of the group sailed to Nova Scotia. She is now buried in the cemetery at Fort Sill next to her second husband, Chief Warrant Officer Travis Cates of Edom, Texas. They had two children, Michael James and Diane, who are adopted from Pennsylvania.

My parents met in Fort Sill in 1954. My father was serving in the Army and my mother lived on the base. He is from Illinois and I was born in Joliet, Ill. His father was from Waterloo, Iowa.

Michael lives in Knoxville, Tenn., and Diane resides in Lawton. Michael works Christian churches and is a musician.

My grandfather, Coy Wyatt Reeves, is also from Laurel. Originally, both families had migrated over to northeast Texas when they were young. Coy is buried in Shreveport, La. He has two children, Rickie and Vickie, with his wife, Gladys.

My grandmother has one living sibling, her younger sister, Mary Taylor, who lives in Albuquerque.

I am looking forward to a time when I can visit places in the south and learn more about my ancestry, since it is very important to me.

Thank you for support

I would like to express a thank you to the Choctaw Nation, Larry Wade and everyone at the Higher Education Department for the assistance I received as a student at the University of Oklahoma. I graduated with a BBA in Finance in May and the assistance I received truly helped me accomplish my graduation. Empowering the Choctaw people with the chance of higher education is what makes the Choctaw Nation great. An investment in education can only draw dividends for the Choctaw Nation, which will help the nation grow and continue to excel. Again, thank you very much for the support.

Jordan Ham

CAB participant says thank you

I just wanted to thank you for all the wonderful programs that you offer. I just closed on my house yesterday, and I am officially a homeowner! The Choctaw Asset Building Program has been great. Not only does it help people with closing costs and down payment for a home, it is also a great incentive with the matched funds to get in the habit of saving. Right when I got paid every month, a check went straight to my savings account. I was always excited to see my statement from CAB every month showing my account plus my matched funds; it was great to watch my money grow. Even though my CAB account was closed to use for a down payment and closing costs, I am still in the habit of sending money straight to savings when I get paid.

My home-buying experience was definitely a learning experience and it had many ups and downs. It was quite stressful at times, but I knew if I had any questions I could call anyone involved with CAB. I definitely took advantage of that, and I spoke with them numerous times. They answered my questions, helped explain things and were a sounding board if I was frustrated with the process and helped talk me through everything. I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the help I received from your staff, especially Dawn Hix and Janie Joplin.

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the opportunity to be involved with a program like CAB. Not only did I become a homeowner quicker because of the CAB program’s matched funds, but the classes required in the program helped reshape my mindset on money, and I am definitely in a much more stable position financially because of it.

Thank you for your leadership and making these programs available to the people of the Choctaw Nation.

Kamie Case

Thank you from Tushka mayor

After the April 14th Tushka tornado, the Choctaw Nation was one of the first groups on the scene to help. Food, ice, water and repair supplies were all provided. In addition, chefs provided meals on site for workers and victims at Tushka City Hall and later at Tushka Baptist Church. The heavy equipment and chainsaw crews also helped a great deal in cleaning debris. The historic preservation team did a great job on cleaning our cemetery.

We appreciated your sponsorship of the Reba McIntire/Blake Shelton concert. The Thursday night performance that I attended was great. One hundred percent of the funds from this event is earmarked for tornado victims benefits. Anthony Dillard was a valuable resource we could count on for help. He always came through when we needed something. The people of the Choctaw Nation can be proud of Mr. Dillard. He presented them very well.

Our town could not have a better friend than the Choctaw Nation. You came through and helped during our time of need. Thank you for being here when we needed you.

Brickie Griffin, Mayor, Town of Tushka

Events

Mountain Fork Gospel Singing

The Mountain Fork Gospel Singing Convention is held on the third Saturday of January and July (July 16) at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Smithville. Morning singing begins at 10 a.m., a potluck meal will be held at noon and the afternoon singing will be at 1 p.m. For questions contact president and vice president Ben and Helen Caldwell at 580-244-7370 or secretary/treasurer Meg Scott at 580-244-3073.

SANAO Pow Wow

November 5-6, 2011

Location: The Rocking “R” Arena
3864 Morning Star Rd.
El Dorado, Arkansas

Come join us in a traditional Native American event! There will be traditional Native American dancing, singing and lots of vendors. Lunch and supper will be provided.

Admission

Adults and Children (12 & up) - \$6 per day
OR \$10 for a two-day pass
Children (1-11) - FREE

South Arkansas Native American Organization -
“Committed to Cultural Preservation and Education”

Directions: Take 19th Street northwest out of El Dorado. 19th becomes Morning Star at the city limits. Continue straight on Morning Star Road. The arena is five miles past the city limits on the right.

This is a family oriented event, no drugs or alcohol allowed.

Lewis Armstrong reunion held

On June 11-12, the 24th annual Lewis Armstrong family reunion was held at Harmony School cafeteria. The Indian dishes that were shared were banaha (shuck bread) made by Gayle Sapp, and Floy Crawford and Pam Tipps furnished the pashofa. A great time of fellowship was had by all. It was enjoyable to hear the elders tell about the activities, pranks and other things they did while growing up. This year the attendance was down to 25 people due to illness, deaths and distance. Next year will be the silver reunion, so the family prays that all will be well with family members and possibly a record number will attend. The ones attending from Atoka were Gary and Eva Armstrong, Hildred Marlow, Darrell and Marleah Cochran and Alene Lowe. Marleah has been coming so long that she said, “I think I have finally grown to like the shuck bread!”

From Choctaw, Okla., Brenda Brown attended. Floy Crawford of Jones attended as well. Hildred Marlow has been away from home and Brenda and Floy brought her to the reunion, and everyone was glad to see her. Attending from Lehigh were Bonita Martin-Price and Sherman and Delloise Armstrong. Mustang residents attending were Billy Armstrong, Faye Ayers and Pam Tipps. From Oklahoma City were Darrell and Gayle Sapp and Zach Armstrong. Tushka residents included Gary W. and Lori Armstrong and Chandra Potter and her two daughters, Ciara and Presli Sherrard. From Yukon were Scarlet Swails and her two grandchildren, Brooklyn and Corey Swails II.

Everyone had an enjoyable time and the family is looking forward to next year, praying for a larger attendance. The Lewis Armstrong reunion started in 1985 at Boggy Depot then moved to Cedar Circle in Atoka. From there it moved to Harmony School cafeteria.

Thankful for language course

I graduated from Phase I of the Chahta Language course and just wanted to thank the Choctaw Nation, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and everyone in the Language Department as well as all the people who have made this opportunity possible. Our teachers were Joyce Cooper and Kathy Lee and they were patient and very encouraging. I look forward to Phase II.

It was also very encouraging to have representatives of the Language Department, especially Richard Adams, Roger Scott, young Nicolas and their staff members come all the way here and speak to us in Choctaw, present us with our certificates and take pictures. It shows me how committed they are to ensuring our native tongue by helping and supporting others who want to learn.

Again, many thanks for the dinner, bag of goodies and mostly the support and encouragement. Yakoke!

Sarah J. Wade
Sterling, Okla.

Thankful for exceptional service

My parents and I recently visited your office while traveling to Joplin for my uncle’s funeral. My father, sister and I were able to update and receive new CDIB cards and have photos taken for new IDs. My sister and I both had to obtain the full-form birth certificates before getting the new IDs. I also picked up the paperwork to get my children enrolled. Your staff, in addition to the receptionist and bookstore staff, extended the most hospitable and warm welcome I’ve ever experienced anywhere, and I was born and raised in Texas, where we pride ourselves on hospitality and friendliness. Please let them know how much we appreciated their exceptional level of customer service.

Nancy Gail Mills Mackey

Praise for Biskinik

It is with a great deal of pleasure when I speak of the Biskinik, as it recently contained a story about women.

Women are the givers and supporters of life. In my family, Arbuckle and Anderson, this has been played out over and over again. One particular time it reminds me of is World War II. Prior to that time, the family men were charged with providing our daily fare and the general wellbeing of the family. When the war started, my mother, Tess Arbuckle Anderson, and her sisters joined the war effort and worked in the defense industry by building aircraft and munitions.

The Biskinik story reminded me to remember and be grateful for the members of my family, especially the females, and how they have persevered through the years and triumphed in life. Thank you for bringing this story to us, and thank you to Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton for their continued leadership and providing us with such a great publication.

Hampton W. Anderson

Viewing original Choctaw treaties at National Archives

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It was an emotional experience to view some of the original treaties between the Choctaws and the United States government. Realizing that this was a rare opportunity, I was anxious to see the documents that had signed our Mississippi homelands over to the United States, sending our ancestors along the Trail of Tears. In preparation for this appointment, we had placed a request on behalf of the tribal government weeks in advance to see the original papers. The treaties are kept in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., in a small room with extremely high security.

Entering the archives, we were met by a host, one of only four people with a key to the secure room holding the treaties. She checked our identifications against our reservations and then led us through a maze of security checkpoints to the vault with the treaties. One by one, seven treaties dealing with our tribe were laid out for view.

Each of the official documents shown us were very different in size and appearance. The first treaty we saw was the Fort Confederation on the Tombigbee Treaty of 1802, which redefined boundaries and ceded 10,000 acres of land in Mississippi. Signatures of many of the Choctaw representatives were simply an “X” with a representative putting their name beside the X. The second treaty was dated Nov. 16, 1805, and gave a cession of Tombigbee River and redefined the English treaty of 1765.

With heart pounding so loud I thought everyone in the room could hear, the next treaty I gazed on was Dancing Rabbit Creek



– Sept. 27, 1830. This is the first removal treaty. About 11 million acres in Mississippi were ceded in exchange for about 15 million acres in Indian Territory. Shortly following, the Choctaws began the very first Trail of Tears, emigrating in three main stages, the fall of 1831, again in 1832 and 1833.

Under this treaty, Choctaws who chose to remain in Mississippi were allowed to become United States citizens – the first major tribal people to gain United States citizenship.

We saw several other treaties, but none compared in emotion to viewing the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Thousands of Choctaws died along the Trail of Tears as a result of this treaty and the ensuing removal.

Although the original treaties are kept under lock and key, the text of these documents can be read in books and on the Internet. For people who wish to research treaties dealing with Choctaw Nation, here are some of the dates to look for:

- Hopewell Treaty, 1786
- Fort Adams Treaty, 1801
- Fort Confederation Treaty, 1802
- Hoe Buckintoopa Treaty, 1803
- Mount Dexter Treaty, 1805
- Fort St. Stephens Treaty, 1816
- Doaks Stand Treaty, 1820
- Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty, 1830
- Camp Holmes Treaty, 1835
- Doaksville Treaty, 1854
- Choctaw and Chickasaw Treaty, 1866

Our treaties are so important they are kept in the same small vault as the first acts of the very first Congress of the United States. We were privileged to see the first public law passed by the first Congress, oaths of office for the first Senate and House of Representatives. This was a huge parchment, signed by President George Washington and John Adams. I was awed to see such documents shelved beside our treaties, and proud to know that our Choctaw history is housed in the same prestigious and secure environment as the United States treasures!

Congressional Cemetery final resting place for two honored Choctaw chiefs

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The Tribal Council recently accompanied the Chief and me to Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., to visit the final resting place of former Choctaw Chiefs Pushmataha and Peter Pitchlynn. This was an awesome experience to have our current tribal leaders walking through such rich history of the United States government, which includes our own tribesmen. Congressional Cemetery has about 55,000 graves other than our two chiefs, including 76 members of Congress, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, generals and commandants, Supreme Court justices, vice presidents and administration cabinet officials. This historic cemetery pre-dates Arlington Cemetery by 70 years, and a visit here is worthy of a walking tour through the grounds.

Chief Pushmataha died in 1824 while in Washington seeking payment of debts owed by the government to the Choctaws. The United States government, under orders from the president, purchased a site for him at the Congressional Cemetery. His funeral procession, led by Senator Andrew Jackson, was reported to have been over one mile long. Pushmataha had requested that, “the big guns be fired over me,” so at the conclusion of the ceremony, cannons were fired in his honor. The military has continued that tradition, but it is now called a 21-gun salute.

Chief Peter Pitchlynn died in 1881, and was a prominent tribal member. He strove to keep the Choctaw Nation neutral during the Civil War. He had served as Chief from 1864 until 1866, and then moved to Washington, where he worked to press Choctaw claims for lands sold to the United States in 1830. Other Choctaws buried in Congressional Cemetery include Pitchlynn’s children, Sophia, Thomas, Samson and Lee, and a grandson, Emmett Kennedy.



Pitchlynn had a lifetime’s connection with the United States’ government – his father, John, had been George Washington’s interpreter for negotiations with the Choctaws. The Chief, Council and I were all excited to be able to see the tombstones of these two Chiefs. We were even able to talk to a descendant of Pitchlynn – R.D. Folsom was at the cemetery and visited with us about his ancestor. Our tribal history is fascinating and each new thing I learn helps me stay enthused about reading and researching more information about the Choctaw Nation heritage!

I am especially mindful in finding an understanding about these important Chiefs of our history and how their decisions (and the decisions of other tribal leaders of our past) have affected our tribe. This awareness makes me very appreciative of the importance of ALL decisions made by the Chief, Council and leaders of our tribe today. Their decisions will have a profound effect for generations to come.

Our Council and Chief have a tremendous responsibility and I take this opportunity to say “thank you” to all of them for being willing to serve our tribal members.



Choctaw Nation: KAREN JACOB

Roger Scott presented Choctaw Language teaching certificates to Hanna Williams, Rosemary Wadlow, Hannah Carsillo, Anthony White and Thomas A. Williston at the June Tribal Council meeting. Pictured with the new teachers are Council members Kenny Bryant, Delton Cox and Thomas Williston.

Tribal Council meets in regular June session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met on June 11 in regular session at Tushka Homma. Tribal Council Speaker Delton Cox called the meeting to order, welcomed guests and then asked for committee reports. After committee reports were given the Tribal Council addressed new business. The first order of business was to present five new Choctaw Language teacher certificates. Roger Scott from the Choctaw Language Department presented the certificates to Hanna Williams, Rosemary Wadlow, Hannah Carsillo, Anthony White and Thomas A. Williston. The Council also:

- Approved the disposition of assets from the Housing Authority;
- Approved two revocable permits and one

recreational lease;

- Applied for Public Prevention Health Fund’s Community Transformation Grant;
- Approved funds and budget for the continuation of Tribal Transit Program Grant and the FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Grant
- Approved budget for Choctaw Nation Child Care Development Fund;
- Amend CB-100-10 for Johnson O’Malley;
- Approved the NAHASDA 2012 Indian Housing Plan.

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

Chaplain’s Corner

Out of the darkness

I appreciate your prayers for our Native American people. Continue to pray for America and for our leaders.

The Gospel is the good news of salvation, the message that can bring you out of the darkness and bring you into the light (Acts 26:18)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the story of God’s love. God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. (John 3:16)

Many Christians today sense and can see there is something radically wrong in the churches but cannot see what is causing it.

The messages in many pulpits are one of promoting a program rather than preaching what the Bible says, what the Bible says about sin, the penalty of sin and God’s answer to these problems.

And also the teaching of the Bible that Jesus Christ will come again. Jesus will come back to Earth in the same manner He went to Heaven. How did He go to Heaven?

We read this record in the book of Acts 1:9-11, just after the commission to His disciple to evangelize the world:

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven.”

Yes, Jesus is coming back to earth. We do not know the time of Jesus coming but we do have signs. One of the signs we read about in Matthew Chapter 25 is “wars.” What causes wars? James asks this same question in James 4:1:

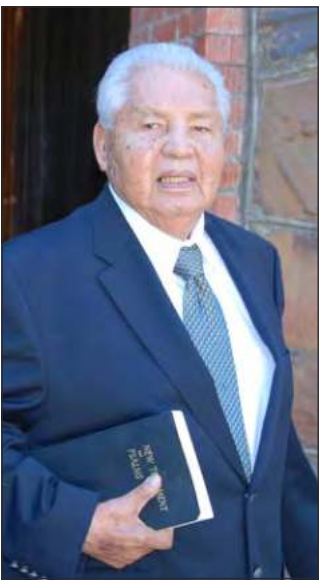
“From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lust that war in your members?”

So we learn that war comes from greed and lust and this is sin, because there is sin in the heart.

So we see here that man’s problem is not a social or an economic one. That is, you cannot change a man by giving him a good house to live in, a good paying job, lots of clothes, a new car. But the problem is a spiritual one.

In the Old Testament we read in Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Only you and God know your heart. That is the reason Jesus said “ye must be born again.” (John 3:7). There is nothing



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

a man can do to please God until he has been born of the Spirit of God.

Even today you can trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and be born again into God’s family. You do this by faith in His finished work on the cross. You can pray something like this: “God, I realize I am a sinner, I receive Jesus Christ as my Savior.”

To trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior means to be born again into the family of God – born into a spiritual life. Food for spiritual

life is the Word of God. We study the Bible for spiritual growth.

Peter wrote in his first letter, First Peter 3:15:

“But Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

There is one thing by which a Christian is going to stand or fall. And that is his reality with God. Are the marks of the Holy Spirit’s power about him in his daily walk? Is there a clear ring to his testimony that the people cannot dispute the fact the man is close to God?

Here is something that Paul said in First Corinthians 9:16: “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”

Have we maintained a clear testimony through the years of our life as a Christian, one who is maintaining an unblemished testimony? You have not let down the standards and you are taking the gospel message out to an ungodly world. But do they see above all a man or woman who is triumphing in his personal walk because he is not allowing the flesh with its appetites to dominate his life, a man living under the control of the Spirit of God? These are the authentic marks of Christian experience.

But the Apostle Paul could never have expressed those things in his life were it not that within him was the indwelling life of the risen Lord Jesus Christ which enabled him to do so.

Again it is only the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) that will give us victory. John writes in John 1:12: “But as many as received him, to them he gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

Will you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior?

May God continue to bless you. Yakkoke! (thank you) for your prayers.

Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

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

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

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



Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority introduces a ‘Going Lean’ initiative

The rising cases of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and other diseases linked to poor nutrition and obesity among Indian peoples has long been a concern to the Choctaw Nation. A recent State of the Nation’s Health Report (2010) demonstrates a growing frequency of these health problems, and they are occurring in younger and younger tribal members. Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, the Tribal Council and the Health Services Authority have all agreed that something has to be done to break this trend. To that end, the Choctaw Nation “Going Lean” initiative was established in October 2010.

The Going Lean Team currently consists of 30 members from throughout the Choctaw Nation, including wellness centers, health system, health providers, diabetic educators, community health, Talihina Youth Center staff, Youth Advisory staff, clinic directors, hospital cafeteria staff, Outreach staff, Lifetime Legacy and Behavioral Health, IT staff, and CN Epidemiology/ Statisticians. Their main focus is on obesity prevention

and promoting healthy lifestyles. Program Director Tammie Cannady is determined to make a generational change within the Choctaw Nation that will greatly reduce the incidence of disease among our people. “We will be targeting Choctaws of all ages, through outreach with staff surveys, partnerships with the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute at the University of Washington, and reaching out to the entire area through community forums,” she states. “Our goal is healthy people, strong nation.”

Other plans include establishing weight loss clubs and exercise classes; gardening programs to develop community gardens and farmers markets, and to illustrate healthy ways to cook traditional foods; public school programs focused as early as preschool; and even lifestyle/ motivational counseling. The Going Lean Team is also



working on developing a line of walking and cooking videos. “As each of these products is readied and made available to our communities, we expect to see real change among our tribal members,” says Cannady. “And since Going Lean is a fluid program, we will be able to take feedback from the participants and use it to focus on specific needed areas, or even to expand to new ones.”

