



Choctaw Heritage Day activities

Page 5



Continuing publication of recorded interviews of Choctaw elders from 2007

This month – Aline Ward
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'Beef 4 Battle' contribution

Page 15

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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

March 2012 Issue

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations file motion for partial summary judgment in water suit

Attorneys for the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nation have filed a motion for partial summary judgment in the federal court case filed in August 2011 to protect the tribes' water rights in their shared treaty territory. A motion for summary judgment is a common tool used in complex litigation to help the parties refine the issues for resolution.

According to tribal attorneys, this motion for summary judgment is an appropriate step at this time which will help clarify the issues and protect the current legal process.

Attorneys for the State defendants filed a motion Feb. 10 requesting the State Supreme Court to assume



Chickasaw Nation
GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY



Choctaw Nation
CHIEF GREGORY E. PYLE

original jurisdiction over general stream adjudication.

The motion for summary judgment

"In filing their stream adjudication, the State defendants are working on the assumption that the

ment will ask the court to rule, as a matter of law that Oklahoma's stream adjudication statutes do not satisfy federal law standards or otherwise reach the dispositive federal questions presented in the Nations' lawsuit.

Oklahoma Water Resources Board has full authority over water rights under State and federal law," said Burrage. "We do not think the law supports them, and we believe the parties ought to focus on the forum we're already in—the only one that has jurisdiction over the appropriate issues. Filing a second lawsuit will only delay resolution without answering the appropriate legal questions."

The tribal nations have further indicated that the adjudication is unnecessary and unwise since their federal court claims do not disrupt any existing use of water pursuant to a valid permit.

"While the State has said that it filed this second action in order to protect Oklahomans in their current water rights, that just isn't true," said Burrage. "The nations' complaint on file with the court expressly states that the nations' claims do not disturb existing uses of water pursuant to valid permits. If those rights are off the table, then there is no legitimate reason for the state to sue its own citizens in a stream adjudication."

The tribes' motion seeks a ruling on two other specific issues the attorneys say may expedite resolution of the case.

See WATER Page 9

Tribal Council meets in regular January session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Feb. 11 at Tushka Homma, welcoming several Youth Advisory Board members and Youth Empowerment staff to the meeting. As members of YAB, the youth attend a tribal council, city council and school board meeting every year. YAB chapters represented at the meeting included Howe, Soper, Antlers, McAlester, Pittsburg County, McCurtain County, Bhattiest, Hugo and Boswell.

A committee report presented by Councilman Tony Messenger explained that the Youth Advisory Board is a program funded 100 percent by the tribe with 402 students from the eighth through 12th grades participating in YAB in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. The program is helping develop leaders of tomorrow by challenging youth to set goals and become involved in the community.

Messenger also discussed concerns about reports of increased bullying among fifth- through eighth-graders. He suggested raising awareness among the senior citizens at the centers by teaching them the signs of bullying so they would be able to recognize any changes in their grandchildren's behavior.

Council members approved four items on the agenda, including:

- an application to the U.S. Department of Education for Demonstration Grants for the Indian Children Program;
- an application for Native American Library Grant, and
- modification of the 20-Year Long-Range Transportation Plan.

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

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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.

Cultural experience awaits 2012 Okla Chahta Gathering visitors

By LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaws from Oklahoma and California are joining efforts to provide a cultural experience for everyone attending the 2012 Okla Chahta Gathering in Bakersfield. Participants of the two-day event will have a great opportunity to learn many of the traditions of the tribe.

"The Assistant Chief, Council members and I are looking forward to sharing the heritage with our family of Choctaws on the west coast," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "There has been a surge in interest in the history and way of life of our ancestors. Students are becoming teachers, traditions are being passed down and our tribe's future is brighter than ever."

The Okla Chahta Gathering will be May 5-6 on the practice field at Bakersfield College. Opening ceremonies begin at 9:30 a.m. on May 5 with the Choctaw Color Guard posting the colors for the United States and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. All veterans are invited to join the entry, following the Color Guard into the circle and

carrying the official flags of each of the military branches.

This year, staff will be adorned in the bright colors of Choctaw traditional clothing and will have a wide array of pottery, basketry, tools, stickball sticks and balls, art and beaded jewelry on display. The Choctaw Nation Museum is supplying small exhibits and there will be information on language classes for all who are interested.

Author Tim Tingle will be on hand to entertain the audience with memorable stories, often accompanying the narratives with his flute or drum. Tingle's devotion to collecting and sharing tribal stories has been a vital contribution to maintaining not only Choctaw history but also its language. Members of the California Choctaw Youth Association will bring one of Tingle's stories to life, acting it out as he tells it to the audience.

The Cultural Services department is scheduling make-and-take sessions for all ages to craft a traditional item to take home with them. There will also be demonstrations on making Choctaw beadwork, baskets and pottery.

See OKLA CHAHTA Page 15



Photo provided

Diana Ben and Joey Tom collect river cane to be used for creating Choctaw basketry.

Choctaw cultural arts exchange begins with basketry workshop

By RYAN L. SPRING
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

In January, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Institute of Chahta Immi (ICI) invited the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to participate in a cultural arts workshop on Choctaw river cane basketry. Ten students from Cultural Services, Social Services and from the community were selected to attend on behalf of the Choctaw Nation.

On Jan. 15 the group headed down to Philadelphia, Miss., excited about the upcoming week. ICI brought together 11 basket weavers from five Mississippi Choctaw communities to teach the art and the history of

See BASKETRY Page 5



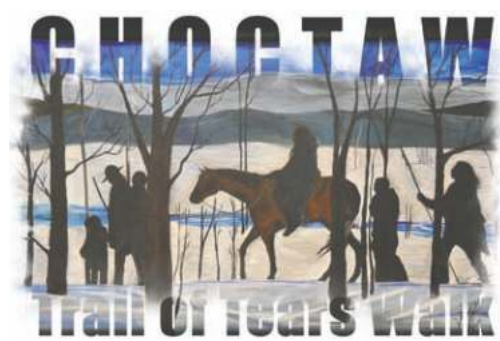
Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Choctaw Nation holds 20th annual Livestock Show

Kody Silas of Tecumseh wins Sr. Showmanship Feb. 5 at the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show in Durant. This is the 20th year for the annual livestock show. Choctaw youth from across the state bring their animals to the two-day show at either Wilburton or Durant.

■ Livestock Show results and photos on Pages 10-13

Walk to honor our ancestors



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the Tribal Council would like to invite you to attend the 2012 Trail of Tears Walk to honor our ancestors who made the long journey from Mississippi over 180 years ago. Each year the Choctaw Nation holds the walk draws more and more people who want to pay tribute to the hardships endured by those who came before us.

This year's commemorative walk will be at 10 a.m. on May 19 in Tushka Homma.

Please arrive early to park on the Capitol Grounds. Buses will transport everyone to the site of the be-

ginning of the walk. A free lunch will be served to all who join us on this special day.

Artwork: Jane Semple Umsted's "Trail of Tears Night Journey"

**Saturday,
May 19
at 10 a.m.
Tribal Capitol Grounds
Tushka Homma**

■ See Page 15 for T-shirt order form

Long-standing tribal traditions shape achievements of today

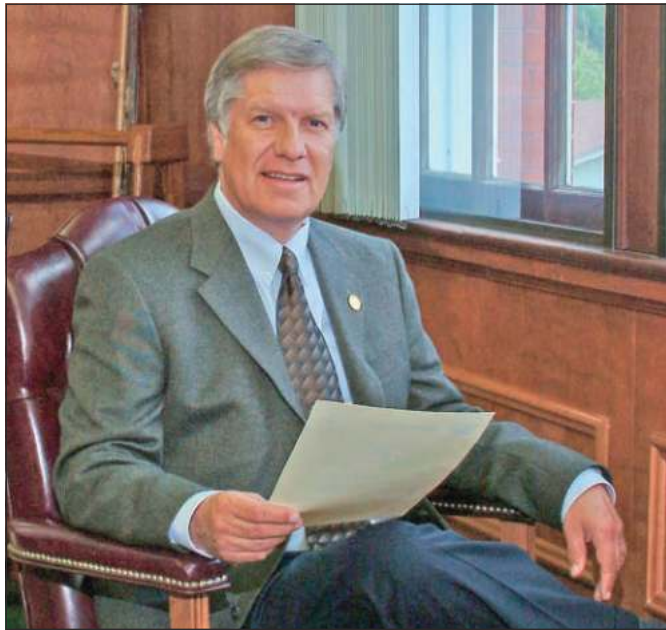
From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The multi-faceted culture of the Choctaw Nation is reflected in more than the traditional clothing or beadwork we wear. It is deeply rooted in what we hold dear – our families, our strengths and our sheer ability to bounce back from adversity.

The annual Trail of Tears commemorative walk is a couple of months away. We set the day aside to honor our ancestors who were removed from Mississippi in 1831. Our trek over a few miles cannot compare to their journey through extreme weather conditions, carrying what few belongings they were allowed to bring with them. The survivors built homes, developed communities, churches and schools. They weathered more than the seasonal climate in the new land. They persevered through economic hardships and prejudices. The foundation they laid supports us today.

We believe that preparing our youth will give them the foundation they need to carry on the legacy.

Many of the services benefitting our young people are federally funded and require strict adherence to grant regulations. The foresight, hard work and dedication of our staff help keep these grants coming in. A lot of the federal funds, though, have been cut for several programs in recent years and the tribe has been fortunate to have the resources to continue the programs, partially or in some cases have taken over 100 percent of the funding to ensure the services are still available to tribal mem-



bers.

One example is the Workforce Investment Act, a job-training program for youth 14 to 21 years of age. The government pays for approximately 65 participants. The Choctaw Nation accepts applications and provides workplaces for 1,400 during the summer. Most of them return every year and often continue working with the department or business on a part- or full-time

basis after graduation.

Youth Outreach was established seven years ago and is totally funded by the Choctaw Nation. The program helps young Choctaw students find solutions to many of the trials they may face during their adolescent and teen years. It also assists them in setting goals to become successful in life.

The Youth Advisory Board was developed for students in the eighth through 12th grades in our 10-1/2 counties. There are more than 400 students involved in YAB this year. The group of young leaders has become very visible in our area. They donate their time to assist at events in communities throughout southeastern Oklahoma, and they promote prevention of domestic violence, underage drinking, tobacco and drug abuse, and bullying.

The Choctaw Nation Cultural Services Department has found many ways to reach out to our youth. Twenty-three summer camps are held for students who are interested in golf, softball, baseball, basketball, football and cultural enrichment. They have added a new one this year for stickball and open the camps to kids from 8 to 18 years of age. During the rest of the year, they visit schools, civic organizations and various events where they teach about our history, hold classes on pottery, beading, making moccasins and weaving baskets.

These are just a few of the many ways the Choctaw Nation has taken strides to make a difference in the well being of our youth. While thinking about the tribe's vision for the next 100 years, I can't help but look back at where we have been and realize that we have our long-standing traditions to thank for our achievements. I would like to encourage everyone to spend time teaching their children and grandchildren about our heritage. There are multiple resources on the websites Choctaw-Nation.com or ChoctawNationCulture.com. I often hear the phrase, "Our future is in their hands." It is up to us to hand them the knowledge they need.



From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

It's common for people to focus on healthy lifestyles as a new year rolls around. We make promises to ourselves to eat healthier and exercise more. I am proud of the efforts made within the Choctaw Nation to educate and encourage healthy lifestyles year-round.

Our elders have been among the most faithful in creating and maintaining healthy habits. The community centers are equipped with a treadmill or stationary bike and they have formed groups who meet at least once a week for a workout. Some of the centers have fun and unique ways to get up and moving. At Crowder, the seniors are line dancing experts and a favorite at Spiro is bowling with the help of a Wii®. Seventy-two senior citizens competed in a walkathon finale hosted by the Hugo Wellness Center last month. The men and women, some in their 80s, committed to the Walkathon Fitness Challenge in September and have been logging their walking and

other activities at their respective community centers.

An average of 45 senior citizens a day use the exercise equipment at each of the wellness centers in Hugo and Durant as well as participating in nutrition classes.

Diabetes is a major health concern for Native American adults who are 2.6 times more likely to develop the disease. There has been a dramatic increase of diabetes in our children. Even more alarming is the fact that heart disease is the number one killer of Native Americans.

Several services have combined efforts to hold a health fair at each of the community centers. This is something the tribe does on an annual basis. Booths are set up to check blood pressure and blood sugar so that any warning signs can be caught before it's too late. The seniors are given information on heart disease, diabetes, general health care and social services.

We need to think not only of the longevity of life but the quality of life during the time we have. Making the right choices now can help us enjoy the years ahead.

Chaplain's Corner

Preparing for eternity

Akana fehna ma! Halito! Yakoke! My dear friend, hello and thank you for your prayers. May God bless you.

Our lesson today is taken from Luke 16:19-31. The Bible indicates that this life is only a period, a brief period preparing us for eternity. And it is strange that millions are living only for today, with very little thought about the future life.

God's Word has a great deal to say about the future. One is the terrifying subject of Hell.

In the record of the rich man in Luke 16, we have the example of a man who chose to disregard God's law and lived to regret it in a place that Jesus called Hell. Jesus was trying to picture what would happen if you left God out of your plans, because He will bring judgment in the life to come.

Notice that this man was rich. We read in verse 22 of Luke 16: "...The rich man also died, and was buried."

God does not condemn men because they are rich, nor does He justify a man because he is poor. Poverty is not a virtue, nor are riches in themselves sin.

The alter of God is where kings and the poor meet. There are no rich nor poor in Heaven. The rich man must put his riches upon the alter and the poor man must put his desires and wants upon the alter and with one voice then cry, "Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling."

Some of the finest Christians are men of means, but their bank accounts, like their lives, are consecrated wholly to God. But the rich man of whom Jesus spoke, lived selfishly.

Those who lived for themselves will some day find themselves alone, and this man eventually found himself forsaken by the God he had ignored and his friends whom he neglected. Money with all of its advantages cannot buy everything. This rich man died and all of his wealth could not buy one more precious hour of life.

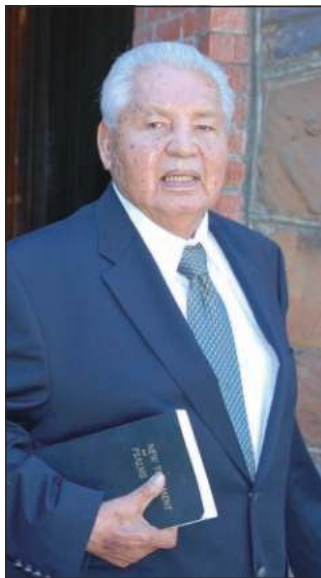
Think of the things that cannot be bought with money. It cannot buy health, friends, love or peace of heart and mind. I cannot buy peace of soul. We come to the conclusion then, that money in its self is not worthy of the importance that people place upon it.

