

Tribal Council holds regular February session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Feb. 13 at Tushka Homma. Several chapters of the Youth Advisory Board were on hand to watch the proceedings.

New business addressed included two applications to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The first, to Indian Health Services, is for the FY 2010 Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) Community-Directed Grant Program. The second is for the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH) Grant. Both were approved.

An application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Grant was okayed.

The Council members approved funding for 2009-10 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Choctaw Nation Transportation Program will receive an allocation through the stimulus program for the purpose of construction and improvements to specific roads within the tribe's 10 1/2 county service area.

The Choctaw Nation will be assuming ARRA projects that are funded through or flow through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the benefit of the Nation.

The last Council Bill on the agenda was approval to adopt a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Alcohol Control Ordinance. The ordinance would regulate the sale and distribution of liquor and beer products on the Indian Country of the Choctaw Nation.

The passing of this Council Bill will help promote public safety and the general welfare of the public and enhance the ability of the tribe to control alcohol-related activities within its jurisdiction. Any revenue generated will fund needed tribal programs and services.

The Tribal Council meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month in the Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.



19th Annual Livestock Show results – Pages 6-12

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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.



Celebration lights the skies

Amid frigid temperatures and bright lights filling the sky over Durant were crowds of people who came Feb. 9 to witness the grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the new Choctaw Casino Resort.

Master of Ceremonies Jody House opened the ceremony by welcoming guests and with introductions of dignitaries in attendance before giving the floor to the leader of the Choctaw Nation, Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

"Welcome everyone and thank you for coming out to share in this momentous occasion with us," said Chief Pyle.

Durant Mayor Jerry Tomlinson also spoke during the ceremony and he, along with members of the Durant Industrial Authority, presented Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton with a Native American sculpture on behalf of the citizens of Durant to show their appreciation for all the Choctaw Nation has done for the area.

"We continue to hear one resounding praise – the Choctaw Nation has put Durant, Oklahoma, on the international map," said Mayor Tomlinson.

The ceremony continued outside with a ribbon-cutting by Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, Tribal Council and Executive Director over Gaming Janie Dillard, along with two of the Choctaw Nation Little Miss Princesses and a host of state, local and tribal dignitaries. It was followed with a lighting of the flames on the

Towers and Fire Rings sculpture located in front of the casino's grand outer entryway.

The ceremony marked the end of 22 months of coordination, building, and hard work put into the \$300 million resort, and marked the beginning of fun, excitement, and new opportunities at the expansive casino and 12-story, amenity-filled hotel.

A fireworks show awed visitors crowded out on the hotel lawn, closing out the ceremony, but the real excitement was waiting inside on the gaming floor.

"Everyone make your way back inside and let's see who the real winners are tonight!" said House while thanking the crowd. "Good luck and let's have a great night!"

While thousands of guests trotted the floors, trying their luck for the first time at the new casino, the nearly 1,900 employees on staff have been working feverishly for months to make sure the night went off without a hitch.

Dillard said the opening wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the staff. "A huge thanks goes to our employees who put so much into making this casino a success," she said.

The casino sprawls over 110,000 square feet of carpeted gaming area and features 3,001 slot machines, 36 Black Jack tables, 30 Poker tables and two Roulette tables for the enjoyment of guests aged 18 and older. Four pre-

"The great thing is that the unemployment rate in Bryan County is one of the lowest in the entire state."

– Chief Pyle



mium lounges are also positioned around the casino for guests wanting to relax or take a break from gaming.

"This is great," said Jennifer Pearson of Durant, a guest enjoying the casino for the first time. "I can't believe this is in Durant. It feels like I'm in (Las) Vegas."

Circling the casino on the ground floor is a flowing "Red River" of tiles lined with a variety of restaurants and shops and is welcome to guests of all ages. Nine restaurants ranging from a steakhouse and a cafe to a stop-and-go food court provide variety for those wanting to grab a bite to eat.

The hotel boasts 204,000 square feet filled with 330 guest rooms, 12 suites, two executive suites and a business center. It also features a fitness center, indoor and outdoor pool, a spa, amphitheater and escalators connecting a 1,700-slot parking garage for the en-

joyment and convenience of its guests.

With the new casino came more than 1,000 new jobs and a \$25 million annual payroll to employees, providing an economic boost to the area.

The unemployment rate for Bryan County is 5 percent compared to the 6.5 percent average for the state of Oklahoma. Across the Red River, Grayson County, Texas, has an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"The great thing is that the unemployment rate in Bryan County is one of the lowest in the entire state," said Chief Pyle. "We're really proud of that."

Additionally, the casinos mean growth within the Choctaw Nation. Money from gaming funds many programs for the Choctaw Nation's tribal members.

See Grand Opening on Page 16

Former District 2 Councilman dies

Billy Paul Baker, 65, of Bethel passed away Feb. 16, 2010, at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born Nov. 9, 1944, in Talihina, the son of Somis and Ida Wesley Baker.

A lifetime resident of McCurtain County, he was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. Baker served as District 2 Tribal Councilman from 1982 to 2002.

Billy Paul and Mary Lou Hodge were married on July 5, 1977, in Clarks-ville, Texas. They shared 32 years together. He enjoyed hunting, playing with his grandchildren and spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Bethel Hill United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Pearlie, Marie and Ann; and a brother, Somis Jr.

Surviving family members include his wife of the home; sons and daughters-in-law, Wayne and Lynell Baker of Wright City and Derek and Dawn Baker of Broken Bow; brothers and sister-in-law, Wendell Baker of Battiest and Gilbert and Sharon Baker of Branson, Mo.; five grandchildren, Kerwin, Sally (Kira), Makenzi, Jaxon and Broady.



Career Expo set for McAlester

Eskimo Joe's owner is guest speaker

"Target Your Dream Career" is the theme for the 3rd Annual Career Expo. The event will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 at the Southeast Expo Center in McAlester, Okla., from with the purpose of connecting students and job seekers to more than 180 booths filled with employers, colleges and training facilities.

This year's guest speaker is Stan Clark, owner and president of Eskimo Joe's. Clark built his business from the ground up with a mere \$1,200 and began his partnership with a childhood friend. The two opened Eskimo Joe's on July 21, 1975. A couple of years later, he bought the other half interest, becoming the sole owner of Eskimo Joe's.

From the most humble beginnings, Clark has built a restaurant and retail operation that has gained national, even international notoriety. His story of hard work and determination will be sure to motivate and inspire all in attendance.

"Last year's event drew around 1900 job seekers and high school students," said Ken English, Career Development Director. "We are looking for a larger turnout this year! We are adding some new elements to this year's expo. I think



Stan Clark

See Expo on Page 13

Jones Academy participating in School Walk for Diabetes

Jones Academy third through sixth graders are very excited about participating in the School Walk for Diabetes. School Walk for Diabetes is an educational school fund-raising program that promotes healthy living, school spirit and community involvement. While raising money for the American Diabetes Association, students learn about diabetes and the importance of making healthy choices including eating nutritional foods and exercising every day. The money raised through School Walk for Diabetes will help fund diabetes research, education and advocacy in support of the mission of the American Diabetes Association. Native Americans are most likely to get type II Diabetes. This is an excellent opportunity for our children to learn the seriousness of diabetes and the things that we can do to prevent diabetes.

Their goal is to have 40 students and staff to walk three miles per day for five days - a total of 600 miles. They are asking individuals as well as businesses for thier support for such a good cause. The walk is March 22-26. Jones Academy expresses its gratitude in advance for supporting this cause. For more information, call 918-297-2518.

Pledge Amounts		
\$0.01	Per Mile	\$6.00
\$0.05	Per Mile	\$30.00
\$0.10	Per Mile	\$60.00
\$0.25	Per Mile	\$150.00
\$0.50	Per Mile	\$300.00

You may also donate any other amount. To make your pledge please send this form along with a money order or check to:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount Pledged: _____

(All amounts are tax deductible)

Bingham earns doctorate

Michael Bingham has earned his doctorate in Biblical studies from the Prestigious Calvary Christian College and Seminary with a 4.0 gpa. Dr. Bingham earned his master’s from the same institution in 2008, again with a 4.0 gpa. Dr. Bingham is now working on his Doctorate in Ministry and was ordained in the ministry on February 26, 2008. He is the son of Joe and Eloise Bingham of Durant and brother of James Bingham of Texas. Michael is the father of Brittnay, Ashley, and Evan. Dr. Bingham is looking forward to pastoring a church in the Oklahoma, Texas or Arkansas areas as offers are being entertained. He has many relatives in both Oklahoma and Texas that he wishes to make proud and wants his prayers to go out to each and every one of them.

Valk attending UT

Robert Shawn Valk II graduated June 2009 from Rockwall Heath High School. He is the son of Shawn Valk and Virginia Hernandez. He is now attending UT, Tyler. His great-great-grandfather, Robert Melvin Jones, was born in Indian Territory, Okla., great-grandfather Melvin Jones is also from Duncan. Robert has just changed his major from business to pediatric physician. Congratulations from all the family on your accomplishments. Proud to be Choctaw.



Hopkins earns master’s

Congratulations to Philip W. Hopkins on receiving a Master’s of Science Degree in Architectural Engineering at the University of Miami Commencement, December 2009. Philip is the son of the late Phillip R. Hopkins (past member of the Choctaw Nation) and Margaret Subirats-Hopkins who currently resides in Miami, Fla. The Choctaw family and friends want to wish Philip a lifetime of achievements in his engineering career.



Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

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BISHINIK® 2010

NOTES TO THE NATION

Making an impact

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to say thank you so much for the scholarships you have been generously awarding me these past couple of years. I am 21 years old and a junior at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. I am studying Natural Sciences with a concentration in Biology Education.

I am the great-granddaughter of Noval Bell Kelley who was an original enrollee, the granddaughter of Eual and Gail Kelly of Idabel and the daughter of Mike and Denise Kelly of Limon, Colo. I am hoping to graduate next year with my bachelor’s of science and my teacher license and be able to teach high school biology.

During my freshman and sophomore year at CSU I was a member of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and this year I am the president of AISES. Along with the rest of the students in AISES, I helped organize our annual Pow Wow with our theme this year being “Celebrating the Past and Creating the Future.”

Our mission is to bring awareness to our student body and faculty and also be role models for our fellow students. This is also one of my personal goals: to always be a role model for other students and peers. By being awarded this scholarship, I know that I can continue my education at CSU and learn how to be a good role model and make a difference and an impact on this world.

This scholarship has helped me stay at CSU for two and a half years now and I am so grateful to be a recipient of it!

Tiffani N. Kelly, Fort Collins, Colo.



Assistance with education appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my appreciation to Chief Greg Pyle, Councilmen Delton Cox and Kenny Bryant, Career Development Counselor Renee Cox, Darlene Cusher, Social Worker from Smithville area, and Choctaw Travel Plaza Executive Director Brian McClain for the assistance with my education.

Jamie B. Samuels, Honobia, Okla.

Boswell Ag Boosters say thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Boswell Ag Boosters would like to thank you all for the donation to help with our local livestock show and barbecue dinner. We greatly appreciate the support that you always give to our youth at Boswell. The event was a great success and we would not have been able to do this and have the success without support of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Also, a special thank you to Councilmember Perry Thompson.

Tribal member receives assistance

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation, Carma Elliot of the EDH department and Councilman Jack Austin for helping me to get all my dental work done. Thank you, Jack, for all the time and phone calls you did on my behalf.

Sadie Lessenger, Antlers, Okla.

Smiling over new dentures

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for my new dentures. At today’s prices I may not have gotten them. I would like to say Dr. Thomas Kennedy did a wonderful job. Though it takes some getting use to, I think with his help I am doing great. I am most grateful that today I can smile.

Helen James, Quinton, Okla.

SOSU graduate

Anthony Dean Moore graduated with honors from Southeastern Oklahoma State University on December 12. He graduated Magna Cum Laude, in the upper 5 percent of his graduating class. Anthony is a 2005 graduate of Soper High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Occupational Safety. He is the son of Shirley and Eddie Moore of Soper. He is the grandson of Melvin Roebuck and the late Fay Roebuck and Doris Moore and the late L.B. Moore all of Soper. He is the great-grandson of Oscar Roebuck, an original enrollee.

Anthony has taken a job with the ATI Training Center in Richardson, Texas, as their safety coordinator.

Anthony and his family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping him with his college education.



College graduate plans to teach

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to express my gratitude and thanks for the help you have provided me throughout my college experience. I could not have made it through college without your scholarship support. I am proud to say that I graduated in December with a Bachelor’s of Science and plan to teach elementary school. I hope to bring a part of my Choctaw heritage and history into any classroom I teach.

I would also like to thank you for the medical support that you have provided for my family over the years. The Choctaw Nation has truly blessed our family.

Sarah Carroll, Addison, Texas

Dreams are coming true

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my extreme gratitude for the tuition assistance that I have received through the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Grants. With your help, I received a B.A. in English from the University of Oregon in 2001. And this past October, I obtained an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from National University. Currently, I am working as an assistant professor and hammering away at my first novel.

Thank you for helping make my dreams come true!

Aaron Novinger, San Antonio, Texas



Fred Bray of the McCurtain Historical Society presents several awards during the Wheelock Festival. Imogene Ishcomer Hollingsworth of California wins a tote bag for traveling the farthest to attend.



Viola Durant McCurtain of Talihina wins a blanket at the annual Wheelock Heritage Festival. She was a student 1929-39.

Wheelock Academy enjoyed by visitors



Viola Obe Bohanan of Broken Bow wins a hand-made birdhouse. She attended Wheelock Academy 1946-49.



A DeQueen, Ark., high school group visits Wheelock Academy in Millerton, Okla. This was the last tour conducted by Wheelock volunteer Pat Dale before she passed away the following week.

Visiting with students at Harvard is learning opportunity



Chief Pyle addresses students at Harvard.

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It was a humbling experience to be invited to speak in February to a group of students at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. In the mid-1600’s, Harvard Indian College was founded. In 1665, the first Indian to receive a Harvard degree was Caleb Cheeshahteaumuck, a Wampanoag Indian. Almost 350 years later, Native Americans from tribes across the United States are Harvard graduates.

The first building I visited was a former home of George Washington that is now the office of Campus Marshal Jacqueline O’Neill. She explained that this was where Washington lived part of the time while strategizing the Revolutionary War. As I signed the guest book I couldn’t help but think that I might be at a desk in the very corner where Washington sat and made decisions that affected the formation of the United States. And as we walked down the halls and through doorways, we talked about our first President having paced these same floors. That was pretty awesome.

Archaeological digs in the Harvard Yard during recent years have uncovered pieces of a printing press that was used to produce the first Bible printed in the colonies, which was written in the Algonquian language. Metal print type from this press, along with other artifacts from these digs, are on display in the Peabody Museum on the campus alongside a copy of the Bible.

It was a blessing to personally meet several of the Choctaw students who are currently attending classes at Harvard. These students included Marine



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton sign Harvard’s guest book.

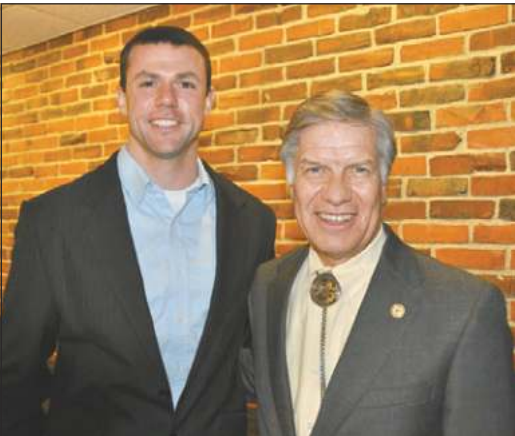
Captain David Dixon, Shannon Morrow, Claire Richard and Chris Hoklotubbee. Receiving information from them and the other Native American students as well as the faculty who hosted my visit was great. I was excited to hear about the history of the school and the lives of the people I met, and it was great to be able to share the history of our tribe with all of them.

Some of the students who attended the lecture where I was hosted as guest speaker by Professor Dennis Norman were unfamiliar with current day tribal nations. They were very interested in the background of the Choctaws being the first Indians to be removed on the Trail of Tears and the phases in history such as the Dawes Rolls and the 1907 Oklahoma Statehood that led to a diminished tribal government until our regained sovereignty in 1972.

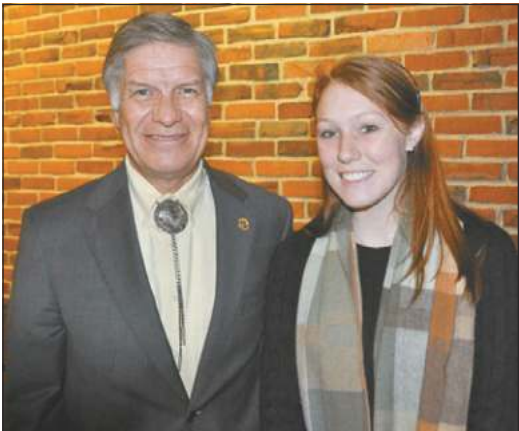
The constitution the Choctaw Nation operates on today was voted on and passed by the tribal membership in 1983. Under self-governance we were able to start tribal businesses and take care of our own people. Now

we have six main businesses, Gaming, Choctaw Defense, CMSE, Travel Plazas, Texoma Print Services and Ranching. With the revenues from these tribal businesses, the Choctaw Nation has created jobs, began innovative programs for education and health and has built clinics, a hospital and facilities for education and business, debt free.

It was great to share information about the Choctaw Nation, and visiting Harvard was a special learning opportunity for me as well. I encourage everyone to visit the University if they have an occasion to do so. The Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) has been working closely with Harvard, and would love to assist any Choctaw students who have a desire to apply for admittance. Because of the tremendous scholarship programs offered by Harvard for Native Americans, there is a great possibility that this Ivy League school may have financial assistance available! Please call the SAP program for more information at 580-924-8280.



Choctaw students who are currently attending classes at Harvard include Marine Captain David Dixon, above; Shannon Morrow, above right; and Claire Richard, at right.



The heart of the gospel

During Christmas season we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we are studying the resurrection of Jesus Christ from Paul the Apostle’s letter to the Corinthians in First Corinthians Chapter 15.

We will study First Corinthians 15:1-4, also a definition of the gospel. The good news of salvation.

Paul was grounded in the Old Testament. He knew the Greek language. The greatest Greek University was in his hometown of Tarsus. He came to Corinth, a city known of producing new ways of sinning. And Paul was called to bring a message to Corinth. This ought to have a message to us today.

Paul coming to Corinth wrote in I Corinthians 2:2:

“For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”

Paul knowing the Corinthians all had the idea that there is no bodily resurrection says in verse 12:

“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?”

Now Paul offers some of the proofs of the resurrection.

First is the gospel, faith in the gospel in verses one and two of First Corinthians 15:1-2:

“Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

“By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.”

We learn two things from this statement. We learn that the gospel is to be preached and the gospel is to be received.

Notice that there are three steps here. Paul said that you have received it in the past, you stand in it in the present, it saves you in the future. That is the gospel he is talking about.

The important word in these verses is the word believed. What does it mean to receive Christ? The Scripture answers that in John 1:12.

“But as many as received him,

Chaplain’s Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb Tribal Chaplain

In verse three Paul said: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.”

Paul said, the gospel was given to me and I preached it. Christ died. The Lord Jesus Christ lived and He died.

The second thing that he says here is, in verse four, “And that he was buried, ...” Do you know what that means?” That means that it was a bodily resurrection. He was buried.

The third thing, He was raised again. We continue reading in verse four, “... and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” That means that Jesus is alive. He was raised from the dead. This the heart of the gospel.

Now the disciples were scattered at the death of Christ. They were filled with fear and took to cover. They went into hiding. On the first day of the week they came out and in 40 days these men were standing in Jerusalem and their enemies noticed their boldness in preaching.

What happened? Their lives had been transformed. What was it that transformed their lives? It was a resurrected Christ that had done it, and nothing but a resurrected Christ that brought about the transformation of their lives.

What about your life? When your life is transformed you will hate what you used to love (the worldly life) and you will love what you used to hate (the spiritual life).

John writes in I John 5:13: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

Will you realize that you are a sinner? There is nothing you can do for salvation, only trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith. Will you receive Jesus today?

May you have a Happy Easter. Pray for America. Pray for our men and women in the armed services.

Livestock shows are great experience for Choctaw students

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Chief Pyle and I always look forward to the annual Choctaw Nation Livestock show held the first weekend in February with judging at both McAlester and Durant. I especially enjoy watching the interaction of the children with their families and with the other competitors as they get their animals ready to go into the ring. It is great to see the parents helping in the back of the arena and grandparents in the stadium seats cheering on the youth.

I am amazed at the dedication even the youngest of the students have toward the animals. They have told me of the mornings they have fed animals before school, regardless of the weather, of the hours spent grooming and practicing, and how they study about their pigs, beef and goats so they can make sure to keep them healthy.

This is definitely a great way to build responsibility, as the students learn to follow rules and guidelines. Getting ready for the shows, they also learn how to dress appropri-



ately and even prepare for the financial side of business because they are trying to raise the best possible animal so they can win the highest award and sell their animal at the Premium Sale.

Also, the work of FFA sponsors and programs supporting the efforts of the students participating in the livestock shows across the region made the annual show a huge success. Thank you to everyone!



Polar Plunge

Assistant Chief Gary Batton joined the Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department for the 2010 Special Olympics Polar Plunge in 37-degree weather the first weekend in February. The five Choctaw employees raised about \$2,500 to contribute to Special Olympics by diving into the cold water. Choctaw Nation Law Enforcement officers who plunged into the pool with the Assistant Chief were John Hobbs, Scott Harper, Nathan Calloway and Michael Hall.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Hartshorne School holds Geography Bee

Hartshorne School recently sponsored a school level Geography Bee for fourth through eighth grades. The winner was Braxton Curliss and Caleb McCoy was runner-up. Thomas Etsity placed third. Braxton will now take a written exam that will be submitted to the state level. At the state level, the top 100 scores on the written exam will be allowed to compete in the state Geography Bee in April. The winner of the state contest will advance to the national level to be held in Washington, D.C., in May. The Geography Bee is sponsored by National Geographic. Congratulations and good luck Braxton!

Pictured from left is Sharon Johnson, Jr. High Geography instructor; Braxton Curliss, first place winner; Caleb McCoy, runner-up; and Thomas Etsity, Jones Academy, third place winner.