Within the Nation itself, the Going Lean Team will be conducting employee surveys, working with food services/cafeterias to find healthier food options, and encouraging plenty of health

activities. Expect to see more Healthy Living articles in the Biskinik, as well as educational materials in community centers, Head Starts and clinics.

The Choctaw Nation recognizes that the future of our people depends upon the health and advancement of our youth.

By introducing the Going Lean program now, it is the hope that a new, healthier lifestyle will become a natural part of our lives, and that we will continue to teach these ways to our future children “unto the seventh generation.” Living a healthier lifestyle depends on us for the generations to come.

NURSERY NEWS

Ava Hornsly

Ava Grace Hornsly was born on June 26, 2010, to Robert and Brenna Hornsly of Biloxi, Miss. Eddie and Sheralyn (Buxton) Hornsly are her grandparents. Maude (Cook) Buxton is her great-grandma who lives in Oregon, but was there to welcome her into the happy home.



Tucker Ingle

Tucker Gage Ingle was born at 6:08 p.m. on June 10, 2011, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Tucker weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces and measured 19.3 inches long. Parents are Larry and Michelle Ingle of LeFlore. Big brother is Trystan Ingle, also of LeFlore. Grandparents are Melanie Morris of Talihina and the late Larry Ingle Sr. of LeFlore.



Isreal Cerda-Cotanny

Isreal Rey Blu Cerda-Cotanny was born on Jan. 27, 2011, weighing 5 pounds 11 ounces and measuring 18 inches. He was welcomed home by his parents, Martha Cotanny and Richard Cerda of Oklahoma City; brother Quiton; sister Lupita; grandmother Jeanette Kemp of Oklahoma City; and many family members and friends.



Healthy tips for active play

Your child loves to move! Encourage your child to play actively several times each day. Active play for children can happen in short bursts of time and can be led by you or your child. Active play can include playing on a playground, playing tag with friends, or throwing a ball.

How can you raise an active child?

- Make active play fun for the whole family – let your child help plan the fun.
- Focus on fun, not performance – all children like to play, they will win when they move, have fun and are active daily.

WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

- Set limits on TV and computer time – limit TV and other screen time to less than two hours a day, as advised by many doctors. Try reading during inactive time rather than watching TV.
- Be active yourself – active parents tend to raise active children. You influence your child’s behavior, attitudes, and future habits. Be more active and limit your own time watching TV.

Why is active play important? Active play helps your child learn healthy habits. There are many health benefits of active play, such as:

- Active children are less likely to weigh too much.
- Keeping your child active now helps lower the chance of developing chronic diseases like Type 2 diabetes.
- Activities, like running and jumping rope, help your child learn movement skills to develop muscles and strong bones.
- Active play can also help the mind develop. Playing “pretend” lets kids be cre-

ative.

- Active children are more likely to be happy and feel good about themselves. Children feel proud after learning how to bounce a ball or ride a bike.


Children love to move and play, and learn new activities. There are so many activities that you can do with your child to encourage active play...dancing, family walks, playing catch or kick ball, playing hide and seek... the fun and games ideas are endless! Keep in mind that active play helps create happy, healthy habits that last a lifetime!

Recipe of the Month: Summer Wraps

Ingredients:
2-3 Tortillas (tortillas come in a variety of flavors – wheat, garden, spinach, etc.)
2-3 Slices of Deli Ham
2-3 Slices of American Cheese

Preparations:
Layer all ingredients on your tortilla and microwave until cheese melts. Roll up and eat!

To add flavor add fresh garden vegetables such as a tomato, lettuce or onions.

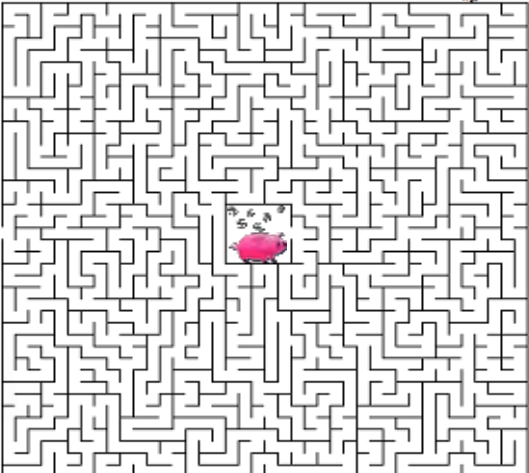
Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN			
			
SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-5264	8:30-4:00	Every Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30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

Summer Tips

- If the weather allows, shut off your air conditioning at night and open the windows. Remember that the elderly, disabled and young children are more sensitive to slight temperature changes and are at higher risk of heat stroke.
 - Use a ventilation fan when taking a shower to remove heat from the bathroom. Also if you are able, let your clothes air dry after washing or turn off fans, lights, and TVs when no one is in the room.
 - AVOID HEAT STRESS**
 - Drink plenty of water, and avoid drinks containing alcohol or lots of sugar.
 - Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
 - Try to limit physical activity to the morning and evening, when it is cooler.
- These tips were brought to you by:
The Choctaw Nation LIHEAP & REACH Dept.

Hello Summer, Hello Heat... Here's Some Tips to \$ave a Heap!!!

b v p o p r c t o h n o y s r
c r a c k l e h r m f a z y j
p v t v a k p t o l s n f a f
o i g v f y v z a c f u u d y
b h w t v d t g t w t f z y p
q s l a k e e y o s d a e n p
t u x l a d l r x j y t w n a
i m o a i i e y l i s m a f u h
p m q r h t k q n s z p s s w
o e p e h u f u a c k d d h j
u r a g c c s d f k y t s x q
e p u g o e n p v w d m m i n
g a r o o p v x o i g h m z j
l v l u l k y s c o d c s f u
g v d l e o t n m o l g o e i



A happy and healthy holiday

Happy Fourth of July! Time to get out the long tables covered with colorful tablecloths and that neverending supply of tasty homemade goodies. The best part of this is tasty home made goodies can also be healthy for our hearts and bodies. Setting out healthy dishes from each food group is a good place to start. Vegetables: marinated cucumbers or a vegetable tray with a variety of colorful veggies. Grains: tray of

low fat crackers topped with diced tomatoes, cilantro and part skim mozzarella or with a hummus dip made with roasted red peppers. Protein: grilled chicken marinated with the chili-citrus recipe from last month. And last but not least, dairy and fruit: a colorful fruit parfait layered with strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and light vanilla yogurt. Try this cool and refreshing salad at your next BBQ:

Marinated cucumber salad

Makes: 5 servings
Ingredients:
• 3 large cucumbers
• ½ teaspoon salt
• 1-2 tablespoons Splenda or sucralose
• 1/8 cup water
• ¼ cup distilled white vinegar
• ¼ - ½ cup sliced red onion
Directions:
1. In a medium size bowl mix vinegar, water, salt and Splenda.
2. Peel and slice cucumbers and add to vinegar

mixture and mix well. Add black pepper as desired.
3. Cover and refrigerate minimum one hour.
Nutrition facts: Amount per serving. Calories - 7, Total Carbs - 1.5g, Total fat - 0g, Cholesterol - 0mg, Protein - 1.2g, Sat fat - 0g, Sodium - 235mg.
For further information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD. Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center 800-349-7026 ext: 6959.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26 , except for:
Aug. 3 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
Aug. 10: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)
Closed Aug. 27-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 19, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays: Aug. 1-26.
Closed Aug. 27-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26.
Closed Aug. 27-31 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 11, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays Aug. 1-26.
Closed Aug. 27-31 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Aug. 15, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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Wrangling reptiles and scouting snakes all in a day’s work

By **LARISSA COPELAND**
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Snakes. Alligators. Iguanas. Bees. Even rescuing an occasional kitten. It’s all in a day’s work for Capt. Jeff Fobb, a paramedic/fireman and venom response officer with the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue.

He’s also a member of the renowned Venom One team, a unique emergency response team of specially trained firefighters and paramedic officers. In fact, the team is so unique it was chosen by the Animal Planet network to appear on the new wildlife series, “Swamp Wars,” which debuted earlier this summer.

“This job is unusual and I can’t think of any other fire department that has this type of specialty,” says Fobb. “It’s a fairly good fit with Animal Planet with this line of work and since people are interested in it they thought they could create a program based around what we do on a daily basis.”

But what the team does on a daily basis changes from day to day.

“Every day is different,” he says. “It’s one of the attractive things about the job – I never know what to expect when I go into work.”



Photo provided

Proud Choctaw Capt. Jeff Fobb of the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue is featured with his team, Venom One, on Animal Planet’s “Swamp Wars.”

It could include anything from wading through a swamp to documenting a native reptile to climbing under a house to rescuing a pet to transporting injured birds and other wildlife.

While no day is typical for Fobb and his team, the wildlife in Southern Florida is sure to keep them busy every day. “Yesterday,” he says, describing a summer day that’s as close to normal as it gets, “started with us recovering an 8-9 foot Burmese python from a local business on the edge of the Everglades.

“After that,” he continued, “we ran around the county looking for snakes that were causing people concern, because they’d ended up on people’s porches or in their houses. I also had to deal with a snake bite, which happens on average about once every three days in a busy year.

“Then there was an exotic animal that was under someone’s house,” he says. “I ended up going to gather up that little guy as well. And in between all the calls I got a kitten out of a storm drain.

“It was a full day,” he continued. “I used about 27 gallons of fuel and went from one end of the county to the other. The job entails a lot of driving and a lot of patience.”

While it may seem extreme for some, he feels right at home with the reptiles. The only thing unusual, according to Fobb, was having the crew and cameras present, which the team soon got used to having around. “We’re not actors,” he says, “we’re fire-

men who continue to do our jobs.”

Serving as a fireman for the past 13 years and a venom response officer for the past five, Fobb says, “serendipity,” is what brought him to this particular job. “I was working for the fire department and they were needing people [for the venom response team] and they reached out to me. It sounded interesting and I’ve been doing it ever since.”

To be qualified for the venom response team one must meet several strict criteria to include being a paramedic, an officer on the force, and hold a venomous reptile license.

“We also had to perform other training to do our job safely and effectively,” said Fobb, “including six months of on-the-job training to learn to choose the selection of appropriate medications, and working in a hospital environment, which is very different from working in the field.”

It was working in this field of work that he met his wife, Sandra, a retired firefighter.

Together, they live in Miami, where they are raising their two daughters, Erin and Kiera. As a family of animal lovers, the list of pets at their home isn’t short. It includes horses, donkeys, chickens, turkeys, goats, dogs, cats, and

of course, wouldn’t be complete without a few reptiles such as tortoises, lizards and snakes.

“Regardless of whether it’s pretty or furry or cuddly or not, they’re used to animals showing up to live at the house and they’re fine with that,” he says, with a laugh.

Though he grew up and lived his entire life in Florida, his family’s Choctaw roots run deep back in Oklahoma. Fobb’s parents, the late Lebies J. and Nancy J. Fobb, were from Antlers. The military is what brought the family to Florida. Fobb’s father, Lebies, served in the Air Force, and his final station before retiring was in Miami. Three of Lebies and Nancy’s children, sons Jeff (Capt. Fobb) and Joel and daughter Jeri, stayed in the Miami area, while Lebies, Nancy and son Jim all relocated back to Antlers. (Lebies passed away in 2000.)

Fobb’s interest with snakes and reptiles goes back to his childhood, an interest his parents never tried to repress. “I was interested in snakes when I was quite young,” he says, explaining his desire to work in this career field. “I always thought they were fascinating. I used to always bring in snakes, lizards, you name it.

My mom hated it. She was horrified of snakes but she never discouraged me.”

His love of reptiles has only grown with time. His favorite reptile to encounter in his occupation has been the Eastern Diamondback Rattler.

“It’s a beautiful, beautiful snake,” he says. “A lot of people are afraid of it, but they give us a warning. They rattle their tails before we get too close. That’s just one of my favorite things to come across. It’s just neat to see them clinging to existence along the edges of the county.”

Viewers of “Swamp Wars” can get an up-close view of the Eastern Diamondback as well in an episode.

Some things he hopes viewers were able to take away from the show is an appreciation for the animals, respectful relationships between animals, humans and the shared environments, and to learn things that they can do to keep themselves safe if they encounter the animals.

Viewers should check local listings for show times of “Swamp Wars” on Animal Planet.

“I feel fortunate that people might be interested in watching what I do,” says Fobb. “I hope people enjoy it.”

Native Nation, a Native American hip-hop group, put on an entertaining and educational show for Family Day at Jones Academy. In front, Jesse “Red Eagle” Robbins, left, and Chris Taylor, a former Jones Academy student, perform for the students and their families, while Anthony “D.J. Pyro” Mnic’opa deejays.

Submitted photo



‘Native Nation’ performs at Jones Academy

Southeastern Oklahoma’s own Native Nation, a Native American rap/hip hop music group, made a successful splash at the Jones Academy Family Day on May 14.

The talented group performed for the Family Day crowd and Jones Academy students during the annual festivities.

Native Nation is comprised of three gifted singers, Chris Taylor, a former Jones Academy student, Jesse “Red Eagle” Robbins and Anthony “D.J. Pyro” Mnic’opa. The trio entertained their audience with a wonderful blend of rap and musical lyrics that promoted positive attitudes and Native American themes.

Through their unique genre, the group highlighted Indian traditions, culture and history.

Their music encouraged students to take pride in their tribal heritage, learn Indian customs and language, avoid drugs and alcohol, and pursue their dreams.

In one song, the group uplifted women and the im-

portance of their roles in the community.

According to several concert goers, what made the performance so entertaining was the fact that the music was very contemporary and had great rhythm.

Native Nation was sponsored by Jones Academy and KidRez Entertainment.



Ralph Coxsey, Vietnam veteran

Ralph Coxsey of Houston, Texas, originally from Durant, is a veteran of Vietnam. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for four years, receiving an honorable discharge in 1969 before transferring into the naval reserves. He received the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. His brother, David, recently found some of Ralph’s old military records, including a thank you letter from Senators Edward V. Long and Mike Maroney sent in 1966 to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Coxsey, for his help when the senators stopped in Hawaii, where he was stationed.



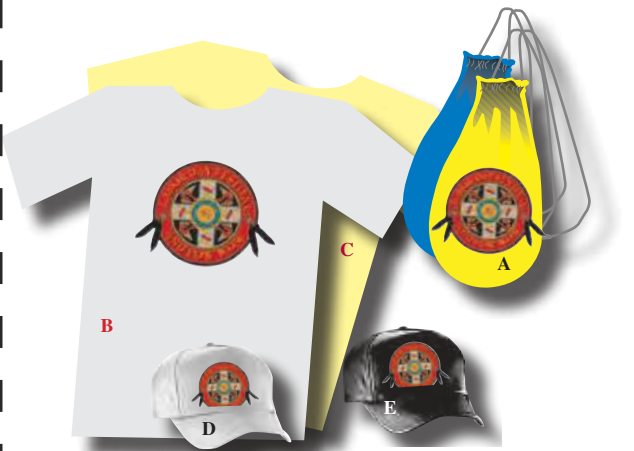
A ‘green’ impact

- More space can be saved in our landfills by recycling paper products than any other materials. Paper can be recycled up to five times before the fibers become too weak.
- Recycling a single aluminum can save enough energy to power a tv for three hours or run a 100-watt light bulb for almost four hours. Imagine how much energy you could save if you recycled every can you used in a year!
- Plastics, PET (#1) and HDPE (#2), make up 96 percent of all plastic bottles produced in the United States. Since 1977, when the first PET bottle was recycled, plastic bottle recycling has increased to more than 2.3 billion pounds annually. Remember to check the recycling symbol on the bottom of plastic containers and if there is a 1 or 2 on it, take to your nearest recycling center.

Recycling can help take an enormous step towards conserving our world’s resources and energy supplies as well as limiting the amount of greenhouse gases and other pollutants released into the atmosphere. Although it may seem like we are just tiny parts of this vast planet, each of us can make a significant difference by making these small, simple changes in our day-to-day activities and in the disposal of our waste products.

Get your Labor Day Festival T-Shirt!

The adult shirts will be \$12 and children’s are \$10 at the festival.
Mail outs are \$15 to cover shipping.



Festival T-Shirts & Souvenirs Order Form

Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____			
State _____ Zip _____			
Phone Number _____			
✓	Item	Quantity	Total Price
<input type="checkbox"/>	A - Waterproof drawstring backpack with Seal - can be worn as a backpack or carried - \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Blue _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B - Labor Day Shirt - Grey- \$15.00	Size _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	C - Labor Day Shirt - Yellow - \$15.00	Size _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	D - Labor Day Cap - White - \$12.00	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	E - Labor Day Cap - Black - \$12.00	N/A	
T-shirt sizes available are: Children - (2-4), (6-8), (10-12), and (14-16) Adult - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large			
Postage and handling is included.		Order Total <input type="text"/>	
To order, send payment (No Personal Checks) with completed form to: Labor Day T-Shirts PO Box 1210 Durant OK 74702			

Roads

Continued from Page 1

the road and then it is presented to the Chief, who has the ultimate say for proceeding with the project.

Upon the Chief’s approval, the Transportation Department places the project on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

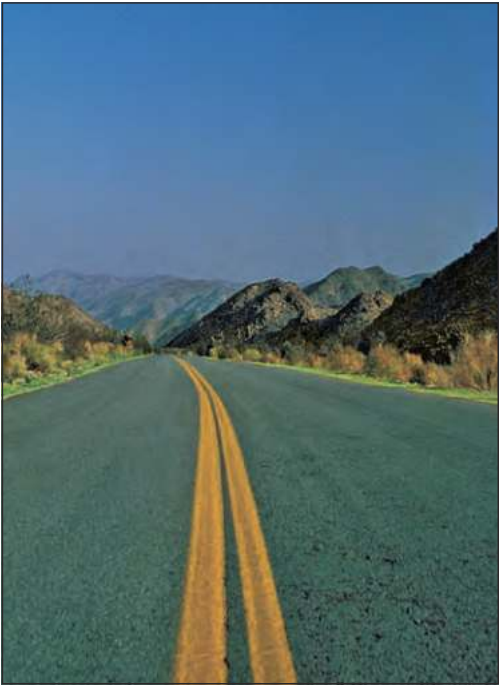
This is the agenda for projects that are waiting to be constructed. The money is appropriated for the project and the contractors begin construction after all rights-of-ways are obtained, utilities are relocated, and the Environmental process is completed.

The projects in the TIP, which is a five-year plan, are the more immediate projects of the 20-year plan, called the inventory. “An inventory is the overall plan of the entire Nation. When a project is approved to construct it is placed on the TIP,” explains Blankenship. If the BIA approves the project selected for the TIP, money is appropriated for the process to begin.

In order to complete items on the TIP, the Choctaw Nation Transportation Department subcontracts its work to a variety of contractors. Because there is such a multitude of work being done, as it pertains to lengths, terrain and costs, Blankenship must oversee many projects being done by numerous contractors.

Though the Choctaw Nation does not have its own road construction crew, they require if any contractor needs additional labor for the project, they are to use Choctaw preference. This is just a small way that the Choctaw Nation is keeping its people involved in gainful employment.

The duties of the Transportation Department are governed by the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program, which is a part of the Federal Highway Administration and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The policies and procedures to be followed by the IRR are outlined in 25 CFR, part170. Following these guidelines, this department has utilized many available resources to create better conditions for the



Choctaw people.