Notice the place to which the rich man was condemned. We read in Luke 16 verse 23 where Jesus said: "And in Hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

I find no pleasure in knowledge of the fact of Hell, but I find it in my solemn duty to remind you that the same book, the Bible, that proclaims the wonders of Heaven also describes the terrors of eternal separation from God.

The rich man carried all of his faculties with him when he went to Hell. He saw, he felt, he heard, he remembered, and he cried.

A million years from today, for eternity you will still be liv-



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

ing somewhere. The immaterial part of man, your memory, your hearing, your feeling, your sight, your taste, will be living somewhere forever according to the teaching of the Bible.

It is reasonable to believe that God the father would send His only begotten Son to leave Heaven's glory, to come to this earth, to become man, to be mocked by an insane mob, to be spit upon by the rude rebels, to be nailed to the cross and to die shamefully upon the cross if there were no danger of your soul being lost and going to Hell?

There are many people who feel that sermons on Hell are intended to frighten the lost into accepting Jesus Christ. This is not my motive, this is what the Bible teaches. If our Lord Jesus Christ mentioned it over and over it is important enough for me to mention. I would not be worthy of the name, a minister of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, if I failed to declare the whole counsel of God, and this counsel includes the judgment of sin in a future life.

Others claim that the doctrine of Hell is old-fashioned and out of date. When it becomes old-fashioned and out of date to warn men to flee from a burning building, when it becomes old-fashioned and out of date to warn men to barricade their homes against the hurricane, when it becomes old-fashioned and out of date to warn men of the dangers of cancer, tuberculosis and AIDS, I will continue to stand on the Word of God and warn men to flee from the wrath of God.

Notice how the rich man was punished, "in Hell," and, "He lifted up his eyes, being in torments." (Luke 16:23) It took the torments of Hell to turn this rich man's thoughts toward others.

What will people endure in the service of Satan and sin? See the drunkard with his puffed face and reddened eyes. See him descending down the social ladder in spite of the prayers of friends and loved ones and the faithful convicting plea of the Holy Spirit. It is strange that men will go on in sin and be bound by its chains and not turn towards God.

The rich man had the torment of memory. We read in Luke 16:25, "But Abraham said, Son, remember that in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."

The memory of past deeds has driven the most confirmed criminals to confess. The haunting memory of hidden sin has caused the minds to snap and strong intellects to be broken.

The agonizing memory of Lazarus the beggar, at his gate, his outreached hand cupped for a morsel of food, and the condemning memory of his own selfishness and refusal to share even the crumbs which fell from his table, added to the Hell of his torment.

You are going to remember the time that you drove by the church. You are going to remember the Bibles you saw but did not read. You are going to remember the times and the opportunities that you had to pray but you did not pray. You are going to remember the evangelistic meetings you went by when you could have gone and given your life to God.

You are going to remember the times the Spirit of God spoke to you in the quietness of your heart, but you didn't turn to God.

Notice, the rich man had the torment of thirst. "Cool my tongue," he said, "for I am tormented in this flame." (Luke 6:24).

"Is there literal fire in Hell?" you ask. I answer by reminding you that these are the words of Jesus. Jesus said, "in this flame."

This brings us to the last torment of separation in Luke 16:26: "And beside all this, between us and you, there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot, neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

Sin separates God from man. It was man's sin in the beginning which created a gulf of separation between God and man.

But Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the supreme act of atonement fashioned a bridge over the impassable gulf of separation, and reconciled God and man. The bridge was in the form of a cross and every man who comes to God must come by the way of the cross.

All of those who fail to bridge the gulf of separation remain apart from God and by rejection they make the death of Christ of none effect.

It cannot be said that God sends a man to Hell. God has brought power of His omnipotence and wisdom of it into play to make the redemption of humanity full and complete. He has sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross. Besides all this, He has sent the third Person of Godhead, the Holy Spirit, into the world to convict men to trust Jesus Christ as Savior.

God has no alternative in the face of continual rejection of His plan of salvation but to permit the lost soul to go to a burning Hell by his own choosing. God cannot be a just God and do otherwise.

Remember, there is a great gulf fixed. But God has bridged this gulf with the cross of redemption and He bids man to bridge this gulf of separation by accepting Jesus Christ who died on that cross, as his or her personal Savior by faith. Have you received Jesus as your Savior? Have you come across that bridge?

Have you come to the cross and surrendered your heart and your life to Jesus Christ? Are you sure that you are going to escape judgment? Are you sure you are going to escape Hell?

Oh, we are not saved just to escape Hell. We are saved to serve. We are saved to go to Heaven. Yes, but there is this factor too. There is judgment and Hell to come for any sinner who refuses or neglects to repent of his sin and turn to Jesus Christ. Today, you have an opportunity to turn. You have a moment to give your life to Jesus Christ now.

Notice the prayer that the rich man prayed, in Luke 16:24: "... Father Abraham, have mercy on me." His prayer was too late. There are no answered prayers in Hell. When God's day of grace is ended, prayers are of no avail.

The Holy Spirit is present to convict you, to spare you from Hell. I warn you, I challenge you, to receive Jesus Christ so that you will not go to that awful place that Jesus described as Hell.

Perhaps you are standing at the crossroads right now. At this moment you are weighing the possibility of receiving Christ. Receive Him! Trust Him! Right at this moment your life can be transformed.

The Holy Spirit will come into your life and give you power to live for Christ (John 1:12), and then there is the confidence in your soul that if you die, you will be with Him, to live with Him forever and ever.

Not only will He give you everlasting life, but He will give you peace and joy and assurance.

Receive Him now as your personal Savior before it is too late. Pray for America. If I can help you further, write to me: P.O. Box 9, Antlers, OK 74523. I will pray for you.

Choctaw Days to be held in Washington, D.C.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is once again planning an exciting 4-day event at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The event is scheduled for June 20-23 and is focusing on the tribe's great military history.

Highlights will include productions by Southeastern Okla-

homa State University's Theatre Department on the Code Talkers, war dances, stickball and more in the Rasmuson Theater.

Featured artists this year will be Jane Simple Umsted, D.G. Smalling and Theresa Morris.

Watch the Biskinik, ChoctawNation.com and Facebook for more information!

NOTES TO THE NATION

Thank you from Bill

I had a bad experience in your area recently and consequently did not have presence of mind to get names of the ones who were so special in helping. So with a compelling desire to correct that, not knowing who to write but having been a Fourth Estate member for many years, I thought of writing you. I hope this story shows an outsider's views of their great devotion to duty, all were way beyond the call of duty.

It was Jan. 3 when I was returning home after spending the holidays in Garland (near Dallas) with my daughter. My sheltie was with me. Leaving Garland between 7 and 8 a.m., we were in the area a little north of Caney when I dozed off. I was jarred awake when the tires hit the rough warning strip on the edge of the highway. I over-corrected, rolling it over. The car was later listed as "totaled."

The car was on its top and I was hanging, held by the seatbelt, looking at the ceiling. Both side air bags had deployed and held my dog and me in the middle. Fortunately, we only had a few bruises, no broken bones. I was able to release the seatbelt, trying to figure a way out. God definitely had us in His care.

A couple of trucks went by and then I heard someone say, "can you hear me?" I replied, "yes, get me out of here!" He then proceeded to cut through the air bag and I was, with his help, able to exit the car.

Imagine my pleasant surprise when I saw him, a young guy wearing an emergency medical tech uniform. His partner showed up later, the ambulance and the Highway Patrol.

Those two EMT were absolutely superb, and I failed to get their names. The paramedics checked me out, offered to take me to a hospital if I would like, but didn't think it was necessary, nor did I.

There are no words to adequately express how absolutely great all of those people involved were. They displayed the height of perfection and friendliness.

The highway patrolman, from Troop E, was great as well. He gave me a citation, of course, for "inattentive driving" – sure couldn't argue with that. He took my dog and me into the Travel Plaza to await my daughter's arrival from Garland. They really took care of us, wouldn't even let me pay for my coffee and even brought a bowl of water and put it under the table for the dog. They kept checking to see if I was doing all right. The emergency guys were around and were friendly, one's wife and little one showed up for a while.

Again, I regret not getting any names. In my state of mind, I expect it normal under the circumstances. I am taking this chance to write you and say what a great bunch they are and hoping all your area fully realizes how very fortunate you are to have so dedicated, friendly and knowledgeable people operating in your vicinity. Thank you for your consideration and help in passing my thanks and appreciation along to those who, in my opinion, helped with such agility and friendliness.

Bill Burk

Thankful for care package

To Chief Pyle and the wonderful people of the Choctaw Nation, I received your package and you would not believe how it lifted my spirits for so many reasons. It was like a wonderful sign from God.

Mail is always great. It's nice to hear you have mail. Even when I get home, I'll never take junk mail for granted again. I'm from Norman. Even though I've lived in Missouri for many years, Oklahoma is where I am from. So when I saw the post mark from Oklahoma, it was like a little slice of home. Then I saw that it was from the Choctaw Nation, and my son is Choctaw. We have just been disconnected for many years, and it gave me the smallest sign of hope that he is thriving somewhere and doing alright. I know all of that might sound silly, but it works in my head and my heart.

The knife and flashlight came at a very important time. Thank you ever so much. The other goodies were wonderful. Plain water gets old, even when the weather is very hot. I shared my goodies with my team. Thank you so much!

SPC Mary E. Reifsteck

Seeking family members

Howard (Lynn) Taylor, son of Howard and JoAnn Taylor, is seeking any information about his family members. Please contact him at 415-345-8255 or at 765 Geary St. Apt. 108, San Francisco, CA 94109 if you have any information. Thank you.

Lynn Taylor

Events

Hampton Chapel Church singing and dinner

The Hampton Chapel Church will hold its annual singing and wild onion supper on March 17. Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. and singing will start at 7 p.m. Hampton Chapel Church is located two miles east of Spencerville, Okla., and everyone is welcome to attend. Ben Alexander and Edgor Taylor will serve as emcees.

McAlvain family reunion

The 53rd annual McAlvain family reunion will be held June 2-3 in Wister at the activity building on the north side of Lake Wister. The family will be meeting together at 11 a.m. June 2. Lunch will be potluck, the meat portion of the meal will be provided. Each family is encouraged to bring a side dish, drinks and an auction item for both adults and children. On June 3, the family will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Kennedy-McAlvain Cemetery in Wister, and bring lawn chairs.

For more information contact Curtis Pugh at 918-649-4064 or email at curtis@abaptistvoice.com. For Wister Lake State Park cabins, RV, camping information or directions, call 918-655-7212 or 800-654-8240.

32nd annual gospel singing, Tishomingo

The Horn family will host the 32nd annual gospel singing on March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Tishomingo Community Center, across from the Indian Clinic on East 6th Street in Tishomingo. All singers and listeners are welcome. Please bring your lawn chairs, due to limited seating. Concession will be available.

Featured groups include God's Kids from Konawa and The Scotts from Wilburton. If you are a solo, duet, trio or quartet, you are welcome to participate. Admission is free.

ATTENTION Choctaw Artists

If you are interested in participating in a Juried and Judged Choctaw Indian Art Show, let us hear from you!

Please complete the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the show which will be in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma during the annual Labor Day Festivities. Included will be the following categories: Painting, Graphics, Cultural, Sculpture, Jewelry, Pottery, and Basketry. Please complete the form and return it to the address below. Art information packets will be mailed beginning in April.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Artistic Category: _____

You must be at least 17 years old and have a membership card issued by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to participate.

Please return to:

Shelley Garner

Cultural Events

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

PO Box 1210

Durant, OK 74702-1210

For more information, call Shelley Garner at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2377.

OK Choctaw Alliance film screening

The OK Choctaw Alliance will be holding a film screening of Choctaw filmmaker Mark Williams' latest movie, a supernatural thriller entitled "The Unrest," at 7 p.m. on March 24 at the OK Choctaw Alliance building at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City. The movie is about Native American children disappearing from a boarding school 50 years ago. Admission is free and Indian tacos will be served. For more information visit nativeboyproductions.com.

Choctaw language course, Atoka

Community Choctaw Language teacher Ron Scott will be holding Choctaw Language classes every Tuesday, starting March 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Atoka Community Center. For more information, call 580-889-6147. This class is free to the public.

Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

The Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing will be held at 7 p.m. on March 23 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center at 707 Bond St. in Crowder. Al Brown will serve as the master of ceremony with concession available. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tobacco prevention conference

The 5th Annual Preparing for the 7th Generation: The Journey Continues tobacco conference will be held April 17-19 at the Reed Center in Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Teresa Davis at 918-567-7000 ext. 6044.

ONASA Indian State Basketball Tourney

The first annual ONASA Men and Women's Indian State Basketball Tournament will be held March 23-25 in Oklahoma City in the OKC Metro Area gyms. Team entry fee is \$200, absolutely no personal checks, and teams must show CDIBs. The deadline to apply is March 13.

The first place-winning team will earn jackets and a trophy, second place will receive hoodies and a trophy, third place will receive long-sleeved shirts and a trophy, and fourth place will get T-shirts and a trophy. Five all-stars and an MVP will be named and receive awards.

For more information, call Lisa Longman at 405-609-9929 or email at llongman32@gmail.com or lisa.smith-longman@tinker.af.mil, or Roland Roberts at 405-395-7434.



Caddo Junior High girls, undefeated

The Caddo Junior High girls basketball team posted a perfect season with a record of 20-0. They also earned first place championship plaques from the Bryan County Junior High Tournament, Milburn Junior High Tournament and Stringtown Junior High Tournament.

Pictured with Coach Vernon Johnson are Juana Fain, Jessi Price, Maddie Graves, Ericka Behrens, Emily Rard, Jenna Hodge, Dominique Haugen, Allison Adair, Charlsie Grace and Macey Ross.

USDA invites minority producers to join minority farm register

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) invites minority farmers and ranchers who are members of the Choctaw Nation and others across the nation to voluntarily join the USDA Minority Farm Register to receive information and opportunities from USDA agencies. The new Minority Farm Register is an outreach tool to reach underserved farmers and ranchers who are not currently enrolled in USDA loan, farm or conservation programs. The Register is a shared outreach list that will help USDA, community-based organizations and minority-serving educational institutions to communicate with minority farmers and ranchers.