Happy 50th anniversary

Happy 50th anniversary to Richard and Bennie Edmonds of Mustang. They grew up in Hartshorne and were married on Feb. 27, 1960, in McAlester. Richard retired from Shell Oil Co. in Houston after 34 years. Bennie is still very involved with the Catholic Church. They have three children: Pamela Sanders and husband Rick of Piedmont, Kevin Edmonds and Kim McCathern and husband Lonnie, all of Yukon. Their grandchildren are Rory, Rily and Rayce Sanders, Chance and Dawson Edmonds, and Cole, Haleigh and Trey McCathern. Richard's mother, Charlotte Hampton, was an original enrollee.



Happy sixth birthday

Wade will be celebrating his sixth birthday on March 15, 2010. His grandpa Joe, aunts Susan, Debra, Lisa, cousins Courtney, Keaton, Morgan and Mark, uncle Matt, and brother Wesley all wish him a wonderful birthday.



Happy 50th, Michael

Happy birthday to Michael Wayne Rose of Burleson, Texas. He will celebrate 50 years on March 20. A dedicated man and proud Choctaw, his passion for his heritage is an inspiration to his family. Sending him birthday wishes are his wife of 26 years, Rhonda Rose, and children Amanda and Stephanie.



Happy 24th birthday

Tiffany Brianne Hamill celebrated her 24th birthday with family and friends on Feb. 3, 2010. Tiffany is the daughter of Roger and Linda Hamill, and Elette Hamill, and sister of Roger Hamill, Jennifer Brackett, Matthew Hamill and Courtney Hamill. She is a full time college student working on a degree in physical fitness and nutrition. She will soon complete her Associates degree through Eastern State College in Wilburton, then transfer to either East Central in Ada or Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.



Happy 104th birthday

Ruby Lee Trammel Brewer celebrated her 104th birthday on Feb. 7. She was born in 1906 near Rush Springs, Indian Territory. She is one of the last original Choctaw enrollees. She attributes her long life to hard work and her Choctaw blood. She said the Chief came to see her when she turned 100 and she hopes he will come back next year when she turns 105.



Happy birthday

Nataya, Emmanuel and Nathaniel Lee Meashintubby would like to wish their parents, Esterlyn and Nathaniel, very happy birthdays. Esterlyn celebrated her 25th birthday on Feb. 8 and Nathaniel will celebrate his 27th birthday on March 11. Also sending birthday wishes is Tasha Meashintubby, sister of Nathaniel, and the rest of their families.



Happy first birthday

Emmanuel and Nataya Meashintubby would like to wish their brother, Nathaniel, a very happy first birthday. He will turn one on March 26. He is the son of Nathaniel and Esterlyn Meashintubby of McAlester and grandson of Harold and Nellie Meashintubby and Nettie Battiest Caldwell of Wright City. Also wishing him a happy birthday is his aunt Tasha Meashintubby.



Happy birthday, Harold

Harold, Nathaniel and Tasha Meashintubby would like to wish their father, Harold, a very happy birthday. Also sending him birthday wishes are his grandchildren.



Happy 14th birthday

Happy birthday to Damian Bohanon who turned 14 on Jan. 12. He attends Manhattan Middle School in Boulder, Colo. He was the youngest member of the original Choctaw Youth Dancers when it was formed in 2000 with dancers from Smithville, Watson and Broken Bow. He enjoys competing in basketball, football and wrestling. His hobbies include working with models and hiking in the mountains. He is the son of Sky and Claudine Bohanon and brother to Halen and Elizabeth. He is the grandson of the late Patricia Two-Hatchet of Anadarko, and Ruthie and Randel Bohanon of Smithville.



Happy 80th birthday

Mary Williams' family gathered together in mid-summer of 2009 to celebrate her 80th birthday. Helping her celebrate were daughters Patty Reid, Judith Wooley, and Susan Allen, sons Jim Whaley and William Ayres, and brother Bill Williams. Mary's grandmother was an original Choctaw enrollee.



Happy birthday, Marvin

Marvin Hampton Sr. of Coalgate celebrated his birthday on March 1. His wife, Julia Hampton, along with Marvin Jr., Kimberly, Macey and Forrest hope he had a very happy birthday.



Happy fifth birthday

Jathan Takoda Taylor turned five on Feb. 22. He is the youngest son of Trivia Taylor Allen and Edward Wickson of Hugo. He is the grandson of Loretta Heuburger of Valliant, Edgar Taylor Jr. of Talihina, Jackie Smith and Lonnie Barry of Hugo, Eugene Smith of Fort Worth, Texas. He is the great-grandson of Edgar and Hazel Taylor of Goodwater and the late Eli and Minerva Samuels.



Jathan attends Hugo Head Start, where he is an exceptional student. His mom, dad, sissy and bubba hope he had a great birthday.

Happy birthday, Dominic

Dominic Eli-Richard Allen turned nine on Jan. 26. He celebrated with family and friends at Pizza Hut. He is the oldest child of Trivia Taylor of Hugo and Michael Allen of Bartlesville. He is the grandson of Loretta Heuburger of Valliant, Edgar Taylor Jr. of Talihina, Jeff and Robbie Muckle of Canada, Dale and Kris Allen of Bartlesville. He is the great-grandson of Edgar and Hazel Taylor of Goodwater, the late Eli and Minerva Samuels, the late John Shirley and Lois Shirley of Sawyer.

Dominic attends Goodland Elementary where he plays basketball for the Goodland Indians. His mom, sissy and "Ja Ja" hope he had a great birthday.

Happy second birthday

Hannah Knight celebrated her second birthday on Jan. 25. Her parents are Rickey and Stacey Knight. She is the granddaughter of Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo. She celebrated her birthday with family and friends. Also, her parents, Rickey and Stacey, celebrated 10 years of marriage on Feb. 5.



Happy 17th birthday

Emmanuel, Nataya and Nathaniel Meashintubby would like to wish their aunt, Tasha, a very happy 17th birthday. She celebrated her birthday on Feb. 1. She is a junior at McAlester High School.



She is the daughter of Harold and Nellie Meashintubby of McAlester. Her grandparents are the late Norman and Reba Meashintubby of Talihina, Bessie Sam of McAlester and Virgil Sam of Albion.

Happy fifth birthday

Emmanuel and Nathaniel Meashintubby wish their sister, Nataya, a happy fifth birthday. She turned five on Feb. 22. She is the daughter of Nathaniel and Esterlyn Meashintubby and Nakina Williams, all of McAlester. Her grandparents are Harold and Nellie Meashintubby and Romona Davis of Okmulgee.



Happy 90th birthday

Fannie (Martin) Heath celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 17. Fannie grew up in Hugo and attended the Goodland School for Native Americans. As World War II ended, she met and married Russell Heath who was serving in the Navy. Together they moved to Rhode Island and raised her two daughters, Doris (Estep) Weise, and Glenda Estep. She is now retired in Florida and lives close to Doris and Glenda.



Fannie has quite an extended family now – five generations. In addition to her daughters, she has four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Congratulations, Dylan

Dylan McGill, the Tuttle FFA Treasurer and a Choctaw tribal member, traveled to Denver in January to participate in the National Western Stock Show. He and his Dorset lamb, Dusty, won the Reserve Breed Dorset. Dylan was honored to participate in the long tradition of excellence and to represent his state.



Dylan and his lamb also participated in the Auction of Junior Livestock Champions, which allows only 90 of the best animals out of the thousands entered in the stock show. Dylan was honored to have his lamb considered one of the best. He will use the money from the auction to purchase future projects and to enhance his show string.

Dylan is the son of C.L. and Melinda McGill. He is the grandson of the late Floyd and LaRue Hamilton, the brother of Taylor McGill, and the nephew of Kimberly Marshall. He is supported by a large family of great aunts and uncles.

Congratulations, John

John Glen Roberts Jr. graduated from Pryor High School in 2005, where he lettered in baseball and football, earning All-State and All-Conference in both sports. He was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 29th round of the '05 amateur draft but opted to play baseball for Coffeyville Community College in Kansas. There he earned Honorable Mention All-Conference in 2006 and 2nd team All-Conference honors in 2007. In 2009, he was named to the First Team Summit League and won MVP honors in the league tournament. He had high numbers in baseball throughout his college career. He majored in Physical Therapy.



He recently signed a minor league free agent contract with the Toronto Blue Jays. He is the fifth Golden Eagle to go pro since the end of the 2009 season. His family is very proud of him.

He is the son of John and Carla Roberts of Pryor, grandson to Thurman Hudson of Poteau and Peggy Masters of Grove, great-grandson to the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson of Smithville.

Happy birthday Melvin and Chadwick

Happy birthday to Melvin Jones and Chadwick Crawford, also known as "High Socks" to his grandpa. They have been celebrating birthdays together for the past four years – Melvin's birthday is March 4, 1928, and Chadwick's is March 7, 2006.



Chadwick is the son of Carrie and Chad Crawford of Forney, Texas. Their family sends them both happy birthday wishes as they celebrate 82 years and four years together.

Happy sixth birthday

The family of Britton Barone want to wish her a wonderful sixth birthday on March 24. She is the daughter of Janah and Jeremy Barone of Hartshorne and the granddaughter of Ellen Cole of Durant, and Kelle and Gerry Barone of Hartshorne. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee, the Rev. Emezieah Bohanon.



Britton's activities include Tae Kwon Do, where she is an orange belt. She also enjoys fishing, listening to music and coloring.

Happy fourth birthday

Happy birthday to Drake Logan Stubbs who turned four on March 1. He is the son of Amber Haggard of Hugo and J.D. Stubbs of Boswell and brother to Xanden Lee Ward, three months. His grandparents are Becky Peters of Hugo and John and Rhoda Stubbs of Boswell. His great-grandparents are Becky Shawhart of Fort Towson, John and Gorgia Stubbs and the late Mary Wall, all of Boswell.



Also wishing him a happy birthday are Cody Ward, aunts Tasha and Jackie, uncles Cody and Canyon and all his cousins.

Happy belated birthday

Nataya and Nathaniel Meashintubby would like to wish their brother, Emmanuel, a happy belated birthday. He turned six on Sept. 13, 2009. He is the son of Nathaniel and Esterlyn Meashintubby and Nakina Williams, all of McAlester. His grandparents are Harold and Nellie Meashintubby and Romona Davis of Okmulgee.



19th Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show



Swine: Grand Champion and Cross Breed Champion – B.J. Nunn of Jones Academy with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Swine: Reserve Grand Champion and York Breed Champion – Blair Smallwood of Talihina with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Swine: Jr. Showman Hannah Palmer with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Swine: Sr. Showman Kelsey Brown of Buffalo Valley with Assistant Chief Gary Batton, mom Wendy Brown holding jacket, Councilman Kenny Bryant and Jones Academy Ag Teacher Brandon Spears.



Swine: Breed Champ Berk, Reserve Champ Berk – Hunter Mason of Hartshorne. Councilpersons Kenny Bryant, Joe Coley, Charlotte Jackson, Jack Austin and Delton Cox.

WILBURTON
– SWINE –
Grand Champion: B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy.
Reserve Grand Champion: Blair Smallwood, Talihina.
Bronze Reserve Champion: Whitlee Curliss, Haileyville.
Jr. Showmanship: Hannah Palmer, Idabel.
Sr. Showmanship: Kelsey Brown, Buffalo Valley.
Berk
Breed Champion: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne.
Reserve Champion: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne.
Class 1 – 1st : Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 2nd: Amanda Brown, Canadian; 3rd: Baylie Martin, Idabel; 4th: Levi Odom, Albion.
Class 2 – 1st: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 2nd: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 3rd: Allison McGuire, Haileyville; 4th: Alex Battiest, Broken Bow.

Chester
Breed Champion: Justin Daniel, Jones Academy.
Reserve Champion: Tyler Kirkes, Talihina.
Class 1 – 1st: Justin Daniel, Jones Academy; 2nd: Morgan Tarrance, Briggs; 3rd: Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 4th: Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 5th: Autumn Battiest, Broken Bow; 6th: Makenzy Stafford, Eagletown; 7th: Megan Lewis, Kiowa.
Class 2 – 1st: Tyler Kirkes, Talihina; 2nd: Blair Smallwood, Talihina; 3rd: Whitlee Curliss, Haileyville; 4th: Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 5th: Morgan Tarrance, Briggs; 6th: Ethan Bean, Lukfata; 7th: Smokey Rogers, Spiro; 8th: Jace Ford, Kinta.

Duroc
Breed Champion: Sarah Palmer, Idabel.
Reserve Champion: Allison Beames, Howe.
Class 1 – 1st: Sarah Palmer, Idabel; 2nd: Allison Beames, Howe; 3rd: Summer Durant, Howe; 4th: Lane Hunter, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Justin Maxwell, Talihina; 6th: Paige Campagna, Red Oak; 7th: Stormy Dull, Wilburton; 8th: Amanda Brown, Canadian; 9th: Jacy Wills, Kiowa; 10th: Kirby Needham, Quinton; 11th: Rhiannon Bean, Broken Bow.
Class 2 – 1st: Michael O’Kelly, Hartshorne; 2nd: Jordan Thomason, Hartshorne; 3rd: Ivana Hensley, Stringtown; 4th: Cody Hugle, Haileyville; 5th: Bradon Kitchens, Red Oak; 6th: Jace Ford, Kinta; 7th: Lexie Lerblance, Frink; 8th: Katie Williams, Spiro; 9th: Desirea Duggan, Panola; 10th: Anna Park, Crowder.

Hamp
Breed Champion: B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy.
Reserve Champion: Colt Conner, Tuttle.
Class 1 – 1st: Tyler Lindley, Hartshorne; 2nd: Paige Campagna, Red Oak; 3rd: Lacey Emmert, Talihina; 4th: Justin Winship, Broken Bow; 5th: Daxton King, Hartshorne; 6th: Michael O’Kelly, Hartshorne; 7th: Jady Wills, Kiowa; 8th: Kirby Needham, Quinton; 9th: Isom Pickens, Kiowa.
Class 2 – 1st: B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy; 2nd: Sarah Palmer, Idabel; 3rd: BJ Nunn, Jones Academy; 4th: Kelsey Brown, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Dwayne Terry, Jones Academy; 6th: Jon Hensley, Stringtown; 7th: Garrett Clunn, Hartshorne; 8th: Joseph Morgan, Hartshorne; 9th: Chloe Rogers, Spiro; 10th: Taylor Cox, Cameron.
Class 3 – 1st: Justin Daniel, Jones Academy; 2nd: Hannah Palmer, Idabel; 3rd: Katie Cox, LeFlore; 4th: Logan Byrd, Hartshorne; 5th: Payne Reavis, Broken Bow; 6th: Clay Doyle, Kiowa; 7th: Brenna Fry, Buffalo Valley; 8th: Jessie Matthews, Canadian.

Class 4 – 1st: Kareesa Kennedy, Albion; 2nd: Micah Tiger, Jones Academy; 3rd: Gunner Rankin, Hartshorne; 4th: Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 5th: Matthew Bruner, Haileyville; 6th: Dakota Davis, Quinton; 7th: Anna Park, Crowder; 8th: Alex Battiest, Broken Bow; 9th: Taylor Wall, Talihina; 10th: Amanda Brown, Canadian.
Class 5 – 1st: Colt Conner, Tuttle; 2nd: Blair Smallwood, Talihina; 3rd: Bryce Livingston, Wilburton; 4th: Lane Bandy, Whitesboro; 5th: Destiny Duggan, Panola; 6th: Levi Odom, Albion; 7th: Jeremiah Weeden, Coalgate; 8th: Callie Doyle, Kiowa; 9th: Stormy Dull, Wilburton; 10th: Jessica Marshall, Idabel.
Class 6 – 1st: Cooper Wood, Antlers; 2nd: Lane Williams, Idabel; 3rd: Adam Few, Hartshorne; 4th: Courtney Wallace, Jones Academy; 5th: Jacob Price, Spiro; 6th: Samuel Cox, LeFlore; 7th: Sidney Doyle, Buffalo Valley; 8th: Javen Potts, Talihina; 9th: A.J. Thompson, Cameron; 10th: Austin Cook, Talihina.

Class 7 – 1st: Dwayne Terry, Jones Academy; 2nd: Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro; 3rd: Cody Hugle, Haileyville; 4th: Colt Conner, Tuttle; 5th: Shaylee Noah, Red Oak; 6th: Blake Lindley, Hartshorne; 7th: Bradon Kitchens, Red Oak; 8th: J.D. Champion, Wilburton; 9th: Logan Odom, Albion; 10th: Tyler Hardin, Heavener.
Class 8 – 1st: Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2nd: Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 3rd: Whitney Sebo, Spiro; 4th: Morgan Tarrance, Briggs; 5th: Katie Williams, Spiro; 6th: Emilie Cox, LeFlore; 7th: Chelsea Roba, Whitesboro; 8th: John McAlester, Wister.

Poland
Breed Champion: Ty Pilkington, Hodgen.
Reserve Champion: Justin Rogers, Spiro.
Class 1 – 1st: Ty Pilkington, Hodgen; 2nd: Cheyanne Pilkington, Wister.
Class 2 – 1st : Justin Rogers, Spiro.

Spot
Class 1 – 1st: Lacey Emmert, Talihina; 2nd: Justin Rogers, Spiro.
Class 2 – 1st: Chloe Rogers, Spiro.

York
Breed Champion: Blair Smallwood, Talihina.
Reserve Champion: Whitlee Curliss, Haileyville.
Class 1 – 1st: Whitlee Curliss, Haileyville; 2nd: Hannah Palmer, Idabel; 3rd: Morgan Crenshaw, Red Oak; 4th: Gunner Rankin, Hartshorne; 5th: Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 6th: Morgan Wilcox, Albion; 7th: Dylan Bush, Quinton; 8th: Allison McGuire, Haileyville.
Class 2 – 1st Lexie Lerblance, Frink; 2nd: Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 3rd: Mason Crenshaw, Red Oak; 4th: Austin Cole, Talihina; 5th: Mikey Gadnsdasky, Wilburton; 6th: Brent Anderson, Spiro; 7th: Lexen Cook, Hartshorne; 8th: Kristin Adams, Wilburton; 9th: Sheleigh Swearingen, Clayton. Swearingen, Clayton.

Livestock results continue on Page 7



Swine: Poland Breed Champion – Ty Pilkington of Hodgen with Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Swine: Chester Breed Champion - Justin Daniel of Jones Academy with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Swine: Chester Reserve Breed Champion – Tyler Kirkes of Talihina with Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Swine: Duroc Breed Champion – Sarah Palmer of Idabel with sister Grace Palmer holding plaque.



Swine: Hamp Breed Champion – B.J. Nunn of Jones Academy with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Swine: Hamp Reserve Breed Champion – Colt Conner of Tuttle with nephew C.J. Conner and Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Swine: Poland Reserve Breed Champion – Justin Rogers with brother Broc.



Swine: York Breed Champion – Blair Smallwood of Talihina with dad Dusty Smallwood and Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Goat: Sr Showman, Division 1 Reserve Champion – Anna Park of Eufaula.



Goat: Jr. Showman – Adrianna Curnutt of Wister with grandfather Bruce Curnutt, Councilman Kenny Bryant and Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Goat: Division Champion meat goat with Councilman Kenny Bryant and Judge Ismaro Cardenas.

Livestock show features swine, goats, lambs, cattle

Continued from Page 6

Class 3 – 1st: Blair Smallwood, Talihina; 2nd: Adam Few, Hartshorne; 3rd: Jarad James, Wilburton; 4th: Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 5th: Hannah Beames, Howe; 6th: Destiny Duggan, Panola; 7th: Dakota Davis, Quinton; 8th: Justin Phillips, Howe; 9th: Desirea Duggan, Panola; 10th: Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 11th: Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 12th: Tvli Birdshead, Coalgate; 13th: Rae Gail Wilson, Hartshorne.

Cross

Breed Champion: B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy.

Reserve Champion: Whitlee Curliss, Haileyville.

Class 1 – 1st: Wilmer Guerro, Jones Academy; 2nd: Brittan Raines, Red Oak; 3rd: Paige Campagna, Red Oak; 4th: Wyatt Lane Williams, Idabel; 5th: Ava Trujillo, Jones Academy; 6th: Autumn Battiest, Broken Bow; 7th: Zachary Stafford, Eagletown; 8th: Megan Lewis, Kiowa; 9th: Isom Pickens, Kiowa.

Class 2 – 1st: Justin Dainels, Jones Academy; 2nd: Micah Tiger, Jones Academy; 3rd: Rachel Beames, Howe; 4th: Shane Fry, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Lauryn Rader, Wilburton; 6th: Micah Crenshaw, Red Oak; 7th: Chase Sherwood, Canadian; 8th: Sarah Palmer, Idabel; 9th: Makenzi Potts, Talihina; 10th: Ivana Hensley, Stringtown; 11th: Madison Hill, Smithville.

Class 3 – 1st: Tuscon Evans, Jones Academy; 2nd: Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 3rd: Wyatt Lane Williams, Idabel; 4th: Garrett Clunn, Hartshorne; 5th: Mina Burke, Jones Academy; 6th: Brenna Fry, Buffalo Valley; 7th: Cheyanne Pilkington, Wister; 8th: Kalli Battiest, Broken Bow; 9th: Lacey Price, Bokoshe.

Class 4 – 1st: Courtney Wallace, Jones Academy; 2nd: Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy; 3rd: Gunner Rankin, Hartshorne; 4th: Candice Baker, Hartshorne; 5th: Jacob Rolf, Poteau; 6th: Kareesa Kennedy, Albion; 7th: Tyler Kirkes, Talihina; 8th: MaKayla Holland, Albion; 9th: Taylor Wall, Talihina.

Class 5 – 1st: B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy; 2nd: Noah Irwin, Hartshorne; 3rd: Micah Crenshaw, Red Oak; 4th: Mikey Guazsau-sky, Wilburton; 5th: Logan Odom, Albion; 6th: Krystal McClen-don, Eagletown; 7th: Tyler Lindley, Hartshorne; 8th: Payton Em-mer, Hartshorne; 9th: Victoria Battiest, Broken Bow; 10th: Chad Bush, Quinton.