Over the course of its life as a department in the Choctaw Nation, the Transportation Department has created many projects throughout the 10-1/2 counties that Choctaw members and non-members alike have been able to enjoy. With thousands of miles of roads already on the long-range plan, the Transportation Department hopes to complete as many roads as possible to aid the Choctaw people, work they are proud to do.

Last year, Wylie was selected to the National Indian Reservation Roads Program Coordinating Committee (IRRPPC). This committee is composed of 12 members selected from each BIA Region across the United States. This committee reports to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, the Federal Highway Administration and Congress. The committee oversees the IRR Program’s policies and procedures, delivery of services, technical standards, and funding.

“We want to help all of our citizens to get to their church, their recreational places, their place of employment, their city, their schools, on a nice road,” proudly stated Blankenship as he gave a general overview of the purpose of the Transportation Department.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Brown opens small business

Jack Brown Jr. of Tuska-homa has worked with wood as a hobby for most of his life. For the past couple of years, he has been selling his unique handmade furniture and storage buildings on the side while working as a contract carpenter for log homebuilders in his area. Now, thanks in part to the Choctaw Nation Asset Building (CAB) program, he has been able to combine his woodworking hobby with his entrepreneurial spirit to create his own small business, Lumber Jacks.

“I enjoy working in this industry and have seen the demand for my products grow over the past two years,” said Brown. In April 2010 Brown enrolled in the CAB program. The CAB program is a matched-savings program designed to help tribal members save for homeownership, education or to open or start a small business. Brown opened his CAB savings account with \$50 and made monthly deposits for a little over one year. Participants in the CAB program save at least \$25 per month for six months or for as long as three years. CAB will match up to \$2,000, \$3 to \$1 for a first-time homebuyer, or \$2 to \$1 for education or for small businesses.

While saving with the CAB program, Brown attended a personal financial education workshop to learn how to better manage his income and expenses so that he could afford to save. He also attended small business workshops and was referred to the Native American Business Resource Center (NABRC) for help with developing his business plan. While working with Billy Hamilton, NABRC Program Coordinator, Brown learned of small business loans available through Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc. (REI). To qualify for a small business loan, he needed to be able to invest a certain amount of his own money into the equity of his business. The CAB program helped him achieve that goal by encouraging regular saving habits and by matching his savings at a rate of \$2 to \$1 for each dollar he saved. Using the funds from the CAB program and from REI’s microloan program, Brown has been able to purchase equipment he needed to diversify his product lines and increase his profit margins.

“CAB is really good for people,” said Brown. “It gives them a chance to do something that they would not have been able to without their help. It’s a great benefit,” he said. Located five miles north of Tuskahoma on State Highway 2, directly across the street from Potato Hills State Park on Lake Sardis, Lumber Jacks offers a wide variety of custom handmade furniture for both indoor and outdoor use, including porch swings, gun cabinets, log beds, TV stands, patio furniture as well as taking custom orders to fill his client’s needs. Custom-built outdoor storage buildings can be delivered or built on site. For more information about how the CAB program can help you reach your financial goals, call 866-933-2260 or go online to choctawcareers.com/cab.html.



Alissa dominates track

Alissa Brooks-Johnson, a sophomore at Pe Ell High School, won four individual events at the Washington State 2B Girls Track Championships in Cheney, Wash., May 27 and 28. Her team, consisting of three girls, also repeated their overall Girls State Team Championship Trophy for the second year in a row. Alissa, a Choctaw member, won first place in the long jump with a jump of 18’00.50, the 100 m hurdles 15.42, 300 m hurdles 44.44, and the 200 m 25.58. In Washington State, team members are only allowed four events and this is may be the first time that it has ever been done in four individual events. Alissa also maintains a 3.8 GPA.



Dylan turns 9

Family and friends hope Dylan has a great summer after celebrating his ninth birthday on July 7. Dylan is the son of Kevin and Elizabeth and brother to Trev and Amber. They wish him the best birthday so far. His grandparents are Stan and Nancy Sue Spring Garcia of California and Paula Brunk and Sam Ashenberner of Oregon, who all wish him a great birthday as well. This fall Dylan will attend Patterson Elementary in Hillsboro, Ore., as a fourth-grader. He enjoys sports after school and on the weekends. He attends professional games throughout the year with his family. Dylan is a proud Choctaw, descending from original enrollees Henry Frank Oakes and Christopher Columbus Spring, who were born in Indian Territory before it became Oklahoma. His family and friends would like to say, good luck “Binker!” Luck is on his side this year with his birthday being 7-7-11.



Allens retire

Mr. and Mrs. George Allen would like to announce their retirement from federal service with a combined total of 72 years of service to the United States of America. Mr. Allen retired as a senior master sergeant after 26 years and then went on to work for 16 years in civil service. All 42 years were in the service of Air Force Civil Engineering. His wife, Jackie, served 30 years in civil service, four years of which were with the Army Department of Engineering and Housing and 26 years in Air Force Civil Engineering. Their goal in retirement is to travel and spend more time visiting their daughter, Rachael, who is married to Anthony Wieland of Glorieta, N.M., and son Shawn, wife Beth, and granddaughters, Miranda and Abby of Jonestown, Texas.



Red Earth Festival

Choctaws Debra Belt and Per-rin Deal placed in the Eastern Cloth special contest during the 2011 Red Earth Festival on June 3-5. Debra was the top Choctaw finisher, placing second. Lorie Loman Keel and Angela Sitting-bear also competed. The Cherokee, Creek, Caddo and Seminole tribes were represented as well. The Eastern Cloth ladies also competed in the Southern Cloth category along with other tribes. Debra competed in the trick contest where dancers were eliminated one by one until one contestant was standing alone, and she came very close in winning an iPad. It was a time of sisterly fellowship for the Choctaw ladies who came from across the state. They supported each other in competition, shared words of encouragement, laughed, made sure each other’s attire was in order and wished each other to dance well. They were proud to represent their families, friends and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Happy birthday, Kennedy

Kennedy Paige Webb celebrated her birthday July 18. She is pictured with her new baby brother, Jayden Luke Webb. Her family is proud of the wonderful daughter and big sister she has become and would like to wish her a wonderful birthday.



Michelle leads volunteer group

Michelle Synhorst led a group of volunteers from Rice University on a service project at the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, S.D., where she and 12 other students volunteered at a Lakota reservation with an organization called the Cheyenne River Youth Project. The trip was part of Rice University’s Alternative Spring Break Program, where students volunteer all over the country. Michelle and her group spent the week working with children and teens at the Cheyenne River Youth Center, where they learned a lot about the Native American culture and history. Michelle is a student at Rice University in Houston, Texas. She is the granddaughter of Charles McClure of Dallas and is the great-granddaughter of the late Ruby Marx McClure, an original enrollee.

Father, husband returns home

Petty Officer Second Class DCFN Earl “Hoot” Phillips, son of Nancy Harkins of Heavener and grandson of the late Ella Perkins, served aboard the USS Kearsarge. On May 16 he returned to Norfolk, Va., where he is stationed. His wife, Michelle, and first-born son, 6-month-old Earl III, were there to welcome him home. This happy reunion was the first meeting between father and son. Welcome home, Earl.



Linda Huff of California would like to share this photo of a group of men who worked on building a railroad in Oklahoma. Some of Linda’s family members who are pictured are Johnny Lee Ott, Gillam Ott, John Ott and Arvel Ray Huff.



Congrats, Bethel Choctaw language class

The Bethel community class has graduated from Phase 1 of Chahta Anumpa Aikkhvna, taught by community teacher Bob Ludlow. Richard Adams, assistant director of the School of the Choctaw Language, presented each language student with a certificate of completion for their accomplishment. One of the students, Marilyn Jefferson, was presented a certificate of perfect attendance and a Choctaw hymn book. Pictured are (back row left to right) Alton Noahubi, Emerson Wilson, Richard Adams, Roger Scott and Bob Ludlow. Front row, left to right, are Marilyn Jefferson, Darlene Noahubi, Virginia Jefferson, Melissa Bohanan and Katie Noahubi.



Congrats, District 4 Princesses

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recently held its annual District 4 Choctaw Princess Pageant at the Choctaw Community Center in Poteau. District 4 Councilman Delton Cox wants to introduce you to the new Choctaw Princess who will be representing his district at Tushka Homma during the Labor Day Festival and crowning of the 2011 Choctaw Nation Princesses. The judges for the evening were Carol Harris and Evelyn Kasworm. Pictured left to right are Councilman Cox, Little Miss Amber Battice, Junior Miss Adrianna Curnutt and Senior Miss Amber Colwell.

Happy birthday, Jennifer

Jennifer Lynne Williams of Idabel celebrated her 18th 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.



Maci advances in hockey

The Oklahoma City Youth Hockey Association sends one player to the USA Hockey National Select Festival. Congratulations to Maci Hoskins for being selected to advance to the USA Hockey National Select Festival. Cable Thompson, Jarrod Guffey and Maci Hoskins all participated in the Texas Affiliate Camp in March and were selected from the pool of players to advance to the Rocky Mountain District Camp where the top 3 percent of the players in the district participated in skill evaluation sessions with hopes of advancing to the Hockey National Select Festival. Maci was selected to advance to the USA Hockey Select Festival Camp, where she and the other U.S. athletes will showcase their best talent in front of many scouts from Division 1 and 3 colleges as well as junior teams and prep schools from around the country. Congratulations and good luck, Maci.



Happy birthday, Charley

Charley Ray Anderson, son of Ashley Boydston and Jimmy Anderson of Durant, is celebrating his first birthday July 14. To help him celebrate are his grandparents, Laquita Boydston of Durant, Tommy and Donna Boydston of Durant, Belinda Webb of Calera and the late Charley Webb and many uncles, aunts and cousins. Happy birthday, Charley!



Coach Parrish honored

Coach Rick Parrish was recently honored by the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association with the Charles K. Heatly Award for dedication and service. During Coach Parrish’s career, which spans three decades, he has had the honor of coaching seven All State players, served on the OGBCA Board of Directors and the OSSAA Advisory Committee as well as coaching both the OBGCA and OCA All State West Teams. His peers have selected him as Conference Coach of the Year seven times and he has been chosen as the Lawton Constitution All Area Coach and the Duncan Banner Coach of the year. Coach Parrish will add to the 423 career wins, 17 district titles and eight regional championships as he leads his team again this year at Rush Springs.



Congratulations, Ruth and Jerry

Ruth Musselman and Jerry Thompson of Durant were united in marriage on April 30. The ceremony was held at the Sanctuary of the Calvary Baptist Church in Durant. Pastor Darel Bunch officiated the double-ring ceremony. June Seago and Sandy Helms registered the guests. Don Herron and Thomas Phipps served as ushers. Ron Long was the best man, Sherry Herron was the matron of honor and wedding coordinator and L’Roy Campbell gave the bride away while his wife, Betty, lit the unity candle. The bride was attired in a white satin gown with lace sleeves and a pearl-encrusted bodice while the groom wore a formal tuxedo. Judy Polson and L.D. Harp photographed the wedding and the reception as well as the bride’s nieces, Laura Salazar, Carrie Hogan and Amanda Johnson. Following the exchange of vows, a reception was held in the fellowship hall. The Singles Class at Calvary gave the reception as a wedding gift. Cheryl Gooding decorated the fellowship hall’s tables with lovely lavender and yellow flower arrangements. Serving at the reception were Joan Ackerson, Morene Phipps, Shirley Purser, JoAn Boston, Lucy Harper and Billie Robertson. Following their honeymoon, the couple is making their home in Durant.



EDUCATION

To the Youth of the Nation

By: Daniele Karr
Youth Advisory Board, McCurtain County Chapter

Do you know how a smile can affect a life? Most people take smiling for granted. A smile can show love, happiness and fun for many people. For some, smiling is looked down on.

In Japan, if you smile you are looked down on. They actually have “smiling school,” where they take bashful kids and teach them to smile. How do they do that? Well, they take a chopstick and bite it. While biting the chopstick they are told to relax their muscles and loosen up. To be honest, just thinking about it makes me smile.

You try to think about yourself biting a chopstick while your best friend is acting dumb. Hard, isn’t it? Smiling isn’t just good for the soul, it also helps you let out emotions. When you smile you share joy with the world. It is a proven fact that it takes more facial muscles to frown. Why frown when you can turn it around and smile?

Smiling isn’t just for pictures or to let someone know you’re happy. You can change a life. You may never know who you are smiling at, but one smile to a stranger may change their whole day. You may have been the only one to notice them that day. That stranger may have the worst home life or the worst day of their life. They might have even failed a math test but just one smile can show that you care. Have you ever thought about that?

So stop frowning, people! Change a life. Be a hero and start smiling. You never know how blessed you truly are.

Student earns broadcasting award

Jessica Gann of Hugo, a senior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, was recently named the Broadcasting Student of the Year and received the Ben Chappell Scholarship Award at SE.



Gann has worked at three of the seven eastern Oklahoma radio stations in the Payne Radio Group, based in Hugo, over the past seven years and will intern at Dark Horse Recording Studio in Nashville this summer.

“Music and radio production are my two main areas of interest,” said Jessica. “I hope to one day be a station general manager or work in a major production company.”

Gann says she enjoys all types of music, and she currently hosts a mid-day rock music show.

The scholarship, which is awarded to students or prospective students seeking a degree in mass media, is named for the late Dr. Ben Chappell. During a 41-year career as a university professor of communication, Chappell earned numerous awards. He taught at Southeastern from 1975-1996 and at Southern Mississippi, Texas Christian University and North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas).

Congrats, Karlee

Congratulations to 14-year-old Karlee Lathan, daughter of Misty and Jeff Lathan, of Midwest City. She was named a member of the National Junior Honor Society, being in the top 10 percent of her class. She has also received the Presidential Academic Award, received all A's this year and received an academic letter for community service.



Karlee is the great-granddaughter of John C. Dorsey and Lorraine Dorsey. She attends Carl Albert Middle School in Midwest City and is in the eighth grade.

Tvshka Chunkash (Heart of a Warrior) Scholarship

What is Tvshka Chunkash?

Tvshka Chunkash means “heart of a warrior” in Choctaw. The scholarship is \$1,000, created by Capt. Teri Scroggins and provided through the Choctaw Nation’s Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP). Offered on behalf of all the veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, this award is presented every fall to a student whose life and educational goals have been affected by these wars and the veterans who have served in them.

How do I apply?

- To be eligible, you must:
- Be a SAP member, and
 - Be a current Choctaw student at an accredited college or university.

For your application, you must write an original 500-word essay on how the war in Afghanistan or Iraq has affected your life and educational goals, including how this effect has shaped your future and how you approach your education.

A complete information sheet with guidelines, further content suggestions, and scoring rubric is available to download and print at ChoctawNation-SAP.com/cnos-scholarship.shtml.

Applications are due by Aug. 1, 2011. The essay must be submitted electronically



Pictured left to right are Shauna Williams, Donor and Scholarship Specialist; Capt. Teri Scroggins; and Jo McDaniel, Director of Scholarship Advisement.

to ScholarshipAdvisement@ChoctawNation.com--other formats will not be accepted.

Where does this scholarship come from?

Capt. Teri Scroggins came to SAP with the idea for this scholarship in 2009 with the intention to honor the service of all her fellow service members and veterans in addition to support the education of Choctaw students.

Capt. Scroggins is a highly decorated military officer who has served in the Oklahoma National Guard and Arkansas National Guard; two combat tours in Iraq, as a Legal NCO with the Judge Advocate General Corp. as well as on a peacekeeping tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina; multiple U.S. assignments,

Academic Awards Banquet a success

The 2011 Academic Awards Banquet was a splendid success, celebrating its 25th anniversary. The combination of outstanding honorees, Master of Ceremonies David Boren and Keynote Speaker Michael Bloomberg all made this gala one of the best ever.



A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Tribute Book to Founder and Chairman David Boren. The book exhibited the 25-year history of the foundation through photos and memories by trustees, honorees and staff. Pictured is New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who was also a hit with the audience, delivering the keynote address.

The Choctaw Nation’s support of a scholarship for Courtney Winchester was critical to the ability to reward academic excellence in such grand style. We thank you for the part you played in helping Oklahomans honor the “best of the best” in public education.

Melanie graduates

Melanie Lucas has recently attained her bachelor’s degree in interior design from the University of Northern Arizona. She and her family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for the scholarships and grants provided throughout her degree. The confidence and support she received through this scholarship has directly contributed to her success.



Bakers graduate

Congratulations to the Baker family, who recently had several graduates. Casey Baker graduated from the teacher’s education program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in health, physical education and recreation. Anita Baker graduated from the nursing program with her associate’s degree from Carl Albert State College. Rebecca Baker graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in general education studies, and Sierra Baker graduated from Smithville High School.



The Bakers say they would not have accomplished this milestone without God’s strength. They also received sacrifice and support from Donald Baker, who served in Iraq and returned with God and family on his mind. He put in overtime at work and provided words of encouragement throughout their educational drive.

The Choctaw Nation provided assistance in various areas of need that helped them out greatly, they said. The Bakers would also like to thank everyone else who helped and supported them, including their families, friends and significant employees of the Choctaw Nation.

Congrats, Dylan

Dylan Ray Cockrill graduated from Haworth High School on May 15, being on the principal’s honor roll and earning defensive player of the year in baseball. He is the son of John and Glenda Cockrill of the Redland community and the grandson of Alamae Satterfield of Atoka and the late Coleman Ray Felikatubbe of Perris, Calif.



Dylan plans to continue his education at college in the fall. He is planning to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Jones staff members graduate

Jones Academy graduates were not the only ones to be congratulated for their academic achievements in May. Some Jones Academy staff also walked across the stage and received their diplomas from schools of higher learning. Staff members Freddie Jones (elementary boys’ dorm), Bonnie Smeltzer (elementary girls’ dorm) and Kim Russell (recreation supervisor) all reached academic milestones. Mr. Jones received his Bachelor of Arts in Counseling/Psychology at East Central University, while Mrs. Smeltzer and Ms. Russell each earned an Associate of Arts in Psychology at Eastern Oklahoma State College. By their example of determination, these staff members are practicing what they preach; getting a good education is of utmost importance.



Pictured are Kim Russell, an honors graduate, and Bonnie Smeltzer.

Laura graduates

Laura K. Blackston graduated with honors from Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City with a GPA of 4.304. She received two special medals of recognition; one for passing five or more college credit tests (she passed six) in her honor classes, and one for her overall academic honor achievement throughout high school. She was also the recipient of numerous scholarships and assistance for college through the OHLAP program, grants and OBU.



She was a member of the National Honor Society for two years and participated in leadership classes, often volunteering in community service for the elderly and fundraiser drives for cancer research. Her grades regularly reflected man hours of dedication and hard work, but she also found time to have many friends and be involved in other activities at school such as cross-country and track, and at her church, Cherokee Hills Baptist Church, in the youth group. This summer she has attended a special leadership camp. Sponsored by Oklahoma Baptist University, called Super Summer, which develops Christians into seeking leadership roles in their community. She has also enjoyed Falls Creek, a popular Baptist church camp, in the past, and returned again in late June. Laura enjoys music and texting. She has a warm, magnetic personality that others are immediately attracted too. She is independent and confident in her future goals. She plans to attend OBU this fall and major in accounting. Laura is a member of the Choctaw Nation, tracing her heritage back to her recently departed Choctaw great-grandmother, Dora B. Tims of Claremore, and through her grandmother, Dorothy Tims Turner of Bethany. She is also the daughter of Keith and Lisa Blackston, being the oldest with three younger brothers and the granddaughter of Lee and Donna Blackston of Godfrey, Ill., and Charles and Sandy Shook of Reno, Nev.