By joining the register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters, and program announcements from USDA agencies. They may also receive information and assistance from other USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will carefully control access to and use of the register.

Individuals wishing to join the register must sign and date a form that provides their name and address. Providing phone numbers, e-mail address, race, ethnicity, gender and farm or ranch location will be voluntary, although the additional information increases the producer's opportunities for receiving timely assistance.

The register pamphlet with the registration form is available at any USDA Service Center located or from approved USDA outreach partners. Completed forms may be mailed to: USDA Minority Farm Register, USDA Stop Code 0503, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250.

FSA and USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach are jointly administering the Register. Registration forms are available in Spanish (AD-2035SP) and English (AD-2035) on the FSA web site (www.fsa.usda.gov) under "Forms". An individual may remove his or her name from the register by writing to the Minority Farm Register, USDA Stop Code 0503, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250. For more information, please contact the Farm Service Agency, STOP 0503, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0503 (Call 1-866-538-2610; Fax: 1-866-302-1760; E-mail: MSDA@USDA.gov).

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The BISKINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISKINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive.

If you are receiving more than one BISKINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

Circulation is monthly. Article deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.

Editor's note: Views and opinions in reader-submitted articles are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Choctaw Nation.



BISKINIK 2012

Food, Nutrition and Health tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your bowl. Foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and lean protein foods contain the nutrients you need without too many calories. Over the day, include foods from all the food groups. Try the following tips to "Get Your Plate in Shape."

Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.

Eat a variety of vegetables, especially dark-green, red and orange vegetables plus beans and peas. Fresh, frozen and canned vegetables all count. Choose "reduced sodium" or "no-salt-added" canned vegetables. Add fruit to meals and snacks. Buy fruits that are dried, frozen or canned in water or 100 percent juice, as well as fresh fruits.

Make at least half your grains whole.

Choose 100 percent whole-grain breads, cereals, crackers, pasta and brown rice. Check the ingredients list on food packages to find whole-grain foods.

Switch to fat-free or low-fat milk.

Fat-free and low-fat milk have the same amount of calcium and other essential nutrients as whole milk, but less fat and calories. If you are lactose intolerant, try lactose-free milk or a calcium-fortified soy beverage.

Vary your protein choices.

Eat a variety of foods from the protein food group each week, such as seafood, nuts and beans, as well as lean meat, poultry and eggs. Twice a week, make seafood the protein on your plate. Keep meat and poultry portions small and lean.

Cut back on sodium and empty calories from solid fats and added sugars.

Drink water instead of sugary drinks. Select fruit for dessert. Eat sugary desserts less often. Choose 100 percent fruit juice instead of fruit-flavored drinks. Look out for salt (sodium) in foods you buy.

WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Compare sodium in foods and choose those with lower numbers. Add spices or herbs to season food without adding salt. Make major sources of saturated fats such as desserts, pizza, cheese, sausages and hot dogs occasional choices, not every day foods. Select lean cuts of meat or poultry and fat-free or low-fat milk, yogurt and cheese. Switch from solid fats to oils when preparing food.

Enjoy your food but eat less.

Get your personal daily calorie limit at www.ChooseMyPlate.gov. Keep that number in mind when deciding what to eat. Avoid oversized portions. Use a smaller plate, bowl and glass. Cook more often at home, where you are in control of what's in your food. When eating out, choose lower calorie menu options. Choose dishes that include vegetables, fruits and whole grains. Write down what you eat to keep track of how much you eat. If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so sensibly. Limit to one drink a day for women or to two drinks a day for men.

Be physically active your way.

Pick activities that you like and start by doing what you can, at least 10 minutes at a time. Every bit adds up and health benefits increase as you spend more time being active.

Children and teens: Get 60 minutes or more a day.

Adults: Get 2 hours and 30 minutes or more a week of activity that requires moderate effort such as brisk walking.

Find more healthy eating tips at:

- www.eatright.org
- www.kidseatright.org
- www.ChooseMyPlate.gov

For a referral to a registered dietitian and for additional food and nutrition information visit www.eatright.org.

NURSERY NEWS

Reid Wilson

Reid Aaron Wilson was born Jan. 4, 2012. He weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 19.25 inches long. Reid's parents are Jeffry and Natalie Wilson of Owasso. His grandparents are Donald and Nita Wilson of Locust Grove, and his great-grandparents are the late Virginia and Ray Wilson of Idabel.



Maxime Ferguson

Maxime Alexander Ferguson was born Aug. 29, 2011, in Montpellier, France. He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces. His parents are Matthew Lee Ferguson and Diana Arsenieva, who currently live in Bethesda, Md. Max's paternal grandparents are Professor Gary Wright and Janna Kay Moseley Ferguson of Fort Worth, Texas. His maternal grandparents are Natalia Starovoitova and Professor Alexander Arseniev of Moscow, Russia. His paternal great-grandparents are Eugene Douglas Moseley and the late Anna Josephine Lee Moseley.



Zachary Knight

Zachary Chase Knight was born at 6:01 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2012. He weighed 8 pounds and 14 ounces, and measured 19 inches. His parents are R.T. Knight and Rebekah Hicks. Grandparents are David M. and Tonia Knight of Durant, Lynda Page and Jack Shroger of Moore, Ronald Thompson of Washington, and Deloyd and Ironda Hicks of Achille. His great-great-grandmother is Julia Knight of Stillwater.



Savanna Murphy

Savanna Leigh Murphy was born at 8:21 p.m. on Jan. 18, 2012, at the Seton Williamson Medical Center in Round Rock, Texas, to Spencer P. Murphy and Samantha N. Wiseman. She weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces and measured 20 inches. Her sister is ReBecca Lynn Murphy. She was having breathing problems and sent straight to the NICU at Dell Children's Medical Center. She made a full recovery and was released on Feb. 5, 2012, to go home with her parents.



Ikkana Taylor

Ikkana Taylor was born at 9:31 p.m. on Jan. 30, 2012, at Durant Hospital to Byington and Megan Taylor. Grandparents are Rubye Taylor from Calera; Sandy Hise from Durant, and Phillip Hise from New Mexico; great-grandparents are Roy and Rose Rogers from Kingston; brothers are Clay Still-Taylor and Brayson Watts-Taylor.



Brielle Gardner

Brielle Rose Gardner was born on Dec. 21, 2011, in Ada to Rebecca Ardery and Daniel Charles Buck Gardner. She weighed 6 pounds and 4 ounces, and measured 19.5 inches long. Her paternal grandparents are Clark Buck Gardner Jr. of Norman and Kelly Townsend Dickerson of Poolville. Maternal grandparents are Robb and Benita Ardery of Byars. Great-grandparents are Barbara Townsend and the late Charles Townsend of Wayne, and Maxine Gardner and the late Clark Buck Gardner of Purcell.



Isabel Crow

Isabel Fay Crow was born at 3:23 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2012, at the Talihina hospital. She weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces, and was 19.2 inches long. Her parents are Paul and Sarah Crow of Sobol. She has an older sister, Abigail Crow, and is the granddaughter of Lyndon and Alice Crow of Sobol, and Karen Webb of Valliant. Great-grandparents are Gale and Pat Crow of Broken Bow, Versa Crow of Sobol, and Dale and Patricia Webb of Houston, Miss.



Madelynn Racho

Madelynn Jesselle Racho was born on Dec. 27, 2011, in Stockton, Calif. She weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and measured 19 inches. Her proud parents are Nick and Deanna Racho; grandparents are Teddy and Sharan Racho; late grandparents include Teddy Racho and Janie Woods Racho.

Zephyr Honens

Zephyr Devereaux Honens was born at 4:28 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2011, in Dana Point, Calif., to proud parents, Alexis Athena and William David Hones of Dana Point. He weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. His grandparents are Dawn Hancock and Charles Williams of Florida, as well as Mary Honens of California, who all feel very blessed to welcome Zephyr into the world.



Vivica Jefferson

Vivica Keeann Jefferson was born on Jan. 5, 2012, in Talihina, weighing 9 pounds and 12 ounces. Her parents are Victor Jefferson and Patty Baker. Grandparents are Vicky Bailey and Gregory Johnson. Great-grandparents are Truman and Bertha Jefferson, Melton and Rosa Baker, and Henry and Betty Johnson, all of Idabel.



Recipe of the Month

Lemon Rosemary Zucchini

Featured in the revised edition of The New American Plate

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium yellow bell pepper, diced
- 2 tsp. finely minced fresh rosemary
- 2 cups chopped zucchini
- 1-3 tsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice, or to taste
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

In medium non-stick skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add yellow pepper and rosemary and sauté

two minutes. Add zucchini and salt and pepper, to taste. Continue to sauté for another four to five minutes or until zucchini is just tender. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice.

Nutrition Facts: 46 calories, 3 g total fat, <1 g saturated fat, 4 g carbohydrate, 1 g protein, 1 g dietary fiber, 6 mg sodium.

For more information you may contact: Erin Adams, RD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026 ext. 6959.

Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

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

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

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

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the SOICA or the Choctaw Revolving Loan Fund, there will be a representative from the Choctaw Nation Credit Department at the McAlester Family Investment Center for assistance on...

March 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Why we conserve energy

Every year, many industrialized countries around the world use more energy than they did the year before. Some experts say that the total amount of energy Americans use doubles every 20 years. One of the biggest problems is that a lot of this energy is wasted.

There are many reasons why we need to conserve, or use less electricity. First of all, if we conserve electricity, we save money because electricity costs money. If

you conserve electricity every single day, you can save lots and lots of money over time. You can spend this money on other things that you need and want. Another reason why we need to conserve electricity is because conserving electricity means that we are using less of the earth's non-renewable resources. Non-renewable resources are gone forever once we use them up. Examples are oil, natural gas, uranium, and coal which are used to create electricity. Therefore, wasting electricity is not good for the environment.

Yet another reason that we need to conserve energy is to make up for some of the energy that is wasted due to the fact that a lot of people do not do enough reducing, reusing, and recycling of their garbage. Companies use electricity to produce lots of unnecessary items since many consumers do not use and reuse things as much as they should. Making these products wastes a lot of energy and electricity.

Finally, we need to conserve electricity today in order to help future generations. Energy will be an even bigger problem in the future than it is today. So if kids start learning to use less electricity and to use it wisely today, they will be helping themselves in the future.

CNO Energy Conservation

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays April 2-24.
April 4: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market open)
April 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market open)
Closed April 6 for holiday and 25-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 2 & 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: April 2-24.
Closed April 6 for holiday and 25-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 5 & 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays April 2-24.
Closed April 6 for holiday and 25-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 9 & 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays April 2-24, except for:
Closed April 6 for holiday and 25-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: April 4 & 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.
 Staff 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 Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

BASKETRY

Continued from Page 1

Choctaw basket making.

The teachers took the students out and showed them how to collect the cane. Students learned what size of cane to cut, where to cut, and how much cane should be cut.

After collecting cane the students paired up individually with a teacher and learned to strip the cane for use. The cane was first split

into four sections; each section was then cut into thin strips. Some strips were then boiled in dye to add color to the cane. Once the cane was prepared, the teachers and students chose which size and length cane would be needed for the type of basket they wished to weave. Students were taught how to make tray baskets, egg baskets, fanner baskets, and mats. Each basket incorporated Choctaw designs as well as individual designs that were unique to each teacher.

At the end of the week, ICI and the teachers cooked a wonderful traditional lunch.

Each student was able to sit back and think about what they had accomplished. Choctaw basketry has always been a cornerstone of Choctaw culture. With this skill the students would soon become the teachers.

In exchange for teaching rivercane basketry, ICI has been invited to come to Oklahoma this year to learn Choctaw pottery. This cultural exchange of Choctaw traditional arts is important in revitalizing traditional Choctaw life ways and is a wonderful opportunity for Choctaw people to work together to preserve our culture.



Photo provided

Vangie Robinson cuts a strip of the collected rivercane.



Photo provided

Debbie Damron and Sophia Anderson weave unique Choctaw baskets from strips of rivercane.



Photo provided

Eleanor Chickaway instructs Randy Hammons on weaving rivercane basketry.



Photo provided

Representing the Choctaw Nation at the cultural exchange were, top row from left, Ian Thompson, Joey Tom, Sue Folsom, Randy Hammons, Debbie Damron, and kneeling from left, Ryan L. Spring, Vangie Robinson, Kay Jackson, Valerie Robison and Brian Mooreland.

Heritage Day celebrated by tribal employees and guests



Photo provided

Above, Hugo's Outreach Services' Community Health Representatives Program poses for a group shot during their Heritage Day celebration. They are, back row from left, Janice Twist, Bea Williston, Shirley Anderson, Norma Austin, Priscilla Ward, Consetta LeFlore, Bobbie Frost; middle row from left, LaQuita Lewis, Oma Clay, Margaret McKinney, Brenda James, Carrie Ward, Sue Jefferson, Patricia Ensey, Sherry McGuire, Darlene Noahubi, Michelle Shoemake, Angie James, Tammy Morrison; seated from left, Robin Green, Carol Harris, Becky Pickens, Glenda Parks, Stacy Robertson, and Gloria Battiest.



Above, Seth Fairchild, Vonna Shults, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and Mike Scott join in the Choctaw social dancing on Feb. 6 at the Heritage Day celebration at the tribal complex in Durant.



Brad Joe performs the chants for the social dance lessons at the tribal complex.



Amy Thompson joins in the fun to dance on Heritage Day.

Photos by LARISSA COPELAND | Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Payton Guthrie joins co-workers and guests to take part in the Choctaw dancing at the tribal complex.



Joy Culbreath and Cecilia Armendariz take a break from work to enjoy the festivities.



Photo provided

Celebrating Heritage Monday in Hugo is, from left, Dave Lindly, Britney Jackson, Darcy Wall, Nicole Loper, Jana Boykin, Hannah Bacon, Betty Jackson, Hope Tom, Russell Fincher, Connie Courtwright, Randy Hammons, Brandi Smallwood, Darrell Brown, Keosha Ludlow, Debbie Davenport, Tim Holt, Jennifer Davidson, and Joey Tom.



Seth Fairchild leads employees and guests in the Stealing Partners dance as Presley Byington spins Lana Sleeper in the center of the dance line on Feb. 6 at the tribal complex in Durant.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton catches Gaylin Green during the Raccoon Dance at the Heritage Day dancing at the tribal complex.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Robinson becomes focal point of International Cultural Festival, performs in amphitheater's grand opening in Middle Eastern nation

Contributed by: Macey Baird, Sheridan Public Relations, LLC

Oklahoma Choctaw tribal member Charles Robinson was honored to be selected to participate in an international music show, celebrating the Katara amphitheater grand opening in the Middle Eastern nation of Qatar. For him, it was an opportunity to share the Native American culture on the world stage.