Class 6 – 1st: John Two Bulls, Jones Academy; 2nd: Hannah Palmer, Idabel; 3rd: Tyler Dressman, Jones Academy; 4th: Kai-tylenn Sebo, Spiro; 5th: Bubba O'Bryan, Whitesboro; 6th: Taylor Johnson, Quinton; 7th: Kristyn Adams, Wilburton; 8th: Brittan Raines, Red Oak; 9th: Sidney Doyle, Buffalo Valley; 10th: A.J. Thompson, Cameron; 11th: Stephanie Brantley, Eagletown.

Class 7 – 1st: Lane Trevino, Eagletown; 2nd: Alex Battiest, Broken Bow; 3rd: Lexie Lerblance, Frink; 4th: Allison McGuire, Haileyville; 5th: Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 6th: Morgan Wilcox, Albion; 7th: MaKayla Holland, Albion; 8th: Shaylee Noah, Red Oak; 9th: Tyler Whitecotten, Bokoshe; 10th: Chelsea Roba, Whitesboro; 11th: Jon Hensley, Stringtown.

Class 8 – 1st: Whitlee Curliss, Haileyville; 2nd: Colt Conner, Tuttle; 3rd: Morgan Crenshaw, Red Oak; 4th: Rae Gail Wilson, Hartshorne; 5th: Whitney Sebo, Spiro; 6th: Matthew Bruner, Haileyville; 7th: Jarad James, Wilburton; 8th: Smokey Rogers, Spiro; 9th: Smokey Rogers, Spiro; 10th: Dillon Price, Spiro; 11th: Shaylee Noah, Red Oak.

Class 9 – 1st: Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2nd: Harley Roba, Whitesboro; 3rd: Summer Durant, Howe; 4th: Lauryn Rader, Wilburton; 5th: Mason Crenshaw, Red Oak; 6th: Audra King, Buffalo Valley; 7th: Jace Ford, Kinta.

– GOATS –

Grand Champion: Brayden Sparks, Hartshorne.

Reserve Grand: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle.

Bronze: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle.

Jr. Showmanship: Adrianna Curnutt, Wister.

Sr. Showmanship: Anna Farrow Park, Crowder.

Division 1 Champion: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle.

Division 1 Reserve Champion: Anna Park, Crowder.

Class 1 – 1st: Amanda Hall, Poteau; 2nd: Rachel Johnson, Crowder; 3rd: Brandi Moore, Haileyville; 4th: Brittany Watkins, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Dakota Hokit, Buffalo Valley; 6th: Jaymie Watkins, Buffalo Valley; 7th: Nicole Dobbs, LeFlore; 8th: Terry Ingle, Talihina; 9th: Nicole Dobbs, LeFlore.

Class 2 – 1st: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 2nd: James Savage, Haileyville; 3rd: Jadyn Wills, Kiowa; 4th: Brandi Moore, Haileyville; 5th: Levi Suter, Hartshorne.

Class 3 – 1st: Anna Park, Crowder; 2nd: Rachel Baker, Hartshorne; 3rd: Cordell Collins, Buffalo Valley; 4th: Catelyn Grey, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Cassie Watkins, Talihina; 6th: Shannon Love, Buffalo Valley; 7th: Levi Suter, Hartshorne.

Division 2 Champion: Brayden Sparks, Hartshorne.

Division 2 Reserve Champion: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle.

Class 4 – 1st: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 2nd: Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; 3rd: Savannah Lantz, Holdenville; 4th: Toby Huff, Spiro; 5th: Callie Grey, Buffalo Valley; 6th: Kiefer Holloway, Haileyville; 7th: Shleigh Swearingen, Clayton; 8th: Shleigh Swearingen, Clayton.

Livestock results continue on Page 8



Lamb: Reserve Grand Champion – Ashley Jones with Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Goat: Grand Champion and Class 2 Division winner – Brayden Sparks of Hartshorne with Councilman Kenny Bryant, sister Paige Sparks and Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Goat: Reserve Grand – Dylan Wilson of Newcastle with Councilman Kenny Bryant and Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Goat: Bronze Medallion winner and division champion – Dylan Wilson of Newcastle with Councilman Kenny Bryant and Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Lamb: Grand Champion – Dylan McGill of Blanchard with Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Lamb: Bronze Medallion winner – Dylan McGill of Blanchard with Judge Ismaro Cardenas.

Students from around state attend Livestock Show



Lamb: Bronze Medallion winner – Dylan McGill of Blanchard with Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Lamb: Division 3 Champion and Jr. Showman – Miranda Jones with Judge Ismaro Cardenas.



Sheep: Sr. Showman – Nikki Schuth of Durant.

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

ACT Prep Workshop

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

April 9 • 8:30 a.m.-12 noon at Kiamichi Vo-Tech in Poteau, Oklahoma

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

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

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Class 5 – 1st: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 2nd: Callie Grey, Buffalo Valley; 3rd: Shelby Smith, Buffalo Valley; 4th: KaitylInn Sebo, Spiro; 5th: Savanna Sisk, Clayton; 6th: Dustin Finch, Canadian; 7th: Logan Byrd, Hartshorne; 8th: Abigayl Smith, Buffalo Valley; 9th: Tiffanee Brannon, LeFlore.

Class 6 – 1st: Brayden Sparks, Hartshorne; 2nd: Lexen Cook, Hartshorne; 3rd: Walker Graggs, Spiro; 4th: Whitney Sebo, Spiro; 5th: Haley Huff, Spiro; 6th: Nick Wallace, Clayton; 7th: Mollie McGee, Red Oak; 8th: Shelby Smith, Buffalo Valley.

Division 3 Champion: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle.
Division 3 Reserve Champion: Matthew Barnes, Spiro.
Class 7 – 1st: Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2nd: Savannah Lantz, Holdenville; 3rd: Mollie McGee, Red Oak; 4th: Tiffanee Brannon, LeFlore; 5th: Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; 6th: Heather Finch, Canadian.
Class 8 – 1st: Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 2nd: Matthew Barnes, Spiro; 3rd: Codi Robison, Checotah; 4th: Madeline Camp, Haileyville; 5th: Sarah Harris, Porum; 6th: Diseree Masterson, Spiro; 7th: Kiefer Holloway.
Class 9 – 1st: Adrianna Curnutt, Wister; 2nd: Savannah Lantz, Holdenville; 3rd: Kyleigh Hilburn, Red Oak; 4th: Callie Curnutt, Wister; 5th: Raychel Harris, Porum; 6th: Dustin Finch, Canadian; 7th: Loren Ford-Rogers, Poteau; 8th: Kyleigh Hilburn, Red Oak.

– SHEEP –
Grand Champion: Dylan McGill, Tuttle.
Reserve Grand: Ashley Jones, Thackerville.
Bronze: Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville.
Jr. Showmanship: Miranda Jones, Thackerville.
Sr. Showmanship: Nikki Schuth, Durant.

Division 1 Champion Lamb: Dylan McGill, Tuttle.
Division 1 Reserve Champion Lamb: Emily Shaw, Buffalo Valley.
Class 1 – 1st: Nikki Schuth, Durant; 2nd: Chelsea Baggs, Howe; 3rd: Jaymie Watkins, Buffalo Valley; 4th: Ethan Bean, Lukfata; 5th: Jaycee Kitchell, Hartshorne; 6th: Jerra Scott, Leflore; 7th: Terry Ingle, Talihina; 8th: Katherine Battles, Haileyville.
Class 2 – 1st: Emily Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 2nd: Chelsea Baggs, Howe; 3rd: Flint Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 4th: Katey Johnson, Whitesboro; 5th: Logan Suter, Hartshorne; 6th: Schiann Laughlin, Canadian.
Class 3 – 1st: Dylan McGill, Tuttle; 2nd: Nikki Schuth, Durant; 3rd: Kristyn Adams, Wilburton; 4th: Isaac Walden, Leflore; 5th: Cody Hugel, Haileyville; 6th: Mikala Helm, Talihina; 7th: Mackenzie Maxwell, Tuskahoma; 8th: Ashton Thomason, Hartshorne.

Division 2 Champion Lamb: Dylan McGill, Tuttle.
Division 2 Reserve Champion Lamb: Ashley Jones, Thackerville.
Class 4 – 1st: Dylan McGill, Tuttle; 2nd: Logan Suter, Hartshorne; 3rd: Cordell Collins, Buffalo Valley; 4th: Skylar Trammell, Kiowa; 5th: Rachel Rice, Poteau; 6th: Jerra Scott, Leflore; 7th: Scott Helm, Talihina.
Class 5 – 1st: Dylan McGill, Tuttle; 2nd: Ashley Jones, Thackerville; 3rd: Ashley Jones, Thackerville; 4th: Madelyn Guazsausky, Wilburton; 5th: Cordell Collins, Buffalo Valley; 6th: Bobby Lee England, Panama; 7th: Mikala Helm, Talihina; 8th: Skylar Trammell, Kiowa; 9th: Rhiannon Bean, Broken Bow; 10th: Jace Ford, Kinta.

Division 3 Champion Lamb: Miranda Jones, Thackerville.
Division 3 Reserve Champion Lamb: Miranda Jones, Thackerville.
Class 6 – 1st: Miranda Jones, Thackerville; 2nd: Nikki Schuth, Durant; 3rd: Jaymie Watkins, Buffalo Valley; 4th: Dallin Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Hillaree Cox, Spiro; 6th: Scott Helm, Talihina; 7th: Dillon Camp, Haileyville; 8th: Justin Maxwell, Talihina; 9th: Jace Ford, Kinta.
Class 7 – 1st: Miranda Jones, Thackerville; 2nd: Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville; 3rd: Emily Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 4th: Dallion Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 5th: Flint Shaw, Buffalo Valley; 6th: Madelyn Guazdausk, Wilburton; 7th: Skylar Trammell, Kiowa; 8th: Lauryn Rader, Wilburton; 9th: Mackenzie Maxwell, Tuskahoma; 10th: Rhiannon Bean, Broken Bow.

– CATTLE, HEIFERS –
Grand Supreme Heifer: Taylor Mobbs, Tushka.
Reserve Grand Supreme Heifer: Timber Stephens, Atoka.
Bronze Supreme Heifer: Kolby Cato, Haileyville.
Jr. Showmanship: Blakelee Hayes, Latta.
Sr. Showmanship: Timber Stephens, Atoka.

Heifers, English Division
English Breed Champion: Blakelee Hayes, Latta.
English Reserve Breed Champion: Ashton Thomason, Hartshorne.
Class 1 – 1st: Ridge Howell, Checotah; 2nd: Claire Cole, Stringtown.
Class 2 – 1st: Langston Upton, Wister; 2nd: Ashton Thomason, Hartshorne; 3rd: Cody Bull, Panola.
Class 3 – 1st: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne; 2nd: Breanna Archey, Panama; 3rd: Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne; 4th: Ashton Forwoodson, Wilburton.
Class 4 – 1st: Blakelee Hayes, Latta; 2nd: Matt Bruner, Haileyville; 3rd: Rebecca Isbell, Wagoner; 4th: Rhiannon Bean, Broken Bow.
Class 5 – 1st: Ashton Thomason, Hartshorne; 2nd: Hailey Raines, Red Oak.

Heifers, Continental Division
Continental Breed Champion: Taylor Mobbs, Tushka.
Continental Reserve Breed: Kolby Cato, Haileyville.
Class 1 – 1st: Kolby Cato, Haileyville; 2nd: Ridge Stephens, Tushka; 3rd: William Edington, Red Oak; 4th: Breanna Archey, Panama.
Class 2 – 1st: Holden Robbins, Tenkiller; 2nd: Taylor O’Neal, LeFlore.
Class 3 – 1st: Jori McPeak, Wagoner; 2nd: Kolby Cato, Haileyville; 3rd: Langston Upton, Wister.
Class 4 – 1st: Holden Robbins, Tenkiller; 2nd: Callie Long, Stigler; 3rd: Rebecca Isbell, Wagoner; 4th: Heather Edington, Red Oak.
Class 5 – 1st: Taylor Mobbs, Tushka; 2nd: Zachary Smith, Broken Bow.

Heifers, AOB Division
AOB Breed Champion: Timber Stephens, Atoka.
AOB Reserve Breed: Kylie Powell, Porum.
Class 1 – 1st: Ivana Hensley, Stringtown; 2nd: Jerrod Long, Stigler; 3rd: Seth Hall, Poteau.
Class 2 – 1st: Breanna Archey, Panama; 2nd: Candace Wilson, Clayton; 3rd: Chance Tanner, Checotah; 4th: Sarah Harris, Porum.
Class 3 – 1st: Kylie Powell, Porum; 2nd: Parker Mobbs, Tushka; 3rd: Kayla Harris, Keota; 4th: Taylor Kinsler, Broken Bow.



Heifer: Breed Champion, Continental Champion – Taylor Mobbs of Tushka with ag teacher Chad Chambers and Councilpersons Kenny Bryant, Charlotte Jackson and Bob Pate.



Heifer: Reserve Supreme, Sr. Showman – Timber Stephens of Atoka with Councilpersons Kenny Bryant, Charlotte Jackson and Bob Pate, and brother Ridge.



Heifer Reserve Breed Continental Kylie Powell of Porum with Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson, Bob Pate and Kenny Bryant.



Heifer: Bronze Medallion and Reserve Breed – Kolby Cato of Haileyville with sister Abby Cato.



Heifer: English Breed Champion – Blakelee Hayes of Latta with mom Jennifer Hayes.



Heifer: Reserve English Champion – Ashton Thomison of Hartshorne with ag teacher Shawn Sparks.



Steer: Supreme and Reserve Supreme – Kolby Cato of Haleyville with sister Abby Cato.



Steer: Reserve Champion – Kelsey Crane of Wister with dad Ricky Crane holding plaque.



Steer: Brahman Influence Champion – Kyle Pingleton with Councilmen Kenny Bryant and Bob Pate.



Steer: English Breed Champion – Blaze Bouden of McCurtain with Councilperson Kenny Bryant, brother Tanner Bouden, Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Bob Pate, and dad Justin Bouden.



Steer: AOB Breed Champion – Natalie Gibson of Afton.

Livestock results continue

Continued from Page 8

Breanna Johnson, Wister; 5th: Rachel Harris, Porum; 6th: April Brown, Clayton.

Class 5 – 1st: Kareesa Kennedy, Albion; 2nd: Kylie Powell, Porum; 3rd: Lane Williams, Idabel.

Class 6 – 1st: Cody Bull, Panola; 2nd: Sawyer Blue, Talihina; 3rd: Rebecca Isbell, Wagoner; 4th: Brittan Raines, Red Oak; 5th: Natasha Janway, Cameron.

Class 7 – 1st: Timber Stephens, Atoka; 2nd: Kelsey Crane, Wister.

CATTLE, STEERS

Grand Market Steer: Kolby Cato, Haleyville.

Reserve Grand: Kelsey Crane, Wister.

Bronze: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne.

Steers, English Division

English Breed Champion: Blaze Bowden, McCurtain.

English Reserve Breed: Bailey Henry, McCurtain.

Class 1 – 1st: Bryce Gibson, Afton.

Class 2 – 1st: Blaze Bowden, McCurtain; 2nd: Bailey Henry, McCurtain; 3rd: Shelbi Bowden, McCurtain.

Steers, Continental Division

Continental Breed Champion: Kolby Cato, Haleyville

Continental Reserve Breed: Kelsey Crane, Wister.

Class 1 – 1st: Bryce Gibson, Afton; 2nd: Brycen Hale, Fairland; 3rd: Jori McPeak, Warner.

Class 2 – 1st: Kolby Cato, Haleyville; 2nd: Brycen Hale, Fairland; 3rd: Taylor O'Neal, LeFlore.

Class 3 – 1st: Kelsey Crane, Wister; 2nd: Hailey Henry, McCurtain.

Class 4 – 1st: Woodrow Wilson, Clayton; 2nd: Tanner Bowden, McCurtain.

Steer, Brahman Influence Division

Brahman Influence Breed Champion: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne.

Class 1 – 1st: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne.

Steers, AOB Division

AOB Breed Champion: Natalie Gibson, Afton.

AOB Reserve Breed: Jace Ford, Kinta.

Class 1 – 1st: Cody Austin, Wilburton.

Class 2 – 1st: Natalie Gibson, Afton; 2nd: Kristen Hollan, Panola.

Class 3 – 1st: Jace Ford, Kinta.



Steer: English Reserve Breed Champion – Bailey Henry with Councilperson Kenny Bryant, Tanner Bouden holding plaque, and Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Bob Pate.



Steer: AOB Reserve Breed Champion – Jace Ford and his Ag teacher, Mr. Pride.

OK Choctaw regular meeting

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance holds its regular meeting on the second Monday of every month at the Alliance building, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City. Potluck dinner is at 6 p.m.. Business meeting is at 7 p.m.

OK Choctaw Indian Taco Sale

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance holds its monthly Indian Taco Sale from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month at the Alliance building at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City.

30th Annual Birthday Gospel Singing

The Horn family is hosting the 30th Annual Birthday Gospel Singing at 7 p.m. on March 20 at the Pentecostal Church of God Indian Mission, Pittsburg, Okla. Supper is at 5:30 p.m. Concession will be available. All singers are welcome. The Pentecostal Church of God Indian Mission is located 3 miles east of Highway 63 off of Highways 69/75 as you enter Kiowa. For more info, call 580-775-2065.

Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

Everyone is welcome to attend the Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing at 7 p.m. March 26 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Crowder. MC is Curtis Kinney. Special guests include The Gastineuas, Ada, and Gospel Lights, Henryetta. Concession will be available. The center is located at 707 Bond St.

Wild Onion Dinner

The Norman First American United Methodist Church is hosting a Wild Onion Dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 27 at the McFarlin Memorial UMC, corner of University and Apache in Norman. Advance tickets are adults - \$6; children 12 and under - \$3.50; students with ID - \$4.50. At the door: adults - \$7; children 12 and under - \$4; students with ID - \$5. Menu includes wild onions, pinto beans, mashed potatoes, salad, fried chicken or salt pork, fry bread, dessert, ice tea, coffee or lemonade. For more information contact Mary Lou Drywater, 405-447-7836, or Linda Forrester, 405-366-8542.

Grace Indian United Methodist celebrating 30th anniversary

The Grace Indian United Methodist Church would like to invite everyone to worship and celebrate as 2010 marks its 30th anniversary. A three-night revival will be held April 6-8, beginning each night at 7. The singing will be April 9 with supper at 5:30 p.m., singing at 7 p.m. MC is Joe Coley. All groups and soloist specials are welcome. Grace Indian UMC is located 2.5 miles north of Hartshorne and 1 mile west of Jones Academy. For more information, please contact the Rev. David Warden at 918-297-2223.

District 11 Princess Pageant

The District 11 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. May 7 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in McAlester. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. April 19.

American Indian Leadership Youth Council of Broken Bow Public Schools

14th Annual Spring Pow Wow

◆◆◆ April 3, 2010 ◆◆◆

McCurtain County Sports Complex
Broken Bow, Oklahoma



◆ Schedule of Events ◆

11:00 am Stickball Game

1:00 pm Gourd Dancing

5:30 pm Supper Break

6:30 pm Grand Entry

\$\$\$ CONTEST \$\$\$

HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies: CHANCE RUSH, Oklahoma City, OK

Head Man Dancer: PEANUT ROBERTS, Atwood, OK

Head Lady Dancer: TATA ROBERTS, Ada, OK

Head Gourd Dancer: DARRELL WILDCAT, Anadarko, OK

Arena Director: RANDY FRAIZER, Oklahoma, OK

Host Southern Drum: ROAN HORSE, Oklahoma City, OK

Host Northern Drum: BUFFALO HORSE, Minnesota

Host Color Guard: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Honorary Head Man Dancer: Hunter Tonihka

Honorary Head Lady Dancer: Ashlyn Choate

Jr. Honorary Head Man Dancer: Tyler McKinney

Jr. Honorary Head Lady Dancer: Genny Tom

AILYC 2009-2010 SR. PRINCESS: STEPHANIE TEHAUNO

AILYC 2009-2010 JR. PRINCESS: AUTUMN BATTIEST

Special Invitation to all Princesses, Drums and Indian Clubs

Men's: Traditional/Straight & Fancy/Grass

Ladies: Buckskin/Cloth & Fancy/Jingle

Teen Boys: Traditional/Straight & Fancy/Grass

Teen Girls: Buckskin/Cloth & Fancy/Jingle

Junior Boys Combined & Junior Girls Combined

Junior Girls sponsored by A'an Parra

Tiny Tots

All dancers must register and be in grand entry to compete

Arts & Crafts Vendor information call Kim Battiest, 580-236-1305 (C)

For more information please contact:

Monica Billy 580-584-3365 ext. 4069

Kim Battiest 580-236-1305 or Katrina Anderson 580-236-1280

****No Political Soliciting** No Videotaping**

****No drugs or alcohol allowed** Security provided**

AILYC has exclusive rights for video and photography

42nd Annual Talihina Indian Festival

◆◆◆ April 10, 2010 ◆◆◆

Talihina, Oklahoma

Gateway to Talimena National Scenic Byway

New gym located on Hwy. 1 & 271

Indian-made
Arts & Crafts

Food
Concession

Cake Walk

◆ Program ◆

2 p.m. Gourd Dance

5 p.m. Supper

6 p.m. Gourd Dance

**7-10 p.m. Grand Entry,
Inter-Tribals and Contests**

HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies: Mark Wilson, Cherokee, Sand Springs, OK

Head Singer: Pat Eyebe, Kiowa, Stilwell, OK, Inter-Tribal Singers

Head Man Dancer: Bear O'Field, Cherokee/Creek, Tulsa, OK

Head Lady Dancer: Eva Fenton, Kiowa/Apache, Talihina, OK

Head Gourd Dancer: Ira Kaulay Jr., Kiowa, Checotah, OK

Arena Director: Bill Takes Horse, Crow, Colbert, OK

Honor Guard: Choctaw Nation Honor Guard

Club Princess: Landry Danielle James

Little Miss Princess: Haylie Brooke Himes

CONTESTS

All contests are in adult categories only.

All contestants must be 16 years or older in order to compete.

***** PRIZE MONEY 1st \$300; 2nd \$175, 3rd \$75 *****

Men's Combined – Fancy/Grass – Straight/Traditional

Women's Combined – Southern Cloth/Buckskin – Fancy Shawl/Jingle

Tiny Tots Contest – 6 and under

**Public Welcome – No Admission Fee – Bring Pow Wow Chairs.
All Princesses, Clubs and Drums Welcome.**

For info or A&C Booth Space contact
Harry or Carol James at 918-567-2539.