Jerra receives honor

Howe student Jerra Washington has been nominated and accepted as a 2011 student ambassador. Acceptance into the program is based on a demonstration of leadership and citizenship. Jerra recently graduated eighth grade at Howe Elementary School with A’s and B’s. As a student ambassador, Jerra will be traveling to Australia in July. By venturing beyond our local borders, she will represent the very best of our community to the rest of the world. She is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and is very honored to be allowed to represent our tribe as she travels to Australia. Jerra is the daughter of Lisa Washington and the granddaughter of Clara and the late Everett Washington.



Congrats, Sidney

Sidney Leigh Gardner, daughter of Clark Buck Gardner Jr. and Kelly Dickerson, graduated May 17 from Wayne High School in Wayne. She is proud of her Choctaw heritage. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Victoria Reed, and Mississippi Choctaws Ernest and Katie Farve. Her great-grandparents, the late Mation and Evelyn Farve Gardner, and her grandfather, the late Clark Buck Gardner, resided in Ardmore for many years.



Sidney is a pianist and was an outstanding softball and basketball player. She is currently attending Oklahoma City Community College where she plans to become a registered nurse.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUGUST		1 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. <small>Chris Ray (Owasso)</small>	2	3 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	4	5 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	6
	7	8 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	9 Antlers by appt.	10 Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	11	12 Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	13
	14	15 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	16 Wilburton 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	17 McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	18	19 Broken Bow 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Idabel by appt.	20
	21	22 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	23 Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	24 Crowder by appt.	25	26 Wright City by appt.	27
2011	28 Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	29	30 Atoka 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Coalgate 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	31			

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

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

Bryan County

Beginning date and time:
July 25, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
South building, downstairs
Durant

North LeFlore County

Beginning date and time:
July 26, 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Family Investment Center
Poteau

Bryan County

Beginning date and time:
July 26, 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays
6-9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
South building, downstairs
Durant

Latimer County

Beginning date and time:
July 25, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Community Center
515 Center Point Rd
Wilburton

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

USDA notice to women and Hispanic farmers and ranchers: compensation for claims of discrimination

If you are a female farmer/rancher or a Hispanic farmer/rancher and you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 because you are a female, or because you are Hispanic, you may be eligible to apply for compensation, the USDA State Food & Agriculture Council (SFAC) in Oklahoma announced in a joint news release.

You might be eligible if:

- you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
- the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
- you believe these actions occurred because you are female or Hispanic.

“We want all producers who may be eligible to be aware of this claims process for female and Hispanic farmers and ranchers, as well as the recent settlements with Native American and African American farmers and ranchers, so they can come forward and participate in these processes,” said Ryan

McMullen, State Director of Rural Development (RD) in Oklahoma, who serves as this year’s chair of the SFAC.

The SFAC is comprised of state-level agency heads of the three USDA partner agencies—RD State Director Ryan McMullen, Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Francie Tolle and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Ron Hilliard—with membership from other USDA agencies in Oklahoma.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package in the female and Hispanic farmers claims process, you can call the Farmer and Rancher call center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the website: www.farmerclaims.gov.

This announcement follows the Obama Administration’s settlement of litigation brought by Native American farmers and ranchers and African American farmers. Any Native America farmer or rancher who was denied a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing by the USDA between Jan. 1, 1981, and Nov. 24, 1999, may be eligible for benefits from a Class Action Settlement. To request a claims package or for more information,

call 1-888-233-5506, or visit www.IndianFarmClass.com.

African-American farmers who submitted a request to file a late claim on or between October 13, 1999 and June 18, 2008 under the 1999 settlement in the earlier class action known as Pigford v. Glickman (“Pigford”) and who did not receive a merits determination of their discrimination claim should call 1-866-950-5547 or 1-866-472-7826 or visit www.black-farmercase.com.

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer. All programs and services of NRCS are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA accepts Farm Service Agency 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 through Aug. 1, 2011.

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.

1, 2011.

Voting takes place between Nov. 4, 2011, and Dec. 5, 2011.

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

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information,

political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Help Wanted

Seeking Choctaw CDIB Members

If what you seek is an exciting career opportunity, look no further. We are able to offer many opportunities for growth, challenge and excitement.

We have the following immediate openings:

- Graphic Artist
- IT Help Desk
- Valet Supervisor
- Bingo Staff/Marketing Coordinators (Dual Role)
- Hotel Housekeeping Staff
- Casino Environmental Services Staff

Choctaw Casinos is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination Act. Please attach copy of CDIB Card if applicable.

Apply in person at Choctaw Casino Human Resource Office at 4216 Hwy 69/75 Durant, Okla.



Choctaw horse today

Submitted by
MONIQUE SHEAFFER

Our people’s connection to the Choctaw horse, a rare strain of colonial Spanish horse, runs deep in our past history but is also alive and well in today’s world. The Choctaw horse remains “critically endangered” by The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (www.albc-usa.org) with less than 250 purebred animals left in the world. Yet, there is hope they will survive and once again be an important part of our tribe’s culture and future.

This is an important time for the horses and much depends on those active in the conservation effort enlisting additional people to get involved. Spreading the knowledge about the Choctaw horse to new individuals is paramount in saving them. Yakoke to the many tribal members who supported our Windrider Farm Choctaw Horse Conservation effort at the 2008 and 2010 Labor Day Festivals where we had an education booth and horse demonstrations. We look forward to returning this year as well. See you there!

We met many tribal members and attendees who were unaware of this important tribal animal’s tentative situation. We are looking forward to returning to this year’s festival to continue the effort to get other tribal members involved in the conservation of our horses.

There are many individuals across the country who are working hard at keeping the Choctaw horse alive and well in today’s world. There are conservation herds in different areas of the country. There are four main herds located in California, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Conservationists are diligently working towards bringing population numbers up with respect to the attributes that have made the Choctaw horse or Choctaw pony the versatile equine it is. Here are some selected stories about what the Choctaw horse is doing all across our great nation.

Terramoto, known as Ty, is a 5-year-old dun mare of Native American breeding, mostly Choctaw. She is the first Native American horse to become a combined driving event champion. She was bred by Bryant and Darlene Rickman in Soper and is currently owned by Jamie and Mary McConnell of Summer Duck Wood in Rapidan, Va.

Ty is handled by Paul Maye of Fairfield, Va., who is a well-known combined driving trainer. This mare was selected by Bryant Rickman for her potential as a cattle horse. When she came to Virginia in 2008, the McConnells were impressed with her temperament and her beautiful gaits. In the fall of 2009, she went to Fairfield to work with Paul Maye. Paul is a young trainer who has won national success in combined driving events. He began to work with Ty and in the spring of 2010 he entered her in her first combined driving event.

Combined driving is a competition that consists of three parts: dressage, a marathon, and an obstacle course. Dressage is a test of driving skill and accuracy and the performance of the horses – their appearance, suppleness, their motion and its fluidity. The style of both horse and driver are important to the outcome.

The marathon is the most important part of the competition. It consists of five sections in which the course crosses over roads and tracks, water, hills and around tight corners. The horse and driver must negotiate several sets of obstacles and some of these involve water. Speed, endurance and accuracy are all needed to be successful in this event.

The obstacle event requires the horse and driver to negoti-



ate a series of cones set only slightly wider than the carriage without touching any of them. Precision is required. Combined driving requires skill, stamina and smarts - all of which Ty has in abundance.

In the course of training, Paul and Ty developed a strong bond. Once she learned to trust him, they became a very strong team and the affection she feels for him is obvious. Because of her trust, she has progressed rapidly and will try all kinds of new obstacles under his guidance.

In her first competition, Ty finished in the top half of her group and the McConnells were very pleased with her performance.

Her second competition was at the Elk Creek Combined Driving Event held at Fair Hill, Md., a property once owned by Jamie McConnell’s grandfather. Ty and Paul won the Single Pony Training Division and she was declared champion. It was only her second competition and all were thrilled with her performance.

Ty’s third event was the Katydid Combined Driving Event held in South Carolina.

Again, she won and had her second championship. This spring, Ty will compete in several more combined driving events. She is moving up to the preliminary division and will face stronger competition. When asked by a competitor, how much horses like Ty sell for, Paul Maye answered, “She’s priceless!”

Ty has developed her own following and group of fans who run between obstacles to watch her performance.

This January, the McConnells sent another horse to Paul Maye, a 3-year-old buckskin colt. Paul thinks this horse, Summer, has enormous potential and that he will do as well as Ty in driving events.

The McConnells think their Choctaw horses will show their endurance, courage, high level of human affiliation and intelligence in these events.

Jamie and Mary McConnell also have a medicine hat colt who is getting ready for his first show jumping events this summer. He can jump the fences in between the paddocks and loves jumping in the ring.

They have also had a young veterinarian acquire two of their Choctaw horses—one for endurance and one for use as a whipper-in horse for fox hunting. This vet has been involved at international levels of endurance riding and previously rode Arabs but has now become a real advocate for the breed.

Shelia Dale of Oklahoma and her family have been active participants of The American Endurance Ride Conference since 2004. She and her family ride Spanish Mustangs, also known as Colonial Spanish Horses, in 50-mile endurance races. They had a very productive and exciting year in 2010 where they competed in the Central Region, which is a six-state area.

Sheila’s horse, Blue By You, was awarded the Oklahoma AERC Challenge Trophy for being the high mileage horse in the state in 2007, 2008 and 2010. Sheila and

her horse also finished fourth in the featherweight division.

Sheila’s son, Gunn, who rides a Spanish Mustang stallion named Locomotive, was awarded second in the junior division. Even Sheila’s youngest son, Gatlin, and his horse, Spotted Wolf, are involved in all the fun. Gatlin and equine partner were awarded third in the junior division.

The whole family is very involved with the horses. Sheila’s husband, Gare, and his horse, Hezekiah, have also been very competitive and finished second in the heavy-weight division in 2009. Gare and Hezekiah were also awarded the Oklahoma AERC Challenge Trophy for the high mileage Oklahoma horse in 2009. The Dales stated, “Our horses are very loyal and versatile, and have been used for various disciplines, including ranch rodeo, trail riding, and working cattle.”

Francine Locke Bray is a descendant of the Locke family who has a long history with the Choctaw horse. Gerry Locke, Francine’s brother, of Mesquite, Texas, owns a small herd of Choctaw ponies. His stallion, Scotty, is known far and wide for his gentleness and beautiful off-spring.

Victoria Hicks of Oklahoma is owner of Chief Tandy, a 3-year-old Choctaw stallion. His picture has been featured in the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) newsletter. Victoria and her family have eight Choctaw horses and are well pleased

with the gentle nature of these amazing animals.

Choctaw pony ancestors sailed the Atlantic Ocean 600 years ago. Many trod the Trail of Tears carrying their beloved people and possessions 200 years ago. A few even crossed the Pacific Ocean in 1803 as a gift for the King of Hawaii.

Doug, Monique and Matt Sheaffer of Windrider Farm, Pa., purchased their Choctaw horses from the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm in Keota in 2008. They shipped this existing conservation herd east to their farm in Loysville, Pa., to get involved in the conservation of the rare equines. Both Monique and Matt are Choctaw tribal members and felt called to honor their heritage by helping save these horses for their people.

Today their horses are doing well and many have moved into new homes to spread the word about these versatile, people-oriented and hardy horses.

Another mare, Minti, was purchased by a lady in Mustang and shipped back to her home state in 2010. She has begun training and at last check was progressing nicely. Her owner hopes to ride and compete with her in various equine events with hopes to breed her within the conservation breeding program as a 5-year-old.

The Sheaffers sold a filly from last year’s foal crop to their local trainer. Na Hata, black and white tobiano, is a yearling and could not have found a better home for herself as well as the advancement of the breed. The trainer and his wife are very active in trail riding and hope to have this little girl out and about when under saddle.

Conservation is not just about breeding more Choctaw horses, though that is much needed. It is just as important, if not more so, to spread the word about the plight of these rare equines so that others become aware of their tenuous survival. In addition, these versatility, hardiness, low maintenance, smart, people-oriented horses can show what truly unique horses they are. Come see us at the 2011 Labor Day Festival and see for yourself!





Choctaw Youth Dancers dance in the Potomac Circle.



Moses Johnson, Brad Joe, Lena Johnson and Bubba Johnson sing Choctaw Hymn 11 at the June 22 reception.



Miss Choctaw Nation Kristie McGuire performs the Lord's Prayer in sign language.



Roger Amerman works his beads onto a buckskin jacket.



Vonna Shults helps Christopher Burica, 4, of Minnesota pound corn in the kittee.



Les Williston explains the best technique of shooting a bow.



Storyteller Tim Tingle adds a rhythmic beat to his Choctaw tale.



Marcus Amerman, above, creates his unique beadwork.

Eveline Steele, left, shows how to weave a Choctaw basket.

At right, Dr. Ian Thompson, Amy Thompson and Dayla Amos demonstrate pottery making.



Presley Byington plays one of his many flutes.

June 22-25 event in D.C. memorable for everyone

Tribal members in traditional dress greeted visitors to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, guiding them either to entertainment in the Potomac, productions in the theater, make-and-take sessions on the second level, or language classes on the fourth floor. It was a pleasure to talk with travelers, share information and make new friends from around the globe as the Choctaw Nation and NMAI hosted the first Choctaw Days June 22-25 in Washington, D.C. Sounds filled the dome, attracting people on all of the floor levels to look down on the dancers, singers, flutist or storytellers. Exceptional artistry from beadwork to paintings to Choctaw baskets and pottery were set up inside the Potomac as well as historical and cultural booths. We hope you enjoy this special pull-out section in which we have included a few of our memories.

Sites, sounds of Choctaw Nation fill National Museum of the American Indian



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was honored with the presence of Press Secretary Myles Geiran of the Irish Embassy at the Choctaw Days reception on the evening of June 22. The Choctaw and Irish people have a long history beginning with the tribe’s assistance to them during the 1847 potato famine.



The stealing partners dance is enjoyed by everyone as the dancers pull in participants from the audience.



Chanting for the dancers – Alethia McKinney, Ron McKinney, Janice McKinney and Karl McKinney.



Clara Jones Lavender of Lamont, Pa., was born in Antlers and attended Wheelock. She was one of the last girls to attend Jones before going on to Haskell in 1960.



U.S. Congressmen Tom Cole and Dan Boren attend the opening night reception. They are pictured with Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Councilman Ted Dosh and Chief Gregory E. Pyle say hello to former Bennington resident, Pauline Whitworth, seated. Also pictured are Paula Craft, Pat Nelson, Julia Gibson and Morgan Gibson.



Rozetta and Deon Govender, Shanleigh and Shanique, of Johannesburg, South Africa, visit with Roger Amerman.



Little Miss Mahala Battiest, Junior Miss Nikki Amos and Miss Choctaw Nation Kristie McGuire.



Presley Byington explains the different styles of flutes.



David Batton adds finishing touches to his piece of pottery.



Visitors gather around Eveline Steele’s basket table. Eveline displays several finished baskets as well as unfinished ones she uses to demonstrate the art form.



Ronston McKinney.



Greg Rodgers holds the audience’s attention with one of his stories.



Xavier Almondovar.



Marcus Amerman brings a wide variety of beadwork for Choctaw Days.



Sous chef Jerome Grant has whipped up a pot of rabbit gumbo, Choctaw-style, and is giving everyone a taste of the dish.



Brad Joe sings Choctaw Hymn #35, the a capella notes rising to fill the dome.



The Johnson Family – brothers and sister, Moses Johnson, Lena Scott and Bubba Johnson – harmonize on Hymn #48. All of the hymns were sung in the Choctaw language during the event.



Photo provided: David Fitzgerald

A group of Choctaw Nation Tribal Councilmen visited the Congressional Cemetery while in D.C. for Choctaw Days. Pictured at Pushmataha's gravesite are, kneeling, Thomas Williston and Bob Pate; standing, Perry Thompson, Jack Austin, Anthony Dillard, Delton Cox, James Frazier and Joe Coley.



Ara Carbonneau of Alexandria and her Dad, Gary Carbonneau of Grantville, Kansas.



Les Williston has several Choctaw cultural tools and weapons on display.



Kanda and Kay Jackson wear their Choctaw Days T-shirts.



Ron Gragg, Concetta Gragg, Katie Abbott, Kyle Abbott, Holly Bowlan and Annetta Abbott.



Karl McKinney explains the game of stickball.



Roger Amerman presents Presley Byington with a gift of appreciation.



These young boys enjoy learning about the kittee from Shirley Barboan.



Make-and-take classes filled up with participants at every session.



Gwen Coleman Lester shows her artwork.



Amanda Linares, Lindsey Linares and Evelyn Cornelais attend the reception.



Showing how to catch a stickball.



Audrey Goodwin, Isabel Holliday, Eugene, Naomi and Catalina enjoy listening to Choctaw storytellers.



Micah Frazier invites audience members to dance with the group.



Olin Williams uses cutouts to embellish his story for the audience.



Cousins Travis Yoder and Ava Lou Dunkel enjoy Choctaw Days.



Choctaw members Claire and Paige Finley show off their baskets made in the make-and-take workshop.



Sisters Judy Barnett Dutterer and Leigh Barnett Walker of Maryland. Their great-grandmother was an original enrollee.



Krista Keith and her daughter, Annabelle, originally from Texas, reside in North Carolina.



Karinda and Jamie Deal of Harrisburg, Va.



Language instructor Lillie Roberts and Director Jim Parrish.



Ciera McCrae, 6, of Moore admires the bracelets at Marcus Amerman's table.



A re-enactment of a Choctaw wedding is a highlight of Choctaw Days.



Vonna Shults hands out leather pouches of Choctaw corn at the food booth.



Paul King autographs T-shirts for museum visitors. His artwork was used for the branding image of 2011 Choctaw Days.



Regina Green is all smiles.



Mississippi Choctaw dancer Tecumseh Youssef stops to pose with Ronston McKinney.



Mary Babb of Moore and Debbie Thompson and Andrew Thompson, both of Baltimore, visit with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Judy Allen helps present museum Director Kevin Gover with gifts of a flute and Pendleton blanket.



A Choctaw family, above, wears traditional clothing. At left, Bob Sturgill of California plays Tim Tingle's drum as he and Greg Rodgers entertain the crowd.



Taking time to visit.



The pottery demonstration booth was a favorite of museum-goers.



Finding just the right flute.



Lana Sleeper and Alethia McKinney.



Krystal Gardner of Boston makes a pottery hat.



Dollie Hood, originally from Oklahoma City, resides in Maryland.



Tracy Horst welcomes Mary Lou and Helmut Speckheuer to Choctaw Days.



Carolyn Perry of New Jersey.

District 12’s Ward Morrison shares memories

Ward Morrison was born on Sept. 7, 1922, to Alice Ward and Alford Morrison on his mother’s Choctaw allotment in Olney. He was the second of five children.

He began his education at Olney and continued there though the eighth grade. When Ward and his siblings had all started school, his mother went back to school and finished. She became a substitute teacher after her graduation.

After the eighth grade, Ward went to work on a farm. He then began work at a CC Camp in 1937 and stayed until 1939. Then, in October of 1940 he joined the Marine Corps.

He didn’t know much about the Corps, but he knew he did not want to go home. He wanted more adventure in his life. He went to training in San Diego. Following this, he traveled to Kodiak, Alaska, and to his pleasure, stayed for two years.

He came back as a machine gun operator along with two other corporals. He would teach a class of 64 men at a time. His first class consisted of Texans and New Yorkers. Ward described it as “a constant fight to keep them separated.”