Robinson was chosen by Emir H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to represent his culture during the Dec. 13 opening of the Katara cultural village in Doha. The event corresponded with the commencement of the Doha 2011 United National Alliance of Civilization Forum in the capital of Qatar.

"It was one of the most unique experiences of my life," Robinson said.

Robinson dressed in traditional native regalia for the music show, which included a feathered costume. The ceremony included internationally acclaimed artists from around the world, including India, Italy, Russia, China, Australia and Japan. Headlining the ceremony was Greek composer Vangelis, an Academy Award-winning musician best known for his score for the film, "Chariots of Fire."

"During the dress rehearsal, the prince of Qatar asked the

directors to reposition me as one of the focal points in the ceremony," said Robinson. "I had hundreds of people asking for photos with 'the red Indian.'" I took more pictures at that event than I have in five years."

Robinson graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1990, and his family resides in Boswell and Antlers. He is a board member of O'More College of Design, an elite design college in Franklin, Tenn. He is also the founder of The Red Road, a non-profit organization with a mission to educate students and communities on the history and condition of Native American culture.

Robinson said that the reaction from the dignitary and his fellow world musicians was a humbling experience. "Even the famous composer (Vangelis) pulled me aside backstage to take a picture," he said. "These people were so intrigued by the Native American culture, something that we often take for granted."

Each instrument featured in the world music section



was an easily identifiable instrument to a specific culture. The performance included the Indian sitar, African drums and the Chinese erhu, among others. One particular performer, Perry Yung, a professional maker

of traditional Zen and modern shakuhachi instruments in New York, became friends with Robinson throughout the week-long event. He also noted the attention Robinson garnered in Qatar.

"It was really interesting to see how the Qatari people took to Charles," said Yung. "He looked so exotic with his long hair, beads and earrings. To see a man like Charles walking around uninhibited and free must have seemed so liberating."

As a result of its oil and natural gas exports, Qatar has the highest per capita income in the world. The Katara village is the latest push by the Qatari government to transform the country into an oasis of international culture. Qatar was chosen to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup games, a move that signifies its rising

significance as a tourism hot spot.

"Qatar spent a huge amount just around the grand opening. Twenty million was the number that people were tossing around," said Robinson. "They want to position themselves as a cultural meeting place."

Both Robinson and Yung have performed around the world – Hong Kong, Cairo, Afghanistan, Milan and Istanbul to name a few -- but the pair said that this adventure was unlike any either had experienced.

"It was truly mind blowing," said Yung. "The beauty of Doha, the spectacular Katara amphitheater and the sheer amount of money that went into the event made it so amazing."

The nation of Qatar said that more than 6,000 visitors visit the cultural village each day, despite the fact that it will not be completed for five years. The amphitheater is one of the largest in the Middle East and was home to the 2012 ATP World Tour kick-off in January.

The concert was filmed by Universal Music, and CDs and DVDs of the international show will be for sale at a future date.

For more information about The Red Road, visit theredroad.org. To learn more about O'More College of Design, go to omorecollege.edu.



Happy 65th birthday

Happy 65th birthday to Susan F. (Morris) Franklin on March 19, from all her family: Mary, Farrah, Will, James, Clarrissa, Patricia, Savannah, Andy, Emma and her son, "Hattak Shau." Stay healthy and God bless you!

Amos' celebrate 63 years

Congratulations to Bill and Louise Amos on their 63rd wedding anniversary. They married at DeQueen, Ark., on March 26, 1949. They have two children, Nancy Williams of Edmond, and Mike Amos of Broken Bow, six grandchildren – Justin, Derrick and Zachary Williams of Edmond, and Dayla, Nikki, and Andrew Amos of Broken Bow, and one great-granddaughter, Milena.



Happy birthday, Mercie

Happy first birthday to Mercie Grace Jeffrey on Feb. 21. Her parents are Walt and Maria Jeffrey of Sherman, Texas. Her grandparents are Roger and Dessie Hernandez of Hendrix, Okla., and Mr. and Mrs. Dub Jeffrey of Bells, Texas.



Happy birthday, Savannah

Dianna Lewis would like to wish her "beautiful, sweet and smart" granddaughter, Savannah Jo Whitley, a big happy belated birthday. Savannah turned 8 on Jan. 26. Dianna hopes she had the best day ever.



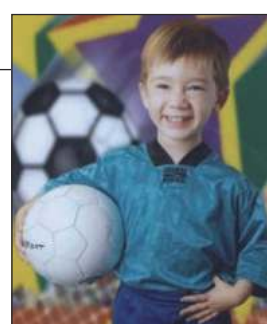
Happy birthday, Robert

Happy birthday to Robert Eldon Morris, who turned 70 years old on Feb. 6. He is very proud of his Choctaw background.



Happy birthday, Gavin

Gavin Morris turned 4 years old on March 7. He loves to play soccer and is a very good player. His parents are Garrett and Erica Morris.



Happy birthday, Drake

Drake Logan Stubbs celebrated his sixth birthday on March 1 with a Batman theme. His parents are Cody and Amber Ward of Hugo and J.D. Stubbs of Boswell. His grandparents are John and Rhoda Stubbs of Boswell, Becky Peters of Hugo and Marc and Mary Payne of Belk, Texas. His aunt is Jackie Stubbs, also of Boswell. Uncles are Cody Peters of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and Canyon Taylor of Hugo. Great-grandparents are John and Georgia Stubbs of Boswell and the late Clem Shawhart of Fort Towson. He celebrated with his brother, Xanden Ward, along with family and friends.



Happy anniversary

Happy anniversary to Bob and Ginel Bartleson. We miss you, from the Heald family.

Happy birthday, J.W.

Happy 8th birthday wishes to J.W. Speakman, from mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, uncles and aunts.



Fab Four attends pow wow

Pictured left to right are Lorie Loman Keel, Dani DiNardo, Debra Belt and Perrin Deal at the 2012 Dreamcatcher Native American Club Pow Wow in Ardmore on Feb. 4. These ladies proudly represent the Choctaw tribe in Chickasaw country. They said it was a good time of fellowship, social dancing and competition for the "Fab Four."

Dakota turns 4

Happy belated birthday to Dakota Lee Thomas Hood, who turned 4 years old on Nov. 3. His parents are Thomas and Christie Hood. Makayla and Caleb are his siblings. His grandparents are Linda and Lee Knight and Kathy and Charles Hood. He celebrated with family and friends on Nov. 5.



Watson sisters celebrate birthdays

Their families want to wish happy birthdays to Heather Watson-Crosby of Watson and Valerie Watson-Wolf of Poteau. They are the daughters of Daisy Watson and the late George R. Watson. Heather is the mother of Javen and Rylan Crosby and married to Phillip Crosby, she celebrates her 25th birthday on March 23. Valerie Watson-Wolf, mother of Cadence Wolf and married to Joseph Wolf, celebrates her 24th birthday on March 21st. They also both have nephews who will celebrate birthdays: Jordan Hodge on March 14 and Cody Rodriguez on March 19.



Happy birthday, anniversary

Gene Mendenhall celebrated his birthday on March 2 and celebrated his 44th anniversary with his wife, Glynda, on March 9. Happy birthday and have a great anniversary, Gene!



Anesa turns 7

Anesa Ray celebrated her seventh birthday on Feb. 11. She is in the first grade at Hoover Elementary. She was also the student of the month in November. She is the daughter of Brianna Ray, and her grandparents are Myron and Cheri Ray, all of Tulsa.



Anastasia to compete in pageant

Miss Anastasia Lynn Adamson, 12, has been selected to return as a state finalist in the National American Miss Oklahoma Pageant to be held June 8-10 at the Marriott Hotel in Tulsa. This will make her third year as a state finalist. She was selected as a state finalist in the 2010 National American Miss Oklahoma Pageant and was awarded four trophies, a crown and sash. She also returned in 2011 and was awarded five trophies, a crown and sash. She is returning this year in hopes of achieving more goals and awards.

She is the daughter of Michael and Shannon Adamson and the granddaughter of John and Diana Hays and Art and Pat Adamson.

The winner of the pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses and air transportation to compete in the National Pageant in California, where she will receive an exciting complimentary tour of Hollywood and two V.I.P. tickets to Disneyland.



Happy anniversary

Jerry Logan, Alex Montgomery, Stephanie Montgomery, Chelsea Logan, Brian Montgomery, Whitney Montgomery and Josiah Canseco, all of Grant, would like to say happy 10th anniversary to mom and dad. From your kids and Jojo.



Mecom promoted

Richard "Rick" Mecom Jr. of Mandeville, La., was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, O-2, U.S. Navy, on Feb. 11 at Joint Reserve Base, Belle Chasse, La. Pictured pinning the honors was Rick's mother, Debbie Mecom, his wife, Michelle, and his father, Richard Mecom Sr., who is retired from the U.S. Navy and a member of the American Legion Post 415 in Mandeville.

Also in attendance were Rick's children, Macy, Alex and Sophie, and sisters, Richelle Mecom and Robin Myers.

Rick completed his B.S. through the Choctaw Education Program. He is currently working on his Ph.D. and was recently notified he made the Dean's list.

Sisters take part in pageant

Courtney, Carley and Kelsey Barnard participated in the Miss Valentine pageant in Farmington, Ark. Courtney was first runner up, Carley and Kelsey both received participant awards. Congratulations, girls!



EDUCATION

Choctaw University provides leadership skills, performance management

By **CHRIS DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is taking further steps to help tribal members by introducing the Choctaw University Leadership Service, a curriculum for tribal employees that provides the tools, skills and up-to-date knowledge necessary to make their positions as leaders within the Choctaw Nation as efficient, effective and applicable as possible.

The official launch of Choctaw U was Jan. 26, 2012, and over 100 people have made the first yearlong commitment to the program.

Over the course of the leadership series, which is organized by the Choctaw Nation Training and Development Department in partnership

with Southeastern Oklahoma State University, employees chosen to participate will receive high-level leadership curriculum through a variety of delivery methods, including face-to-face, video clips, blogs, films, webinars and academic white papers.

“Developing highly skilled, highly qualified workers is the goal of every organization,” said Susan Stockton, Executive Director of Human Resources for the Choctaw Nation.

Choctaw Nation and SOSU have created a partnership with a goal of achieving college credit for the Leadership Series of Choctaw U. “We are enabling our associates to grow into positions across our many business enterprises while helping them complete their college education,” ex-

plained Tana Sanders, Director of Training and Development.

Choctaw U consists of five different levels of curriculum: freshman, for supervisors; sophomore, for managers; junior, for directors and recommended managers; senior, for recommended directors; and master, for executive directors.

The developmental stage, the freshman level, is designed to build supervisory skills through courses in communication, performance management, time management and understanding characteristics of managers and leaders.

The sophomore level is designed to enhance managerial skills. This level plays a crucial role in developing management and leadership skills

through courses in problem solving, intermediate performance management, effective mentoring techniques and conflict management.

The junior level is intended to foster existing practice and explore best practices by studying and researching theories of other organizations. Participants will experience courses in transformational leadership, advanced performance management, methodologies of developing high performance teams and strategic planning.

The senior level exemplifies the effectiveness and characteristics of visionary leaders. Participants will complete courses in visionary leadership, core values, coaching programs and advanced project management.

The master level is de-

signed to illustrate best practice principles and theories that assess and create strategies to assist tribal growth.

Choctaw U is a step-by-step, year-by-year program that provides classroom and experimental learning to leaders at all levels in order to develop their skills and prepare to progress and grow within the organization. The goal of the university is to develop future leaders within the Choctaw Nation with the skills and abilities to lead the tribe on the path of its 100-year vision.

Choctaw Nation sought a distinguished set of high-potential individuals ready to take on tremendous responsibilities and challenges through an application process for tribal employees. Over a 12-month period,

these chosen employees will be provided with an outstanding opportunity to develop strong strategic planning, business development and interpersonal skills.

Choctaw U holds that at the core of the Choctaw Nation is empowerment for the Choctaw people.

“Choctaw University is about more than professional development ... it’s about empowering our associates to advance and succeed in the organization while achieving the dream of higher education,” stated Stockton.

To be successful, tribal employees must operate within the organization on a number of fronts, from business and economic development, to tribal social programs, to inter-tribal sovereignty protection.

Career Expo – “Get Ahead in the Career Race!”

“Get Ahead in the Career Race!” is the theme for the 5th Annual Career Expo. The event will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 4 at the Southeast Expo Center in McAlester. The Career Expo creates an opportunity for job seekers and students to connect with employers and college or training facility representatives at more than 150 booth spaces.

This year’s guest speaker is Aric Bostick, also known as “Mr Enthusiasm.” Aric is one of the most inspiring and sought-after motivators for high school students, college students and adults. He believes that every individual can realize his or her potential and aims to share the essential tools for successful living.

“This is our 5th Annual Career Expo. This year’s event focuses on bringing both training and employment opportunities to our community,” said Kelli Ostman, Career Expo Coordinator. “Many individuals are unaware of the career choices available

to them. We strive to provide both students and adults with the information they need in order to pursue the career of their dreams.”

Hiring representatives will be on site from such businesses as: Enogex, Halliburton, Air Evac, Center Point Energy, Werner Trucking and Choctaw Casinos to name a few. There will also be representatives from colleges and training centers. Some of those attending include: Oklahoma City University, Kiamichi Technology Center, OU, OSU and Southern Nazarene University.

The expo is presented by the Choctaw Nation Career Development Program. Career Development assists tribal members in obtaining high quality career and technology training which leads to industry recognized certifications and licenses. With tribal members in training programs ranging from truck driving, nursing, welding and heavy equipment operation, to name a few, there will

something for everyone at the expo.

The Career Development Program will be introducing its new job board at the event. The new site will be “hirechoctaws.com” and will be a free job search tool allowing local employers to connect with qualified job seekers. Job seekers will have the opportunity to upload resumes and register for the job board at the expo. Employers will be given the chance to post any job openings at the expo as well.

Breakout sessions will also be offered throughout the day. These sessions are free of charge and will bring valuable “getting to work” strategies. Sessions will include: Social Media for Job Searching, Aric Bostick; Awesome 4 Life, Intro to Choctaw Asset Building and Intro to Native American Business Resource Center.

There will be one breakout session geared towards, but not limited to, high school attendees. This session will

cover information on FAFSA, Scholarship Advisement, Career Development, Choctaw Higher Education, Make a Difference and Choctaw Asset Building. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a career exploration scavenger hunt. Upon completion of the scavenger hunt, students will have a chance to win an iPad 2.