\$30 booth space plus item donation. Tables and chairs not provided.

Not responsible for thefts/accidents – No firearms, alcohol, drugs.

*This event is sponsored by the Talihina Indian Club
with assistance of The Oklahoma Arts Council
and the National Endowment for the Arts*



Grand Champion Swine – Padyn Hobgood, Colbert, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Breed Champion Duroc and Junior Showman – Allie Foster, with Councilmen Dosh, Dillard and Frazier.



Breed Champion Chester and Senior Showman – Madison Rodgers, with Councilmen Dillard, Dosh and Frazier.



Reserve Breed Champion Berk – Kallie Crawford with Councilmen Dosh, Dillard and Thompson.



Breed Champion Poland – Kallie Crawford with Councilmen Dillard, Frazier and Thompson.



Reserve Breed Champion Swine Poland – Jacob Fielder, with Councilmen Dosh, Dillard, Frazier and Thompson.



Breed Champion Hamp and Overall Reserve Grand Champion – Bryan Goodbear, Jones Academy, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard and James Frazier.

Durant livestock winners

SWINE

Grand Champion: Payden Hobgood, Colbert.
Reserve Grand Champion: Brian Goodbear, Jones Academy
Bronze: Mason Emertt, Bennington.
Jr. Showman: Ali Foster.
Sr. Showman: Madisen Rogers, Calera.

Berk

Breed Champion: Taylor Runyan, Atoka.
Reserve Breed: Kallie Crawford, Moss.
Class 1 – 1st: Taylor Runyan, Atoka; **2nd:** Kallie Crawford, Moss; **3rd:** Chelsea Coker, Tuttle; **4th:** Crystal Reeder, Wapanucka; **5th:** Deedra Thwika, Battiest.

Chester

Breed Champion: Madisen Rogers, Calera.
Reserve Breed: Dillon Bowen, Silo.
Class 1 – 1st: Madisen Rogers, Calera; **2nd:** Dillon Bowen, Silo; **3rd:** Tannah Stephens, Tushka; **4th:** Tyler Minyard, Bennington; **5th:** Cameron Robison, Valliant; **6th:** Ross Davis, Dickson.

Duroc

Breed Champion: Padyn Hobgood, Colbert.
Reserve Breed: Jase Collins, Milburn.
Class 1 – 1st: Alyson Chapman, Coalgate; **2nd:** Dillon Cummins, Colbert; **3rd:** Colt Griggs, Rattan; **4th:** Lindsey Broughton, Tushka; **5th:** Blake Medders, Battiest; **6th:** Madison Cress, Boswell; **7th:** Kelli Robertson, Wapanucka; **8th:** Kacie Mapp, Turner; **9th:** Aaron Battiest, Atoka; **10th:** Aaron Airington, Durant.
Class 2 – 1st: Jase Collins, Milburn; **2nd:** Jessica Wolfe, Thackerville; **3rd:** Dalton Davis, Dickson; **4th:** Sarisa Nichols, Coalgate ; **5th:** Jase Collins, Milburn; **6th:** Kyla Tate, Silo; **7th:** Kendel Foster, Coleman; **8th:** Kalie Ables, Wapanucka; **9th:** Bill Tohnika, Battiest; **10th:** Dillon Cummins, Colbert.

Class 3 – 1st: Padyn Hobgood, Colbert; **2nd:** Allie Foster, Turner; **3rd:** Kirsten Rogers, Calera; **4th:** Mason Emert, Bennington; **5th:** Raney Johnson, Wright City; **6th:** Tony Weathers, Soper; **7th:** Willie McKinney, Coalgate; **8th:** Jase Holder, Lane; **9th:** Taylor Nelson, Colbert; **10th:** Tiffanni Henry, Kingston; **11th:** Trevor Bonds, Soper.

Hamp

Breed Champion: Bryan Goodbear, Jones Academy.
Reserve Breed: Mason Emert, Bennington.
Class 1 – 1st: Chelsea Coker, Tuttle; **2nd:** Brady Nichols, Colbert; **3rd:** Jase Collins, Milburn; **4th:** Zane Boyd, Tushka; **5th:** Amber King, Kingston; **6th:** Kaitlin Fryer, Caddo; **7th:** Jake Allen, Caddo; **8th:** Brittany Joslin, Rattan; **9th:** Dalton Airington, Durant; **10th:** Kacie Mapp, Turner.
Class 2 – 1st: Bryan Goodbear, Jones Academy; **2nd:** Baylor Jestis, Durant; **3rd:** Eli Hudson, Fort Towson; **4th:** Corby Ake, Tupelo; **5th:** Paden Stanley, Coalgate; **6th:** Cole Broughton, Tushka; **7th:** Ian Rose, Rock Creek; **8th:** Brian Keeler, Tushka; **9th:** William Minyard, Bennington; **10th:** Kyle King, Kingston.
Class 3 – 1st: Dalton Davis, Dickson; **2nd:** Natilee Young, Soper; **3rd:** Cole Broughton, Tushka; **4th:** Landon Moody, Moss; **5th:** Jessica Wolfe, Thackerville; **6th:** Baylee Whitley, Colbert; **7th:** Brody Caston, Hugo; **8th:** Jaely Parsons, Soper; **9th:** Emily Dennis, Lane; **10th:** Brad LeBoeuf, Milburn.
Class 4 – 1st: Mason Emert, Bennington; **2nd:** Jackson Ferguson, Soper; **3rd:** Jacob Fielder, Maysville; **4th:** Cheyenne Methvin, Hugo; **5th:** Ross Davis, Dickson; **6th:** Jena Rae Kellum, Fort Towson; **7th:** Robbie Garside, Atoka; **8th:** Alexis Thompson, Hugo; **9th:** Trevor Bond Soper; **10th:** Anna Boyd, Tushka.
Class 5 – 1st: Justin Graham, Rock Creek; **2nd:** Seana Garrison, Fort Towson; **3rd:** Padyn Hobgood, Colbert; **4th:** Chelsea Coker, Tuttle; **5th:** Whitney Noel , Rattan; **6th:** Kimberly Folsom, Rock Creek; **7th:** Tiffaney Noel, Rattan; **8th:** Gabe Davis, Soper; **9th:** Pacen Herman, Soper; **10th:** Sam Roebuck, Soper.

Poland

Breed Champion: Kallie Crawford, Moss.
Reserve Breed: Jacob Fielder, Maysville.
Class 1 – 1st: Kallie Crawford, Moss; **2nd:** Jacob Fielder, Maysville; **3rd:** Emalie Watts, Battiest.

York

Breed Champion: Kallie Crawford, Moss.
Reserve Breed: Tanner Johnston, Coalgate.
Class 1 – 1st: Tanner Johnston, Coalgate; **2nd:** Grant Jeter, Tishomingo; **3rd:** Corby Ake, Tupelo; **4th:** Jordan Mobbs, Tushka; **5th:** Keller Cummins, Colbert; **6th:** Kaylee Dennis, Lane.
Class 2 – 1st: Kallie Crawford, Moss; **2nd:** Tandra Elkins, Coalgate; **3rd:** Austin Jestis, Durant; **4th:** Mason Emert, Bennington; **5th:** Kaitlin Fryer, Caddo; **6th:** Raney Johnson, Wright City.

Cross

Breed Champion: Seth Parish, Tishomingo.
Reserve Breed: Baylor Jestis, Durant.
Class 1 – 1st: Dalton Davis, Dickson; **2nd:** Ross Davis, Dickson; **3rd:** Ian Rose, Rock Creek; **4th:** Dalton Williams, Atoka; **5th:** Tori Stephens, Tushka; **6th:** Kasey Watts, Rattan; **7th:** Kimberly Folsom, Rock Creek; **8th:** Skylar Joslin, Rattan; **9th:** Bradley Nichols, Colbert; **10th:** Kalie Ables, Wapanucka.
Class 2 – 1st: Padyn Hobgood, Colbert; **2nd:** Austin Jestis, Durant; **3rd:** Tee Jay Trotter, Fort Towson; **4th:** Joseph Thompson, Hugo; **5th:** Jordan Mobbs, Tushka; **6th:** Jena Rae Kellum, Fort Towson; **7th:** Trevor Methvin, Hugo; **8th:** Dakota Stanglin, Achilles; **9th:** Taylor Dancer, Bennington; **10th:** Kalie Ables, Wapanucka.
Class 3 – 1st: Tell Hudson, Fort Towson; **2nd:** Lindsey Broughton, Tushka; **3rd:** Taylor Stephens, Tushka; **4th:** Taylor Watson, Kingston; **5th:** Tandra Elkins, Coalgate; **6th:** Corby Ake, Tupelo; **7th:** Bailey Breeden, Atoka; **8th:** Kyla Tate, Silo; **9th:** Phillip Courtwright, Rattan; **10th:** A.J. Burkett, Caddo.
Class 4 – 1st: Seth Parish, Tishomingo; **2nd:** Kirsten Rogers, Calera; **3rd:** Grant Jeter, Tishomingo; **4th:** Tiffaney Noel, Rattan; **5th:** Caitlyn Roebuck, Soper; **6th:** Landon Carper, Rattan; **7th:** Tanner Johnston,

Livestock results continue on Page 11



Reserve Breed Hamp and 3rd place overall bronze – Mason Emert, with Councilmen Frazier, Dillard, Dosh and Thompson.



Breed Champion Yorkshire – Kallie Crawford, with Councilmen Dillard, Dosh, Frazier and Thompson.



Reserve Breed Champion York – Tanner Johnston, with Councilmen Dillard, Dosh, Frazier and Thompson.



Breed Champion Berk – Taylor Runyan, with Councilmen Frazier, Dosh, Dillard and Thompson.



Breed Champion Cross – Seth Parish with Councilmen Dosh, Dillard and Frazier.



Reserve Breed Champion Cross – Baylor Jestis, with Councilmen Dosh, Frazier and Dillard.



Grand Champion and Division Champion Goat – Lexie Moody, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier, Ted Dosh and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Division Champion Goat – Larriann Chambers, with Councilmen James Frazier, Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard and Perry Thompson.



Division 1 Champion and 3rd place bronze medallion – Payton Mobbs, with his Ag teacher Chad Chambers and Councilmen James Frazier, Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard and Perry Thompson.



Division 3 Champion Goat – Taylor Mobbs, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, James Frazier, Anthony Dillard and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Division Champion Goat – Ross Turner, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier, Ted Dosh and Perry Thompson.



Division 1 Champion Goat – Colby Impson, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Ted Dosh, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.

Durant results continue

Continued from Page 10

Coalgate; 8th: Willie McKinney, Coalgate; 9th: Kyle King, Kingston; 10th: Cameron Robison, Valliant.

Class 5 – 1st: JaeLeigh Holder, Lane; 2nd: Madison Rogers, Calera; 3rd: Stephanie Cusey, Coalgate; 4th: Landon Moody, Moss; 5th: Coocie Potts, Atoka; 6th: JaeLeigh Holder, Lane; 7th: Daylon Henderson, Soper; 8th: Kanda Jackson, Caddo.

Class 6 – 1st: Baylor Jestis, Durant; 2nd: Seana Garrison, Fort Towson; 3rd: Kalen Hall, Tushka; 4th: Aubree Goodwin, Rock Creek.

GOATS

Grand Champion: Lexie Moody, Moss.

Reserve Grand Champion: Larriann Chambers, Tushka.

Bronze: Peyton Mobbs, Tushka.

Jr. Showman: Kelsey Chambers, Tulsa.

Sr. Showman: Dillon Burns, Coalgate.

Division 1 Champion: Peyton Mobbs, Tushka.

Reserve Division 1 Champion: Larriann Chambers, Tushka.

Class 1 – 1st: Morgan Venable, Moss; 2nd: Jayden Percell, Silo; 3rd: Alanah McKay, Tupelo; 4th: Jacob Cross, Bennington; 5th: H.D. Bullard, Tupelo; 6th: Latildra Bullard, Tupelo; 7th: Kelsey McKay, Tupelo; 8th: Kailee Airington, Durant; 9th: Kaitlyn Barrett, Boswell.

Class 2 – 1st: Kelsey Chambers, Tushka; 2nd: Avery Neeley, Kingston; 3rd: Jacob Jones, Roff; 4th: Colten Slauson, Tushka; 5th: Isacc Cooper, Tushka; 6th: Bambi Awants, Tushka; 7th: Dana Harjo, Holdenville; 8th:

Rylee Tremble, Fort Towson; 9th: Amber Frazier, Tushka; 10th: Dusty Belvin, Boswell; 11th: Emily Stevens, Boswell.

Class 3 – 1st: Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 2nd: Larriann Chambers, Tushka; 3rd: Amber Frazier, Tushka; 4th: Braden Allen, Caddo; 5th: Joanna Sayerwinnie, Kingston; 6th: Neeson Shipley, Kingston; 7th: Ross Turner, Holdenville; 8th: Blaze Burns, Boswell; 9th: Virginia Beddo, Boswell; 10th: Tracy Brown, Boswell; 11th: Jackie Coe, Caddo; 12th: Kyle Virden, Boswell; 13th: Caleb Brown, Boswell.

Division 2 Champion: Lexie Moody, Moss.

Reserve Division 2 Champion: Larriann Chambers, Tulsa.

Class 4 – 1st: Lexie Moody, Moss; 2nd: Collen Slawson, Tushka; 3rd: Jacob Jones, Roff; 4th: Kes Reeves, Kingston; 5th: Morgan Venable, Moss; 6th: Lawrence Sayerwinnie, Kingston; 7th: Zane Braudrick, Durant; 8th: Jacob Washington, Antlers; 9th: Shacey Tohwika, Battiest; 10th: Dayton Tisdell, Tupelo.

Class 5 – 1st: Kelsey Chambers, Tushka; 2nd: Jeffery Hardwick, Moss; 3rd: Braden Allen, Caddo; 4th: Michelle Young, Soper; 5th: Joanna Sayerwinnie, Kingston; 6th: J.B. Bell, Madill; 7th: Madeline Smallwood, Antlers; 8th: Reed Shaw, Antlers; 9th: Neeson Shipley, Kingston; 10th: Jared Mahaffey, Fort Towson; 11th: Madelyn Dancer, Soper.

Class 6 – 1st: Lexie Moody, Moss; 2nd: Larriann Chambers, Tushka; 3rd: Michaela Phillips, Moss; 4th: Jesse Pebsworth, Boswell; 6th: Patrick Joines, Caddo; 7th: Chris Anderson, Kingston; 7th: Jacob Jones, Roff; 8th: Dana Harjo, Holdenville; 9th: Jayden Percell, Silo.

Division 3 Champion: Taylor Mobbs, Tushka.

Reserve Division 3 Champion: Ross Turner, Holdenville

Class 7 – 1st: Taylor Mobbs, Tushka; 2nd: Ross Turner, Holdenville; 3rd: Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 4th: Zach Pebsworth, Boswell; 5th: Dillon Burns, Coalgate; 6th: Enchji Tohnika, Battiest; 7th: Dylan Yandell, Hugo; 8th: Aaron Purkins, Caddo; 9th: Zachery Tonubbee, Rock Creek; 10th: Benjamin Dill, Boswell.

Class 8 – 1st: Taylor Bell, Madill; 2nd: Jackie Coe, Caddo; 3rd: Dillon Burns, Coalgate; 4th: Jayci Braudrick, Durant; 5th: Logan Dill, Boswell.

SHEEP

Grand Champion: Kayla Brown, Merritt.

Reserve Grand Champion: Colby Impson, Calvin.

Bronze: Kayla Brown, Merritt.

Jr. Showman: Hadley Bryan, Mullhall.

Sr. Showman: Julie Fielder, Maysville.

Division 1 Champion: Colby Impson, Calvin.

Reserve Division 1 Champion: Colby Impson, Calvin.

Class 1 – 1st: Colby Impson, Calvin; 2nd: Hadley Bryan, Mullhall; 3rd: Rylie Antu, Antlers; 4th: Shacole Tompson, Tupelo; 5th: Shacole Tompson, Tupelo; 6th: Nicole Reece, Boswell; 7th: Mycah Lynch, Cottonwood.

Class 2 – 1st: Colby Impson, Calvin; 2nd: Madelyn Dancer, Soper; 3rd: Larriann Chambers, Tushka; 4th: Whitney Scott, Achille; 5th: Tracy Brown, Boswell; 6th: Dayton Tisdell, Tupelo; 7th: Mia McKee, Soper.

Division 2 Champion: Kayla Brown, Merritt.

Reserve Division 2 Champion: Kayla Brown, Merritt.

Class 3 – 1st: Julie Fielder, Maysville; 2nd: Larriann Chambers, Tushka; 3rd: Madelyn Dancer, Soper; 4th: Malynda Leboeuf, Milburn; 5th: Jeffery Hardwick, Moss; 6th: Bretton Covey, Achille; 7th: Latildra Bullard, Tupelo.

Class 4 – 1st: Kayla Brown, Merritt; 2nd: Hadley Bryan, Mullhall; 3rd: Julie Fielder, Maysville; 4th: Larriann Chambers, Tushka; 5th: Macee Mathis, Van; 6th: Courtney Nolen, Calvin; 7th: Alyson Chapman, Coalgate; 8th: Landon Lynch, Cottonwood.

Class 5 – 1st: Kayla Brown, Merritt; 2nd: Kayla Brown, Merritt; 3rd: Julie Fielder, Maysville; 4th: Keely Weger, Calera; 5th: Karley Ross, Silo; 6th: Macy Powell, Durant; 7th: Macee Mathis, Van; 8th: Jayden Percell, Silo; 9th: Colton Scroggins, Soper.

Division 3 Champion: Colby Impson, Calvin.

Reserve Division 3 Champion: Karley Ross, Silo.

Class 6 – 1st: Colby Impson, Calvin; 2nd: Hadley Bryan, Mullhall; 3rd: Tanner McKee, Soper; 4th: Tyna McKee, Soper; 5th: Madison Cress, Boswell; 6th: Courtney Nolen, Calvin; 7th: Ashlyn Kellam, Silo; 8th: Misty Henderson, Soper.

Class 7 – 1st: Karley Ross, Silo; 2nd: Ashlyn Kellam, Silo; 3rd: Keely Weger, Calera; 4th: Jeffery Hardwick, Moss; 5th: Macy Powell, Durant; 6th: Keely Weger, Calera.

Livestock results continue on Page 12



Grand Champion Market Lamb – Kayla Brown, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Grand Champion Lamb – Colby Impson, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Ted Dosh, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Third place bronze overall lamb – Kayla Brown, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Ted Dosh, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Lamb: Senior Showman – Julie Fielder, with Councilmen James Frazier, Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard and Perry Thompson.



Division 3 Champion Lamb – Colby Impson, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Ted Dosh, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Lamb: Reserve Division 1 Champion – Colby Impson, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Ted Dosh, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Breed Champion AOB heifer and Supreme Champion heifer – Lauren Slover, with Councilmen Mike Amos, Ted Dosh, James Frazier, Perry Thompson and Anthony Dillard.



Breed Champion Continental heifer and Reserve Supreme Champion heifer – Lauren Slover, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard, James Frazier, Mike Amos and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Breed Champion Continental heifer – Haylie McGowen, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier, Ted Dosh, Mike Amos and Perry Thompson.



Sr. Beef Showman – Morgan Venable, with Councilmen Mike Amos, James Frazier, Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Reserve Breed Champion Brahman heifer – Dustin Cochran, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, James Frazier, Anthony Dillard, Perry Thompson and Mike Amos.



OAB Reserve Breed Champion – Dilan Shipley, with Councilmen Mike Amos, Ted Dosh, James Frazier, Perry Thompson and Anthony Dillard.

Livestock results continue

CATTLE

Jr. Showman: Cody Silas.
Sr. Showman: Morgan Venable.

HEIFERS

Grand Champion: Lauren Slover, Tishomingo.
Reserve Grand: Lauren Slover, Tishomingo.
Bronze: Dilan Shipley, Kingston.

Heifers, English Division

Breed Champion: Colby Jones, Coalgate.
Reserve Breed: Whitney Jackson, Rock Creek.
Class 1 – 1st: Dylan Robinson, Rock Creek; 2nd: Colby Jones, Coalgate; 3rd: Jase Collins, Milburn; 4th: Julie Cullum, Silo.
Class 2 – 1st: Colby Jones, Coalgate; 2nd: Whitney Jackson, Rock Creek; 3rd: Dylan Treas, Wapanucka; 4th: Rebeckah Boykin, Soper; 5th: Jase Collins, Milburn.

Heifers, Continental Division

Breed Champion: Lauren Slover, Tishomingo.
Reserve Breed: Haylie McGowan, Colbert.
Class 1 – 1st: Haylie McGowan, Colbert; 2nd: Austin Veron, Tishomingo; 3rd: Kody Silas, Techumseh; 4th: Hannah Carter, Calera; 5th: Zane Boyd, Tushka.
Class 2 – 1st: Anna Boyd, Tushka; 2nd: Garrett Addington, Clayton; 3rd: Mercedes Smart, Pittsburgh County; 4th: Samantha Smart, Pittsburgh County.
Class 3 – 1st: Kody Silas, Techumseh; 2nd: Megan Robinson, Rock Creek; 3rd: Jacob Hartin, Madill; 4th: Cheyenne Methvin, Hugo.
Class 4 – 1st: Ashlyn Kellum, Silo; 2nd: Brittany Christian, Turner; 3rd: Sarah Thompson, Hugo; 4th: Payton Sweeten, Dickson; 5th: Morgan Veneble, Moss.
Class 5 – 1st: Lauren Slover, Tishomingo; 2nd: Jacob Hartin, Madill; 3rd: Bradley Robinson, Rock Creek; 4th: Tanner Goforth, Moss.

Heifers, Brahman Division

Breed Champion: Dillon Cochran, Harmony.
Reserve Breed: Dustin Cochran, Harmony.
Class 1 – 1st: Dillon Cochran, Harmony; 2nd: Dustin Cochran, Harmony; 3rd: Dillon Cochran, Harmony; 4th: Ashton Thompson, Rock Creek.