He traveled to the Pacific Islands following his time as a machine gun instructor. He met with the men who had come over the Guadal Canal in Australia. This group had lost many men, and needed to add to their ranks, so Ward joined with them.

After joining with the men, they went into extensive training for combat in New Guinea. Once trained, he went on to New Britain Island, where he saw first combat.

He came via ship and went ashore on a landing craft. He remembers meeting very heavy fire upon landing on the shore. “You go ashore and hope you can get there without getting hurt,” mentions Ward.

For the first eight or nine hours Ward and the men with him were in a very deep swamp. Before they exited the swamp, one of their own planes confused them for Japanese and dropped bombs on them. This killed three men who were out in front.

They came out of the swamp in late evening and came into intense fighting. For 13 days and nights it rained, and on Jan. 7, 1944, Ward was hit in the left leg and left wrist by a machine gun. It was a gruesome injury that caused him to lose much blood and become very weak.

He spent six months in Australian hospitals for surgery and recovery. He was about to write his mother during his stay, but it was hard for the letters to travel back and forth due to the amount of ships being sunk.

He had thought he would be going home, but they shipped him back to the same company. After only a couple of weeks, his company ran into nasty opposition in the Peleliu Islands.

The boat he was on barely made it to land before being hit. The ramp was not even let down before the bomb went off



Ward Morrison and Hot Cross Buns.

inside the craft. Ward took a great amount of shrapnel.

A considerable portion of the men in the boat lost their lives instantly. Only a handful were alive after the initial blast and most passed away soon afterward. He was one of the very few who had enough life left to get out and later recover.

He was taken to an emergency ship where they removed the shrapnel. He was only given a local anesthetic as the doctors removed the larger pieces. Records show that they eventually removed nearly 400 pieces of shrapnel, mostly small pieces.

They placed him on a hospital ship bound for the Navy hospital. It was already loaded so heavy that they had to put him in the amputee room. He was the only man who could manage to move around at least a bit.

While the ship was sailing, it went astray off its course and hit a rock at 1 a.m. The crew thought the ship might sink, so they sent out an SOS, but as daylight and help arrived, they realized they would not have to evacuate. The watertight doors held and the ship sailed on at a slow pace.

Morrison came to the Navy hospital on Russell Island. He waited there until he was well enough to travel home. Many ships were being sunk in those days, so he had to wait for one to take him back.

He received two purple hearts for his military service. He was given the first one while in bed. The usual ceremony for a purple heart was cut short due to the amount that were given. The officers had to resort to just passing them out at the time.

Eventually he made it back to the states and stayed at a Navy hospital in San Diego for six months. He held a job there while he was being treated until he got liberty to return to his home.

Ward went on to Kansas to work for cow ranchers and wheat farmers for a couple of years. This is where he met his wife, Norma Jean Wyer. They were married in 1949 at a small church in Cimarron, Kan., near Dodge City.

The preacher and his wife were the only ones at the wedding. When it was done, Ward asked, “How much do I owe you,” and the preacher said, “Whatever you think it is worth.” Ward handed him his only 20-dollar bill, hoping to get some change.

The preacher took it all and said, “Thank you very much.” That was his only money and the newlyweds went back home

with 25 cents to their name.

Soon after the marriage they moved to Denver, where Norma’s mother lived and from there, Ward earned a job on a cattle ranch in Gunnison, Colo.

Eventually the work on the ranch ran out and Ward had to look for other employment. He reluctantly went to work in a coal mine. He spent 18 months there and, at times, wished he were back in military combat.

In 1951 they moved to California and Ward got a job as a chinchilla farmer. He was charged with taking care of the animals. Their fur is a very fine fur that is used to make coats.

The fur is so light that it will float in air and a person can breath it without even knowing it. Eventually Ward experienced respiratory problems and had to leave that job to maintain his health.

He then went on to be a salesman, a job that he disliked and stayed for only a short while. He eventually worked for a cattle ranch in California at Big Bear Lake.

At this job, many of the other employees rode in the rodeo, so Ward decided to try his hand at it. Once, while he was about to begin a run on a bucking horse, a personal friend and doctor told Ward that he was not to ride and needed to come with him.

Norma had a child recently and the baby was in trouble. Ward and the doctor had to drive to a hospital at Arrowhead, where the child was awaiting an ambulance to take him to a better hospital.

It was the Fourth of July holiday and traffic was congested. The ambulance picked up the baby, but was not able to make it back through the holiday travelers and the child did not make it.

The couple was running low on money at this point. Ward heard of an organization called the Old Miners’ Association. They were hosting a contest that whoever could walk a burro 50 miles uphill from the desert up to Big Bear Lake in the shortest time would receive \$500.

Ward entered that contest and got a good burro. Out of 57 contestants, Ward was the first of the 11 that passed the finish line. He did so in 10 hours and 36 minutes. He took the \$500 and paid off some bills immediately.

Ward went back to work on the cattle ranch and was able to live in a house on the ranch. It was in very bad shape. The water heater was a cause for concern and would scare Norma because she thought it might explode.

Ward eventually quit work at the ranch and worked on bulldozers and other heavy equipment in Victorville. That business eventually went under, so Ward and Norma moved back to Oklahoma.

Ward began to work on pipelines and traveled all over Oklahoma. They had to move a considerable amount, but he eventually got a job building FHA houses. He built his current residence and moved in around Christmas of 1975.

For four or five years Ward build many different buildings. He had his hand in auditoriums, gymnasiums and other commercial buildings.

The couple went on to have nine children including the boy they lost in California.

During his time on the cattle ranches, Ward learned how to break horses well, so when he retired he would break horses because he enjoyed it. At one time, he took two mustangs to a wild horse show in Texas. He got two girls to show his horses and they won him eight ribbons.



Choctaw Royalty join in the Red Earth Grand Entry, above.

At right, Miss Indian Bacone Ashton Rachelle DiNardo.

Below, members of the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance.



Miss Indian Oklahoma City Stephanie Tehauno.



The Choctaw Color Guard leads the 2011 Red Earth Festival Parade on June 3 in Oklahoma City. This is the 25th anniversary for the Red Earth Festival.



Choctaw artist Carole Ayers is pictured with her granddaughters, Amelia Ayers and Elora Ayers, left, and her daughter, Cindy Larby, right. Cindy’s jingle dress is from the 1880s.



Choctaw stickball players provide a demonstration.



Paul Hacker wins a third place in the 2011 Red Earth Art Show for his war bonnet cylinder.



Miss Indian OU Ashlyn Choate.



Mary Ann Allen, Checotah Fulks, Joyce Robison, D.J. Battiest and Rosalie Bovine.

Senior veterans honored at Choctaw community centers

Antlers



Veterans honored at Antlers include Victor Eyachabbe, David Chavis, Abraham Jones, Roy Earl Jackson, Councilman Jack Austin, Bobby Dunlap Sr., Wayland Carter, Leo Smallwood, W.W. Thomas, M.T. Greenwood, Harlon Peters, Bennie Gibson, Roger Wright, John Hooser, John Roebuck, Loyd Loman, Folsom White, Bertram Bobb, Floyd Peters, Jack Work, John Underwood, Olen Durant, Ted Peters, Raymond Wright, Andrew Choate, Angus Williston, Wallon McKnight, Perry Felihkatubbe, Stephen Billy, Charles Greenwood, Joe Martin, Billy Alex Jackson, Buddy Dunlap, Roger Lessenger, Charles Keeler, Buford Sipes, Virgil Silvey, Virgil Blan Jr., Fred Pipping, Donald Rosson and Randy Lessenger.

Broken Bow/Bethel



Veterans honored at Broken Bow include as pictured, Robert Frazier, Willis McKinney, Louis Battiest, Marry Williams, Thomas Williams, Lawrence Battiest, Ed Worchester and Buck Byington.

★ HOME OF THE BRAVE ★

Crowder



Veterans honored at Crowder are as pictured, Walter Phelps, James Charles, David Francis, Ted Violet, Ed Barker, Lloyd Morris, Martin Killingsworth, Alvie Carney, Jerry Feck and Troy Smith, accompanied by Councilman James Frazier and State Representative Donnie Condit.

“The cement of this nation is the heart-blood of every American”

– President Thomas Jefferson

Hugo



Veterans honored at Hugo include E. “Dutch” Crews, Art Sourhard, David Wilkie, Harrison Frazier, Bobby Bell, Cecil Bell, Henry Rodriquez, R.W. Nored Sr., R.W. Nored Jr., George Robison, Larry Battiest, David Hunter, Isaac Simpson, Phillip Payne, R.D. Payne, Chris Jones, Sally Payne, Eddie Wall, Larry Davenport, Dennis Smith, Lauren Hudson, Doyle Hunter, Lyndel Finch, Henry A. James, Floyd Reislin, Tim Frazier, Melton Ray Caldwell, Councilman Perry Thompson, George Webster, Ron Springs, Bud Davis, Jack Eddleman, Arnold Crain, Carol Parker, Charles Pence, Robert Garrett, Tom Wheelus, Charles Battiest and Jordan Harkin.

Atoka



Veterans honored at Atoka include Sherman Armstrong, Gary Armstrong, John Burlison, Forrest Calvert, Curtis Harjo, Joe Hayse, Theodore LeFlore, Thomas LeFlore, Rayson Nicholas, Snake Norman, Ronnie Scott, Kenneth Wilson, Carl Tucker, James Bates, Anthony Loyd, Bob Dickie, EJ Johnson, Don Bingamon, Carl McBrayer, Don McBrayer, Raymond Kerr, Donald Price and Roy Byrd, accompanied by councilman Anthony Dillard.

★ LAND OF THE FREE ★

Coalgate



Veterans honored at Coalgate include Rueben Burge, Roget Barnes, Ellis Carnes, Thomas Cospers, Ernest Dutton, Jesse Frederick, Evelyn Guffey, Nellie Hunter, Richard Kindig, Lowell Mason, Jack Mathews, Ed Mayer, Roger McAnally, Arvard McLellan, Harold Mitchell, Tommy Morgan, Jerry Nanney, Donald Stanberry, Bobby Willard, James Harris, Arvard J. Ward, David Stiles, Billy Stiles, Noah Burris, Marvin Hampton, Henry H. Wilson, Dwayne E. Miles, Bruce L. Miles, Lyndal G. Miles, Lu Bauer and Adrian T. Wilson.

Durant



Veterans honored at Durant include Richard Adams, Terry Cole, Truman Heron, Jerry Thompson, Willie Walley, Councilman Ted Dosh, Jarvis Johnson, Robert D. Sanders, Gordon B. Schulze Jr., Ollie Wilson, Troy Keithley, Michael Folsom, Alan Perry, Ernest Hooser, Jeremiah LeFlore, Tim Sexton, Dennis Ferguson, Howard Frazier, James W. Cox, Kenneth W. Turner, Lewis Smith, Glenn Estes, Ralph Smith, Albert E. Simon, Donald White, William C. Smith, Roger Scott, John Smith, Chester Pittman, Charles Ladd, James Mintz, Mozelle G. Shoemake, Isaac Homer, Melvin Gaines, Isaac Sexton, Richard Sidles, Silas Blaine, Robert Green, Oscar Sutton, Eudis St. John, Robert Stocker, Arvel Shults, William Starnes, Don Ayers, John Henry Choate, Edward Lawrence, Ralph Norman, David Perriman, Paul Price, Richard Wade, Ralph Brady, Tommy Wyche, Gene Loftis, Ann Grant, Frank Jones, Ryan Taylor, Byington Taylor, Jim Kimbrough, Otis Wesley and Rex Mitchell, accompanied by Joe Hill and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Idabel



Veterans honored at Idabel are as pictured, Sandra Riley, Flo Spalding, Truman Jefferson, Benjamin Williston, Joe Mills, David Lewis, Walker Davis, Sammy McGowen, Jack Touchstone, Leon Wesley, William Tonihka, James Haddock, Nathan Holt, Belton Walker, Jimmy Paxton, Bill Lambert, John Epperson, Lawrence Battiest, Benny Frazier, Ronald Williston and Herbert Jessie.

Senior veterans honored at Choctaw community centers

McAlester



Veterans honored at McAlester include Emanuel Sexton, Lake Wilson, James Wilson, James Green, Sonny Billy, Harlow Cunningham, Walter Amos, Jack Haynes, Tex Cope, Kenneth Majors, Alvie Carney, Thomas Hendrix, Daniel Mumaw, Jonny Cudd, Otis Jefferson, Cleno Jefferson, Daniel James, William Joe Amos, William King, Curtis Baker, Forest Cross, Jimmy Dunn, William Frye, Marvin Sam, Dale Cantrell, Ray Tabor, Larry James, Ronnie Silmon, John McMurtry, Joe McMurtry, Councilman Bob Pate, Dweitt Farrell, Johnny Jones, James Kanimaya, Matthew Kemp, Dennis Sam, Eugene Sweet, Rickie Pate, Dan Tate, Vince Baker, Joseph Homer, James Impson, Dan James, Gary Dyke, Ronnie Phopps, Dennis Cantrell, Bill Gibson, Kenneth Hotubbee, Thomas Anderson, Gilbert Nail, Mike Cook, William Moore, Cleveland Sweet, Bob Kanimaya, Tim Tanner, Kenneth Battles, Charles O’Leary and Loyce Henry Labor.

Poteau



Veterans honored at Poteau are as pictured, Floyd Mortenson, Jack Owen, Steve Mendoza, Curtis Lloyd, Dave Butler, Virgil Sam, Robert Taylor, Phil James, Joseph Moore, Odice Luman, Ollie Austin, Kenneth Ferguson, Councilman Delton Cox and Randy Steelman.

“Where liberty dwells, there is my country”

– Benjamin Franklin

Smithville



Veterans honored at Smithville include Nathan Watson, Margie Watson, Kenneth Ludlow, Bill E. James, George Watson, Leroy Wilson, Tommy Blake, Ed McKinney, Bobby Ludlow, Bobby Nichols, Alvin Moore, Marvin Goings, Meg Scott, Wanda Lect, Kenneth H. Smith, Lowell Nichols, Z.B. Anderson, Con Cusher and Eugene Ludlow.

Spiro



Veterans honored at Spiro are as pictured, John Casey, Milton Stephans, William Harris, David Ashby, Malcolm Stephans, George Smith, Gail Chadwick, Joe Randall, Councilman Delton Cox, Jim Fry, J.B. Adams, Jay Northcutt, Gene Sockey and Jan Randall.

Stigler



Veterans honored at Stigler are as pictured, Matthew Kemp, George Davis, Larry Franklin, Phillip McCann, Pat Rose, Wendell Dennis, Bill Clemmings, Dixon Lewis, Robert Maxwell, Danny Hoyt, Roy Crittenden, Donald Busse, Eugene Branum and Mike Scatlen.

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave”

– Elmer Davis

Talihina



Veterans honored at Talihina include John Anderson, Virgil Sam, Cecil Watson, Jearl Watson, Carl McIntosh, Marion McCurtain, Gary Crank, Walter Dye, Venson Going, Wilburn Bacon, Edward Carter, John Emmert, Everett Wood, Franch Johnico, Don Lanning, Harry James, Sylvester Moore, Monty Olsen, Dallas Seeley, Allen Dukes, Jewett Potts, Marie Waggoner, Eugene Felkner, Jack England, Darryl England, Cecil Brown, Russell Transue, Michael Sexton, Sherman Ward, Lloyd James, Cornelius Winship, Paul Massey, Perry Durant, Bob Emmert, Edna Johnico, Hagin Collins, Jimmy Miller, Bobby Coley, Ronnie Stewart, Joe Jones, A.C. Ritter, C.J. Perera, Francis Johnson, Fred Humphreys, Olen McRorey, Jack Parks, Charles Waggoner, Sharon Anderson, Dave Sparks, Larry Ross, Thomas Wall, Richard Hollenbeck, James Robinson, Don Wooverton, John McDonald, Harold Boye, Jan Richardson, T.K. Todd, Floyd Martin, Bobby Murray, Ed Nixon, Woodrow Allen, Clifford Anderson, James Weeden, Lee Gipson, James Abbott, Ted Ariola, Billy Ramer, Theodore Hines, Thomas Garrison, Lawrence Branscum and Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Wilburton



Veterans honored at Wilburton include Alfred Harley, Sequoyah Roberts, Ray White, Bob White, Bill McCord, Marge Rizer, Pete Swaffard, Eric Newman, Wayne Scott, Ronnie Woodruff, Cleve Jefferson, Jerry Cantrell, Kenneth Adams, Marvin G., James Noley, Cornelius Sam, Homer Noley, Jimmy Labor, Leo Jack, Swain Jack, Robert Prock Jr., Ron Phipps, Leonard Draper, Bill Hall and John Hart.

Wright City



Veterans honored at Wright City include Benny Ray Austin, Luther Battiest, Presley Battiest, Frank Nahwooksy, David Davis, Albert Tom Jr., Robert Thompson, Charles Holt, Daniel Herndon, Ernest Snow, Jonathan Wilson, Alvis Donaldson, Bobby Mussett, Frank Cunningham, John Shelton, David Keyes and Cyrus Battiest.

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

5k Run

Race Begins at 8 a.m.

September 3

Tushka Homma, Oklahoma

Race day registration is from 6:30-7:45 a.m.
north of Crossroad Cafe
on U.S. Hwy. 271, 5 miles north of Clayton.
All entries must be postmarked by Aug. 29, 2011.

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 3, 2011 _____ Sex (M/F) _____


Tribal Member (Y/N) _____

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

Detach and send entry form to:

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

TOUGH, TOUGH CHOCTAW



Saturday, September 3
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.

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.

8th Annual Art Show
September 3, 10 a.m. - September 4, 2 p.m.
on the second floor
of the Choctaw Capitol Museum.

Artist applications must be postmarked
by July 31, 2011. Pieces will be accepted
until August 20, 2011.

Chief Pyle's

Youth Fitness Challenge

Plyometric Boxes • 40 Yard Dash • Sled Pull • Agility Drills

Friday, Sept. 2
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. This event is for anyone looking to improve their fitness level and have a great time doing it. It is open to all fitness levels, athletes to non-athletes. For more information, call Jason Campbell at 800-522-6170, ext. 2787.



**Choctaw Nation
Co-Ed
Volleyball
Tournament**

Saturday, September 3

First 12 teams accepted
Maximum 10 players per team

Team Name _____

Team Captain _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Mail entry to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Co-ed Volleyball Tournament
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Rebecca Hawkins

Deadline for entries:
4:30 p.m. August 19, 2011

For more information:
580-924-8280, Ext. 2212 or 2258

2011 Labor Day Entertainer Schedule

Friday, Sept. 2

6 p.m. - Neal McCoy
8 p.m. - 38 Special
10 p.m. - Clay Walker

Saturday, Sept. 3


6 p.m. - Ronnie Milsap
8 p.m. - Jamey Johnson
10 p.m. - Gary Allan

Sunday, Sept. 4

9 p.m. - Third Day

8TH ANNUAL CHIEF PYLE LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNEY

Date: Sunday, September 4th, 2011



Team Cash Prizes

1st Place

2nd Place


3rd Place

Individual Prizes

Closes to Pin

Longest drive

- Hosted by Sylamore Springs Golf Course, Wilberton, OK
- 9 hole, Par 36
- 4-person Mixed Scramble, 18 holes
- Teams selected by Handicap Blind Draw
- First Group of Teams tee off at 8:30am, 2nd group at 1:30
- 18 Teams, 36 Golfers for each start time.
- **No requests for partners. 100% Blind Draw**
- Mulligans 2/\$10
- Door Prizes will be given. (must purchase mulligan tickets to be eligible)



labor Day!
FAST PITCH
SEPTMBER 2-4

**at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds
in Tushka Homma, Oklahoma**

– Deadline for entry is August 12, 2011 –
For more information, please call 580-924-8280
or toll-free 800-522-6170, ext. 2224, or fill out
the application below and return to our office.