Transportation is available to Choctaw tribal members in southeast Oklahoma who make reservations. Members can call Deidre Inselman at 580-920-2260 to reserve seating. Deadline to sign up for transportation is March 23.

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

For more information, or if you would like to participate in this April 4th event, contact Kelli Ostman or Rhonda Mize with Choctaw Nation Career Development at 866-933-2260.



Congratulations to the Choctaw Language class of Pickins, which was taught by Kay Choate. Pictured left to right are Floyd Choate, Kay’s husband; Kay; Richard Adams, Assistant Director of Choctaw Language; and Dora Wikson, Richard’s assistant and the community language instructor in Antlers.



Congratulations to the graduating Choctaw language class in Talihina, taught by Anna Carlile (second from right).



Congratulations to the Choctaw language class in Atoka, who graduated on Feb. 13, and was taught by Ron Scott (second from right).

‘Chronicles of Oklahoma’ features Choctaw author

Dennis Miles, Technical Access and Public Services Librarian for the Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, is a featured author in the Fall 2011 edition of the Chronicles of Oklahoma, the official publication of the Oklahoma Historical Society, which features several scholarly articles on Oklahoma history in each issue.

Miles’ article – “Educate or We Perish; The Armstrong Academy’s History as Part of the Choctaw Educational System” – is an in-depth look at the Armstrong Academy, one of eight boarding schools established by the Choctaw Nation in the 1840s. Armstrong Academy was built to educate Choctaw boys.

The Choctaws of Mississippi placed a heavy emphasis on education. Chief Isaac Garvin, one of the principal chiefs after removal (from Mississippi to Oklahoma) said, “I say educate! Educate! Or we perish!”

In 1863, Armstrong Academy was named the capitol building of the Choctaw Nation. All legislation and other important duties were conducted at the Academy for the next 20 years. In 1883, the Choctaw Council voted to turn it back into a school for boys of the Choctaw Nation.

Miles became involved in 2005-06 when the Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture needed people to write articles on various aspects of Oklahoma history.

“I did some research on all of the Choctaw boarding schools for the Encyclopedia article,” Miles said. “I soon realized that nobody had ever written the entire history of Armstrong Academy. Some had written about the early years. I decided to cover the entire history of the school.

“It was a fun project. I enjoy doing research. The hard part is putting it all together in form to write. I sent my article to the Chronicles in August of 2010. It was accepted a month later and I made the final corrections last fall. It was published in the Fall 2011 issue.”

Miles spent many hours, using vacation time and Christmas breaks. He traveled to Oklahoma University and the Oklahoma History Center several times before completing his article.

The early Choctaws used missionaries as instructors in the schools to educate and convert the students to Christianity. Students were taught the English language and other subjects with the idea that boys should attend school. There were separate schools for girls and boys.

The boys wore military uniforms in the latter years of the Academy and worked on school farms to learn about agriculture. The schools provided shelter, food, clothing and an education.

Armstrong Academy served as a hospital for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. There are also Confederate soldiers buried close to the academy. The academy was destroyed by fire in 1920.

Only two of the original eight schools survived the Civil War and those two were also gone by 1900. The Choctaw Nation created new schools, such as Jones Academy, which was a school for boys founded in 1891.

It is now the lone remaining Choctaw school. Wheelock Academy, a boarding school for girls, was closed in 1955 and the girls were transferred to Jones Academy, making it a co-educational school. Wheelock is now a historical site, but no classes are taught at the school.

Miles said life wasn’t easy in the schools. Boys were separated from family and friends. It was a lonely and dedicated life.

Copies of the Chronicles of Oklahoma may be found in the Southeastern library and most libraries in Oklahoma are subscribers. Single copies are available at \$7 each, plus shipping and handling. Copies may be ordered by phone at 405-522-5214 or by e-mailing giftshop@okhistory.org.



OCTA crowns princess

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance of Oklahoma City wishes to share with the Choctaw Nation that once again it has royalty in its midst. On Feb. 13, the 2012-13 Miss OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Princess, Madeleine Freeman of Oklahoma City, was crowned. Miss Raven Morgan, the 2011-12 Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma, crowned the new princess. OCTA President Della Eisel and OCTA Vice President Josh Bryant are pictured with Madeleine. The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance wishes Madeleine a memorable reign with humble life-enriching experiences.



Pictured is the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Broken Bow on their recent visit to the McCurtain County Regional Airport as part of their book of the week, “I Can Fly.”

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2012	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	April Fool's Day Path Sunday	Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Poteau 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Talihina 1 p.m.-3 p.m.			Good Friday	First Day of Passover
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Easter	Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Antlers by appt.	Wilburton 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.		Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.		McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt		Wright City by appt.	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Durant 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Atoka 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Coalgate 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.			Crowder by appt.		
29	30						

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

Choctaw seniors finish contest with Walk-A-Thon finale

Choctaw seniors, 55 years and older, from all over the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation have been participating in a 12-week fitness challenge which began Sept. 12 and ended Dec. 16, 2011. The walkathon, held on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in Hugo, served as the finale of all events.

During the challenge, each Choctaw Community Center designated a volunteer leader to keep logs of how much physical activity each participant was doing towards the challenge, such as miles walked.

These logs were gathered to find out the top five participants from each center, based on highest miles walked, weight lost, blood pressure decreased and blood sugar lessened. Those individuals were given rewards including a pair of Nike shoes after the finale in Hugo.

The finale boasted an impressive turnout with 72 seniors walking one- and two-mile distances based on age. Ages 55 to 64 walked two miles with Ricky White of Spiro finishing in first place, Linda Christie of Stigler in second and Peggy Estes of Durant walking her way to third place. The 65 and over age group saw Flora Young of Stigler leading the pack with Shirley McLain of Durant in second and Janet Taylor in third.

Among those who facilitated the event were Onedia Winship, Rubye Taylor and Monica Blaine with Choctaw Nutrition, who had overseen the challenge.

Chad and Regina Arnold, Jessica Allen, Kyle Billy, Lisa Wolbert, Tiffanie Bohanan and George Webster of the Hugo Wellness Center helped plan and execute the finale and awards ceremony. The local Youth Advisory Board showed their support by walking with the seniors and passing out water bottles.

The City of Hugo Police Department and EMS came to show support as well as the Hugo clinic's Juline Carter, Bernice Williams and Clint Morrison. Carmen Robertson also attended to help educate seniors on nutrition.

Participants would also like to give a thank you to Perry Thompson for the use of the facility and Jason Goodwin for facility maintenance.

The top participants in each district are as follows:

Atoka - Sue Crowley, Nita Nichols, Wanda Lyndle, Karen Vickey and Bob Vickey.

Broken Bow - Priscilla Coleman, Viola Bohanan, Sue Dwight, Juanita Hardy, Phebe Harley and Mary Williams.

Coalgate - Jeanette Anderson, Dellora Miles, Shirley Morgan, Lavada Duke, Maggie Anderson and Jannette Taylor.

Crowder - Sue Coonfield, Betty Phelps, Betty Wood, Dee Trobaugh, Juanita Barker and Eddie Barker.

Durant - Jimmie Browder, Shirley McClain, Jo Selby, Susan Wyche, Peggy Estes, Glen Estes and Willie Walley.

Idabel - Walker Davis Jr., Robert John, Eual Kelly, Sandra Holt, Charolette Davis and Dorothy Henson.

Hugo - Barbara Plotner, Sandy Pharis, Mary Ann Gahagan, Jane Burris and Faye Pillars.

McAlester - Mary Fabry, Sue Davis, Helen Key, Johnny Cudd, Joan Hogan and Neatha Smith-Quinn.

Smithville - Janet Smith, Christine Ludlow, Rose Lee Senior, Edna Nichols, Martha Smith and Leona Samuel.

Spiro - Ricky White, John Casey, Helen Howe, Laura Stout, Helen Osborne and Thelma Hickman.

Stigler - Flora Young, Topsy Williams, Edith McMinn, Linda Christy and Patricia Kincheloe.

Talihina - Ronald Stewart, Mary Wilson, Cornelius Winship Jr., Hiwatha Winship and Areline Wilson.



After stretches are complete, participants give the sign that they are ready to go on their Valentine's Day event.



Ricky White of Spiro maintains a brisk pace, landing him the first place spot in the two mile category.



Rose Lee Senior, 81 of Spiro; Mildred Davis, 81, of Stigler; Juanita Hardy, 82, of Broken Bow; Edith McMinn, 88, of Stigler; and Laura Stout, 83, of Spiro, enjoy each other's company after the walk.



Stigler's Flora Young, who finished first in her age group, left, and YAB's Alfredo Curiel, right, help Edith McMinn, 88, of Stigler, cross the finish line.



Above, Morgan Moffit and other YAB members make sure the seniors stay safe and hydrated on their walk.



Photos by BRET MOSS
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Right, Dorothy Henson and Alex Silver cross the finish line together after their trek.



Luke Green, Bethanie Webster, Morgan Moffit, Macey Carlile, Makayla Ellis from Hugo Chapter Youth Advisory Board.

Aline Ward tells of her Choctaw education and experiences

Aline Swink Ward is a Choctaw elder who was born on Sep. 6, 1922, in Clayville at her parent's home. Her father was Henry Ardean Swink and her mother was Cillen Bertha Bell Carnes Clay, who were both Choctaws. Her mother was full-blood.



Photo provided
ALINE WARD

Aline is the oldest of her parents' seven children. She lived with her mother until she was about 4, when her maternal grandmother, Molsie Carnes, took her from Cillen. This happened about the time Cillen married Aline's stepfather, for whom the town of Clayville was named.

Aline has small memories from her childhood such as washing clothes on a washboard and how her mother had a flowery dress that her stepfather did not particularly like. Aline eventually wrapped it around a fire pot and it burned.

She was fascinated with fire as a little girl. She even threw her shoes in a fire to see if they would burn. Sure enough they did, and she had to go a while without shoes.

Aline can understand the Choctaw language to a limited degree and can speak a portion of the vocabulary. Her grandmother would not let her learn Choctaw because when she had been in school, the administrators were mean to her for speaking it.

The Choctaw that she does know, she learned from her other grandmother, Nancy Brown, who lived in her house from time to time. She remembers her granny asking her to bring her certain items in Choctaw and having to

bring several things because she was unsure of what to get.

She began school at Oak Grove, which was about a half a mile west of Clayville. She went to the original Oak Grove School until it burned down when she was in the second grade.

The administrators used a house to teach the children until they built another schoolhouse, which they also called Oak Grove. Children up to the sixth grade were taught in it.

After finishing her third grade year, an Indian agent came and sent her to Wheelock Academy in Millerton. Wheelock was a girls-only school with about 78 girls at the time Aline attended.

She remembers having fun with the other students and there being a teacher for every class. This school went up to ninth grade.

When she began her education at Wheelock, she stayed in a small room with just two or three others, but when she got older, she moved up to the bigger dormitory.

The students did chores while at school. They would

do a certain chore for eight weeks at a time, and after that time, they could switch to a different one.

Some of the chores were cleaning the stairways, cleaning the hallways and cleaning the parlor. Aline particularly disliked cleaning the parlor because there were five canaries, whose cages had to be cleaned every morning.

At the age of 18, Aline finished her education at Wheelock and began another chapter of her life at the Haskell Institute in Kansas. She was the only one in her class at Wheelock who went on to Haskell. The rest of them either went to Sequoyah, Chillico or ended their education.

At the time, Haskell was not a college and students could take any classes they wished. Aline wanted to be a nurse. She went to work for the hospital to gain the knowledge she would need to be a nurse.

She also worked doing laundry, but was not happy with that type of work. In Haskell Institute, you could change your work if you did not like it, so she changed hers to Home Economics.

"I learned to sew, cook and serve. I learned to make a lot of salads there, and when I got married, I piled a lot of salads on my husband's plate and he didn't like it," said Aline.

Upon leaving Haskell, she stayed in McAlester with Robert and Mattie Green, who she had met when she was younger at Good Spring Church at Sardis. While staying with the couple, Aline met a full-blood Choctaw

man named Josiah Ward, the nephew of Mattie and Robert.

She had known him before they began their relationship. Their life together began while Aline was at a bus station. She said good morning to Josiah and he whistled at her.

He asked where she was going, and she told him that she was headed to the White House, a restaurant, and asked if he would like to join. He agreed and they had breakfast there.

He then asked about her singing talents. She told him that she sang in her own way. Aline had never learned how to read music, but had a lucky event that lent her talents to sing.

Once, a teacher asked her to sing middle C, and on a lucky attempt she hit it making the teacher think she knew music. She sang and knew how to



Photo provided
Aline and Josiah

follow the notes up and down in pitch, but did not know how to read them.

After learning this, Josiah invited Aline to attend a singing with him in Lane and she agreed to travel with him. Aline and Josiah got on a bus to Atoka and they traveled Lane from there.

Shortly after their trip to Lane, they decided to get married. They were wed at his parents' home in Antlers on Nov. 28, 1947, with just his sister, mother, father and four of his friends in attendance.

The couple had six children together over the course of their marriage. Once the last child was 3 years old Aline went to General West Nursing School in McAlester. She earned her LPN there and worked at General West for three years.

She then went to Jones Academy as the health coordinator, and then an instructional aide. She worked at Jones Academy for 24 years and retired in 1982.

During their marriage the couple would take long trips to see Aline's mother in Western Oklahoma. Once, on the drive back from her mother's house Josiah said, "I wish you would learn how to drive," so you could help me with this drive.

What Aline had never told him was that she had already obtained her license. "My kids knew I had a license because I used to practice in our yard, and I made all six of them stay on the porch while I was backing up. I finally got brave enough and went

around the block twice then came back and gave them a ride," said Aline.

"I told the kids, 'If you ever tell your daddy, you will never ride with me no more'," said Aline. The kids never told Josiah about her license, but during the trip when he made the comment about her getting it, Aline showed him the license and she began to help with the driving.

Josiah worked at the Ammunition Base in McAlester in the Secret Weapons Department and retired after 25 years there. He did other jobs during retirement and passed away in January of 1985.

Aline is well acquainted with staples of the Choctaw Nation, such as the native food and dress of the people. She learned to cook foods such as "banaha" and rice cornbread while she was little from her grandmother and mother.