Heifers, AOB Division

Breed Champion: Lauren Slover, Tishomingo.
Reserve Breed: Dilan Shipley, Kingston.
Class 1 – 1st: Bailey Cleere, Techumseh; 2nd: Clayton Cleere, Techumseh; 3rd: Bailey Cleere, Techumseh.
Class 2 – 1st: Lauren Slover, Tishomingo; 2nd: Morgan House, Tishomingo; Leslie Carter, Calera; Bridgett Christian, Turner; Josie Bennet, Durant.
Class 3 – 1st: Dakota Robinson, Caddo; 2nd: Christian McGowan, Colbert; 3rd: Jaysa Northcutt, Tishomingo; 4th: Sarah Thompson, Hugo.
Class 4 – 1st: Judge Hartin, Madill; 2nd: Tristian Wilson, Kingston; 3rd: Nathan Northcutt, Tishomingo; 4th: Chance Sweeten, Dickson.
Class 5 – 1st: Dilan Shipley, Kingston.

STEERS

Grand Champion: Nichole Hartin, Madill.
Reserve Grand Champion: Macy Powell, Durant.
Bronze: Sarisa Nichols, Colagate.

Steers, English Division

Breed Champion: Christian McGowan, Colbert.
Reserve Breed: Leslie Carter, Calera.
Class 1 – 1st: Christian McGowan, Colbert; 2nd: Leslie Carter, Calera; 3rd: Austin Gipson, Morris; 4th: Taylor Payne, Soper; 5th: Jared Bailey, Hugo.

Steers, Continental Division

Breed Champion: Macy Powell, Durant.
Reserve Breed: Lane Stewart, Lone Grove.
Class 1 – 1st: Lane Stewart, Lone Grove; 2nd: Austin Gipson, Morris; 3rd: Wyatt Hartsfield, Wapanucka; 4th: Morgan Veneble, Moss.
Class 2 – 1st: Macy Powell, Durant; 2nd: Shelton Nicholes, Coalgate; 3rd: Austin Gipson, Morris; 4th: Nathan Thompson, .
Class 3 – 1st Lane Stewart, Lone Grove; 2nd: Larado Beal, Coalgate; 3rd: Aspen Clemens, Coalgate; 4th: Kaci Trentham, Coalgate; 5th: Laramine Beal, Coalgate.
Class 4 – 1st Judge Hartin, Madill; 2nd: Seth Parish, Tishomingo; 3rd: Sahara Jump, Coalgate.

Steers, AOB Division

Breed Champion: Nichole Hartin, Madill.
Reserve Breed: Sarisa Nichols, Coalgate.
Class 1 – 1st: Austin Veron, Tishomingo; 2nd: Ashlyn Scott, Soper; 3rd: Trevor Methvin, Hugo.
Class 2 – 1st: Nichole Hartin, Madill; 2nd: Sarisa Nichols, Coalgate; 3rd: Chance Sweeton, Dickson.
Class 3 – 1st: Haylie McGowen, Colbert; 2nd: Payton Sweeten, Dickson.



AOB Breed Champion steer – Nichole Hartin, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Mike Amos.



AOB Reserve Champion steer – Serisa Nichols, with Councilmen Ted Dosh, Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Mike Amos.



Grand Champion steer – Nichole Hartin, with Councilmen Mike Amos, Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Ted Dosh.



Reserve Grand Champion steer – Macy Powell, with Councilmen Mike Amos, Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Ted Dosh.



Third place Bronze overall steer – Serisa Nichols, with Councilmen Mike Amos, James Frazier, Ted Dosh and Anthony Dillard.



Breed Champion English Steer – Christian McGowen, with Councilmen Mike Amos, Ted Dosh, James Frazier and Anthony Dillard.



Reserve Breed Champion steer, English, – Leslie Carter, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Mike Amos, Ted Dosh and James Frazier.



Breed Champion Continental Steer – Macy Powell, with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Mike Amos, Ted Dosh and James Frazier.

SAP recommends four summer opportunities for students

Four 2010 summer opportunities that could benefit CNO scholars should be explored as soon as possible according to the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP). Three of the opportunities target Native American students interested in health, medicine, or bio-medical professions. Another program helps bright, motivated students from low-income families find the means and the money to attend some of the nation’s top colleges. All four programs have March or April application deadlines. The Scholarship Advisement Program urges interested students and parents to act now. SAP has published complete information on each program at the “News” section of its Web site at www.choctawnation-sap.com.

Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative

CNO 16-to-18-year-old students interested in health and bio/med research should look at the Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative (NNAYI) and its Washington, D.C., summer program June 19-27. The student application deadline is April 16, 2010. NNAYI is an intense academic enrichment and reinforcement program that helps Native American high school students learn how to pursue a career in the health professions and/or biomedical research. The Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) selects candidates for the NNAYI Washington, D.C., program on the basis of scholastic achievement, demonstrated interest in the fields of health sciences or biomedical research, leadership skills, and personal attributes. The NNAYI scholarship pays for airfare, lodging, and most meals. The NNAYI program is NOT a summer camp or sightseeing trip. It is an intense program of rigorous all-day sessions and activities.

NNAYI’s program is presented in a series of lectures, interactive workshops, and field trips. Students learn about various health professions, college and medical school admission process, financial aid resources, and health care issues affecting Native American communities. Students network with Native American health professionals and learn about mentoring and shadowing programs with AAIP member physicians.

For details go to “News” at www.choctawnation-sap.com.

Three U.S. Indian Health Service Scholarship Options

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Indian Health Service (IHS) Scholarship Program offers Native American students interested in pursuing health profession careers three different scholarship options. Application deadlines for each program are March 28, 2010.

Health Professions Preparatory Scholarship Program

The Preparatory Scholarship Program provides financial assistance for Native American students to enroll in compensatory or preparatory courses leading to entry to health professional schools such as nursing, pharmacy and others. Compensatory courses are those required to improve science, mathematics or other basic skills and knowledge. Preparatory courses are pre-professional studies

Interested students should act now



required to qualify for admission to a health professions program. Preparatory Scholarship support is paid for 10 months each academic year, with re-application required for each year of continuation. Funding is available for up to two academic years full-time or four academic years part-time. Support covers the costs of compensatory and pre-professional education that enables the student to qualify for enrollment or re-enrollment in a health professions school, i.e., freshman and sophomore years of study leading to a bachelor’s degree in a priority health profession.

Health Professions Pre-Graduate Scholarship Program

The Pre-Graduate Scholarship Program provides financial support for Native American students to enroll in courses leading to a bachelor’s degree in specific pre-professional areas such as pre-medicine, pre-dentistry and others as needed by Indian health programs. Pre-Graduate Scholarship support is paid for 10 months each academic year, for up to four academic years full-time or eight academic years part-time, for studies leading to enrollment in an accredited professional school. Re-application is required for each year of continuation.

Health Professions Scholarship Program

The Health Professions Scholarship Program is for Native American students who are enrolled in health professions and allied health professions programs. Students incur service obligations and payback requirements on acceptance of funding from this program. Priority is given to graduate students and junior and senior level students unless otherwise specified. Health Professions Scholarships are awarded for a one-year period (12 months of support), with re-application required for each year of continuation. Stipends are paid for the 12-month period beginning each year from Aug. 1 through July 31 for health and allied health professional education up to four years full-time or up to eight years part-time.

For complete details go to “News” at www.choctawnation-sap.com.

Native Americans into Medicine

Native Americans into Medicine (NAM) targets Native American students who are actively pursuing an education in order to become a health professional. NAM provides promising students interested in the health professions as well as students who are within one year of applying to medical school with experience and support to help them become more informed, better prepared, and more competitive as they move toward their professional goal.

NAM students join together to explore options in the health pro-

fessions fields learning from Native American medical students, health professionals, community members and elders during the program. Two options are offered in the NAM program: Option A and Option B.

Option A - Students remain on campus the entire six weeks and student housing is available if needed. Participants receive a weekly stipend for the duration of the program. Activities focus on math and science coursework resembling health professions school content as well as writing and computer skills. Hands-on activities and discussions with health professionals are offered daily. Students also tour local medical centers and receive assistance with academic planning for medical and other health professions school.

Option B consists of two components. During the first component participants stay on campus for the first two weeks and student housing is provided if needed. Over the next four weeks of the second component participants take part in on-line distance and service learning. Option B activities include CPR and First Aid certification, medical ethics, medical science, E-Portfolio, visiting a local tribal health facility and writing a personal statement.

For complete details go to “News” at www.choctawnation-sap.com.

QuestBridge - A Higher Education Path for Low-income Students

Money, or lack of it, shouldn’t keep bright, motivated high school students from a chance to attend a great college. That’s the philosophy of QuestBridge, a non-profit program that provides scholarship opportunities for low-income students at some of the nation’s best schools. QuestBridge helps match the nation’s brightest, under-served youth with leading institutions of higher education. The QuestBridge goal is to boost the numbers of talented, low-income students attending the nation’s best universities, and excelling beyond. Two QuestBridge programs are at the core of its purpose. They are the College Prep Scholarship Program for high school juniors and the National College Match Program for high school seniors.

2010 QuestBridge College Prep Scholarship

QuestBridge’s College Prep Scholarship provides more than 1,000 awards that equip outstanding low-income high school juniors with the knowledge necessary to compete for admission to leading colleges. QuestBridge’s College Prep Scholarship prepares high-achieving low-income students to make the most of their advantages in the admissions process. The deadline to apply for the College Prep Scholarship is March 29, 2010.

National College Match Program

The QuestBridge National College Match helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation’s most selective colleges. If you are a student who has achieved academic excellence in the face of economic challenges, SAP urges you to apply. QuestBridge’s partner colleges offer generous financial aid packages that cover 100 percent of demonstrated financial need, making them very affordable for low-income students.



Expo helps create pipeline to quality career, technology training

continued from Page 1

both vendors and attendees will be pleasantly surprised!”

The annual Career Expo is presented by the Choctaw Nation Career Development and Scholarship Advisement Programs. Career Development helps tribal members create a pipeline to quality career and technology training. With tribal members in training programs ranging from truck driving, nursing, welding and heavy equipment operation to name a few, there will be something for everyone at the Career Expo.

“We began the Career Expo as a way to connect our clients with employers,” English said. “Since then, the event has grown to include high school students and the entire McAlester community!”

Throughout the day, breakout sessions will be offered on green jobs in Oklahoma, successful interview techniques, best careers in 2010 and beyond, and an expert panel of industry professionals will be held for attendees. Businesses attending include the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Frito-Lay, The Ocean Corporation, Integris Health, Choctaw Casinos, and many more.

Scholarship Advisement Program invites high school juniors and seniors in the area to attend the expo. High school students will meet with college representatives to talk about what they need to do to be accepted to their school of choice and can meet with employers to discuss what type of training is required to work in that field.

Breakout sessions for high school students will include how to pay for your college education, ACT/SAT prep course, college resume building, and SOSU student life experience. Colleges that will be in attendance include Purdue, Oklahoma Baptist University, University of Oklahoma, Grand Canyon University, East Central University and Oklahoma State University to name a few.

The Choctaw Nation also partners with the McAlester Economic Development Services and the McAlester Chamber of Commerce. These entities help in recruiting businesses and key individuals to participate in this exciting event!

The Career Expo is open to persons interested in finding out more information about educational or employment opportunities. Admission is free.

For more information on or if you would like to participate in this April 7 event, contact Kelli Ostman with Choctaw Nation Career Development at 866-933-2260 or e-mail kostman@choctawnation.com.

East Central and Choctaw Nation partner to boost college success rates

Two Oklahoma institutions – East Central University (ECU) in Ada and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program – are joining forces to help the state’s Choctaw students achieve success in higher education.

ECU and the CNO will provide financial, academic, advisory and cultural support to help overcome the barriers Native American students often face in going to college and earning a degree. The partnership focuses on improving CNO members’ academic performance and achievement and seeks to reverse a national trend in Native American college dropout rates – among the highest for any diversity segment.

ECU will provide mentoring and culturally integrated student support to CNO students through its Native American Voices Project, a program created to lessen its Native American students’ barriers to success.

“ECU plays an important role in helping to reverse the dropout rate among Native Americans,” said ECU President John R. Hargrave. “Our partnerships with the Choctaw Nation can open doors of opportunity for Choctaw students and help Native Americans in Oklahoma.”

A key part of the partnership includes early involvement with students and parents. ECU will use the resources of the CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program to reach out to its nearly 3,000 enrolled members as early as the freshman year of high school.

“We are happy to expand our services to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma,” said Renee Hogue, project director of the Native American Voices Project. “Our work with Native American students at ECU is making a difference in their

academic experiences.

“The project’s overall goals are increasing retention and graduation rates for all Native American students,” she added.

The Voices Project helps students with academic advisement, enrollment management services and campus and community referrals and serves as a tribal liaison. It also helps students find scholarships and grant information. All of these services are free to the students.

According to the National Institute for Native Leadership in Higher Education, only three percent of Native American students entering high school will graduate from col-

lege. Once in college, the dropout rate for Native Americans is still a problem. The

National Center for Education Statistics reports that only nine percent of Native Americans who attend college ever receive a bachelor’s degree.

About the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program has approximately 3,000 enrolled members (students and parents) and focuses on college preparation and retention for Choctaw students.

More information about

SAP can be found on the program’s Web site at <http://www.choctawnation-sap.com> or by subscribing to the program’s online newsletter, SAP News, with an email request to scholarshipadvisement@choctawnation.com.

About East Central University

East Central University is a regional public university with an enrollment of approximately 4,500 offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

More information about ECU and its Native Voices program can be found at the program’s web site at www.ecok.edu/centers_programs/voices/index.htm.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Holiday	3
4	5 Durant 8:00-4:30 Antlers By Appt.	6 Crowder By Appt.	7	8	9 Durant 8:00-4:30	10
11	12 Durant 8:00-4:30	13 Talihina 10:00-2:00	14 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	15	16 Idabel 10:00-2:00	17
18	19 Durant 8:00-4:30	20 Poteau 11:30-1:00	21	22	23 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	24
25	26 Holiday	27 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	28 Atoka 9:30-11:30 Coalgate 12:30-2:30	29	30 Broken Bow 10:00-2:00	

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

Youth groups help out



Atoka/Coalgate Youth Advisory Board pitch in to help with preparing Christmas presents for children in District 10.



Talihina YAB assist with teaching Halloween safety to Head Start children.



Antlers Youth Advisory Board members and Head Start students work on Halloween safety.



Clayton YAB join in “Can the Superintendent” food drive at Nashoba School.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays April 1-23, except for:
April 2: Tribal Holiday
April 7: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
April 14: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)
April 26: Tribal Holiday
Closed April 27-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 1 & 13, 10 a.m.-12 noon

DURANT
Market open weekdays: April 1-23, except for:
April 2 & April 26: Tribal Holidays
Closed April 27-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 9 & 21, 10 a.m.-12 noon

McALESTER
Market open weekdays April 1-23, except for:
April 2 & April 26: Tribal Holidays
Closed April 27-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 7 & 19, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays April 1-23, except for:
April 2 & April 26: Tribal Holidays
Closed April 27-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: April 5 & 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

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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Choctaw Tribal member selected for Air Force Thunderbirds Team

Air Force Tech Sgt. Joel Banks of Las Vegas, Nev., originally of Grover Beach, Calif., has been selected as part of the 2010 Air Force Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron. Banks, an assistant section chief, interviewed for the team and was selected in late 2008, reporting for duty in September of 2009 after a tour of duty in Japan.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton recognize the accomplishment of Banks and the pride it brings to the Choctaws that one of their members was selected for such a respected position. They have expressed their pride in having such a remarkable young man receive this honor.

A registered Choctaw through his great-grandmother Beulah (Watson) Davis, he hails from a family where service in the Air Force is a tradition. His grandfather, Bobby Banks, a veteran of the wars in Korea and Vietnam, as well as his father, David Banks, uncle Terry Banks, aunt Deana



Banks, and cousin Tech Sgt. Angela Banks, have all served proudly in the U.S. Air Force.

Also supporting him in this endeavor is his high school sweetheart and wife of 10 years, Christi, and other family members including his grandmother, Betty Banks, sisters Shawna Taylor and husband Jeff, Christina Banks, Danielle Cole, brother D.J. Cole, and two nephews, Xavier and Jaden.

He followed in the footsteps of his family by joining the Air Force in November of 1999 after graduating from Ar-

ryo High School in California. His enlistment has taken him around the world – to date, he has been stationed in Japan twice and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soon, he’ll also be travelling to locations across the United States and Canada as the Thunderbirds’ show season begins this month.

Being selected to serve in the squadron is no easy task. The application process is long – it includes many letters of recommendation and years of fitness and performance report records. According to Master Sgt. Pamela Anderson, a public affairs officer for the Thunderbirds, “We want the best of the best. They have to have impeccable records to be chosen for the team. Our Airmen have gone above and beyond in their career field to get here.”

Banks will serve a three to four year assignment with the “Ambassadors in Blue,” who are based at Nellis Air Force Base as a component of the 57th Air Wing. The squadron

has been active since 1953, touring the United States and much of the world performing aerobatic stunts in Lockheed Martin F-16 “Fighting Falcon” fighter jets in front of over 280 million spectators to date. They perform no more than 88 air demonstrations per show season and have never canceled due to maintenance difficulty.

He will serve as a vital part of the team, which is made up of 12 officers and 120 enlisted Airmen from over 30 professional career specialties, who fly, maintain and support the aircraft.

“This isn’t something you can just volunteer for – you have to earn it,” his father, David, said with pride.

From the ground show to the breathtaking aerial maneuvers, the Thunderbirds represent America’s Airmen – with “Pride, Precision and Professionalism.” And Banks embodies the Choctaw motto as well, “Growing with Pride, Hope and Success.”

To the Youth of the Nation *Growing with Pride, Hope and Success*

First Place Essay Winner
By Preston Wells, Youth Advisory Board

A feeling of self-respect and self-worth, a constant desire to improve and finishing all tasks is the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. “Growing with Pride, Hope and Success” is a motto to the Choctaw tribe has been following for centuries. In the 21st Century, the Choctaw Nation is sticking to its roots while achieving greatly in the modern world.

I see the tribe growing with pride. The Choctaw Nation stands among many different Native American tribes in the country. It is not just a part of the many; it stands out from the crowd. The Choctaw Nation is the first tribe to build their own hospital with their own funding, rendering medical care through both inpatient and over 150,000 outpatient visits annually. Tribes across the United States see the Choctaws’ pride and are eager to find out exactly what the Choctaw Nation is about. While the Choctaw Nation is growing with pride, it remains humble in all circumstances; and I hope that continues to last for years to come; it’s the amazing connection between its people. The Choctaws have a great amount of self-respect and self-worth, and in the 21st Century the Choctaw Nation is providing every needed form of social, community and health service to its people.

As pride grows in the Choctaw Nation, hope in turn grows. The Choctaw Nation sets goals in its many programs and hopes to accomplish every task. As each program meets goals set; the goals continue to get bigger. The Scholarship Advise-ment Program (SAP) is working on getting Choctaw students into higher education. In doing so, SAP is informing Choctaw students of the many opportunities after high school and instilling inside every student hope for a promising future. The Choctaw Nation has always hoped to improve itself from every angle. By living in the Choctaw Nation for my entire life I have come to learn one of its many teachings – do better. Because of the Choctaw Nation I don’t settle for average, I always hope to do better. I believe that’s possibly the best part about the Choctaw Nation, it always wants to do better.

Success isn’t something that is simple; it must be earned. Because of the success of the Choctaw Nation, its pride and hope continue to grow. The Choctaw Nation is a huge employer for Southeast Oklahoma, and people everywhere know of its success. I see success when I see the many Choctaw Nation facilities everywhere I visit; it makes me feel like I’m a part of something so big. The Choctaw Nation has molded me into the person I am today. Through the Youth Advisory Board I have become a leader and have learned how to serve my community. It is always important for a country or a nation to be successful, but I find it just as important for that nation to make the others around it just as successful. The Choctaw Nation is the chain reaction of success in Southeast Oklahoma.

To view the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as a whole is like watching a wise gardener. The gardener has pride in his crops, he hopes that they flourish and he smiles when they succeed. I consider myself lucky to watch the Choctaw Nation “Growing with Pride, Hope and Success.”

OFFICIAL CHOCTAW PRODUCTS

VISIT ONLINE AT
choctawstore.com

*Choctaws...growing with
pride, hope, and success!*



Youth Advisory Board helps with Toys for Tots

The Boswell, Bennington and Soper Youth Advisory Board groups came together in 2009 to hold several car washes and bake sales to raise money for Toys for Tots. With the fundraisers and added funds they were able to purchase \$600 worth of toys for the Choctaw and Bryan County communities.

Head Start recruiting now

The Head Start Program of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is continuing to recruit prospective students for the 2010-11 school year. Applications are accepted all year, but a concerted effort is made, early each year, to identify children who might be eligible for the free child development services provided by Head Start.

This program serves children who will be at least 3, but not 5, years of age, by September 1. We serve children of all nationalities, although we do have a Native American preference policy. The Head Start program is directed primarily toward low-income families and offers the possibility of free afternoon care, for families who qualify, in addition to the child development services.

Families of children with special needs are encouraged to apply. The Head Start program assists families in obtaining needed support services for children with special needs.

Choctaw Nation Head Start provides families with assistance in their efforts to obtain educational, health, nutritional and social services. The program provides a nutritionally sound breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack each day.

Families are strongly encouraged to apply as quickly as possible, as some centers have already begun to fill up for the 2010-11 school year.

For more information and to obtain an application, contact your local Choctaw Nation Head Start Center. You may also contact the Durant Administration office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2353.

Will Preparation Clinic

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) will be holding a FREE Wills Clinic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 23 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 2408 E. Lincoln Rd., Idabel. To register for the clinic call 800-658-1497. Registration is limited so call as soon as possible. Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. at 800-658-1497.

**Apply for
2010 U.S. Census
JOBS!**

- Office and Field Positions Available*
- Paid Weekly
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- Work in Your Neighborhood
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*Hourly rates and mileage vary by area

Call to sign up “NOW” for applicant testing.

Call Toll Free: 1-866-861-2010
Monday thru Saturday
Practice test available on-line at 2010censusjobs.gov

Natural Resources outreach program

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is starting a new Outreach Program through its Natural Resources office. This program will assist individual Choctaw citizens with mineral interest related questions within the Choctaw jurisdictional area. The tribe plans to have four meetings during the upcoming year. The first meeting will be at 1 p.m. March 30 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in McAlester.

If you have documents pertaining to your questions or issues please bring them with you. These documents can be copied, if needed, and will be helpful in allowing staff to assist you with your concerns. If transportation to the meeting is an issue, please contact the Tribal Council person in your district and arrangements will be made.