Name of team _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please circle one:

Men's team *or* Women's team

and return to:

Larry Wade
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Youth Advisory Board


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

Saturday, September 3	Sunday, September 4
8:30-9:30 a.m. – Craft	1:15-2:15 p.m. – Craft
9:45-10:45 a.m. – Craft	2:30-3:30 p.m. – Craft
11-11:45 a.m. – Craft	3:45-4:30 p.m. – Craft
12:15-12:45 p.m. – Scavenger Fitness Hunt	
1-2 p.m. – Craft	
2:15-3:15 – Craft	

RV GATE CHECK-IN TIMES

Check-in times for RVs will be as follows. Please make arrangements to arrive and check in at your respective RV gate during one of these times.

Wednesday (8/31) 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Thursday (9/1) 8 a.m.-12 midnight
 Friday (9/2) 8 a.m.-12 midnight
 Saturday (9/3) 8 a.m.-12 midnight
 Sunday (9/4) 8 a.m.-10 p.m.



**3-on-3
Basketball**
September 4

3-on-3 Basketball

September 3

Team Name _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone _____

Category / Division

- Kids Co-ed 10-13
- Teen Co-ed (HS only)
- Men - Young Guns
- Men - Old Timers

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**

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 by August 28, 2011, to:
 Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball
 P.O. Box 1909, Durant, OK 74702

OBITUARIES

Benny Barcus Sr.

Atoka area resident, Benny Barcus Sr., 50, passed away on May 11, 2011, in Atoka. He was born on May 23, 1960, to Elmer and Ruby (Sexton) Barcus, in Ruidoso, N.M. He attended school in Ruidoso and went on to work at the B&B lumber yard for 13 years and had his own lawn service. Benny married Dawn (Whitmire) on April 8, 1985, at Atoka. He was of the Baptist faith and loved deer hunting and spending time outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Marvin Barcus; and children, Nita Barcus and Benny Barcus Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Dawn Barcus of the home; children, Katrena Barcus, Lance Barcus, Brett Barcus, Brock Barcus and Tabitha Barcus, all of Atoka; grandchildren, Tamia Shaw, Devan Shaw and Dominic Shaw, all of Atoka; siblings Elmer Barcus Jr. and Lee Carnes of Caney, Marian Davis of Dallas, and Anita Leflore with husband Leon of Atoka; special nephews, Ricky Leal with wife Lisa of Atoka, and Michael Barcus of Broken Bow; good friend Donna Burleson of Stringtown; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Anna Sweat

Anna Sue Sweat, 78, of Hartshorne passed away on April 9, 2011, at a local nursing home.

Born Jan. 15, 1933, in Haileyville to Jesse Charles Huskey and Nevada Belle (Crow) Huskey. She married Eugene Sweat on March 15, 1950, in Fort Smith, Ark., and moved to California that year. She raised her family there and returned to Hartshorne in 1987. She was a member of Haileyville Baptist Church and the Eastern Star. She loved to work with her hands. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her grandson, Robert Eugene Odom; and sister Nevada Pearl Barker.

Survivors include her husband, Eugene Sweat of the home; three daughters and sons-in-law, Diana and Steve Bayley of Valley Springs, Calif., Kathryn Morrow of Hartshorne, Betty and Gary Lane of Port Townsend, Wash.; a son, Victor Sweat of Haileyville; five grandchildren, Lena Odom, Michael Houk, Matthew Mullin, Jennifer Tomaras and Zach Morrow; five great-grandchildren, Trey Wilson, Skylar Moncur, Mikayla Odom, Kadianna Tomaras and Tucker Tomaras; one brother and sister-in-law, Jesse Charles and Jean Huskey, of Chandler; and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed.

Garland Richards

Garland L. Richards passed away on May 11, 2011, at Mercy Memorial Health Center in Ardmore. He was born July 4, 1934, in Gas City to Dewey and Opal Nelson Richards. Garland married Geraldine Mays on April 30, 1960, in Lawton. He graduated from Comanche High School in 1955 and worked at High Sierra in Velma. He enjoyed going to the lake and ballgames with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed going to pow wows, trade days and loved horse racing. He was the grandson of Nellie Mae Spain, who was an original enrollee.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jack and Jerry Richards; and a son, Gerald Null.

Garland is survived by his wife, Geraldine of the home; children, Shirland Jo Pike with husband Bob of South Lake, Texas, and Billy Null with wife Donna of Boise, Idaho; sister Nell Jo Bowen of Comanche; grandchildren, Kim Zaher of Haslet, Texas, Chanley Pike of South Lake, Texas, Chris Null and Lydia of Wesville, Mandy Null of Oklahoma City and Kristie Null and Jammie Null of Boise, Idaho; great-grandchildren, Nathan Carson, Kenzlee Zaher, Kylee Zaher, Kaden Affleck, Graeson Garcia, Tyler Moore, Blade Null, Jace Null and Chance Null.

Vernon Bryant

Vernon Noah Bryant, 73, of Bokoshe, passed away May 3, 2011, at The Oaks Nursing Home in Poteau. Mr. Bryant was born in Oklahoma City on March 9, 1938, the son of the late Melvin and Wina (Thomas) Bryant. He worked as a Union Iron Worker.

He is survived by Kitrena Roberson of the home; brother Howard Bryant of Bokoshe; sister Louwanda Bryant of Oklahoma City; and a host of relatives and friends.

Doki Jack

Doki Jack, 71, passed away on May 6, 2011, in Amarillo. Doki was born on Jan. 12, 1940, to Lucille and Andrew Jack on the Indian reservation in Wilburton. Doki moved to Amarillo with his family at the age of 17. He joined the Navy in 1958 and was stationed in California. He married Carolyn Cochran in 1961 and they continued to live in California and raise their family there. Doki worked in maintenance at Columbia College until retirement in 2000. Doki and Carolyn moved back to Amarillo in 2005.

Doki loved his Lord and was very active in his church. He also loved to go camping and returning back to Oklahoma to visit relatives. He always looked forward to attending the Choctaw Labor Day Festival with his family. He loved each and every one of his grandchildren and looked forward to their visits. Doki and Carolyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 9, 2011, with family and friends in Amarillo.

Doki was preceded in death by his parents, Lucille and Andrew Jack; brothers, Doyle Jack and Ricky Jack; sister Bobbi Jack Thomas; and great-niece Tamra Kennedy.

Doki is survived by his wife, Carolyn Jack; two daughters, Doni Jack, and Tish Jack Caddell with husband Scott Caddell of Anchorage, Alaska; son Michael Jack of Amarillo; grandchildren, Derek Jack and Briana Jack of Sonora, Calif., Alexandria Caddell and Remy Jack Caddell of Anchorage; brother Leo “Sonny” Jack with wife Janeice of Amarillo; nephews, Bruce Thomas with wife Janet, Curtis Thomas of Amarillo, Shane Thomas with wife Christina of Borger, Texas, Randy Jack with wife Donna, Cody Jack with wife Ronda of Panhandle, Texas; nieces, Connie Jack Kennedy with husband, Tommy, Angie Jack Melton of Amarillo; aunt Skeet Labor with husband Peachy of Pittsburg; uncle John Labor of McCurtain; and numerous cousins.



Arvil O’Roark

Arvil L. O’Roark, 68, of Broken Bow passed away on May 10, 2011.

Arvil was born Nov. 28, 1942, in Buckeye, Ariz., the son of George and Edith (Ellis) O’Roark. He and Barbara Steenburgh were united in marriage in Modesto, Calif., on Nov. 10, 1960. Arvil was a U.S. Air Force veteran and had lived in Ceres, Calif., for 63 years before moving to Broken Bow in 2006. Over 40 years, he served in the ministry as a Church of God pastor and teacher. Arvil was presently serving as an usher and teacher at the Broken Bow Church of God where he was a member. He was a very hard worker, a prayer warrior, and enjoyed fishing and tinkering in his spare time.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Edith O’Roark.

Arvil leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Barbara, of the home; one son, Arvil O’Roark Jr. with wife Angela of Broken Bow; three daughters, LaDawn Self with husband Rick of Cloudy, Geneva Keck with husband Steve of Idabel, and Rebekah Sturgeon with husband James of Broken Bow; three brothers, Harold O’Roark of Tulsa, Fred O’Roark of Ceres, Ray O’Roark of Henryetta; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; along with numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Aiden Willis

Aiden Tyrese Willis, infant son of Amy Willis, was born May 23, 2011, in Idabel. Jesus said in Luke 18:16, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

He was preceded in death by his maternal great-grandparents; one aunt, Belinda Willis; and one cousin, Nathan DeWayne Willis.

Aiden leaves to cherish his memory, his mother, Amy Willis of Idabel; grandparents, Racheal E. Shomo and Carmelo Martinez, both of Eagletown; a sister, Tajarae Hart of Idabel; four aunts, Nikisha Willis of Idabel, Laquanta Willis of Idabel, Martika Willis of Oak Hill, and Amber Shomo of Eagletown; four uncles, Michael Willis Jr. of Durant, and Jimmerson Willis, Chimon Willis and Ambrocio Shomo, all of Eagletown; numerous great-aunts, great-uncles and cousins.

Jimmy Coleman

Jimmy Dale Coleman, 78, of Roland passed away on April 27, 2011, in a Fort Smith hospital. He was a retired U.S. Army Master Sgt. and a veteran of Korea and Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star. He was a member of the Army Historical Society and the American Legion Post 0213. Mr. Coleman was also a retired schoolteacher from St. Boniface Catholic School and a member of Blessed Kateri Catholic Church.

He was preceded in death by his two wives, Rhea Coleman and Sue Burns Coleman; and by his son, Jimmy David Coleman.

Survivors include his two daughters, Tresa Daniel of Liberty, and Beverly Clay of Muldrow; two stepdaughters, Mary Carolyn Harper of Otis, Ore., and Debra Helms of Greenwood, Ark.; one stepson, Jim Burns of Fort Smith, Ark.; one brother, Billy Coleman of Fort Smith; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Nadine Parker

Nadine S. Parker, 83, passed away on Nov. 29, 2010. She was born on Nov. 3, 1927, in Caddo to Eulin G. and Jewell L. (Dillard) Stevens. She graduated from Phillips High School in 1944 and continued her education at Freed-Hardeman College in Hendersonville, Tenn. She worked most of her life as a nurse until her retirement. She moved to Bryan County in April of 2005 from Amarillo. She was a member of the Northwest Church of Christ and the Choctaw Seniors and she enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, crocheting, arts and crafts, gardening and cooking, but her greatest joy in life was her family. Nadine will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Nadine was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Jim, Bill, Dow, Grover, John and Garland Stevens.

She is survived by her daughter, Judy Coley with husband Jim of Colorado Springs, Co.; son Thomas R. Parker with wife Cheryl of Houston; sister Mary Ellen Evans with husband Don of Amarillo; three grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and a host of dear and loved friends.



Virgil Cantrell

Virgil Anthony “Tony” Cantrell, 50, passed away April 22, 2011, at Denton, Texas.

Virgil was born on Sept. 20, 1960, in Artesia, N.M., to Louis LaVern Cantrell and Josephine (Sewell) Cantrell.

Tony attended Dickson Schools as a child. He was a carpenter by trade and worked throughout the area. He served his country by enlisting in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and served until he received his honorable discharge. Tony enjoyed working crossword puzzles and was a movie buff. His heritage as a Mississippi-Choctaw and his family were very important to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Nettie Newman, Teena Coppedge; brothers, Lenny Cantrell, Wiley Gene Sewell; and nephew Adam Waltz.

Virgil is survived by his daughters, Haley Amanda Cantrell of Tulsa, and her two children, Tommy James Millsap II with wife, Taylor Shea-Lynn Millsap, of Dickson, and Angela Duncan and her two children of Wichita, Kan.; one brother, Eddie Cantrell with wife Mary Kay of Ardmore; three sisters, Tanda Duncan with husband Danny of Madill, Iva Jo Jones of Ardmore, and Camille Bean of Ardmore; nephews, Jay Hoskins, Bob Newman, Tim Maxville, Dustin Keith and Charlie Bean; nieces, Cheryl Kay Hudson, Mary Butler, Audra Bell, Jessica Bean, Molly Cantrell; and a multitude of friends.



Anthony Cole

Atoka area resident, Anthony Grant Cole, 41, passed away on May 17, 2011, at Denison, Texas.

He was born on Aug. 5, 1969, to Irvin and Norma (Scott) Cole, in Talihina. He graduated from Atoka High School in 1988. He was a product assembler for New Horizons and was a member of Coal Creek Cumberland Presbyterian. Anthony enjoyed reading and collecting comic books, watching sports, western movies and spending time with his friends and family. He was a member of the Choctaw District 10. Anthony was a huge Star Wars fan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Donna Mayo; and great niece Isabinda Cole Anderson.

He is survived by his siblings, Ernest Lee Cole, Sherman Edward Cole and Irvin Cole Jr., all of Wardville, Lorene Scott of Tupelo, Pay Mayer with husband Edward of Coalgate, Terry Leon Cole with wife Pam of Phillips, and Regina Anderson and Gary of Ada; brother-in-law Eugene Mayo of Texas; aunt and uncles, Betty Johnson of Antlers, Charlie Scott of Atoka and Leroy Scott with wife Christine of Atoka; along with special cousins, numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



Benny Phelps

Benny Dale Phelps, 68, of Old Allison passed away on April 22, 2011, after a brief battle with cancer. He was born Oct. 3, 1942, in Durant to Ted and Lois (McDaniel) Phelps.

Benny graduated from Achille High School in 1960. He married his childhood sweetheart Marvetta Kimbrough at Bushnell Baptist Church on June 24, 1960. He retired from Chevron Oil Company in 1996. He was a deacon and long-time member of Fairview Baptist Church. Benny loved to play golf and was a member of the Durant Country Club. It was there he achieved two holes-in-one for which he was very proud. Benny was proud of his Choctaw/Chickasaw heritage and was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He also enjoyed antiques, tending to his plants in the greenhouse and spending time with his family and friends.

Benny was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Lois Phelps; brother Billy Phelps; and sister Pat Edelen.

Benny is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Marvetta; daughter Gina Harris with husband Steve of Old Allison; son Jason Phelps with wife Angie of Old Allison; son Rayford Phelps with wife Melissa of New Allison; grandchildren, Whitney Malott with husband Keith, Tanner Anderson, Shelbi, Jaron and Jaxon Phelps, all of Old Allison, and Trevan and Mallory Phelps of New Allison; great-grandson Maddox Anderson of Old Allison; brothers, Bob Phelps with wife Ann of Old Allison, and M.J. Phelps with wife Billie of Garland, Texas; sister-in-law Myrna Albert of New Allison; step-grandchildren, Ashley Pamplin with husband Nathan of Tishomingo, Steven Harris of Ada, and Lauren Harris of Ada; step-great-grandchildren Blakelyn and Kendall Pamplin of Tishomingo, Hunter and Jagger Harris of Ada, and Alex Townsend of Pottsboro; and many other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Creson Watson

Creson Watson, 93, passed away on Jan. 19, 2011. He was born Sept. 8, 1919, in Bethel, the son of Robert and Ella Battiest Watson. He married Susan Kaniatobe Watson on Feb. 29, 1948, and they were married for 34 years.

He enlisted in the Army on March 20, 1945, and served as a patrolman and sharp shooter in the 45th Infantry.

He was awarded several accommodations for his service including the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon, an Army Occupation Ribbon (Japan), Victory Ribbon and one overseas service bar. After being discharged on Jan. 3, 1947, he started working as a mechanic. Creson was a laborer most of his life and instilled hard work and discipline in his children.

Creson was a man of faith who encouraged his children to have faith and love in God. He enjoyed playing the piano at Brighter Day Church in Los Angeles, and sang in a gospel quartet in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. He had a wit about him and loved his family dearly. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren were his pride and joy. He always prayed for safe travels for his family when they visited him in the nursing home. His last prayer was incoherent but they got the message.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, Susan Kaniatobe Watson, Vivian Watson and Mary Watson; and a son, Charles Alan Watson.

Creson is survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Randall and Rita Watson of Broken Bow, Hank and Barbara Watson of North Glenn, Co., George Watson of Idabel, Amon and Jeanie Watson of Albuquerque, N.M., and Chris Watson of Dallas; daughters and son-in-law, Hannah Bryan of Durant, Pamela Gutierrez of Allen, Texas, Christina and Stanley Loretto of Jemez Pueblo, N.M., and Andrea Yellowfish of Mesquite, Texas; 27 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; many other relatives and a host of friends.



Beverly Thornton

Beverly Charlene Thornton, 71, of Houston passed away on May 10, 2011, after a brief illness. Beverly was born to Watie and Lovie Plumlee on Feb.13, 1940, in Oklahoma City. She was a devout Christian her entire life.

Beverly retired after 20 years of employment with Tideland Signal. Beverly was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. She is remem-

bered by all as a woman with a joyful zest for life and a strong love for her family. Beverly enjoyed traveling and never met a stranger. She loved to sing, play the piano, paint and sketch.

Beverly is survived by her son, Stephen McLeod; granddaughter Che’ Ward; great-grandchildren, Andrew and Brandon Ward; sisters, Delores Fennell and Kathryn Reichardt; nieces, Linda Janney, Debbie Fitzhenry, Cynthia Cicchetti, Laura Reichardt, Angela Webster, Karen Strong; and her nephews, Terry Burke, Michael Burke and Larry Reichardt.



OBITUARIES

Florrainia Kniss

Florrainia J. Kniss passed away on May 11, 2011. She was born on July 28, 1923, in Shady Point, the youngest of Moses and Pearl Folsom. Her father was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

She graduated from high school in Tulsa. She was in the last cadet class of nurses at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa during World War II.

After finishing her nurses training she went into government service with the U.S. Public Health Branch of Indian Affairs. She started her nursing in Indian Service at Claremore Indian Hospital. She worked in all positions from staff nurse to Director of Nurses during her 10 years of service in Hoopa, Calif., Phoenix, Ariz., Talihina and Tahlequah.

She left government service in 1958 to be at home with her family. The family moved to Texas in 1963. She worked part time in several different areas of nursing while the daughters were at home. In 1981, she took a full-time position as health counselor to a large generic group and retired after 10 years because of health problems.

She took interest in money organizations and volunteered a great deal of time at Richmond State School, now termed Richmond State Supported Living Center, in Fort Bend, Ark., long term disability committees and served on the advisory committee of the Department of Human Services in Texas.

She was proud of her Indian heritage, collected Indian art, pottery and baskets. She compiled a fair size library of books of Indian history. She will be missed by friends and family who knew her over a period of 87 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and both sisters. She is survived by her husband, Ken; daughters, Anita K. Smith and Karen Kniss, both of Sugarland, Texas; grandson Ronald L. Smith; former son-in-law Ronnie Smith; three nieces and two great-nieces.

Ruby Harman

Ruby Lou Blackwood Harman passed away on April 4, 2011, exactly one month after turning 96 years old. There was only one Ruby Lou Blackwood Harman. She was proud of her Native American heritage, being one-half Choctaw. She was a loving and giving person, and stood strong in her faith and praised the Lord in all that she did. She is a true inspiration to all that knew her.