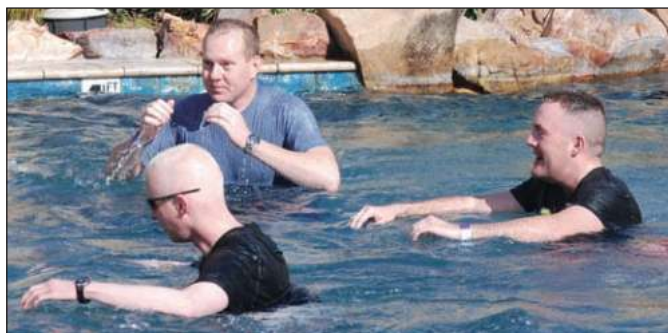
During her time at Haskell, she learned to sew, and learned it well. On occasion, her daughters would ask for a dress at night to wear to school the next day. Aline would sew up the dress that night and her daughter would be able to wear it the next day.

She learned to make the Choctaw clothes and has even made dresses for Choctaw Princesses to wear in the Labor Day Festival. She has been known to wear her traditional Choctaw dresses to events and sing Choctaw hymns.

In 2007, Aline was selected as the Outstanding Choctaw Senior Citizen from the McAlester Community Center.



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSEY DILL



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSEY DILL

Polar Plunge 2012

Choctaw Nation Public Safety employees John Hobbs, Michael Hall and Nathan Hill called themselves "Team Choctaw" at Polar Plunge on Feb. 4, an event that raises funds for the Special Olympics.



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Sandy Herring from OBI assists Choctaw Nation employee Cindy Gale as she donates blood on a sunny Tuesday morning at the Nation's headquarters.

Health Fair provides information to senior citizens



Willie Walley stops by the diabetic education table with Lee Ann Griffin during a health fair on Jan. 25, at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Durant. The Choctaw Nation is holding health fairs in all 12 districts to ensure senior citizens have the information needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Bernice Williams checks Betty Black's blood sugar while Betty's granddaughter, Brianna, watches.

Photos by LISA REED
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Vivian and Chester Pittman have a bag of goodies given away by the health services.



Community Health Nurse Kelly Adams checks Jerry Thompson's blood pressure.

Tribal employees give back at blood drive

By CHRISSEY DILL

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation has helped its surrounding community for over 20 years by holding blood drives at the tribal headquarters. According to Freda Scott, who serves as volunteer blood drive coordinator and is a member of the Oklahoma Blood Institute board of directors, at least five blood drives per year are held at the tribal complex through the use of a Bloodmobile. "We do it as much as we can," she said, eight weeks the usual time between drives.

Most donors are Choctaw employees and there are a few walk-ins, which are usually employees' spouses or relatives. "The average donation per drive is 35.65 people," said Scott.

The most recent blood drive, held on Feb. 21, brought in 31 donors, according to Scott.

If you are interested in donating blood the next time the Bloodmobile is at the tribal complex, please contact Freda Scott at 580-924-8280, ext. 2294. If you are a Choctaw Nation employee, keep an eye on your email for a blood drive announcement and follow the link to schedule an appointment to donate.



Check us out on Facebook!

With over 8,400 Choctaws on our Facebook page, we are spreading our culture far and wide! Come and join us at facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma

New DOT 'Faces of Distracted Driving' video features story of Oklahoma teen

Oklahoma resident Gina Harris remembers her daughter, Brittanie

Oklahoma City.

At 19 years old, Brittanie was a member of the Hornets Honeybees dance team and studied childhood development as a sophomore at the University of Central Oklahoma. On Dec. 21, 2006, she was killed when she lost control of her vehicle, crossed four lanes of traffic, and was struck by an oncoming car. She was talking on her cell phone at the time of the crash.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood released the latest video in the department's "Faces of Distracted Driving" series, featuring the story of Brittanie Montgomery, from

was a talented young woman who was beloved by her family and community. Her story proves that even a single phone call from behind the wheel can have devastating consequences," said Secretary LaHood. "I hope all drivers will remember to keep their eyes on the road, their hands on the wheel, and their cell phones in the glove compartment."

"Everyone who had a chance to meet Brittanie

knew about her dreams for the future and knew she'd accomplish every one of them. But just one phone call ended her life," said her mother, Gina Harris. "I hope that sharing my daughter's story will help open drivers' eyes to the dangers of cell phone use behind the wheel."

"Faces of Distracted Driving" is a video series that raises awareness about the potentially tragic consequences of texting and cell phone use

while driving by sharing the stories of families who have been affected by this deadly epidemic.

In 2010, over 3,000 people died in crashes related to distracted driving. The series is part of Secretary LaHood's ongoing efforts to raise greater awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

The video, "Faces of Distracted Driving" is available on www.distraction.gov/content/faces. The DOT encour-

ages anyone who would like to share their distracted driving experiences to email faces@distraction.gov.

To learn more about DOT's efforts to stop distracted driving, please visit www.distraction.gov. More information is also available on www.nhtsa.gov.

Article submitted by Carey Lester, Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Coordinator, as published on www.distraction.gov.

WATER

Tribes file motion for partial summary judgment in water suit

Continued from Page 1

Tribal attorneys are asking the court to rule, as a matter of law, that the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations possess rights and interests relating to water resource management and ownership which are protected by federal law.

Michael Burrage, attorney for the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, said that the water rights of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations are based on well established law, including several U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

"It is pretty impossible for anyone to argue that the tribes' treaties and other federal laws don't vest them with substantial federal law rights to water," said Burrage. "These rights were granted by the United States long before Oklahoma became a state, and they have never been taken away."

Based on numerous public statements, University of Oklahoma College of Law Professor Taiawagi Helton seems to agree.

In a Journal Record article about his appearance before a joint legislative committee, Helton was cited as saying

there is no question that tribes have rights to water—significant rights in Oklahoma. Speaking about tribal water rights in Oklahoma, the New York Times quoted Helton saying "There are huge and vested rights to water that are unquantified," Helton has stated for years in various public venues that tribes have substantial federal rights to water.

According to an article Prof. Helton published in the Tulsa College of Law Journal, the legal question is not how much water was reserved to tribes, but how much, if any, was taken away. The article goes on to suggest that the State actually has the burden of establishing a water right in Oklahoma.

The third issue is whether Oklahoma's system for water-use permits can lawfully allocate waters from a basin that is subject to federal rights without regard for procedural and substantive protections of federal law.

A motion for summary judgment is often filed by a party based on claims there is no genuine dispute about relevant issues in a legal proceeding.



2012 Career Expo

April 4, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Southeast Expo Center
4500 W Hwy 270
McAlester, OK 74501

Motivational Speakers

Resumes and Applications will be accepted on site

150+ Businesses & Training Facilities

Get ahead in the career race!



Choctaw Nation Career Development
www.choctawcareers.com

Students participate in annual livestock show

The 20th annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show was held Feb. 4-5 with over 700 students showing their animals. Open to all 4H and FFA members 9 to 19 years of age with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, the livestock show is held in two locations – Wilburton and Durant. There were 422 animals entered in the Wilburton show and 367 in Du-

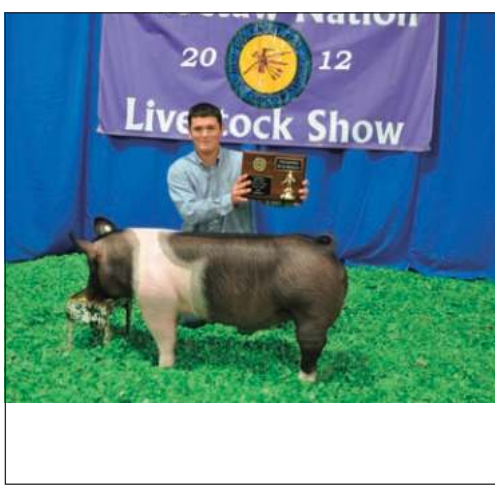
rant this year. “I am very proud of these youth and what they have accomplished,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “The benefits of raising and showing their animals go beyond the show arena. They are learning responsibilities that will stay with them their whole lives.” Following are the top results in each category:



Grand Champion Market Swine and Champion Cross: Braylon Spears.



Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine: B.J. Nunn.



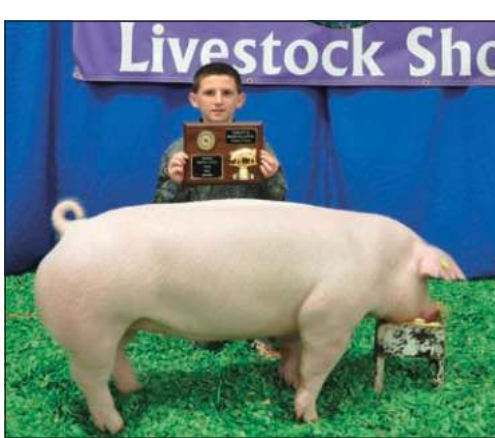
Senior Showman, Market Swine: Bryce Livingston.



Breed Champion Berkshire: Hunter Mason.



Breed Champion Chester: Alexia Clardy.



Reserve Breed Champion Chester: Daxton King.



Reserve Breed Champion Duroc: Michael O’Kelly.



Breed Champion Yorkshire: Emily Jackson.



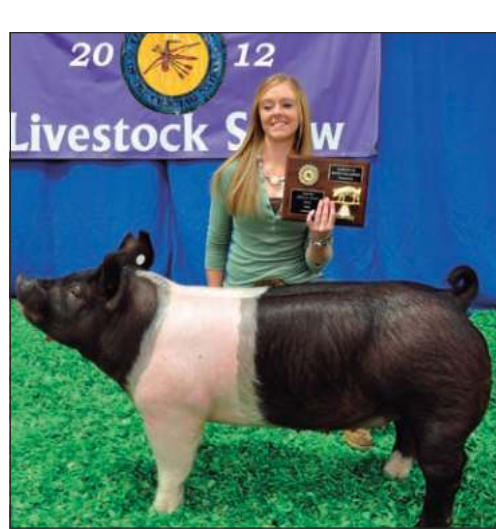
Reserve Breed Champion Yorkshire: Brevon Harper.



Breed Champion Duroc: Allison Beames.



Breed Champion Hampshire: B.J. Nunn.



Reserve Breed Champion Hampshire: Kaylee Cox.



Breed Champion Poland: Braylon Spears.

Results

WILBURTON

– SWINE –

Grand Champion: Braylon Spears, Harts-horne; Reserve Grand Champion: B.J. Nunn; Jones Academy; Bronze Champion: Kaylee Cox, Spiro.
Junior Showman: Jaycee Cox, Spiro.
Senior Showman: Bryce Livingston, Wilburton.

Berkshire

Breed Champion: Hunter Mason, Harts-horne; Reserve Breed Champion: B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy.

Class I: 1st, Chloe Rogers, Spiro; 2nd, Sierra Spradlin, Checotah; 3rd, Desirea Duggan, Panola

Class II: 1st, Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 2nd, B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy; 3rd, Sara Snead, Broken Bow.

Chester

Breed Champion: Alexia Clardy, Valliant; Reserve Breed Champion: Daxton King, Harts-horne.

Class I: 1st, Alexia Clardy, Valliant; 2nd, Daxton King, Hartshorne; 3rd, Aleex Chatke-hoodle, Jones Academy.

Duroc

Breed Champion: Allison Beames, Howe; Reserve Breed Champion: Michael O’Kelley, Hartshorne.

Class I: 1st, Grace O’Neal, Tuskahoma; 2nd, Blake Lindley, Hartshorne; 3rd, Lane Williams, Idabel.

Class II: 1st, Darian Sharp, Spiro; 2nd, Blake Dull, Wilburton; 3rd, Tanner McAlester, Wister.

Class III: 1st, Allison Beames, Howe; 2nd, Makenzy Stafford, Broken Bow; 3rd, Stormy Dull, Wilburton.

Class IV: 1st, Michael O’Kelley, Hartshorne; 2nd, Brendon Garriott, Wyandotte; 3rd, Chas Fairless, Albion.

Hampshire

Breed Champion: B.J. Nunn, Jones Acad-emy; Reserve Breed Champion: Kaylee Cox, Spiro.

Class I: 1st, Isaiah Rodriguez, Jones Acad-emy; 2nd, Hal Todd, Jones Academy; 3rd, Bryce Livingston, Wilburton.

Class II: 1st, B.J. Nunn, Jones Academy; 2nd, Jessie Wyatt, Haworth; 3rd, Danielle Mur-rillo, Jones Academy.

Class III: 1st, Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2nd, Jus-tin Duggan, Panola; 3rd, Garrett Clunn, Harts-horne.

Class IV: 1st, Aleex Chatkehoodle, Jones Academy; 2nd, Tylor Bush, Haileyville; 3rd, Blake Colburn, Checotah.

Class V: 1st, Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 2nd, Sam Cox, Talihina; 3rd, Bryce Livingston, Wilburton.

Class VI: 1st, Jaycee Cox, Spiro; 2nd, Brevon Harper, Spiro; 3rd, Trent Kitchell, Hartshorne.

Class VII: 1st, Quade McGee, Whitesboro; 2nd, Kareesa Kennedy, Buffalo Valley; 3rd, Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro.

Class VIII: 1st, Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2nd, Isaac Bryant, Talihina; 3rd, Eric Garriott, Wyandotte.

Class IX: 1st, Logan Byrd, Hartshorne; 2nd, Isaac Bryant, Talihina; 3rd, Cooper Wood, Rat-tan.

Poland

Breed Champion: Braylon Spears, Harts-horne.
Class I: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne.

Spot

Breed Champion: Isaiah Rodriguez, Jones Academy; Reserve Breed Champion: Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow.

Class I: 1st, Isaiah Rodriguez, Jones Acad-emy; 2nd, Keifer Shearer, Broken Bow; 3rd, Charity Thomas, Red Oak.

Class II: 1st, Russ Angeli, Hartshorne; 2nd, Dakota Davis, Quinton; 3rd, Aleiyah Smith, Talihina.

Class III: 1st, Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 2nd, Noah Irwin, Hartshorne; 3rd, Emily Emmert, Talihina

Yorkshire

Breed Champion: Emily Jackson, Harts-horne; Reserve Breed Champion: Brevon Harper, Spiro.

Class I: 1st, Sarah Sales, Bokoshe; 2nd, Ja-cob Kesler, Poteau; 3rd, Kevin Wiley, Buffalo Valley.

Class II: 1st, Tylor Kirkes, Talihina; 2nd, Jacy Wills, Kiowa; 3rd, Brendon Garriott, Wy-andotte.

Class III: 1st, Emilie Cox, Talihina; 2nd, Tan-ner McAlester, Wister; 3rd, Lauryn Rader, Wil-burton.

Class IV: 1st, Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 2nd, Bryce Livingston, Wilburton; 3rd, Chase Martin, Red Oak.