Several governmental agencies have been invited to participate in the meeting. They include

Tribal members can seek assistance with mineral interest related questions

the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Mineral Management Services (MMS), Office of the Special Trustee (OST), Office of the Field Solicitors, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Choctaw Nation Realty staffs will also be present to address your concerns.

The date and time for additional meetings will be announced in the BISHINIK and on the tribal Web site www.choctawnation.com.

We hope you will join us to share in the information that is available. Your cooperation and involvement will expedite the growth of this new Outreach Program to assist our Choctaw citizens.

For more information, please call 800-522-6170, ext. 2259, or 580-924-8280, ext. 2259. We look forward to addressing your concerns.



Jones Academy students Mariella Chatkehoodle, Araceli Ortiz, Jennifer Yeager, Armon Crockett, Enrique Guerrero, Isaiah Rodriguez, Joseph Simpson, Tucson Evans and Bryan Hawkins are pictured at Blue Mountain during a snow field trip. Hartshorne Lake is in background.

Talking Leaves Job Corps provides opportunities

The Talking Leaves Job Corps is a resource available to youth today who find that college may not be right for them. Talking Leaves has helped many youth between the ages of 16 and 24 find their way in the world, often back on the path to higher education.

Since 1964, Talking Leaves Job Corps has trained more than 2 million young people with 91 percent of its graduates immediately joining the workforce, enrolling in college or enlisting in the military.

“The main thrust of what we are all about is providing an opportunity to learn a career,” said Admissions Counselor Melvin Imotichey. Job Corps continues to help students by providing job assistance for up to 18 months after graduation.

The Talking Leaves Job Corps campus is located behind the Cherokee Nation headquarters in Tahlequah. The residential house can hold up to 250. Because of the economy, Imotichey says, there is a full house.

“The students stay a minimum of one year and can stay up to two years,” he said. “There is no cost to the student or the family. Those who



live out of state are also welcome. We can help pay transportation.

“We strongly encourage the students to visit us, take a tour of the campus and see what we are all about, especially the younger ones.”

There is a waiting list at the present time and a two- to three-month assessment period.

Students have the liberty to go home every weekend and on holidays with designated breaks in summer and winter.

“We ask the student to look at your passion and try to figure out what you want to do,” Imotichey said. “It’s amazing how much these kids mature.

Many choose to go on to college.

“The true value of Job Corps is long term,” he said. “I asked one of my former students what one positive thing he got from Job Corps. He said what has helped him is what he hated the most – discipline. He is currently working two jobs, in the process of buying a car and has his own apartment,” said Imotichey.

For more information, log on to <http://talkingleaves.jobcorps.gov> or call 918-456-9959.

Broken Bow Language Class completes Phase IV

The Broken Bow Choctaw community class finishes Phase IV of Choctaw Language. The class is taught by Barbara Battiest. Pictured are Richard Adams, Community Language Director, Mike Thomas, Eugene John, Carol John, Billy Ray Shomo, Lula Pete, Fish Crosby, Flo Crosby and Barbara Battiest. Not present, Ivan Battiest.



Fifth-graders take a ‘snow’ trip

Jones students merge fun, and education

A group fifth grade students and their teacher, Joe Sirmans, from Jones Academy made the most of the white flies that fell from the sky. They measured the snow on campus and on top of Blue Mountain which has the tallest point in Pittsburg County.

Two measurements were taken at each place. One on the ground which showed 6 cm at Jones Academy and 10 cm at Blue Mountain.

The other measurement was taken from the branch of a tree. The Jones Academy tree branch had 3 cm of snow on it and the tree branch at Blue Mountain had 5 cm of snow covering it.

The students then returned to school to examine the data that they recorded during the field trip. Students graphed the information and converted centimeters to millimeters. They also compared the metric measurements to standard inches.

They discovered that the 10 cm found on the ground at Blue Mountain was very close



Students at Jones Academy measure the snow on the ground.

to 4 inches, which is easier to interpret for some of us.

The students enjoyed the great outdoor Oklahoma wildlife on the way to Blue Mountain. A hawk was sitting in a large oak tree watching several ducks swim in a pond. They saw one duck swimming really fast and discussed how its webbed feet, which is an adaptation, helped it to swim so fast.

A little later when passing Hartshorne Lake the group observed a bald eagle sitting in a tree overlooking the lake. The Native American youth agreed

it was a good sign.

At the foot of the mountain the students noticed several buzzards perched in a tree with their wings spread. A coyote was under the tree. They decided the buzzards were wanting to tell coyote that they were bigger than he might have first imagined.

It was an excellent educational snow field trip, sure to make great stories for a long time. Students ended the activity with a poem by Lillian Moore called “Footprints,” about footprints found in the snow.

George W. Harkins, Choctaw Chief, to the American people, circa 1831

It is with considerable diffidence that I attempt to address the American people, knowing and feeling sensibly my incompetency; and believing that your highly and well improved minds would not be well entertained by the address of a Choctaw. But having determined to emigrate west of the Mississippi river this fall, I have thought proper in bidding you farewell to make a few remarks expressive of my views, and the feelings that actuate me on the subject of our removal. Believing that our all is at stake and knowing that you readily sympathize with the distressed of every country, I confidently throw myself upon your indulgence and ask you to listen patiently. I do not arrogate to myself the prerogative of deciding upon the expediency of the late treaty, yet I feel bound as a Choctaw, to give a distinct expression of my feelings on that interesting, (and to the Choctaws), all important subject. We were hedged in by two evils, and we chose that which we thought the least. Yet we could not recognize the right that the state of Mississippi had assumed, to legislate for us.— Although the legislature of the state were qualified to make laws for their own citizens, that did not qualify them to become law makers to a people that were so dissimilar in manners and customs as the Choctaws are to the Mississippians. Admitting that they understood

the people, could they remove that mountain of prejudice that has ever obstructed the streams of justice, and prevent their salutary influence from reaching my devoted countrymen. We as Choctaws rather chose to suffer and be free, than live under the degrading influence of laws, which our voice could not be heard in their formation.

Much as the state of Mississippi has wronged us, I cannot find in my heart any other sentiment than an ardent wish for her prosperity and happiness.

I could cheerfully hope, that those of another age and generation may not feel the effects of those oppressive measures that have been so illiberally dealt out to us; and that peace and happiness may be their reward. Amid the gloom and horrors of the present separation, we are cheered with a hope that ere long we shall reach our destined land, and that nothing short of the basest acts of treachery will ever be able to wrest it from us, and that we may live free. Although your ancestors won freedom on the field of danger and glory, our ancestors owned it as their birthright, and we have had to purchase it from you as the vilest slaves buy their freedom.

Yet it is said that our present movements are our own voluntary acts—such is not the case. We found ourselves like a benighted stranger, following false guides, until he was surrounded on every side, with



fire and water. The fire was certain destruction, and a feeble hope was left him of escaping by water. A distant view of the opposite shore encourages the hope; to remain would be inevitable annihilation. Who would hesitate, or who would say that his plunging into the water was his own voluntary act? Painful in the extreme is the mandate of our expulsion. We regret that it should proceed from the mouth of our professed friend, for whom our blood was mingled with that of his bravest warriors, on the field of danger and death.

But such is the instability of professions. The man who said that he would plant a stake and draw a line around us, that never should be passed, was the first to say he could not guard the lines, and drew up the stake and wiped out all traces of the line. I will not conceal from you my fears, that the present grounds may be removed.

I have my foreboding; who of us can tell after witnessing what has already been done, what the next force may be. I ask you in the name of justice, for repose for myself and for my injured people. Let us alone—we will not harm you, we want rest. We hope, in the name of justice, that another outrage may never be committed against us, and that we may for the future be cared for as children, and not driven about as beasts, which are benefited by a change of pasture.

Taking an example from the American government, and knowing the happiness which its citizens enjoy under the influence of mild republican institutions, it is the intention of our countrymen to form a government assimilated to that of our white brethren in the United States, as nearly as their condition will permit. We know that in order to protect the rights and secure the liberties of the people, no government approximates so nearly to perfection as the one to which we have alluded. As east of the Mississippi we have been friends, so west we will cherish the same feelings with additional fervour; and although we may be removed to the desert, still we shall look with fond regard, upon those who have promised us their protection. Let that feeling be reciprocated.

Friends, my attachment to my native land was strong –

that cord is now broken; and we must go forth as wanderers in a strange land! I must go— Let me entreat you to regard us with feelings of kindness, and when the hand of oppression is stretched against us, let me hope that a warning voice may be heard from every part of the United States, filling the mountains and valleys will echo, and say stop, you have no power, we are the sovereign people, and our friends shall no more be disturbed. We ask you for nothing, that is incompatible with your other duties.

We go forth sorrowful, knowing that wrong has been done. Will you extend to us your sympathizing regards until all traces of disagreeable oppositions are obliterated, and we again shall have confidence in the professions of our white brethren. Here is the land of our progenitors, and here are their bones; they left them as a sacred deposit, and we have been compelled to venerate its trust; it dear to us, yet we cannot stay, my people is dear to me, with them I must go. Could I stay and forget them and leave them to struggle alone, unaided, unfriended, and forgotten, by our great father? I should then be unworthy the name of a Choctaw, and be a disgrace to my blood. I must go with them; my destiny is cast among the Choctaw people. If they suffer, so will I; if they prosper, then will I rejoice. Let me again ask you to regard us with feel-

ings of kindness. Yours , with respect, GEORGE W. HARKINS.

Source: Niles’ Register, February 25, 1832, 41:480.

Note: Harkins’ letter was reprinted from a paper in Natchez, Mississippi. Preceding it was a prefatory statement from that paper, titled “The Choctaw’s Lament,” as follows:

“In our paper today, will be found an address to the American people, by George W. Harkins, the present chief of the Choctaw nation. Capt. Harkins, is the nephew, and successor in office of Greenwood Laffour [sic]; and is now on his way with a large body of people, to their new residence in the west. The address was hastily written with a pencil, on board of the steam boat Huron, the day before his arrival at our landing. The time was so short as to afford Capt. Harkins no opportunity to send us a revised sheet.

“To the speculators and land jobbers, whose grasping avarice force this people from their homes and the graves of their forefathers, the language of this address will be unintelligible; but there are others, who, we presume, are not entirely devoid of shame, and to whom some allusion is made, who will feel the full force of its mild, but pointed rebuke.”

Internet source: <http://anpa.ualr.edu/trailOfTears/letters/1831DecemberGeorgeWHarkinstotheAmericanPeople.htm>

Grand opening memories



Continued from Page 1
“Head starts, daycares, scholarships, medical clinics – it all comes out of gaming so it’s very important to us that this goes well,” said Chief Pyle.

“We’ve sent about 7,000 kids through Career Development and we spend about \$10 million a year on scholarships,” he continued. “About 90 percent of those funds come from our casinos. We built our own hospital and five clinics and put in millions of dollars a year to keep and buy medicine for our elderly. We spent \$7 million last year feeding and housing our elderly. It all comes out of our casinos. The list goes on and on.”

“We are all about helping our people,” continued Chief Pyle. “What we stand for is loyalty and we’re loyal to our people.”

The resort was mystery shopped in August and Environmental Services (EVS) scored 97 percent and it was were shopped again in January and the cage department scored a 97 percent. These two departments have set the bar for all of Choctaw Casino Resort. They were presented with a traveling trophy for scoring the highest. It will stay with the department that scores the highest in our mystery shops. All of the associates are working hard to make Choctaw Resort known as the most outstanding guest service casino in the industry.



Choctaws participate in re-enactment

Five Choctaw tribal members traveled in mid-January to New Orleans, La., to participate in a three-day documentary filming for a re-enactment of the Battle of New Orleans of 1815. Ramsey Williston, Les Williston, Ronald Nichols, Eugene Taylor, and Presley Byington portrayed Choctaw soldiers who fought alongside Gen. Andrew Jackson during the battle and were crucial to the victory against the British.

The re-enactment took place at the Chalmette Plantation – the actual battle site of the conflict, which was the last major battle of the War of 1812.

Taylor, a 24-year employee of the Choctaw Nation, has participated in re-enactments before but felt a real connection with this production.

“I felt such a sense of wonderment being on the actual battlefield, walking in the actual footsteps of our ancestors,” he said. “It felt like they were smiling down on us.”

Taylor said it was important that Choctaws were portrayed for their role in the conflict and



Ramsey Williston, Les Williston, Ronald Nichols, Eugene Taylor and Presley Byington participate in documentary.

done so accurately. “On the last day of shooting, as we were walking out of the swamp at the end of the production, a bald eagle flew over us. It felt like our ancestors were telling us they approve,” said Taylor.

The National Parks Service’s Living History Program out of Fort Toulouse, Ala., put on the event, which was filmed by the production staff of Argentine Productions Inc. out of Pitts-

burg, Pa.

The Choctaw Nation Cultural Resource and the Historic Preservation Departments assisted in the production by providing the actors and serving as subject matter experts on the history of the Choctaw people.

The Battle of New Orleans of 1815 was an extended battle that took place near New Orleans with invading British forces intent on seizing New Orleans

and a vast portion of the state of Louisiana. Gen. Jackson and his army of around 4,000 infantry soldiers and volunteer militia, which included Choctaw warriors, defeated the 11,000 strong British army, whose casualties numbered nearly 2,500, with American forces having just over 300 killed or injured. It is often regarded as the greatest American land victory of the war.

Holmes is knee-deep in the film business

Walt Disney’s new feature film, “Alice in Wonderland,” was released March 5 worldwide in “amazing 3D,” and is directed by Tim Burton (creator of “Beetlejuice,” “Edward Scissorhands,” and “The Nightmare Before Christmas”). The film has several new twists and turns from the original 1950’s Disney animated classic, as Alice returns to Wonderland a teenager facing frightening new creatures, familiar characters and a dangerously beautiful world.

The complex computer graphic (CG) effects, creatures and animation were created by the talented artists and technicians at Sony Pictures Digital in Culver City, Calif., creators of the recent hit film, “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.”

Choctaw Tribal member Adam Holmes was one of the hundreds employed on “Alice,” and he lives in Los Angeles with his wife Jen, an accomplished CG supervisor who worked on the recent “Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel.”

Adam’s role on “Alice” was in the Rough Layout department, and contrary to the name it has nothing to do with arts and crafts.

“My team is really fun, and it’s such a collaborative environment. It’s our job to make sure the director and the visual effects supervisor’s creative visions for the film are met, and the other departments down the line have the right information,” says Adam. “Working for the guy [Ken Ralston] who did effects for the original ‘Star Wars’ is a little daunting, but he’s the best in the biz!”

He describes the job as a mix of being a camera-man, technical problem-solver and computer animator rolled into one.

“I had made short films in high school but knew formal training in film production was essential to advancing my career, so I studied cinematography at Columbia College in Chicago, which has some great arts programs. At the same time, I was teaching myself 3D computer animation on my home PC, and working corporate jobs doing graphics and 3D animation. This was back in 1993, before many people knew what ‘e-mail,’ ‘texting’ and ‘downloading’ were! I guess I learned some patience from working on computers that were light-years slower than a \$500 PC is today.”

After graduating, Adam’s persistence landed him a job as a lighting and effects animator at Big Idea Productions in Chicago, makers of the hit children’s video series, “Veggie Tales,” one of the few animation studios at the time in the Midwest.

“I really grew as an artist and being a small studio we had to wear a lot of hats, some artistic, some technical. We were inspired by Pixar’s first ‘Toy Story’ film and strived to be the best. 12 years later, several of my old Chicago friends are working on ‘Toy Story 3!’”

After a few years traveling the United States and abroad as an animation specialist for a Fortune 500 software company, Adam moved to Los Angeles to get knee-deep in the film business.

“One of my favorite projects was ‘Elf’ starring Will Ferrell. I animated snowballs for the big fight scene, and cracks me up when I see it every Christmas on TV.”

Adam also worked in Sydney, Australia, on the camera crew for “Superman Returns,” in a basement office as a director of photography on “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” and began as a senior digital artist at Sony on the “G-Force” film in 2008.

“Alice” is one of the more visually complex films Adam has worked on. He tells us how a shot comes together in the Rough Layout process.

“Months before, all the film has been shot of the real actors, and most of it was on a green-screen stage. So in the computer I combine each shot of film with the virtual CG environments and CG creatures. Then, I ‘layout’ who’s in the shot, what they’re doing, and most importantly, what the CG camera sees (it’s just like a real camera!). Often, I’ll need to change the composition of a shot



Adam Holmes smiles for the camera with a “Mad Hatter” look from the new feature film “Alice in Wonderland.”

– like shrink Alice and scoot her slightly to one side of the frame because the Red Queen’s scaled-up head is too big. We also have a virtual camera system, similar to what ‘Avatar’ was shot with, which gives us a lot of creative freedom to explore new shots.”

The process is “rough,” Adam explains, because the planning he does gets propagated to the other departments at Sony such as animation, simulation, lighting and effects, who all work together to create the final images you see on the screen. “The layout process saves time and money down the road,” Adam illustrates, “like creating blueprints before a building is constructed.”

Many months of work go into each finished shot, and there are over 1,600 total shots in the film. Then every shot has to be done twice for the stereoscopic 3D effect! (left eye, right eye).

We asked Adam if he had any advice for up-and-coming artists.

“It takes so many diverse skills to create movies of this magnitude, so if any aspiring Choctaw artists are considering careers in film, video, animation or commercials, there are many opportunities to get into it. My best advice is: be dedicated to your art, create a great portfolio / demo reel, develop a positive team work-ethic, intern wherever you can to gain experience, and network as much as possible.”

What’s next for Adam?

“I’m involved with the Roy Rogers estate developing some new projects. Not many people know Roy supposedly had a Choctaw family heritage! I’m also working with the LA Native film community to develop projects from Native voices – an area sorely lacking in today’s media. Why not create our own “Avatar” from the fantastic Native stories passed down through the generations? How about a Native CSI television series, or a Native Simpsons?”

“The possibilities are limitless, but without the proper funding our creative visions will never be realized or heard. As a result, I’m actively seeking partners to expand my Choctaw Films company to bring artists and Tribes together, create smart, targeted investment funds to finance Native films, and put the base of film and animation resources to work that I’ve built up over the the last 15 years. I’m ready, so let’s do it!”

Adam’s says he’s proud to come from a family of “Creative Natives,” and expresses his gratitude for the support the Choctaw Nation has given his family over the years. His family home is in Tuskahoma where his mother lives. His three younger brothers graduated from Clayton and are now off on their own creative adventures.

Adam can be reached via e-mail at: adamholmes3d@gmail.com.

Inspiring our youth to read, study, pursue higher education

The Young Native Writers Essay Contest is a writing contest for Native American high school students and is designed to encourage young Native Americans to think about the critical issues impacting their tribal communities today. The voices that emerge from this program honor the legacy of every Native American who has ever lived. Add your words to the thousands submitted through this project – all writers receive a Certificate of Honor for their submissions. The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation’s goal of promoting education and creating new opportunities for youth has inspired this contest. Partnering with Holland & Knight in this endeavor is the National Museum of the American Indian.

For more information on the essay contest, visit the Web site www.nativewriters.hklaw.com.

Improving your nutrition from the ground up

It’s common knowledge that a healthy diet is an important part of a healthy lifestyle, but most people have trouble figuring out what to do when planning a complete diet overhaul. During National Nutrition Month®, the American Dietetic Association reminds everyone that an easy way to focus on eating better is to start with the basics: build your nutritional health from the ground up.

“By starting slowly and giving yourself a good foundation, you can work towards a healthier life,” says registered dietitian and ADA spokesperson Toby Smithson. “Change doesn’t have to be dramatic to make a difference.”

Smithson suggests ways to improve your nutrition from the ground up:

1. Focus on fruits and veggies: “Take a good look at your current diet you’ll probably realize you’re not eating enough fruits or vegetables,” says Smithson. “Add a serving each day to one meal and increase it every few weeks. Adding more of these foods into your diet is important whether you buy frozen, fresh or organic.”

2. Look locally: From farmer’s markets to community-supported agriculture, you have many options to find new, fresh foods in your area. “This can be a great way to eat well and support your community at the same time,” Smithson says.

3. Make calories count: “Too often, people think of foods as good or bad and that only those on the ‘good foods’ list are okay to eat,” says Smithson. “When you’re choosing between options, focus instead on the one with more of the vitamins and nutrients that you need. Sometimes, foods with fewer calories aren’t always the healthiest options.” To figure out how many calories you need to achieve a healthy weight, visit www.mypyramid.gov.

4. Test your taste buds: A healthy eating plan emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat or fat-free dairy and includes lean meats, poultry, fish, beans and nuts. “Those are the basics, but within this wide range there are always opportunities to try new things and find new favorites,” Smithson says. “Expand your horizons. Try a fish you’ve never eaten before or find a new vegetable recipe. By testing yourself, you might find new healthy favorites to add to your regular grocery list.”

5. Trick yourself with treats: “A healthful diet doesn’t mean deprivation,” says Smithson. “If you have a sweet tooth, have fruit and yogurt for dessert. If you want a snack in the afternoon, have some trail mix or nuts. There is no reason to go hungry just because you’re making healthful changes.”

To help improve your nutrition from the ground up here are a couple of recipes to get a healthy balance of whole grains, vegetables and healthy fats.

Wild Rice with Sun Dried Tomatoes

- 4 ounces wild rice
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts (found in the produce dept, may use almonds, pecans or walnuts)
- 1 cup sun dried tomatoes (not packed in oil)
- 1/4 cup sliced black olives
- 1/4 cup minced parsley

1. Cook the rice in an abundant amount of boiling salted water in a large pot for 35 to 45 minutes or until the grains have almost doubled in size and are tender, but still chewy.

2. Toast the pine nuts lightly (dry skillet) until tan and add to rice.

3. Toss gently to mix.

Yield: 4 servings
Nutritional Information: Per serving: Calories 170, fat 4 g, calories from fat 20%, protein 7 g, carbohydrates 30 g, fiber 3 g, cholesterol 0 mg, sodium 358 mg.

Veggie Stir Fry

This side dish contains vegetables rich in vitamin A and C.

- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 1 1/3 cup broccoli florets
- 1 1/3 cup cauliflower florets
- 1 1/3 cup carrot slices, cut at the diagonal
- 1/3 cup low sodium vegetable broth (more if needed)
- 1 teaspoon minced or chopped garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh ginger (or 1/8 teaspoon powdered)
- 2 teaspoons lite soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch, dissolved in 1 tablespoon water.