Born March 4, 1915, in Foster, to Lucinda and Belve Blackwood, she lived on the same farm until she met and married Albert. When she was a kid, she always wanted to “move like my friends did.” She thought it would be fun to live in a different house after living on the same farm all of her first 18 years. She soon found out moving was no fun.

After she met and married Albert, the moving started. They lived in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Illinois, in several towns twice. She always found the church in the towns before she found a place to live. The last move was to Denver City, Texas.

Albert passed away in December of 1987. She lived alone for 12 years, and then moved to Granbury, Texas, in a retirement center for a while, then with her son, Walton. After her daughter-in-law passed away in 2004, they moved to Wimberley, Texas.

Ruby had fond memories of her life, such as her first sight of an airplane and her first ride on a train. She would reminisce of riding in a wagon rather than a car. She also lived through the Great Depression and 14 presidential terms, from Hoover to Obama.

She is survived by her son, Walton Harman with wife Ruthie; daughter June Shipp; three grandchildren, Denise Shipp Saylor, Scott Harman with wife Ami, and Leslie Harman; two great-grandchildren, Mariah Saylor and Addison Harman; along with numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Launa Faye Medlock

Launa Faye Medlock, 78, of Stigler, passed away on March 14, 2011, in Bartlesville, with her daughters by her side. She was born Oct. 29, 1932, in Stigler to Adam and Eliza (Jackson) Christy.

Launa began school in Cass and went on to graduate from Stigler High School in 1952. After graduation, she moved to Tulsa to work and enjoyed being independent. She treasured the time she spent with her girlfriends and often talked of their “single” days.

She married James Kenneth Medlock on Oct. 17, 1953. She fondly recalled a time early in their courtship when he walked her home “all the way from town,” and gently held her hand. After their marriage, Launa continued to live in Tulsa while Kenneth traveled for his job with the Kansas City Southern Railroad. They made their home in Stigler in 1957 when their first daughter, Debbi, was born. Launa went on to work for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and retired in 1990 after 27 years of service.

After Kenneth’s death in 1994, Launa continued to have a positive outlook on life. She loved to travel and took her family on many memorable trips. She enjoyed her close circle of friends, and thriving on the fun times she had with them. When she was “gallivanting around” with her two sisters, Amelia and Delores, people often had difficulty telling them apart. Launa will be remembered for her lively nature and teasing ways.

She loved animals and was especially partial to dogs and cats. Over the years she provided a nurturing home to many. Launa had moved to Bartlesville to be closer to family. She resided at the Sterling House. Launa was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation.

She was the beloved mother of two daughters, Debbi Ary with husband, Terry, of Bartlesville, and Kim Wigger with husband, John, of Naperville, Ill. She was the oldest sister to Amelia Steen with husband, Jim, of Stigler, Aglae Lawson with husband, Marvin, of Eucha, and Sandra Leonard of Pittsburg, Kan. She was the cherished grandmother/awma to Jessica Ary, Kyle Ary, Adam Wigger and Jackson Wigger. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, Herman Medlock of Holdenville and numerous nieces and nephews.

Launa was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Kenneth Medlock; her parents, Adam and Eliza Christy; her three brothers, Gilmore Christy, Adam “Sonny” Christy and Haskell Christy; and one sister, Delores Holloway.



Delores Pike

Delores Anne Pike passed away on May 7, 2011, in Victorville, Calif. She was born on April 2, 1973, at Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster, Calif.

She was married to her husband Frank, for 19 years. She was very outgoing and also a caring mother who enjoyed her time with friends and family. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She is survived by her husband Frank; sons, Jeremy, Gabriel, Frank Jr., Dustin, Daniel and Dylan; daughter Tiffany; brothers, Thomas, Mark and Robert; sisters, Kely and Brooke; parents Carla Gough and Roy Hockenberry.



James Bruner

James Henry “Jim” Bruner, 80, passed away on Jan. 25, 2011, in Antlers. He was born Sept. 13, 1930, in Holdenville to Arthur J. and Izora (Walker) Bruner.

Jim married Jody Nabors at the First Baptist Church in Holdenville in 1949. He was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed singing and spending time with family and friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Johnny Lee Bruner, Leon Bruner and Tippie Bruner; and two sisters, Johnnie Mae Kalinich and Minnie Ruth Faxon.

He is survived by his wife, Jody of the home; brothers, Arthur Bruner Jr. with wife Janelle of Tulsa, Jack Bruner of Midwest City, and Harry R. Bruner of Seminole; sisters, Cowena Sue Anderson with husband Jimmy of Shawnee, and Doreen Buck of Holdenville; special cousins, Betty Kee (Potter) of Antlers, and Jeanine Ferguson of Hugo; as well as many other relatives and friends.



Odell Nichols

Odell Nichols, 77, of Smithville, passed away on Dec. 19, 2010. He was born Sept. 14, 1933, in Hatfield, Ark., to Austin Brown Nichols and Ara Cusher Nichols. He was united in marriage to Edna Phillips on April 9, 1960. Mr. Nichols was a truck driver by profession and owner and operator of Nichols Grocery in Smithville. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy from Feb. 5, 1952, to Feb. 5, 1960. He was in the Korean War and served on the USS George Clumer touring in China, Formosa, Philippines, Okinawa, San Diego, Pearl Harbor, Japan and Korea. He was a member of the Big Lick Presbyterian Church. Mr. Nichols was a 32nd degree Mason. He was a loving father, grandfather, brother and friend. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, hunting and spending time with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Austin and Ara Nichols.

He is survived by his wife of the home, Edna; two daughters, Debbie Conley with husband Patrick, and Donna Jones with husband Jesse, both of Smithville; three sons, Odell Nichols with wife Vickey of Smithville, Tony Nichols with wife Lisa of Hatfield, Ark., and Joseph Nichols with wife Marissa of Broken Bow; sister Jean Bass of Poteau; two brothers, Bobby Nichols with wife Barbara and Paul Nichols with wife Nancy, both of Poteau; 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Kenneth Sims Sr.

Kenneth Ray Sims Sr. passed away May 11, 2011, at his home in Robertsdale, Ala., with his daughter, sister and niece by his side. He was born on Sept. 19, 1939, in Seagraves, Texas.

He was proud of his Choctw heritage. His grandmother, Sally Kennedy LeFlore Ward was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. His grandfather was the late cattle baron, Walter Augustus “Gus” Ward of LeFlore. He was a man who loved the Lord Jesus Christ and wanted all to know Him as he knew Him.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Nellie Marie Ward Sims; father Denmon Alexander Sims; daughter Kelly Marie Sims; brother and sister-in-law, Jerry Denmon and Janet Newbrough Sims.

He is survived by his sons, Michael Keith Sims, Kevin Ward Sims and Kenneth Ray Sims Jr.; his daughter, Kimberly Ann Sims; sister Shirley Sims Trantum Krieger with husband Stephen Krieger; nephews, Jerry Sims with wife Karen, Rev. Dennis Sims with wife LeAnne, and Jathan Sims; and two nieces, Becky Sims Owens with husband Donald, and Lori Fry.



Cecil Carney

Cecil Chestine Carney, 55, passed away April 12, 2011, at Ardmore.

Cecil was born June 10, 1955, in Lawton to Cephus Carney and Era Mae (Underwood) Carney.

Cecil attended Mannsville schools as a child. He worked for the City of Ardmore most of his life and in the past four years he worked for First Staffing. He was an avid wood carver and was known for making walking canes and peace pipes. Cecil loved riding his motorcycle and attending car shows. He also enjoyed playing pool.

He was preceded in death by his mother; two brothers, Melvin “Gube” Underwood and William Tyson; an uncle, Andrew “Bud” Underwood; and aunt Geraldine “Babe” Mose.

Cecil is survived by his one son, Waylon Gene Carney of Oklahoma City; father of Las Vegas; five brothers, Sonny Tyson with wife Cindy, Charley Carney, Calvin Carney with companion Patricia, Richard Carney with wife Angie and Thurman Carney with companion Linda; two sisters, Nora Lampkin with husband Raymond and Gloria Battice with husband David; a very special nephew, Brandon Battice; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



Edward Wilson Jr.

Edward Lewis Wilson Jr. passed away on March 18, 2011, in Dallas. He was born Jan. 13, 1920, in Valiant to Nina Selph and Edward Lewis. He was a graduated of Woodrow High School and received a degree in Architectural Engineering from Texas A&M. He married his sweetheart, Jean Marie Haley, before serving in Europe in the 6th Armored Division.

After returning from World War II, he established Edward L. Wilson Consulting Engineers, where he was responsible for the initial layout of Brook Hollow Industrial District and Stemmons Freeway as well as over 300 schools, many country clubs and hospitals across Texas and the Mid-South region including the current Dallas VA Hospital. He was awarded the 1990 Associated General Contractors Building of the Year Award. Ed was a member of the Highland Park UMC for over 60 years, where he served as a scoutmaster for Troop 82 and on the church board. He was active in his community as a town councilman for Highland Park, an early sponsor of the Dallas American Indian Methodist Church and member of the Dallas Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Jane Wilson Hooper; wife Jean Marie Haley Wilson; and son William Haley Wilson.

He is survived by his sister, Ruth Wilson Keeton; son Edward Lewis Wilson III; daughter Sarah Wilson Andry with husband Richard; grandsons, Samuel Hayes Wilson, Thomas Lewis Wilson and John Christopher Andry; granddaughters, Gretchen Andry Reynolds and Amber Zumbro Hunt; and great-granddaughters, Yarden Andry Reynolds and Blake Salome Andry.



Dovie DeBord

Dovie Jean DeBord, born Dovie Jean Le Flore, 74, passed away on April 15, 2011, in Ardmore. She was born Jan. 10, 1937, in Talihina to Wilmond Wallace Le Flore and Lillie Hyatt Le Flore. She married James A. “Jimmy John” DeBord Sr. on Dec. 26, 1957, in Ardmore.

Dovie was born the third daughter in a family of 10 children in eastern Oklahoma. She was raised by her older sisters after their mother died when Dovie was 10 years old. Her forefather walked the Trail of Tears with the Choctaw tribe. His parents drowned while crossing the Mississippi River, leaving him with three allotments of land. Dovie Jean DeBord neé Le Flore was a direct descendent of Greenwood Le Flore, who was once chief of the Choctaw tribe. Greenwood was the son of a niece of Chief Pushmataha. Dovie loved her children and had many hobbies such as ceramics and her animals. She was proud that all of her children graduated from high school. She was a volunteer firefighter in Thackerville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Billy G. DeBord; son-in-law Larry Fleck; four brothers and two sisters.

Dovie is survived by her husband, James Sr., of Thackerville; her children, Coy Sue Fleck, Emmitt W. DeBord, James A. DeBord Jr., Jerry D. DeBord and Eugene DeBord; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandson.



Rachael Willis-Armstrong

Rachael Marie Willis-Armstrong, 25, of Pittsburg passed away on May 24, 2011, in Blanco. She was born Feb. 5, 1986 in Oklahoma City to Carl Wilson and Tina Marie Willis. She graduated from Pittsburg High School in 2005. She married Dustin Armstrong on July 23, 2005, in Pittsburg. She attended Eastern Oklahoma State College. She worked as a shift manager at the Tandy Town McDonalds. Rachael enjoyed working and spending time with her children and family.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Robert and Clara Willis; uncles, Matthew Willis and George Willis; and an aunt, Roberta Autauabo.

She is survived by her daughter, Emily Armstrong, of the home; her son, Andrew Armstrong, of the home; father of her children, Dustin Armstrong of the home; mother Tine Marie Wilson and Clifton Peterson of Krebs; stepfather Carl Wilson of McAlester; sister Angilena Willis and Casey Plyler of Krebs; aunt Sandee Holder with husband James of Kiowa; uncle Marcus Willis with wife Mandy of Ada; mother-in-law Sheryle Spear with husband Mike of Pittsburg; and numerous cousins, family members and friends



Barbara Pierce-White

Barbara “Bobi” Pierce-White, 78, passed away on June 7, 2011, at her home in Billings.

Bobi was born on April 19, 1933, in Vernon, Texas. She grew up in Texas and New Mexico. She moved to California after high school, and it was there that she learned to sell aircraft parts and supplies. Through sheer courage, determination and her brilliant mind, she developed her knowledge and sales skills and opened her own business, Kelly Jennings, which became a multimillion-dollar operation in Burbank, Calif.

Bobi was a genius with words, a master at relationships and sales, and an unconditional lover of people, especially her family. People were drawn to her through her ability to listen without judgment. There is no telling how much good she did for so many people, through her kindness and willingness to listen.

She was preceded in death by her father, Blackie “Chock” Jennings; mother Eula; son Rocky; sisters, Paula, Gig and Penny; brother Sonny; brothers-in-law, George and Darnell; nephews, Eric and David; and niece Donna.

Bobi is survived by her husband Russell; her daughter, Michele; granddaughter Sunshine; grandson Jack; great-grandson David; sisters, Linda and Joy; her lifelong best friend, Fredye; beloved caregiver, Jeanne; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family is grateful to all those who have assisted Bobi during her long illness, particularly Dr. Guzman and Marlene at Billings Clinic, and the wonderful people from Riverstone Hospice. May God bless you for each gift of kindness you have given.



OBITUARIES

Thomas Hyde

Thomas Gordon Hyde, 78, a long-time Atoka area resident passed away on June 15, 2011, in Atoka. He was born on Oct. 18, 1932, to Thomas Lee Hyde and Muriel (Thomas) Favors, at Atoka. He graduated from Tushka High School in 1951 and attended Murray State College and Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he received his bachelor’s degree. Thomas served his country in the U.S. Air Force during Korea and Vietnam. He was retired from the military, from the Department of Human Services and the Department of CPS. He was an avid Tushka Tiger fan, a member of the Tushka Baptist Church, and he enjoyed raising horses.

He was preceded in death by parents, Thomas Lee Hyde and Muriel (Thomas) Favors; stepfather Juddie Favors; siblings, Harlon, Roger Neal, and Donald Hyde, Barbara (Hyde) Had-dock and Phyllis (Favors) Jensen.

He is survived by his children, Glenn Roger Hyde and Cor-rina Jayne Hyde, both of Atoka; siblings, Donna (Favors) Mulkey with husband Mike, and Sandra (Favors) Banker with husband Jacky, both of Tushka; brother-in-law Stan Jensen of Tushka; sisters-in-law, Sue Hyde of Tushka, and Betty Hyde of Caddo; grandchildren, Ashley Nicole Hyde, Tiffany (Hyde) Hokett with husband Jason, both of Atoka, and Jennifer Ann Eden of Caney; six great-grandchildren; along with numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Danny Garcia

Danny “DJ” Garcia, 45, of Kinta passed away on April 23, 2011, in Stigler. He was born on Aug. 16, 1965, in Talihina to Loyd Perry and Alice Wanda (LeFlore) Mayhall. He loved being in the woods and enjoying the outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, James, Fred, Larry and Franklin; and two infants.

He is survived by six sisters, Juanita Konkright of Checo-tah, Mary Garcia of McCloud, Mary Alice Cravens of Broken Bow, Virginia Lee of Oklahoma City, Mabel Lee of Keota, and Anna James of Fort Smith, Ark.; three brothers, Carl Mayhall of Stigler, Loyd Mayhall of McCurtain, and Boyd Dewayne Garcia of Boonville, Ark.; best friend Mark Wiedemann of Stigler; along with numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Mackey McBride

Mackey Joe McBride, 52, of Po-teau passed away on June 12, 2011, in Fort Smith, Ark. Mackey was born on July 12, 1958, in Talihina to Wilmer Odes “Sam” and Drucille (Ritter) Mc-Bride. He was a mechanic at Lum’s.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Neva Tackett and Cynthia Holderfield; and brother, Ray McBride.

Survivors include his wife, Robbie “Billie” of the home; three sons, James Black of Heavener, Daniel Black of Panama, and David Black of Muldrow; 12 grandchildren; five sisters, Pat Vinson of Noble, Gail Mayer of Poteau, Shirley Picklesimer of Poteau, Sammie Thompson of Panama, and Becky Maxell of Poteau; two brothers, Sam McBride of Carlsbad, N.M., and Tim McBride of Hackett, Ark.; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Nina Mae Eckel

Nina Mae Eckel, 83, of Okla-homa City passed away on June 27, 2011. She was born Oct. 26, 1927, in Newalla to Edna Dee and Ervin Percival. She was married to William E. Eckel for 59 years and retired from Lucent in 1991. She attended the Family Church of God.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and son Ronnie Eckel.

Survivors include son Mike Eckel; daughters, Lana Stewart with husband Bill, and Linda Houston with husband Bill; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a great-great grandson.

Fred Duke

Fred Duke, 94, a longtime Atoka area resident, passed away on June 2, 2011, in Durant. He was born on Oct. 24, 1916, in Winters, Texas, to Samu-el Roger and Nellie Kathryn (Glenn) Duke.

He attended Grapevine Schools and went on to become a truck driver, a farmer/rancher and a member of Teamsters 745 Dallas. He retired in 1969. Fred married Beatrice Iva (Tomlinson) on Sept. 21, 1956, in Atoka. she preceded him in death in 1987. He later married Clovis Lavada (Belvin) on Sept. 24, 1988, in Coal County. He was a member of the Coalgate Seventh Day Ad-ventist and Teamsters local union # 745.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Beatrice Iva (Tomlinson) Duke; brothers, James Roger Duke and Albert Lee Duke; sisters, Mildred Mary Forshee and Opal Pauline McPhail; nephews, Jeremy Glen McPhail, Jimmy McPhail, and J.R. Duke; niece Beverly (Burns) Evans; and stepchild Carolyn Hall-Ned.

He is survived by his wife, Lavada Duke of the home in Atoka; stepchildren, Pamela Cole with husband Terry, James Fra-zier with wife Vickie and Rebecca Pickens with husband Eu-gene, all of Coalgate, Delores Lewis with husband Gaylon of Stratford, Joni Gonzalez of Purcell, William Frazier with wife Shelia of Atoka, Stephen Frazier with wife Marquette of Ward-ville, Lucinda Kuykendall with husband Billy of Cartwright; nieces, Frankie Jean Milner with husband George of Dallas, Judy Herriman with husband Eldon of Burleson, Texas, Nancy McPhail Ward with husband John of Leominster, Ma.; nephew, Bobby Lee Duke with wife Emma of Bartonville, Texas.; along with numerous other relatives and friends.



Barbara “Choo Choo” Giddens, 49, of Broken Bow passed away on June 16, 2011, at her home. The daughter of Elias Roberts Sr. and Josephine (Bohanan) Roberts, she was born July 23, 1961, in Talihina.

On July 8, 2005, in DeQueen, Ark., Barbara and Willie B. Giddens were united in marriage.

Barbara was affiliated with the White Sands Church and was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading her Bible, and helping the elderly at the nursing home where she worked as a CNA. She kept her family together, and she was known to put others first. She was a good wife, mother, and sister.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; her two brothers, Marvin and Ricky Roberts; a sister-in-law, Burnett Rhymes; and a nephew, Leonard Giddens.

She is survived by her husband, Willie Giddens of the home; one son, Johnathon Giddens of Broken Bow; a daughter, Cas-sidy Giddens of the home; a brother and sister-in-law, Elias Roberts Jr. and Phyllis Roberts, of Broken Bow; five sisters and brothers-in-law, Evelyn and Nicholas Tom of Phoenix City, Ala., Donna and Domingo Rodriguez, Virginia and Mel-vin McCleskey, Faye and Wayne Anna, all of Wright City, and Betty and Willard Crosby of Durant; two grandchildren, Johna-than Giddens Jr. and Ja’Kaybrean Giddens; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and friends.