Class V: 1st, Brevon Harper, Spiro; 2nd, Blake Colburn, Checotah.

Cross

Breed Champion: Braylon Spears, Harts-horne; Reserve Breed Champions: Kaylee Cox, Spiro.

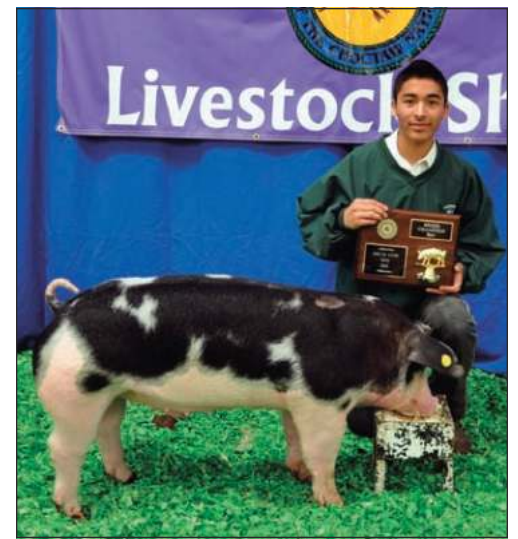
Class I: 1st, Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 2nd, Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 3rd, Dustin Duggan, Panola.

Class II: 1st, Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2nd, Raney Johnson, Wright City; 3rd, Hannah Beames, Howe.

Class III: 1st, Kelsey Brown, Buffalo Valley; 2nd, Hal Todd, Jones Academy; 3rd, Danielle Murrillo, Jones Academy.

Class IV: 1st, Brevon Harper, Spiro; 2nd, Lane Williams, Idabel; 3rd, Joe Simpson, Jones Academy.

Class V: 1st, Cheyenne Neal, Jones Acad-



Breed Champion Spot: Isaiah Rodriguez.



Reserve Breed Champion Spot: Taylor Pratt.



Grand Market Goat: Cheyenne Robison.



Senior Showman, Market Goat: Callie Curnutt.

emy; 2nd, Mikey Guazdausky, Wilburton; 3rd, Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy.

Class VI: 1st, Lexie Moody, Moss; 2nd, Landon Moody, Moss; 3rd, Jaycee Cox, Spiro.

Class VII: 1st, Lane Williams, Idabel; 2nd, Morgan Wilcox, Albion; 3rd, Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro.

Class VIII: 1st, Lauren Beames, Howe; 2nd, Jady Wills, Kiowa; 3rd, Justin Duggan, Panola.

Class IX: 1st, Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2nd, Land-on Moody, Moss; 3rd, Holli Lindley, Harts-horne.

Class X: 1st, Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2nd, Michael O’Kelley, Hartshorne; 3rd, Matt Effinger, Haileyville.

Class XI: 1st, Cali Sweazea, Wetumka; 2nd, Skylar Durrett, Checotah; 3rd, Logan Odom, Whitesboro.

Class XII: 1st, Alexia Clardy, Valliant; 2nd, Katelyn King, Hartshorne; 3rd, Chastain Can-nady, Talihina.

– GOATS –

Grand Market Goat: Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; Reserve Grand Market Goat: Em-ily Jackson, Hartshorne; Bronze Market Goat: Paige Sparks, Hartshorne.
Junior Showman: Mollie McGee, Red Oak.
Senior Showman: Callie Curnutt, Wister.

Division 1

Champion: Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; Re-serve Champion: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne.

Class I: 1st, Dylan Wilson, New Castle; 2nd, Erin Grey, Buffalo Valley; 3rd, Brandi Moore, Kiowa.

Class II: 1st, Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; 2nd, Tucker McCoy, Oklahoma County; 3rd, Haley Huff, Spiro.

Class III: 1st, Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 2nd, Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 3rd, Allyson Stanley, Wister.

Class IV: 1st, Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 2nd, Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 3rd, Adrianna Curnutt, Wister.

Division 2

Champion: Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; Division 2 Reserve Champion: Emily Jackson, Hartshorne.

Results continued on Page 11

Wilburton results

Continued from Page 10

Cross

Breed Champion: Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; Reserve Breed Champions: Kaylee Cox, Spiro.

Class I: 1st, Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 2nd, Jennifer Williams, Idabel; 3rd, Dustin Duggan, Panola.

Class II: 1st, Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2nd, Rane Johnson, Wright City; 3rd, Hannah Beames, Howe.

Class III: 1st, Kelsey Brown, Buffalo Valley; 2nd, Hal Todd, Jones Academy; 3rd, Danielle Murrillo, Jones Academy.

Class IV: 1st, Alecx Chatkehoodle, Jones Academy; 2nd, Lane Williams, Idabel; 3rd, Joe Simpson, Jones Academy.

Class V: 1st, Cheyenne Neal, Jones Academy; 2nd, Mikey Guazdausky, Wilburton; 3rd, Bryan Hawkins, Jones Academy.

Class VI: 1st, Lexie Moody, Moss; 2nd, Landon Moody, Moss; 3rd, Jaycee Cox, Spiro.

Class VII: 1st, Lane Williams, Idabel; 2nd, Morgan Wilcox, Albion; 3rd, Kaitlynn Sebo, Spiro.

Class VIII: 1st, Lauren Beames, Howe; 2nd, Jady Wills, Kiowa; 3rd, Justin Duggan, Panola.

Class IX: 1st, Kaylee Cox, Spiro; 2nd, Landon Moody, Moss; 3rd, Holli Lindley, Hartshorne.

Class X: 1st, Braylon Spears, Hartshorne; 2nd, Michael O'Kelley, Hartshorne; 3rd, Matt Effinger, Haileyville.

Class XI: 1st, Cali Sweazea, Wetumka; 2nd, Skylar Durrett, Checotah; 3rd, Logan Odom, Whitesboro.

Class XII: 1st, Alexia Clardy, Valliant; 2nd, Katelyn King, Hartshorne; 3rd, Chastain Canady, Talihina.

- GOATS -

Grand Market Goat: Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; Reserve Grand Market Goat: Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; Bronze Market Goat: Paige Sparks, Hartshorne.

Junior Showman: Mollie McGee, Red Oak.
Senior Showman: Callie Curnutt, Wister.

Division 1

Champion: Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; Reserve Champion: Hunter Mason, Hartshorne.

Class I: 1st, Dylan Wilson, New Castle; 2nd, Erin Grey, Buffalo Valley; 3rd, Brandi Moore, Kiowa.

Class II: 1st, Paige Sparks, Hartshorne; 2nd, Tucker McCoy, Oklahoma County; 3rd, Haley Huff, Spiro.

Class III: 1st, Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 2nd, Taylor Pratt, Broken Bow; 3rd, Allyson Stanley, Wister.

Class IV: 1st, Hunter Mason, Hartshorne; 2nd, Dylan Wilson, Newcastle; 3rd, Adrianna Curnutt, Wister.

Division 2

Champion: Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; Division 2 Reserve Champion: Emily Jackson, Hartshorne.

Class I: 1st, Michael O'Kelley, Hartshorne; 2nd, Chace McCoy, Oklahoma County; 3rd, Nicole Dobbs, LeFlore.

Class II: 1st, Emily Jackson, Hartshorne; 2nd, Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; 3rd, Alexandra Eddlemon, Varum.

Class III: 1st, Cheyenne Robison, Checotah; 2nd, Lexen Cook, Hartshorne; 3rd, Allison Stanley, Wister.

Class IV: 1st, Callie Curnutt, Wister; 2nd, Aby Anderson, Eufaula; 3rd, Chace McCoy, Oklahoma County.

- LAMBS -

Grand Market Lamb: Dylan McGill, Tuttle; Reserve Grand Market Lamb: Taylor McGill, Tuttle; Bronze Market Lamb: Dylan McGill, Tuttle.

Junior Showman: Madeline Camp, Haileyville.
Senior Showman: Dylan McGill, Tuttle.

Division 1

Champion: Dylan McGill, Tuttle; Reserve Champion: Taylor McGill, Tuttle.

Class I: 1st, Allison Beames, Howe; 2nd, Levi Odom, Whitesboro; 3rd, Shacole Thompson, Stringtown.

Class II: 1st, Taylor McGill, Tuttle; 2nd, Mikala Helm, Talihina; 3rd, Skylar Trammell, Kiowa.

Class III: 1st, Dylan McGill, Tuttle; 2nd, Linzie Hollingshed, Checotah; 3rd, Emily Shaw, Buffalo Valley.

Division 2

Champion: Dylan McGill, Tuttle; Reserve Champion: Brooklyn Herriman, Warner.

Class I: 1st, Dylan McGill, Tuttle; 2nd, Brooklyn Herriman, Warner; 3rd, Rhiannon Bean, Broken Bow.

Class II: 1st, Dylan McGill, Tuttle; 2nd,



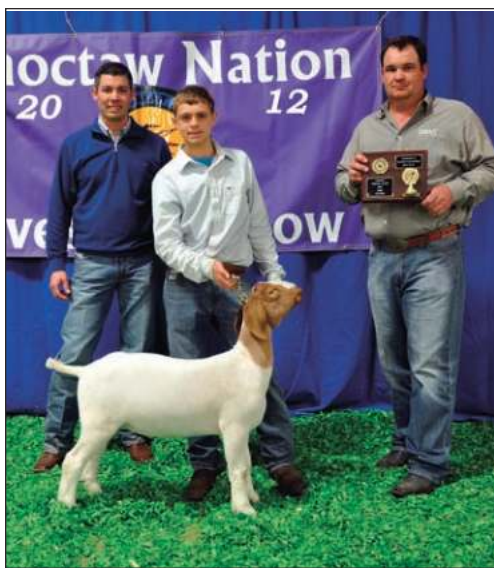
Division 1 Champion Goat: Paige Sparks.



Reserve Grand Champion and Division II Reserve Champion Goat: Emily Jackson.



Junior Showman, Goat: Mollie McGee.



Division 1 Reserve Champion Goat: Hunter Mason.



Grand Champion Market Lamb: Dylan McGill.



Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb: Taylor McGill.



Division 2 Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Brooklyn Herriman.



Supreme Heifer: Kylie Powell.



Reserve Supreme Heifer: Jayce McPeak.



Bronze Supreme Heifer: Jayce McPeak.



English Champion Heifer: Kaylan Plemmons.



English Reserve Champion Heifer: Cody Bull.



Continental Champion Heifer: Jayce McPeak.



Continental Reserve Champion Heifer: Kyleigh Hilburn.

Chace McCoy, Oklahoma County; 3rd, Taylor McGill, Tuttle.

Class III: 1st, Brooklyn Herriman, Warner; 2nd, Madeline Camp, Haileyville; 3rd, Mikala Helm, Talihina.

- HEIFERS -

Grand Supreme Heifer: Kylie Powell, Porum; Reserve Grand Supreme Heifer: Jayce McPeak, Warner; Bronze Supreme Heifer: Jayce McPeak, Warner.

English

Champion: Kaylan Plemmons, Battiest; Reserve Champion: Cody Bull, Panola.

Class I: 1st, Patricia Walden; 2nd, Kylar Baugh, Talihina; 3rd, Julie Isbell, Fort Gibson.

Class II: 1st, Zach Ilbery, Checotah; 2nd, Gabriel Gibson, Crowder; 3rd, Kareesa Kennedy, Buffalo Valley.

Class III: 1st, Cody Bull, Panola.

Class IV: 1st, Roni Jo Martin, Wister; 2nd, Lani Monks, Panama; 3rd, Kagen Monks, Panama.

Class V: 1st, Dalton Cantrell-Shelton, Checotah.

Class VI: 1st, Kaylan Plemmons, Battiest; 2nd, Hannah Beames, Howe.



Grand Champion and AOB Champion Steer: Abby Cato.



Reserve Grand Champion and Continental Champion Steer: Breanna Elliott.



Bronze Champion and English Champion Steer: Kolby Cato.



Junior Showman and Continental Reserve Champion Steer: Jace Ford.



English Reserve Champion Steer: William Edington.



Continental Reserve Champion: Jordan Duke.

Continental

Champion: Jayce McPeak, Warner; Reserve Champion: Kyleigh Hilburn, Red Oak.

Class I: 1st, Kyleigh Hilburn, Red Oak; 2nd, John Daniel Calwell, Bokoshe; 3rd, Chance Tanner, Checotah.

Class II: 1st, Jayce McPeak, Warner; 2nd, Conner Sisson, Checotah; 3rd, Juliann Blake, Battiest.

Class III: 1st, Heather Edington, Red Oak; 2nd, Brycen Hale, Fairland.

Class IV: 1st, William Edington, Red Oak; 2nd, Bailey Henry, McCurtain.

Class V: 1st, Ridge Howell, Checotah; 2nd, Kristen Hollan, Panola; 3rd, Jacy Muncy, Panola.

AOB

Champion: Kylie Powell, Porum; Reserve Champion: Jayce McPeak, Warner.

Class I: 1st, Blaise Loman, Cameron; 2nd, Ward Vinson, Latimer County; 3rd, Heather Edington, Red Oak.

Class II: 1st, Ridge Howell, Checotah; 2nd, Samantha Pearce, Porum; 3rd, Rae Gail Wilson, Hartshorne.

Class III: 1st, Kylie Powell, Porum; 2nd, Jayce McPeak, Warner; 3rd, Sarah Harris, Webbers Falls.

Class IV: 1st, John Daniel Calwell, Bokoshe; 2nd, Raychel Harris, Webbers Falls; 3rd, Trent Kitchel, Hartshorne.

Class V: 1st, Cody Bull, Panola; 2nd, Juliann Blake, Battiest; 3rd, Kareesa Kennedy, Buffalo Valley.

Class VI: 1st, Kylie Powell, Porum; 2nd, Creighton Ellis, Sallisaw; 3rd, Kyleigh Hilburn, Red Oak.

Results continued on Page 12



Grand Champion and Breed Champion Hampshire: Baylor Jestis and Reserve Grand Champion and Breed Champion Cross: Austin Jestis.

Livestock show results from Wilburton, Durant

Continued from Page 11

- STEER -

Grand Champion Steer: Abby Cato, Crowder; Reserve Grand Champion Steer: Breanna Elliott, Quapaw; Bronze Champion Steer: Kolby Cato, Crowder.

Junior Showman: Jace Ford, Kinta. Senior Showman: Heather Edington, Red Oak.

English

Champion: Kolby Cato, Crowder; Reserve Champion: William Edington, Red Oak.

Class I: 1st, Kolby Cato, Crowder; 2nd, William Edington, Red Oak; 3rd, Natalie Gibson, Afton.

Continental

Champion: Breanna Elliott, Quapaw; Reserve Champion: Jordan Duke, Porum.