1. Heat large, nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add sesame oil, turning the pan to coat well. Add the vegetables and saute for a minute.

2. Add in the vegetable broth, garlic, and ginger, and toss to blend. Cook about four minutes, stirring constantly. Add more vegetable broth if more moisture is needed.

3. Reduce heat to medium-low, push the vegetables to one side of the frying pan, and stir in the soy sauce and cornstarch mixture. Heat and stir until thickened (about a minute). Stir in the vegetables to coat with the sauce.

Nutritional Information: Per serving: 67 calories, 3 g protein, 10 g carbohydrate, 2.7 g fat (0.4 g saturated fat, 0.9 g monounsaturated fat, 1.1 g polyunsaturated fat), 0.4 mg cholesterol, 3 g fiber, 129 mg sodium. Calories from fat: 33%.

For more tips on building your healthful diet from the ground up, during National Nutrition Month and all year long, visit www.eatright.org and click on “For the Public.”

The American Dietetic Association is the world’s largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. ADA is committed to improving the nation’s health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy. Visit the American Dietetic Association at www.eatright.org.



William Johnson and A.R. Kirpatrick

Getting ready for a party

District 11 seniors and youth paint gourds for table decorations at the Birthday Bash for Chief Gregory E. Pyle and District 11 Councilman Bob Pate. The Bash is scheduled for April 13 with entertainment starting at 5 p.m. at the McAlester Expo Center.



Lucille Jameson and Ailene Ward



Anna Rolland

OBITUARIES

Patricia ‘Kay’ Johnston

Patricia “Kay” Johnston of Wilburton died Jan. 16, 2010, at her home at the age of 53.

Kay was born June 5, 1956, to Mozella Burris. She grew up in Lula with her grandparents, Mose and Willie Burris, and attended school in Tupelo. She married Keith Johnston in 1973 in Tupelo. In 1974, they moved to Wilburton where Kay worked as the Assistant Manager at Sharpe’s Department Store for 22 years. She was an avid basketball player and enjoyed watching the Panola Bearcat basketball teams. She also enjoyed attending the area rodeos and most importantly taking care of her grandchildren. She was of the Baptist faith.

She is survived by her sons, Brian Johnston and wife Heather of Atoka, and Cameron Johnston of the home; daughter Kimberly Watson and husband Derek of Stillwater; brother Ronnie Burris and wife Lynn of Lindale, Texas; grandchildren Brianna and Brooklyn Johnston and Tyler and Taylor Watson; ex-husband Keith Johnston of Pocola; nieces Lamanda Mallard and husband Matt of Minneapolis, Minn., Autumn Burris of Lindale and Mose Bradley Burris and wife Myra of Maybank, Texas and other family and friends.

Kay is preceded in death by her grandparents, Mose and Willie Burris and mother, Mozella Burris.



Phileon Lloyd LeFlore

Phileon Lloyd LeFlore was born Aug. 7, 1938, and passed away Jan. 9, 2010, in Red Oak, Texas. Lloyd was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Mae Dupler, and father Herman LeFlore.

He is survived by his wife, Trudy, of Red Oak, daughter Karen Lents and husband Louis, son Keith LeFlore; grandchildren Louie and wife Gwen, Crystal and Kayla; great-grandchildren Laurusyn, Zachary, Alyssa and Kamryn; sister Betty Guthrie of Temple, Texas; brothers-in-law Charles Young and wife Billie of Georgia, Jerry Young and wife Patricia of Texas; sister-in-law Selma Helton; stepchildren Candy Clayton husband Rob of Kentucky, Larry Yarbray and wife Marcie of Georgia; step-grandchildren Chase Clayton, Lauren MCDaniel, Avery Yarbray and Lily Grace Yarbray.

Dale Wayne Havnearn

Dale Wayne Havnearn, 55, of Medford, Ore., passed away at his home on Jan. 21, 2010.

Dale was born Dec. 22, 1954, in Medford, to Barbara and Floyd Havnearn. He was the youngest of three boys. The family moved to Pleasant Hill, Calif., where Dale spent his childhood, growing up playing baseball and football. When he was in his teens, the family moved back to the Medford area where he attended Medford High, graduating class of 1973.

After high school, Dale started a career in fabrication and soon found a life-long passion for racing stockcars. He raced the #65 car at the young age of 19. With the support from his family, friends, and sponsors, Dale successfully won many races with the cars that he built throughout his career.

His career in welding and fabricating took him into the boat-building industry for over 20 years with local business. At the age of 45, Dale changed careers and took a job as the commercial truck salesman for Town and Country Chevrolet.

On Feb. 9, 1980, he married Janice Flannery and together they raised three children, Kendra, Tonya and Matthew. His life was filled with love for his family and friends, racing and building stock cars, hunting, fishing, camping and golfing. He enjoyed cheering on his children, nieces and nephews during their sporting and school events. He was actively involved in supporting our military troops and proud of his son, Matthew, who enlisted in the Marine Corps. His biggest joy was playing with his grandchildren.

Dale was dearly loved and will be incredibly missed by his family and friends. His big hugs, laugh, and the giving heart he showed to everyone will be remembered.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Havnearn; daughter Kendra and husband Jonathan Theiring of Ashland; daughter Tonya and husband Nathaniel Staller of Central Point; son Matthew Havnearn of the United States Marine Corps; mother Barbara Havnearn of Medford; brother Ron and wife Carol Havnearn of Gold Hill; brother Larry and wife Lisa Havnearn of Redmond; grandsons, Tanner, Colsten and Gavin; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, and nieces.

Mary Katherine Choate ‘Kay’ Johnson

Mary Katherine “Kay” Choate Johnson was born in Watonga on April 18, 1939, to the late Lois Olivette Edens and George Rudolph Choate, an original Choctaw enrollee. She died Feb. 1, 2010, in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Kay was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She graduated salutatorian from Gray High School in Idabel and earned her bachelor’s degree from Eastern Oklahoma State University and master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma. She taught high school on Molokai, Hawaii for a year and served in the Army Special Service as a librarian in Nuremberg and Darmstadt, Germany for 2-½ years. She was a staff librarian at California State University-Hayward, at Mandeville School in Jamaica and at the public libraries in St Cloud, Minn., and Santa Rosa before serving twenty years as the librarian at Santa Rosa Junior High. She retired in 1998.

Kay belonged to American Association of University Women (AAUW), Story Tellers’ Club and women’s groups at First United Methodist Church in Santa Rosa where she was a member. Her interests were travel and hiking, storytelling, reading, playing piano and attending concerts. Kay loved good conversation, rich vocabulary, and nurtured her many, long friendships going back to childhood days.

Kay was preceded in death by two brothers, Lt. George R. Choate Jr. and James Frederick Choate.

She is survived by sisters, Jerry Choate Colby of Asheville, N.C., and Ramona Choate Schrader of Knoxville, Tenn.; brother David E. Choate of Williamsburg, Va.; and many nieces and nephews who loved and admired her.



Lola Vern (Potts) Kirkes

Lola Vern (Potts) Kirkes was born on June 6, 1927, in Yanush to Eli and Rosie (Sturgeon) Potts. She passed away on Jan. 16, 2010, in Binger at the age of 82. Lola loved quilting, crocheting, sewing, working outside, and shopping. She lived at Swan Lake for 15 years. She was a member of the Swan Lake Baptist Church in Ft. Cobb.

Survivors include daughters Helen Lenz and husband Thomas of Parkville, Md., Juanita Angel and husband Ellis of Buffalo Valley, Judy Lightle and husband Bill of Hennessy.; sons Harold Kirkes and wife Janet of Atoka, Harvey Kirkes of Perkins, Jerry Kirkes and wife Vera of Hazel Dell, Eddy Kirkes and wife Gloria of Union City; brother, Melford Potts of Tulsa, 18 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Eli and Rosie Potts, husband Robert Kirkes, son Mark Kirkes, daughter Kathy Kirkes, sister Leola Anderson, and grandson Nick Kirkes.



Ruth Hankowsky

Ruth Hankowsky was born Feb. 11, 1920, to Gilbert “Webb” Thompson and Anna Thompson. Her father, Webb, was a full-blooded Choctaw who received his government land allotment near Wilson. Her mother, Anna, was a school teacher who retired when their first child was born. Ruth was the second of five children.

Farm chores, school work and church activities kept her busy growing up. Learning, teaching and her Choctaw heritage were Ruth’s passions. After elementary school in Wilson, she attended Chilocco Indian School then graduated with a B.S. in Education from Southeastern University in Durant. Her 30 year teaching career began and spanned all levels - elementary (including Music), secondary, and college. In the early 50s she had completed her master’s degree in education and accepted a position in the Speech Dept. at the University of Oklahoma. She taught classes while working on her thesis dissertation for her PhD.

Ruth was active in Native American activities at O.U. and served briefly as one of the first directors of Native American Studies. The topic of her thesis dissertation was a study of the Choctaw language.

During her time at O.U., she married John Hankowsky and they became huge O.U. sports fans, traveling to many football and bowl games.

Retirement in the 80s brought a lot more time for family, O.U. sports, and traveling. Her grandchildren, Kendall and John, were both athletes and Ruth and Hank loved watching their soccer, baseball, track, basketball, and cheerleading activities. She remained active and served as an officer in the Chilocco Alumni Association. She was an honored elder member of the First American United Methodist Church in Norman.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Webb and Anna Thompson; husband John Hankowsky; brother Webb Thompson; sister Lorraine Cummings; and daughter Louann Langston.

She is survived by daughters Ellen Lack and husband Jim of Norman, Jane Van Setten of Moore; granddaughters Denise Dalmas and husband Art of Glen Gardner, N.J., and Kendall Lack Portland, Ore.; grandson John Lack and Jenny of Portland, Ore.; sisters Dorothea Forrester and Naomi Brown of Tulsa; and great-grandchildren Nathaniel and Kristina Dalmas of Glen Gardner.

Hilda Youngblood Buss Walker

Hilda (Brummett) Youngblood Buss Walker passed away on Dec. 5, 2009, in Midwest City at the age of 90 years. She was born Oct. 27, 1919, in Daisy to Alfred Brummett and Susan Tina (Billy) Brummett, an original Choctaw enrollee. One of eight children, Hilda grew up in the Daisy area and on Dec. 22, 1936, she married J.D. Youngblood in Atoka County.

Moving to Oklahoma City in 1947, she pursued a career in nursing. She was extremely proud to be a scrub nurse for the first open heart surgery performed at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center.

She retired in 1989 and spent the next 20 years traveling the United States and Canada, as well as enjoying her family, especially her grandchildren.

Hilda was a woman of strong faith and prayer. She loved the Lord and served Him as a member of the First Baptist Church of Choctaw. She also served her community as a member of the Choctaw Kiwanas Club in Choctaw, Okla.

She is survived by her three children, Mamie Sue Heller and husband Gordon, Jesse Raymond Youngblood and Marvin Austin Youngblood and wife Diana; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; sister Genevieve Uzzel and brother Alfred Brummett.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, five sisters and husbands J.D. Youngblood, D.D. Buss and Mell Walker.



Jimmy Harold Winship Sr.

Jimmy Harold Winship Sr. was born March 9, 1941, in Spencerville to Anderson and Ada (Frazier) Winship. He passed away Feb. 8, 2010, in Antlers at the age of 68.

Jimmy was a lifetime resident of the Rattan area. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, watching the kids play ball, visiting at Howard’s Cafe, hunting, fishing, & working on cars.

Jimmy is preceded in death by two sons, Jimmy Harold Winship Jr. and Michael Ray Winship; parents Anderson Winship and Ada (Frazier) Winship; two brothers, Vandell Ray Winship and Wayland Frazier; sister Jewel Dean Winship; nephew Kenneth Ross Winship; and two nieces Barbara Ann Billy and Angela Ruth Frazier.

He is survived by his children, Terry Winship of Rattan and Sherry Cook of Hugo; grandchildren Brandon Winship, Kike Cook, Lyndsi Winship, Kayli Winship, Easton Winship, Logan Winship and Kelbi Winship; brothers Clifford Winship of Vernon, Texas and Kenneth Winship of Hugo; sisters Barbara Batist of Broken Bow, Oneida Winship of Durant, Dean Winship of Broken Bow, Lynn Williston of Broken Bow, Una Harley of Idabel, Rena Goins of Fort Worth, Texas and Irene Priest of Tennessee; as well as many other relatives and friends.



Sylvia Kay (White) Walner

Sylvia Kay (White) Walner, loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and endearing friend to so many, passed away on March 14, 2009, after a brief illness.

She is survived by her two daughters; Tandy Riha of Flowery Branch, Ga., Annette Fossati and husband John Fossati of Victoria; sister Paula Wells and her husband Clifford Wells of Victoria; grandchildren Kate Fossati, Richard Fossati and Brittany Riha; nieces Sherilan Coleman of Victoria and Angela Walner of Orlando, Fla., and stepmother Sally Allen of Odessa.

Her father, Richard Herdon Walner, mother Rebecca Tandy Clark Walner, and brother, Richard Leon Walner of Odessa preceded her in death.

She was born on Feb. 22, 1940, at St. Mary’s Hospital in Salem, Ill. She came from a proud heritage of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian Nations of Oklahoma. She was raised in Odessa during the “Oil-Boom” era until 1964 before moving to Bloomington where she was a homemaker until 1974.

She enjoyed a long and distinguished career, serving the County of Victoria County for 29 years before her retirement in 2007. She served as a deputy for the late honorable Al Baas and became assistant chief clerk and office supervisor under his successor. In 1989, she was elected Victoria County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, and honorably served the court fairly and with dignity. From 1991 to 2007, she served as chief clerk for the honorable Beatriz Q. Gonzalez.

In addition to serving the courts, she served as a transcriptionist for many community physicians.

A woman of deep faith and member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, she gave her time, love and devotion completely and unselfishly, serving as a Eucharistic minister, past president of the Altar Society, Generations of Faith and the Catholic Daughters. Her adoration for God recently led her on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land accompanied by Monsignor Brunner. She visited Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Jordan, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, where she attended daily masses, received the hold sacraments and walked in the footsteps of Jesus.

She touched the lives of so many and rightfully so, and will be greatly missed.

In the spirit of the Choctaw Indians, Sylvia would surely say, “Sing no sad songs for me. Instead, tell others how I made you smile, how you enjoyed my company and little things I may have done along the way to be of help to you and yours.”

Matthew Jeffrey Chavis

Matthew Jeffrey Chavis passed away Jan. 15, 2010, in Prescott Valley, Ariz. He was born Jan. 16, 1982, in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.

Matthew graduated from Virgin Valley High School in Mesquite, Nev. He worked for Ruger Guns in Prescott and took great pride in his work. He had a marvelous sense of humor and is at peace with the Lord. He was preceded in death by brother Brandon Dale Burkhardt and grandfather Curtis Chavis. He was a descendant of Joe Darneal.

He is survived by his wife, Misty, son Brody Matthew, seven months, and daughter Chesnie Marie, two years. He is also survived by father Jeffrey Chavis of Denver, Colo.; mother Terrie Burkhardt Masters of Prescott Valley; three sisters, Ashley Walters and Karlie Burkhardt of Prescott Valley and Valen Chavis of Utah; brothers Colby Chavis of Raleigh, N.C. and Daniel Burkhardt of Las Vegas, Nev.; grandmothers Rosann J. Daeneal Russell of Prescott Valley and Carol Chavis of Fort Walton Beach; grandfather Ronald Gerseth of Houston, Texas; step-grandfather Jack Russell of Prescott Valley; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. His family is thankful for the 28 years they shared with him.



Laura Lucille (Logan) Keeney

Laura Lucille (Logan) Keeney, 93, died Jan. 27, 2010, in Eugene, Ore. She was born Nov. 30, 1916, to Rev. W. F. Logan Sr. and Laura (Potts) Logan, an original Choctaw enrollee.

She married John Preston Keeney on March 4, 1936. She was a homemaker, mother and a devout Christian. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Albion.

She is survived by her daughters Rebecca McCulloch and husband Doug, and Darlene Branson, all of Eugene, Ore.; sons John B. Keeney of Toledo, Ore., and Shane Keeney of Eugene; brothers Raymond Logan of Cushing and William and Estelle Logan of Poteau; sisters Jewel Edens of San Bernardino, Calif., Glenna and Frank Creasy of Toledo, Iva and Buddy Tubbs of Oklahoma City, and Eva Lanning of McAlester; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and brothers John Logan and Buck Logan, and sisters Erma Hammond, Florene White and Virginia Thomas.

Frances Jo Barnes

Frances Jo Barnes, 82, passed away Jan. 10, 2010. She was born in Maud, Dec. 29, 1927, to Roy Hudson and Lillian Self Hudson, an original Dawes enrollee. Frances was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and although she lived in Oklahoma City, she was particularly enthusiastic about news of tribal improvements in healthcare delivery and education.

She had managed type II diabetes since age 57 and was especially proud of the tribal involvement in early intervention and diabetes prevention for children. She was a kind and gentle soul who had a deep abiding love for the Creator, nature and animals. She loved to garden cook, collect cookbooks and make ceramics.

She was a loving mother, mother-in-law and grandmother who will be missed dearly.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, brother Roy Browning Hudson, husband Lindsey M. Barnes and infant son Roy Joe Barnes.

She is survived by son Dr. Lindsey B. Barnes and wife Laverne, ARNP, of Bristow; daughter Dr. Lillian Barnes Beavers and husband Dr. Charles Beavers of Oklahoma City; grandsons Brent Welborn of Tulsa, Brandon Welborn of Yukon, Macray Barnes of Oklahoma City, Dr. Charles Tedd Beavers of Louisville, Kentucky and Rick and Randy Beavers of Oklahoma City; and four great-grandchildren.



OBITUARIES

Rena (Dosh) Caffey

Rena (Dosh) Caffey was born Sept. 14, 1915, in Bennington to Fred and Sophie (Cochaneur) Dosh. She passed faway on Feb. 24, 2010, in Durant at the age of 94.

Rena received her Master’s in Education and taught school for many years. She started her teaching career in Bennington and later taught at Goodland All Indian Boys School in Grant. Her career included 35 years of teaching, which also included her teaching in Florida for several years and later retiring from Tulsa Public Schools in Tulsa. She was a Choctaw Nation senior citizen and received the 2003 Outstanding Choctaw Female Elder Award.

Rena enjoyed crocheting and arts and crafts. She was a member of the Presbyterian faith.

She married Ralph Caffey and they had one child together, Leonard Carl Caffey. They both precede her in death.

Rena was also preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Sophie Dosh; sister Matilda Hodge and brother Eddie Dosh.

Survivors include nephew Ted Dosh of Bennington.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the Goodland All Indian Boys School in Grant at P.O. Box 1056, Hugo, Oklahoma 74743.



Donald Lee Cates

Donald Lee Cates, 79, died Dec. 3, 2009, in Medford, Ore. Donald was born Feb. 6, 1930, in Quitaque, Texas, to Lee E. and Darthula “Sudie” Cates. His family moved to California when he was young and he grew up in the Los Angeles area. After graduating from high school, he moved to Alaska where lived with his older brother for a short time before enlisting in the Army.

He served his military tour at Fort Richardson, Alaska, and was honorably discharged. For many years he worked construction in Alaska before making his home in Oregon.

Survivors include step-daughter Jane Kolberg, step-son Jerry Corcoran, niece Elizabeth Hayes, all of Oregon; niece Patricia Gee of Alaska; nieces Colleen Halverson, Deborah Hurst and nephew Loren Brown, all of California.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Barbara Brown, Millard Aden Cates, and Addy Jackson Cates.

Donald was a member of the Choctaw Tribe through his mother. He was a direct descendant of original enrollees William and Annie Roebuck. He will be greatly missed.



Donald R. Krebbs

Donald R. Krebbs, 53, died Jan. 26, 2010, in Kingsburg, Calif. He was born on Nov. 1, 1956, in Sacramento, Calif., to Norman and Betty Krebbs. He was the grandson of original enrollee Edmond William Krebb.

He attended elementary school in Kingsburg and graduated from Kingsburg High School in 1974. He was a supervisor for Harris Beef Company.

Donald was preceded in death by brothers Wesley Krebbs and Bradley Krebbs; uncle Gerald Krebbs; grandparents Edmond and Elsie Krebbs and Jerry and Erma Creguer.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 30 years, Tammy; daughter Christy Ruiz and husband Jason; grandson Jacob; parents Norman and Betty Krebbs; brother Kevin Krebbs and wife Ranell; nieces Brittney Krebbs and Nicole Lopez and husband Evan, all of Kingsburg; nephew and niece Anthony and Vanessa Krebbs of Selma, Calif.; uncle Connie Krebbs of Visalia, Calif.; aunts Audrey Denton of Visalia, Wanda Eaton of Reedley, Calif., and Sharon Eskew and husband Richard of Selma; along with numerous cousins, other relatives and friends.

Calvin Coolidge ‘C.C.’ Roberts

Calvin Coolidge “C.C.” Roberts died at the age of 88, on Jan. 1, 2010, at Glenwood Health Center in Glenpool, three miles from his residence in Jenks.

C.C. was born to Solomon Roberts and Carrie Eva Osborn on Dec. 15, 1921, at the family homestead in Bennington. Childhood memories were with three other brothers, Woodie, Grady and Gloyd, picking cotton, riding horses, doing farm chores and attending the local country school and later to Chiloco Indian School through 12th grade. He was proud of his heritage in the Choctaw Nation.

C.C. joined the National Guard and was the youngest sergeant at age 16. He did a Navy tour and on Feb. 6, 1941, he was honorably discharged as Fireman Third Class after serving on tankers.

He completed trade school, studying welding at Haskell in Lawrence, Kan. While he was there he met his future wife. He married Ina Mae McGuire of Pawnee on May 29, 1943, in Savannah, Ga. They honeymooned on Tybee Island with a most severe sunburn.“I never thought Indians could get burned.”

They celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary last May.

He was an original charter member of the first Inaugural Class of the Scottish Rite Bodies Valley of Tulsa Orient of Oklahoma, May 29 through May 31, 1958. There were 531 members.

He was a 32nd degree Mason. He was a member of St. James Presbyterian Church of Jenks and attended the Methodist and Baptist churches while living in Sapulpa.