Ellen Brewer

Ellen Melvene Brewer, 64, of Talihina passed away on June 11, 2011, at her residence.

Mrs. Brewer was born on Dec. 17, 1946, in Divide, the daughter of the late Melvin and Florence (Alexander) Ben.

She worked as a coordinator of the Choctaw Nation Hospi-tality House at Choctaw Nation for several years. Her favorite hobby was going to garage sales. She cherished her family and spending time with her grandchildren. She was the member of Assembly of God Church and enjoyed attending church and the activities.

She was preceded in death by her father, Melvin Ben; broth-ers, Melton Moe Ben, Donnie Ray Ben; nephew Jeffrey Ben; grandparents, Granny and Dad Alexander; aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her sons, Tim Brewer of the home, Jason and Jenna Brewer of Talihina; mother Florence Ben of Divide; sister Janie and John Emmert of Talihina; brothers, David and Janice Ben of Clayton, Ronnie and Janie Ben of Clayton, Ron-nie and Thelma Miller of Lexington; father of her children, Gilbert Brewer of Talihina; special niece, Sheila Stegall; her Shih Tzu, Annabell; grandchildren, Kirstie Brewer, Cloie Fau-dere, Brody Harris, William Harris; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Georgia Coombs

Georgia Lee Sanders Coombs, 91, of Baytown, Texas, passed away on May 25, 2011. She was born in Choc-taw County on Feb. 29, 1920, and married in Boswell on Aug. 12, 1940. Two attributes define and describe her journey in this life: she was an outstanding, devoted and dedicated member of the “Greatest Generation,” and she cherished her family above all else.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, James Norman Coombs.

She is survived by her daughters, Jerri Lynn Grimland of Cypress, Texas, Linda Marge Lubrick of Seabrook, Texas, Dorothy June Hamel of Nekoosa, Wis., and Georgia Yvonne Flanagan of Baytown; son Jimmie L. Coombes of Austin; 12 grandchildren; and many great and great-great grandchildren.



Linda Harris

Linda Harris, 58, of Talihina passed away on May 28, 2011, at Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa.

Mrs. Harris was born in Ludlow on June 2, 1952, the daughter of the late Jackie and Emma (Smith) Williams.

She worked as a LPN at Talihina Veterans Center. She always enjoyed and took pride in her job. She also en-joyed being outdoors, gardening and spending time with her family. She married Donnie Harris in 1972 at Tuskahoma.

She was preceded in death by both parents.

She is survived by husband Donnie Harris of the home; sons, Donnie Harris Jr. of the home and Shawn Harris of Ta-lihina; six grandchildren; sisters, Ann Brown of Talihina, Dor-isie Waggoner of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Winnie Brown of Camp-bell, Texas; along with numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



Wanda Schwilling

Wanda Louise (Foster) Schwilling, 92, a resident of Carson, N.M., passed away on June 22, 2011. She was born April 6, 1919, in Blanchard to Robert and Myrtle Foster. Her father was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Wanda graduated from Blanchard High School and attended the University of Oklahoma majoring in home economics.

Wanda married Joseph Allen Schwilling and together they raised four children; Joseph Allen Schwilling Jr., Stephen Foster Schwilling, Mary Sharon Wilbur, and Larry Douglas Schwilling. Wanda was a homemaker who loved gardening, sewing and making quilts for all her children and grandchild-ren. She instilled in her family the values of honesty, strength of character, and kindness to others.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Al-len Schwilling; her son, Larry Schwilling; grandson Joseph Schwilling III; three sisters; and a brother.

She leaves three children, 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren to carry on her values.



Rena Canon

Rena Jeanette (Phipps) Canon, 53, of Wilburton passed away on May 30, 2011, at her home.

Rena was born July 2, 1957, to La-vada Pate in Hartshorne. She grew up in McAlester and graduated from McAlester High School in 1976. Rena enjoyed writing poetry, gospel music, fishing and cooking.

Rena was preceded in death by her mother, Lavada Pate; and brothers, Ruben Phipps and Rudolph Phipps.

She is survived by her sons, David Alexander Canon with wife Angie, Glenn Mick Canon, Ronald Ross Canon, and Christopher Michael Canon, all of Baytown, Texas; daughter Brandie Nichole Wilcox of Baytown; brother Ronnie Phipps with wife Jill of Blocker; sister-in-law Elisa Holdridge of Grapevine, Texas; grandchildren, Abigail Canon, Samantha Canon and Ella Wilcox; uncles, Bob Pate of McAlester and Jack Pate with wife Lucy of Talihina; aunt Lahoma Hottubee of Tuskahoma; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other family and friends.



Mella Ponce

Mella L. Ponce passed away on April 28, 2011, in Plano, Texas. She was born June 18, 1935, in Oklahoma.

Mella had a long and pleasant life filled with good friends and much joy. The world is a better place for many people because she was in it. She will be missed by all. She is now united for eternity with God and her beloved husband, Joe, who preceded her in death.

Mella is survived by daughter Julie Van Horn with husband Bob; granddaughters, Kelsey and Jacque Van Horn; sisters, Carol Burke, Cecile Cowling with husband Cecil; chosen sis-ter, Watha Stroud; special friends, Natalie Gedney and Doris Bucey; and many nieces and nephews.



Norris Meashintubby

Norris Wayne Meashintubby, 28, passed away on April 30, 2011, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Cen-ter in Talihina. He was born June 17, 1982 in Talihina. He lived in Talihina all his life and graduated from Tali-hina High School. He enjoyed playing sports and playing with his son, nieces and nephews. He also enjoyed going fishing.

He was preceded in death by his father, Archie Meashintub-by; grandmothers, Lena Meashintubby and Reba Meashintubby; stepbrother Roger James; and nephew Mark Meashintubby.

He is survived by wife Austrina; son Norris Jr.; mother, Mary Lou Meashintubby of Talihina; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Norval and Delissa Meashintubby of Eugene, Ore., Na-than and Annette Meashintuby of Fort Smith, Ark., Neville and Alicia Meashintubby, and Archie Meashintubby Jr. of Talihina; two sisters, Sherry with Isidro Balderas of Fort Smith, Ark., and Shirley Trejo from Talihina; four stepbrothers, George James, Delbert James, Eddie James, all of Talihina, and Bobby James, of Oklahoma City; three stepsisters, Marilyn James, Lisa Rodriguez and Renee Ludlow, all from Broken Bow; stepmom Christina Meashintubby from Talihina; five neph-ews, Kyle, Nakoma, Brandon, Neville Jr. and Nehemiah; seven nieces, Jalonda, Dedra, Davita, Dalita, Melanie, Annissa and Alyssa; great-niece Neela Meashintubby; three great-nephews, Kamron, Isiah and Joshua; also, numerous family and friends.



Jimmy Wade

Jimmy Lee Wade, 59, of Calera, passed away June 10, 2011, at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

The son of Hanson and Josephine (Fobb) Wade, Jimmy was born May 2, 1952, in Talihina. He was a mem-ber of the Mt. Zion Church in Pickens. Jimmy loved being around his family, visiting (always having to have the last word) and building relationships with new family members. He made bead medallions in Native American designs and enjoyed things such as fishing, squir-rel hunting, watching football and Dodgers baseball, reading Native American books and building 1957 Chevy model cars.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hanson and Jose-phine Wade; and one nephew, Elijo Noah.

Jimmy leaves to cherish his memory, one brother, Thomas Noah Sr. of Battiest; one sister, Joyce Gilmore and Kenny of Calera; two nephews, Thomas Noah Jr. and Kenneth Lee Gilm-ore Jr.; four nieces, Chris Lee Noah, Geneva Josay, Josephine Rose Gilmore and Sgt. Tawny Marie Gilmore; several great-nephews, great-nieces, cousins and friends.



Irene Gibson

Irene Amos Gibson, 91, of Pauls Valley passed away May 31, 2011, in Pauls Valley. She was born Feb. 8, 1920, in Byars to Bennett and Cornelia (Jackson) Amos. Irene attended the Sequoyah Indian Boarding School near Tahlequah in Chero-kee County. She later married Raymond Gibson on March 22, 1939, in Stratford.

Garvin County has been her home all of her life. She worked in Church Convention, WMU and Association. She was a homemaker who loved her family and her pride and joy were her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by parents; her husband of 56 years at his passing on Dec. 2, 1995, Raymond Gibson; a daughter, Ethel Wallace; two sons, Lester Gibson Sr. and Ches-ter Gibson; three grandchildren, Candice Gibson, Johnny Wal-lace Sr., and Jason Gibson; a daughter-in-law, Linda Gibson; five brothers and three sisters.

Surviving family include her four sons, James and Darlene Gibson of Pauls Valley, Clifford and Della Gibson of Durant, Joe Gibson of Wynnewood, and Anthony Gibson of Tonkawa; one sister-in-law, Agnes Ned of Pauls Valley; 25 grandchild-ren, 46 great-grandchildren, 33 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Choctaw ‘arrowheads’ capture interest

Archaeological sites of arrowhead finds should be recorded and protected for future generations

Hello,
I would like you to please tell me anything you can about Choctaw arrowheads.
Thanks,

Ed

Dear Ed,
This is a great question because arrowheads capture the interest of so many people, and also because answering the question requires us to look at Choctaw traditional lifeways and history in a way that can help dispel a few common misconceptions. Opening this discussion might even raise awareness to help Tribal members better protect our ancestral and sites. Thank you!

Let’s begin with a couple of quick facts that may surprise some of our readers. First, 99.9 percent of the arrowheads found in southeastern Oklahoma were not made by Choctaw people, but rather by the ancestors of indigenous tribes, such as the Caddo and Wichita, who lived here for millennia before the Choctaw arrived on the Trail of Tears. In Oklahoma, Choctaw arrowheads, particularly stone ones are very, very rare. Second, the majority of the stone “arrowheads” that people find in Oklahoma really have nothing at all to do with arrows, but were actually used as spearheads and knife blades. Only the smallest ones, often called “bird points,” were put on the end of arrows.

Through time and space, our ancestors and the people around them made their projectile points (spear and arrowheads) from a variety of available raw materials including wood, river cane, bone, antler, and stone. Most of the old projectile points that people find today are stone. This is because this material is hard and durable, and the projectile points made from it have survived, while most of the points made from the other materials have long ago turned to dust.

Stone projectile points are made only from special types of rocks; many of these are very generally to as “flint” in English, or “tasvnnuk,” in the Choctaw language (Byington 1915:342; also see Swanton 1998:24-25). These types of stone have a high silica content, a very small grain size, and an amorphous internal structure. This gives them the glass-like properties of being hard, brittle, internally consistent, and smooth to the touch.

Like glass, these rocks also break with a conchoidal fracture. This means that long, thin, sharp flakes can be chipped from the stone. All of these characteristics allow a skilled person to sequentially chip the stone in a predictable way in order to shape it a projectile point or other tool (This complex process will itself be the topic of an upcoming Iti Fabvssa article).

Our ancestors collected rocks for making projectile points in several different parts of the Choctaw homeland. One of their favorite types of stone, today called “Tuscaloosa chert,” comes in the form of yellow or brownish cobbles found in the gravel bars of streams located in northeastern Mississippi and northwestern Alabama, such as the Tombigbee River. A second type of stone, which they commonly used, is today called Tallahatta Quartzite. The word “Tallahatta” actually comes from a Choctaw term “tvli hatta,” meaning “white rock,” and is probably the original name by which our ancestors called this particular type of stone.

Tallahatta quartzite outcrops in an area spanning



Iti Fabussa

from southwest Alabama to eastern Mississippi and can be quarried in large blocks. Other types of stone that our ancestors sometimes used for making projectile points include petrified wood and certain types of quartzite from local river deposits, Fort Payne chert from the middle Tennessee valley, Coastal Plain agate from southern Alabama, Bangor chert from northern Alabama, and clear quartz crystal (Allan 1983:139; Ensor 1981:9-11). Choctaw people living in Mississippi in the early 1900s told John Swanton that their ancestors also collected a “hard yellow or white flint” on the Pearl River in Mississippi and other stone from the Tallapoosa in central Alabama (Swanton 2001:49-50). According to a second hand account given to a WPA recorder in the 1930s, after the Trail of Tears, some Choctaws living in Oklahoma traveled to the Sallisaw area to collect stone for making arrow points (Kelly 1937(2):391).

Just like car styles and shoe styles today, our ancestors designed and adapted their projectile points to meet available raw materials, needs, tastes, and developing technology. This means that through time, projectile point styles have changed. The oldest stone projectile points regularly found in the Choctaw homeland are referred to by archaeologists as “Clovis points.” These are medium to large sized lancelet shaped projectile points with concave bases, and flutes, or large flake scars that travel from the base towards the tip of the point (see Clovis point labeled “A” in photo).

Clovis points are also found in Oklahoma, and across the United States from coast to coast and from Canada down to Central America (Collins 1999:35). They date to about 12,900-12,300 years ago (BP) and were made by people who lived in small groups that traveled great distances by foot, making their living by hunting and gathering. The world that they experienced was quite different from today’s, with, giant animals such as mastodon, ground sloth, cave bear and glyptodont living and sometimes

being hunted in the Choctaw homeland.

As time passed, different projectile point styles were developed in different areas of the country. Around 12,000-9,200 years ago Dalton points (labeled “B” in picture) became the most common style in the Choctaw homeland, and across most of the southeastern U.S. These points are finely pressure flaked. Heavy resharpener suggests they were often used as knife blades.

After Dalton, a proliferation of different projectile point forms began to be used in the Choctaw homeland and surrounding areas. A few of the most common point types include the Kirk Corner Notched point (“C” in the photo), which dates from 8,500-6,500 BP; the Little Bear Creek point (D), which dates from 4,500-3,000 BP; the Mulberry Creek Point (E), which dates to around 4,000 BP, the Wade point (F), which dates from 3,200-1,500 BP, and the Flint Creek point (G), which dates to 3,000-1,700 BP.

Most, if not all of the types of these projectile points were made for use as knife blades, spearheads or the heads of a kind of throwing spear known as the atl-atl (the atl-atl will itself soon be the topic of an Iti Fabvssa article). Archaeological evidence suggests that the bow and arrow is not something that Native Americans have always had, but rather that our ancestors imported it or invented it, possibly several times in the past. Although debate surrounds the exact timing and location of the bow’s first appearance in North America, it is clear that it did not become the dominant weapon in the Southeast until around 1,300 years ago. How do we know this?

Around 700 AD, Native American communities in the Southeast began to mass-produce a new type of stone projectile point. These points were much smaller, lighter weight, and narrower than most of the point styles that had come before. Experimental research has shown that these points work efficiently on arrows. Attach one of the earlier, heavier point styles to an arrow, and it will drag the light arrow to the ground a short distance after it is fired. Independent studies of the rare surviving early stone-tipped arrows confirm the connection between small stone points and arrows.



Photo provided

A probable Choctaw/ Chickasaw arrow point from Boggy Depot, Atoka County OK. (Confederate Memorial Museum)



Photo provided

Choctaw youth at Culture Camp (2007), learning to chip stone points.



Photo provided

Different types of stone projectile points made through time in the Choctaw homeland.



Photo provided

Choctaw arrow points, left to right; stone, deer antler (Type 1), deer antler (Type 2), gar fish scale, wooden fishing point, sharpened river cane, blunt wooden point, rolled metal point.

In Choctaw country, the thin, corner notched Collins points and Jacks Reef points may represent the first true arrowheads. Thereafter, unnotched, triangular Madison (“G” in the picture) and Hamilton points began to be produced in great numbers. These were the type of stone points that tipped Choctaw arrows up into the early 1700s.

In the 1700s, some Choctaws started using a new raw material, bottle glass obtained from Europeans, to chip tools (Voss and Blitz 1988:133), and probably also arrow points. Nevertheless, during this century most Choctaw people quit using stone arrow points all together. Only a few stone arrow points are known to have been found at Choctaw settlements in Mississippi dating to the 1700s and early 1800s, (e.g., Ward 2004:39), while they are common on contemporary Chickasaw sites just to the north (Johnson 1997:226).

A few Choctaw individuals probably continued to make stone arrow points after the Trail of Tears in Oklahoma. Today, a number of Choctaw people are part of a nationwide renaissance in the art of stone-tool making, and Choctaw-made stone projectile points have become more common than at any other time in the last 200 years.

Choctaw arrow points were and are made from many other types of material besides just stone. Garciliso De la

Vega, gives us a unique look into a Southeastern Native quiver in the 1540s:

... the Indian took his quiver and, placing it in front of him, drew out very slowly, one by one, the arrows which were in it, which were admirable for the refinement and skill that had gone into their making. They were all made of reeds: some had heads made of the points of deer’s antlers finished to extreme perfection, with four corners like the points of a diamond; others had fish bones for heads, marvelously fashioned for use as arrows. There were others with the heads of palm wood and other strange and durable timber that grows in that country. These arrowheads had two or three barbs as perfectly made in the wood as if they had been of iron or steel (1993:190-191 [1596]).

Arrow points of all of these types have been found on Choctaw archaeological sites dating to the period, and on Choctaw arrows that survive in museums. In addition to these, flaming arrows were probably also sometimes employed in warfare (Thompson 2008:250-328).

Other less common arrow tip materials used pre-colonially in the Southeast include native copper, bones from large mammals and fish (Verazzano 1841:45 [1524]), turkey spurs (e.g., Adair 1775:457), viper teeth (Spark 1906:121 [1565]), shell, shark’s teeth (Barlowe, reproduced in Swanton 1946:572), and stingray spines (see Alley and Hamm 1999:71).

Finally, from at least the mid-1500s on, some Southeastern arrows were tipped with points made from iron, brass, and steel obtained from Europeans (Spark 1906:121 [1565]). The most common type of point on surviving Choctaw arrows in Oklahoma, dating to the late 1800s and 1900s, is a rolled conical point made from metal. Simpson Tubby, one of Swanton’s Choctaw consultants mentioned metal arrow tips being fashioned from women’s corsets (2001:49). Sometimes Choctaws also obtained metal arrow points from blacksmiths.

Today, people often see or find projectile points, and naturally begin to wonder

what tribe made them. Unfortunately projectile points made in the variety of styles just described are not specific to one tribe, but were shared by different groups living in, and sometimes far beyond the Choctaw area. However, because projectile points styles can often be dated fairly accurately, other information can sometimes be brought into play to help make some educated inferences about their tribal origin. For example, a rolled metal arrow point dating to the 1850s, found in Pushmataha Co, has a good chance of being Choctaw, because Choctaws were living in the area at the time, and are known to have used arrow points like these. Similarly, a 3,000 year old stone point found in the same county is not likely to be Choctaw, because our ancestors were living several hundred miles away in the Southeast at this time.

One final, and very serious note: “Arrowhead” collecting is a hobby for many and a business for some. However, every time a point is picked up and carried away, a little bit of the sacredness of that ancestral spot is forever lost. If no permanent record is made of where the point was found, a little bit of the record left by our ancestors is also permanently destroyed, along with the knowledge that we could have gained about them.

Collectors and looters have and still are destroying Choctaw sacred sites and burial grounds all too frequently, often arrowhead by arrowhead. It is illegal to collect arrowheads from the surface on most federal lands and on all tribal property; digging them up is a felony.

If readers know of archaeological sites, we strongly encourage them to contact the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department (1-800-522-6170 ext. 2216), so that the site can be recorded and protected for future generations of Choctaws. Please contact this same number for a list of the works cited in this article.

If you have any questions concerning Choctaw history or culture, please mail to Iti Fabussa c/o BISKINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to biskinik@choctawnation.com with “Iti Fabussa” in the subject line.