He worked for many years for Smith, WEBCO, GATX, Chicago Bridge & Iron, and later as plant manager for Latoka Engineering Company in Drumright.

He was a self-made man, fixing everything - electrical, plumbing and gardening. He traveled through the U.S.A. and Europe. He gave continuously to Carley Farley Boy’s Ranch and the Jewish Foundation.

He is survived by his wife Ina, daughter Brenda Cummings of Jenks.; his beloved grandchildren, Jonathan Enoch and Jenny Ann Cummings of Midland, Texas, Carrie Eva and Mike Thompson of Dublin, Calif.; three great-grandchildren, Kirsten Rose and Colton Calvin Cummings of Midland and Nicholas Robert Thompson of Dublin; and brother Gloyd and wife Corine Haggard Roberts of Lawton.

He is preceded in death by his parents Solomon and Carrie Roberts, Woodrow Armstrong and Rose Roberts, and Grady Roberts.



Carl Billey

Carl Billey was born July 4, 1917, to Dawson and Lesa (Phillip) Billey. He passed away on Oct. 4, 2009, in Santa Maria, Calif., at the age of 92.

Carl grew up on the family farm south of Bennington and attended school in Hartshorne at the Jones Academy, a military boarding school governed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1935, he married Pauline Nance in Durant and they moved into a home he built near the homeplace on land inherited from his father. To this marriage were born three children, Katherine, Howard and Linda. In July 1943, he moved the family to Richmond, Calif., where he found work as a welder in the Kaiser Shipyards. In 1947 they moved to Madera County and eventually settled in Chowchilla to make their home. Pauline passed away in 1985 and Carl remained in Chowchilla until moving to Santa Maria to be near his daughter.

In addition to Pauline, he was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son; daughter Kathy Machnicz; grandson Randall Sevedge; an infant brother; two brothers, Morris Williams and William Robert; and three sisters, Pearl Collum, Nellie Neal and Juanita Baugher.

He is survived by two children, Linda Billey-Sevedge of Santa Maria and Howard Billey and wife Vikki of San Antonio, Texas; sister Gladys Ross of Chowchilla; nine grandchildren, John “Sonny” Machnicz and wife Quaylin of Cape Coral, Fla., Lisa Milligan and husband Michael of Sanford, Fla., Lisa Milligan and husband Michael of Sanford, Fla., Jim Machnicz and wife Teresa of Oklahoma City, Martha Herman of Madera, Calif., Lorrie Sumpter and husband Tony of Reydon, Robyn Nutt and husband Randy of Moore, Carl David Billey and wife Linda of Franklin, La., Gina Manchnicz of Valrico, Fla.; 21 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Valton Lee Fowler

Valton Lee Fowler was born July 16, 1919. He passed away Jan. 17, 2010, at the Veterans Home in Yountville, Calif.

He lived the active life, working on the family farm in Oklahoma and later with the CCC building roads in the South-West during the new deal era. During WWII, he joined the Marines so he could serve the country he loved and respected, later traveling as a merchant marine.

In 1948, he married Lois Irene Jones and together they had seven children. In 1960, the Fowler family moved from Palmdale, Calif., to Willow, Ark., where Lee spent his summers working as a union carpenter helping to build life on the Aleutian Chain and in the villages of the interior. When the 1964 earthquake hit Anchorage he was there to help rebuild it. In 1969 the family moved to Eagle River, Ark., and he joined the VFW Post 9785 and became its Commander. He was also active in the Lions Club of Alaska. After retiring from the State of Alaska Local 71, he and Lois took a trip on the Love Boat to Mexico and they traveled the U.S. extensively. Later in life he made the pilgrimage to Israel to be baptized in the Jordan River.

Lee was a member of the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma through his grandmother, original enrollee, Ida K. Stewart.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, daughter Patricia Ann and son Charles Malcom “Sonny.”

Lee’s children were present to help him cross over to be with his heavenly Father. He is survived by his five children Dwayne, Alan and Robert Fowler of Alaska, Betsy Starner of Utah, Cheri Vitali of California; his eight grandchildren, Kim and Robin Fowler, Becky Sitter, Chris Starner, Ken Vitali, Jason, Megan and Kevin Fowler; and his 14 great-grandchildren, Sophie, Treavor, Kyler, Arianna, Elizabeth, Taylor, Jordon, Rain, Zaine Bailly, Dylan, MariJayne, Cristian, Max and Eva.



Ester Mae (Dedmon) Ryburn

Ester Mae (Dedmon) Ryburn, 84, of Heavener, passed away May 31, 2009, in Heavener. She was born Jan. 27, 1925, in Reichert.

She was a life-long resident of the area and a member of the Trinity Baptist Church in Heavener. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Richard and Elza “Dain” Steelman; one infant; one great-grandson Kory Dedmon; five brothers Hershel, Merle, Delbert, Finis and J.L. Steelman; and one sister, Pauline.

She is survived by four daughters, Barbara Kannady and husband Burr of Tulsa, Leona Qualls and husband Doug, Linda Olive and husband Eddie, Hilda Oliver and husband Jimmy, all of Heavener; son Eugene Dedmon and wife Janice of Waldron, Ark.; sisters Camelia Luman of Heavener and Ida Belle Moody of Modesto, Calif.; brother C.O. “Chief” Steelman of Heavener; 18 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.



Peggy Jean Lane

Peggy Jean Lane, 72, of Noble, passed away Dec. 25, 2009, in Norman after an extended illness.

She was born Sept. 16, 1937, in Centrahoma to Raymond and Peggy McKinney Roden. She graduated from Del City High School in 1955 and married John Reliford Lane on March 23, 1956.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John R. Lane Sr.; father Raymond Roden; mother Peggy Roebuck; step-father John Roebuck; brother James Roden; son Burnie Lane; and grandson Brian Lane.

She is survived by her son, John Lane Jr. and wife Brenda of Harlingen, Texas; daughter Kelly Smith and husband Keith of Noble; sister-in-law Jewel Banks; brothers Raymond Roden and wife Jackie, Robert Roden and wife Anita, John Roebuck Jr. and wife Margaret; sisters Linda Bryant and Barbara Smith; grandchildren, Kara Cushman and husband Mark, Stephanie Lane and husband Matt, Jessica Smith and Sean Lane; great-grandchildren Kailey Lane, Abbey Lane, Alex Lane, Penny Lane and Trey Cushman.



Perry Woolridge

Retired Col. Perry B. Woolridge was born Aug. 22, 1918, in Roff to Nicholas and Magdalene (Quincy) Woolridge. He passed away Feb. 1, 2010, at his home in Castle at the age of 91.

Col. Woolridge was a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn. He joined the Army National Guard in 1936 while attending Chilocco Indian School and was mobilized with the 45th Infantry Division when it was ordered into active federal service in 1940. His wartime service included participation in four amphibious landings and eight major campaigns in the European theater. His last assignment was Chief of the Military Support to Civil Authorities Section at the Oklahoma Military Department, where he maintained plans for providing military assistance to civil authorities during emergency situations. He retired in 1978, after 38 years of service, and became a cattle rancher.

On Nov. 24, 1948, Col. Woolridge married Mayselle Tidwell in Muskogee. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Okemah where he had served as a Deacon, trustee, and had taught a young men’s Sunday School class. He was also a member of the Choctaw Nation and received the Freedom Award in 2007 and was a featured in the tribal newspaper in 2007.

Other memberships included Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Military Order of World Wars, National Guard Association of the United States, 45th Infantry Division Association, U.S. Civil Defense Council, Oklahoma City Defense Directors Association and the Oklahoma Military Historical Commission.

His awards included the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and eight campaign stars and arrowheads for amphibious assault landing. Also the WWII Victory Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hour Glass Device, Combat Infantry Badge, Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal, Oklahoma Long Service Medal, Commended by the Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division in 1947 for outstanding service as Personnel Officer, 279th Infantry.

In 2009, Col. Woolridge was honored on the floor of the Oklahoma State Senate where he received a governor’s citation for his military career. His biography was also submitted to the World War II section of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and four sisters. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Mayselle Woolridge of the home; son Carl Foreman and wife Bridgette of Rogers, Ark.; daughters Terri Peak and husband Frosty of Yukon and Barbara Janet of Noble; nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Doris C. (Holder) George

Doris C. (Holder) George passed away on Dec. 12, 2009, in Glenside, Penn. She was born on Nov. 25, 1939, in Antlers.

She is survived by her only child - a daughter, Tresa Knight and her husband, Thomas; three grandsons, Kenan, Braden and Cullen Knight, all of Glenside. She is also survived by three sisters Mittie Barton, Maxine Peek and Francine Puteet, all of Clarksville, Texas; nieces and nephews Ruben Putteet, Rev. Bobby Peek, Darrell Sullivan, Jeanie Gonzalez, all of Clarksville; Ginger Broomfield of Blossom, Texas, and Billy Peek of Arlington, Texas. She is also survived by sister Anita Lemons and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Odis George of Broken Bow; mother Corrine (Harris) Holder of Midwest City; father Henry C. Holder of Clarksville; grandmother Eliza (Loman) Bishop of Antlers and brother Clem Holder of Oklahoma City.

Charlene M. (Potts) Chapman

Charlene M. (Potts) Chapman passed away Dec. 12, 2009, at the ago of 70. She was born March 18, 1939, in Pushmataha to Clara and Horace Potts. She resided in El Paso, Texas, for 36 years. She worked at Sunland Park Race Track in New Mexico for 34 years. To all of her employees, she was known as “Mother Goose.” They thought of her as the most honest person and had a lot of respect for her. She was their friend, mother and comforter.

She was married on March 24, 1959, to Roy Chapman, in Roswell, N.M. They were married for 50 years.

She loved to sew and crochet. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She is survived by her husband Roy Chapman of El Paso; daughter Tammy Gustafson of Brownfield, Texas; son Todd Chapman of Meadow, Texas. She was a loving nanny to six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by six brothers, Mark Potts of Clayton, Jewett Potts of Talihina, J.D. Swearingen of Edmond, Jack Swearingen of Buffalo Valley, Gene Swearingen of Childress, Texas; sister Clara Flatt of Antlers; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Clara and Horace Potts; brother Haskel Swearingen of Porterville, Calif., sisters Pauline Adams of Hartshorne and Edith Potts of Talihina.

Jesse James ‘J.J.’ Lowery

Jesse James “J.J.” Lowery was born on Dec. 9, 1923, in Rexroat and passed away at his home in Odessa, Texas, on Dec. 13, 2009.

He was proceeded in death by his wife of 64 years, Eva “Dimples” Lowery on Oct. 2, 2009.

He is survived by son Richard Lowery and wife Alice of Burnet, Texas; daughter Jackie Kemp; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all of Odessa; sisters Jo Baxley and Betty Medford both of Lubbock, Texas, and many nieces and nephews.



Green Corn Ceremony

Question:
To the folks at Iti Fabvssa:
I was wondering when the last Luak Falaya / Green Corn Ceremony was held in the Choctaw Nation and if there is or has been a movement to reinvigorate this ceremony among our people.

**Sincerely,
Brandon**

Answer:
Dear Brandon,
Over the last few months, Iti Fabvssa has received several inquiries about the Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony. In an attempt to effectively respond to these, we’re going to give you the long answer to your question:

The “Green Corn Ceremony,” is the most important social and spiritual event in the traditional seasonal round of the Choctaw and other Tribes that are Indigenous to what is now the Southeastern United States. Held at the ripening of the corn crop in late July, it was and is a time of community-building, rekindling friendships, reconciliation, purification, restoring balance, making new beginnings, and giving praise and thanksgiving to God.

It appears that in the Choctaw language, Okissa, or “fast,” was probably the term most widely used in the past to refer to the “Green Corn Ceremony” (see Byington 1915:296), although Tanchushi Hilha “young corn dance” (Wright 1937:378) may have been used to describe the accompanying dances.

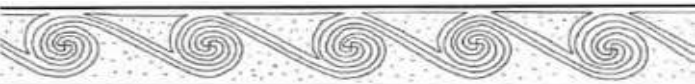
The specific elements of the Green Corn Ceremony varied between Choctaw communities, but they share basic parts that date back unknown centuries in what is now the Southeastern United States. Even as early as the mid 1700s, James Adair noted that the Green Corn Ceremony was no longer being practiced in the Choctaw communities that he observed (1775:325). This was likely because of the population loss and stress these communities were facing at that time as a result of being pulled into an ongoing military conflict between the French and English (Pesantubbee 2005:126-127). Still, the Green Corn Ceremony survived among some Choctaw communities, and in the 1830s, it was carried from Mississippi, over the Trail of Tears and reestablished it in Oklahoma.

The Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony has received much less written attention than the equivalent ceremonies of other Southeastern Tribes, like the Muscogee (Creeks). This is because Choctaw practitioners made a concerted effort to protect it from outside observation and interference, sometimes stopping the entire proceedings if they felt threatened by an observer (Bushnell 1909:22). Today, just as in the past, some of the parts of the Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony are private in nature and not intended for publication. The following respectfully excludes these details and draws mostly from published sources.

The best written description of a Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony comes from an account by Lucy Cherry, a Choctaw born in Skullyville, OK, in 1869 (Cherry 1937:382-385). Her words portray a Green Corn Ceremony held at Cavanal in the Sugar Loaf Mountains, probably in the late 1800s:

Preparations began a week before the event, with men hunting deer, squirrels, and bear, and killing hogs and cattle; green corn was also harvested from the fields. The families gathered up the food they had obtained, along with many of the household furnishings and headed for the Dance Grounds.

The Green Corn Ceremony lasted four days. The first



Iti Fabussa

day was filled with setting up camp and re-establishing connections with old friends who had come for the occasion. Food was cooked and eaten in common. On the second day, everyone fasted, while the Choctaw doctor, Alikchi, administered herbal drinks to participants that purged their bodies. Afterwards, males and females were bathed separately in a purifying herbal solution. That night, participants went to sleep without eating. Sometime during the third day they broke their fast with a feast. That evening, the main part of the Stomp Dance was held. Its beginning was announced by a beating drum. A man took a place on the dance ground near a central fire and prayed in the Choctaw language, thanking God for the blessings that the community had received. Then, the dance began, around the fire. A male caller led the vocal portion of the dance, and was echoed by the other male dancers. Females danced with a skillful double step, keeping the rhythm using turtle shell rattles fastened to their lower legs (according to Cherry the men also had the shells fastened to their upper legs). The dance lasted until sunrise. The fourth day of the Green Corn Ceremony was spent in visiting friends and relatives and in breaking camp.

In the traditional Choctaw way of thinking, every part of the Green Corn Ceremony has spiritual significance. As mentioned by Cherry, the dances for the Green Corn Ceremony, as well as some others held during different parts of the year are traditionally conducted on a Dance Ground. A Dance Ground is a special area prepared by an Alikchi who beseeches God to bless it. A new Dance Ground can only be started with the assistance of the staff from a previously established Dance Ground.

At the center of the Dance Ground is a fire, considered sacred by practitioners. Some early Choctaws apparently called it Luak Hashtahl Itichapa, or “Fire, the friend of God” (Wright 1828: 179-180). Around the central fire, is the dance area, usually cleared free of brush and debris by fast-ing individuals before or during the early part of the Green Corn Ceremony. Outside of the dance area, are four brush arbors, set in four cardinal directions, to form a square. Each of these is assigned to representatives of one of the Tribes of the Four Mothers Society (see below). Camp houses may be located beyond the arbors for family to prepare food.

At the Green Corn Ceremony, dances are usually done in parts of four, and proceed counter-clockwise around the fire. Through the night, new callers arise to lead dances until the sun comes up. Two early commentators / participants, stated that the dances used by the Choctaw were basically the same as those of the Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw (Cherry 1937:382; Wright 1937:377). One writer has succinctly drawn together how practitioners view all of the above: “Southeastern People believe that the Stomp Dance grounds is analogous to a church, the songs being prayers, and that those prayers travel with the smoke up to the Creator” (Sharp 2007:3).

In the past, it appears that at least some Choctaw communities made their laws during the Green Corn Ceremony, and that leaders preached to their people about appropriate moral conduct (Swanton 2001:225-226). Many of the Tribes that host equivalents of the Green Corn Ceremony ex-

tinguish all of the fires in camp during the event. After rekindling the fire at the center of the Dance Ground, practitioners use its coals to re-light all of the other fires, focusing on forgiveness and renewal. That the same practice was followed by at least some Choctaw communities in the past may be evidenced in Hashi Luak Musholi, the name of a summer month in the Traditional Choctaw calendar, which means “fires extinguished” (Byington 1915:146-147).

In the late 1800s, at the same time Cherry was participating in the Green Corn Ceremony described above, traditional Choctaw people were facing increasingly forceful pressure to assimilate into surrounding Euro-American society. Seeking support, some Choctaw traditionalists joined with their counterparts in the Cherokee, Creek/Seminole, and Chickasaw Tribes to organize the Four Mothers Society. The purpose of the society was to hold onto traditional Tribal lifeways and values, expressed in part through the Green Corn Ceremony. At roughly the same time, Choctaw communities residing in Mississippi and Louisiana were also holding onto their traditional dances and Dance Grounds. However, by the early 1900s, the Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony largely fades from written reference, with one exception.

This community was made up of a group of Choctaws who left Meridian, MS on December 14, 1902. They were lead by James, Arnold, a resident of Ardmore, who, through deception, intended to sell them as slaves once they reached Oklahoma. That winter, 10 of these Choctaw people died as a result of mistreatment. An ensuing investigation by the Department of the Interior freed the survivors and saw them given land allotments near Ardmore (Levine 1993:393-394). This community opened the Yellow Hills Dance Ground, which remained active until 1937.

In 1951, Murial Wright, herself a Choctaw, wrote, “Choctaw tribal dances are no longer held in Oklahoma” (Wright 1951:118). However, beginning in the 1970s, elders who had participated at Yellow Hills Dance Ground formed the Choctaw-Chickasaw Heritage Committee and revitalized many of the old dance styles that they had enjoyed as youths. At roughly the same time, similar initiatives to revitalize Choctaw traditional dances were underway near Idabel, OK, and Philadelphia, MS (Howard and Levine 1990:15). Through this, traditional Choctaw dances were taken out their original contexts of the Green Corn Ceremony, or the stickball game, or the celebration at the return of a war party, and transformed into social dances that publicly express Choctaw identity in an ethnically mixed society. All of this has given rise to the Choctaw

Social Dances seen today during the Labor Day Festival and other Tribal events.

Today, like the traditional dances, the Choctaw Green Corn Ceremony continues to exist. In 2007, after a 70-year hiatus, a new Choctaw Dance Ground was opened on the Tuskahoma Council House Grounds. Choctaw people and members of other Tribes regularly meet there for Stomp Dances, feasts, and other traditional gatherings.

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1990 Choctaw Music and Dance. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

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1937 Interview published in Indian-Pioneer Papers. University of Oklahoma Western History Collections. Vol. 19:377-382.

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1951 Guide to Indian Tribes of Oklahoma. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Traditional Choctaw Pottery

Class times and locations:

Durant (5:30-9:30 pm, Free Fair Grounds)
March 7, March 21, April 4

Poteau (5:00-9:30 pm, Choctaw Field Office)
March 8, March 22, April 5

Idabel (12:30-4:30 pm, Choctaw Community Center)
March 9, March 23, April 6

Atoka (5:00-9:00 pm, Choctaw Community Center)
March 4, March 18, April 8

Ada (6:30-9:30 pm, Mitchell Memorial Church)
March 11

We will also be taking a field trip to view the display on Choctaw pottery at the Oklahoma History Center on March 13. For questions, please call 580-775-0914.



Geraldine Isabell, Jeanne Coley, Helga Boerner

Senior Bingo

Senior citizens gathered Feb. 25 to play Bingo for the last time in the sprung structure in Durant.

Development plans for the Resort Casino are a work in progress and will include an area that is suitable for Bingo to resume. This will be accomplished in stages. The next Senior Bingo Appreciation Day is scheduled for May 13 at the Event Center.



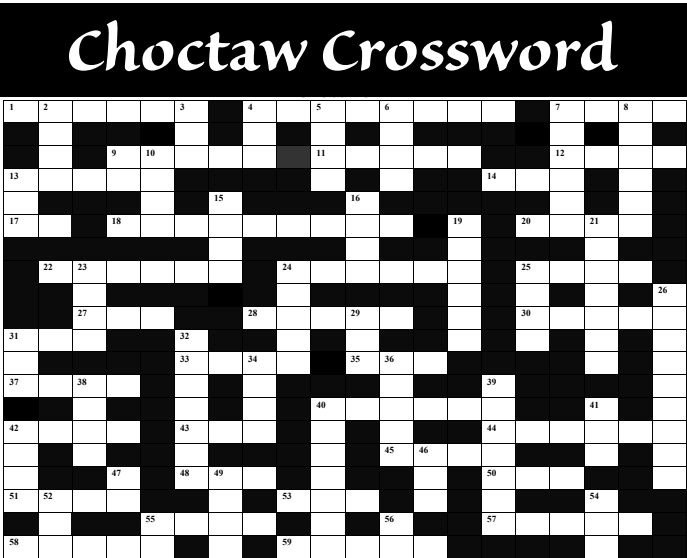
Ruth Polk



Lizzie Carney



Thurman Hudson and Iona Parker



English to Choctaw

Across:

- Long ago
- Small
- Put on
- Glass, mirror
- This way, thus
- To be hidden
- Only
- To go to, to reach
- Perhaps
- Tail
- Lo, behold
- Rabbit
- Hole
- Skunk
- That
- Dig, scratch
- Very
- Deer
- Road
- Potato
- To get
- Dipped up
- Think
- Dog
- Where
- To quit
- Foot
- Past tense
- To say
- Owl
- Black
- Out, outside
- Land
- Come, coming

Down:

- Ice
- His/hers
- To be with
- No
- Complete
- Return
- (to stop, plug
- Sign of 1st person singular
- Light
- Creek
- Meat
- Offspring
- About
- How many
- Bitter, sour
- Fox
- Quail
- Peach tree
- Burn
- Tree
- To go through
- Fish
- Catch
- To Boil
- Said
- Hopping, jumping
- Fat
- Reside
- Noise when hitting solid substance
- We
- Leper
- Conjunction, used to connect two verbs
- Sign of future
- I, me
- The

Answer in next issue

*Source for spelling of Choctaw words is from the Choctaw Dictionary by Cyrus Byington