Class I: 1st, Jace Ford, Kinta; 2nd, Brycen Hale, Fairland.

Class II: 1st, Breanna Elliott, Quapaw; 2nd, Bryce Gibson, Afton.

Class III: 1st, Langston Upton, Wister; 2nd, Creighton Ellis, Sallisaw; 3rd, Courtney Seybold, Kinta.

AOB

Champion: Abby Cato, Crowder; Reserve Champion: Jordan Duke, Porum.

Class I: 1st, Abby Cato, Crowder; 2nd, Courtney Seybold, Kinta.

Class II: 1st, Jordan Duke, Porum; 2nd, Creighton Ellis, Sallisaw.



Senior Showman and Breed Champion Spot: Kirsten Rogers.



Bronze and Reserve Champion Cross: Kirsten Rogers.



Breed Champion Berkshire: Makayla Crawford.



Breed Champion Chester: Laney Sparks.



Reserve Breed Champion Chester: Mason Emert.



Breed Champion Poland: Keona Mason.



Sarah Palmer, Junior Showman.



Reserve Breed Hampshire: Kirsten Rogers.



Reserve Champion Spot: Grace Palmer.



Reserve Breed Duroc: Hannah Palmer.

DURANT - HOGS -

Grand Champion: Baylor Jestis, Durant; Reserve Grand Champion: Austin Jestis, Durant; Bronze Champion: Kirsten Rogers.

Junior Showman: Sarah Palmer. Senior Showman: Kirsten Rogers.

Berkshire

Breed Champion: MaKayla Crawford. Reserve Breed Champion: Kamy Green. Class 1: 1st, MaKayla Crawford, Moss; 2nd, Kamy Green, Van Alstyne; 3rd, Jeremiah Weeden, Coalgate.

Chester

Breed Champion: Laney Sparks. Reserve Breed Champion: Mason Emert. Class 1: 1st, Laney Sparks, Caddo; 2nd, Mason Emert, Bennington; Neiatha Hardy, Coalgate.

Spot

Breed Champion: Kirsten Rogers. Reserve Breed: Grace Palmer. Class 1: Laney Sparks, Caddo; 2nd, Tierra McALpin, Tishomingo; 3rd, Courtney Reeder, Wapanucka. Class 2: 1st, Kirsten Rogers, Calera; 2nd, Grace Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 3rd, Kacie Mapp, Turner.

Poland

Breed Champion: Keona Mason. Reserve Breed: Mapp Kacie. Class 1: 1st, Mason Keona, Tishomingo; 2nd, Mapp Kacie, Turner.

Yorkshire

Breed Champion: Grace Palmer. Reserve Breed Champion: Madison Rogers. Class 1: 1st, Holden Bell, Madill; 2nd, Taylor Henry, Kingston; 3rd, Corby Ake, Tupelo. Class 2: 1st, Grace Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 2nd, Madison Rogers, Calera; 3rd, Seth Paxton, Tuttle. Class 3: 1st, Tandra Elkins, Coalgate; 2nd, Taylor Bell, Madill; 3rd, Kallie Crawford, Moss.

Duroc

Breed Champion: Colte Griggs. Reserve Breed Champion: Hannah Palmer. Class 1: 1st, Hannah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 2nd, Tandra Elkins, Coalgate; 3rd, Alisa Northcutt, Tishomingo. Class 2: 1st, Colte Griggs, Rattan; 2nd, Macey Ross, Caddo; 3rd, Jaysa Northcutt, Tishomingo.

Hampshire

Breed Champion: Baylor Jestis. Reserve Breed Champion: Kirsten Rogers. Class 1: 1st, Faith Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 2nd, William Minyard, Bennington; 3rd, Blaine Ake, Tupelo. Class 2: 1st, Dakota Stanglin, Achille; 2nd, Hannah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 3rd, Seth Paxton, Tuttle. Class 3: 1st, Kirsten Rogers, Calera; 2nd, Sarah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 3rd, Emily Butler, Plainview. Class 4: 1st, Baylor Jestis, Durant; 2nd, Madison Rogers, Calera; 3rd, Devin Emert, Bennington.

Cross

Breed Champion: Austin Jestis; Reserve Breed Champion: Kirsten Rogers. Class 1: 1st, Faith Palmer, Homeschool 4H. Class 2: 1st, Hannah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 2nd, Sarah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 3rd, Tandra Elkins, Coalgate. Class 3: 1st, Sarah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 2nd, Alisa Northcutt, Tishomingo; 3rd, Devin



Breed Champion Yorkshire: Grace Palmer.



Reserve Champion Yorkshire: Madison Rogers.



Breed Champ Duroc: Colt Griggs.



Grand Champion and Division Champion Meat Goat: Peyton Mobbs.



Reserve Grand Champion and Division Champion Meat Goat: Peyton Mobbs.



Bronze and Reserve Division Champion Meat Goat: Taylor Chambers.



Kelsey Chambers, Senior Showman.

Emert, Bennington. Class 4: 1st, Austin Jestis, Durant; 2nd, Austin Jestis, Durant; 3rd, Julie Fielder, Maysville. Class 5: 1st, Baylor Jestis, Durant; 2nd, Randal Thompson, Newcastle; 3rd, Devin Emert, Bennington.

Class 6: 1st, Kaitlin Fryer, Caddo; 2nd, Faith Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 3rd, Baylor Jestis, Durant.

Class 7: 1st, Kirsten Rogers, Calera; 2nd, Sarah Thompson, Hugo; 3rd, Randal Thompson, Newcastle.

GOATS

Grand Champion: Peyton Mobbs. Reserve Grand Champion: Peyton Mobbs. Bronze: Taylor Chambers. Junior Showman: Jaycee Watkins. Senior Showman: Kelsey Chambers.

Division 1

Division Champ: Peyton Mobbs. Reserve Division Champ: Braden Allen. Class 1: 1st, Kes Reeves, Kingston; 2nd, Amber Couey, Tupelo; 3rd, Jessica Wolfe, Thackerville.

Class 2: 1st, Neeson Shipley, Kingston; 2nd, Camery Strickland, Kingston; 3rd, Tristian Wilson, Kingston.

Class 3: 1st, Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 2nd, Braden Allen, Caddo; 3rd, Kelsey Chambers, Tushka.

Division 2

Division Champ: Peyton Mobbs. Reserve Division Champ: Taylor Chambers. Class 1: 1st, Jaycee Watkins, Calera; 2nd, Courtney Harrington, Kingston; 3rd, Abbie Schoolfield, Kingston.

Results continued on Page 13

Durant results

Continued from Page 12

Class 2: 1st, Peyton Mobbs, Tushka; 2nd, Virginia Beddo, Boswell; 3rd, Jill Sutton, Tushka.

Class 3: Taylor Chambers, Tushka; 2nd, Talon Coleman, Moss; 3rd, Jessica Wolfe, Thacker-ville.

Division 3

Division Champ: Taylor Chambers.

Reserve Division Champ: Nick Kelso.

Class 1: 1st, Taylor Chambers, Tushka; 2nd, Nick Kelso, Caddo; 3rd, Jayci Brauderick, Boswell.

Class 2: 1st, Bailee Allen, Caddo; 2nd, Michelle Young, Soper; 3rd, Natilee Young, Soper.

Class 3: 1st, Kelsey McKay, Tupelo; 2nd, Jackie Jo Coe, Caddo; 3rd, Zane Brauderick, Boswell.

Class 4: 1st, Ben Dill, Boswell; 2nd, Lizbeth Phillips, Madill.

- LAMBS -

Grand Champion: Colby Impson.

Reserve Grand Champion: Colby Impson.

Bronze: Rowdy Jones.

Junior Showman: Brooke Roebuck.

Senior Showman: Rowdy Jones.

Division 1

Division Champ: Rowdy Jones.

Reserve Champ: Sydnee Brown.

Class 1: 1st, Madelynn Dancer, Soper; 2nd, Jeremiah Weeden, Coalgate; 3rd, Bretton Covey, Achille.

Class 2: 1st, Sydnee Brown, Calera; 2nd, Blake Cress, Boswell; 3rd, Macee Mathis, Van.

Class 3: 1st, Rowdy Jones, Tupelo; 2nd, Alyson Chapman, Coalgate; 3rd, Kason Barker, Boswell.

Division 2

Division Champ: Colby Impson.

Reserve Champ: Rowdy Jones.

Class 4: Colby Impson, Calvin; 2nd, Madison Cress, Boswell; 3rd, Brooke Roebuck, Coalgate.

Class 5: 1st, Caitlin Roebuck, Soper; 2nd, Sam Roebuck, Soper; 3rd, Julie Fielder, Maysville.

Class 6: 1st, Rowdy Jones, Tupelo; 2nd, Hadley Bryan, Mulhall-Orlando; 3rd, Hannah Carter, Calera.

Division 3

Division Champ: Colby Impson.

Reserve Champ: Colby Impson.

Class 7: 1st, Colby Impson, Calvin; 2nd, Hannah Carter, Calera; 3rd, Julie Fielder, Maysville.

Class 8: 1st, Colby Impson, Calvin; 2nd, Hadley Bryan, Mulhall-Orlando; 3rd, Chekota Medlock, Tupelo.

Class 9: 1st, Elizabeth Whitlow, Grant-Goodland; 2nd, Bailey Medlock, Tupelo; 3rd, Faith Hill, Grant-Goodland.

HEIFER

Supreme: Meredith Behrens.

Reserve Supreme: Chance Sweeten.

Bronze Supreme: Christian McGowan.

English

Breed Champion: Ailey Gunsolus.

Reserve Breed Champion: Callie Hodges.

Class 1: 1st, Hunter Pierce, Caddo; 2nd, Kody Silas, Tecumseh; 3rd, Brooke Gibson, Morris.

Class 2: 1st, Christian McGowan, Colbert; 2nd, Lyle Graves, Lone Grove; 3rd, Luke Jackson, Silo.

Class 3: 1st, Callie Hodges, Turner; 2nd, Blakelee Hayes, Latta; 3rd, Macee Mathis, Van.

Class 4: 1st, Whitney Jackson, Silo; 2nd, Jared Mahaffey, Fort Towson; 3rd, Callie Hodges, Turner.

Class 5: 1st, Ailey Gunsolus, Turner; 2nd, Colton Gentry, Konawa; 3rd, Kell Brown, Lindsay.

Continental

Breed Champion: Meredith Behrens.

Reserve Breed Champion: Christian McGowan.

Class 1: 1st, Railey Gardner, Antlers; 2nd, Haylie McGowan, Colbert; 3rd, Ridge Stephens, Tushka; 4th, Hannah Palmer, Homeschool 4H; 5th, Jacob Hartin, Madill.

Class 2: 1st, Merideth Behrens, Colbert; 2nd, Judge Hartin, Madill; 3rd, Taylor Mobbs, Tushka.



Division 3 Champion Meat Goat: Taylor Chambers.



Division 3 Reserve Champion Meat Goat: Nick Kelso.



Grand Champion Market Lamb: Colby Impson.



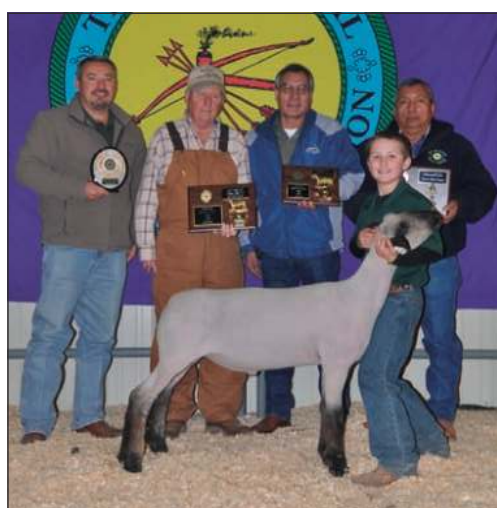
Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb: Colby Impson.



Bronze, Division Champion and Junior Showman, market lambs: Rowdy Jones.



Brooke Roebuck, Senior Showman, market lambs.



Division 2 Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Rowdy Jones.



Supreme and Continental Breed Champion Heifer: Meredith Behrens.



Reserve Supreme and AOB Breed Champion Heifer: Chance Sweeten.



Bronze Supreme Heifer: Christian McGowan.

ka; 4th, Kaley Hartman, Turner.

Class 3: 1st, Christian McGowan, Colbert; 2nd, Kody Silas, Tecumseh; 3rd, Payton Sweeten, Dickson; 4th, Emily Morris, Fort Towson.

Class 4: 1st, Ashlyn Kellum, Silo; 2nd, Jessie Williams, Ryan; 3rd, Morgan Venable, Moss.

Class 5: 1st, Austin Gibson, Morris; 2nd, Logan Graves, Lone Grove.

Brahman

Breed Champion and 1st, Dustin Cochran, Tushka; Reserve Breed Champion and 2nd, Dustin Cochran, Tushka.

AOB

Breed Champion: Chance Sweeten.

Reserve Breed Champion: Kes Reeves.

Class 1: 1st, Merideth Behrens, Colbert; 2nd, Dilan Shipley, Kingston; 3rd, Shelby Gentry, Konawa; 4th, Ashlyn Kellum, Silo, 5th, Jase Collins, Wapanucka.

Class 2: 1st, Chance Sweeten, Dickson; 2nd, Kes Reeves, Kingston; 3rd, Grace Palmer, Homeschool 4H.

Class 3: 1st, Kes Reeves, Kingston; 2nd, Parker Mobbs, Tushka; 3rd, Garrett Addington, Clayton.

Class 4: 1st, Railey Gardner, Antlers; 2nd, Colby Jones, Coalgate; 3rd, Morgan Venable, Moss.

Class 5: 1st, Jacob Hartin, Madill; 2nd, Haylie McGowan, Colbert.

STEERS

Grand Champion: Lane Stewart; Reserve Grand Champion: Jacob Hartin; Bronze Champion: Ashlyn Kellum.

English

Breed Champion: Ailey Gunsolus; Reserve Breed Champion: Laramie Beal.

Class 1: 1st, Ailey Gunsolus, Turner; 2nd, Taylor Dancer, Bennington.

Class 2: 1st, Laramie Beal, Coalgate.

Continental

Breed Champion: Lane Stewart; Reserve Breed Champion: Jacob Hartin.



Junior Showman: Christian McGowan.



Senior Showman: Kody Silas.



English Breed Champion Heifer: Ailey Gunsolus.



English Reserve Breed Champion Heifer: Callie Hodges.



Continental Reserve Breed Champion Heifer: Christian McGowan.



Brahman Breed Champion Heifer: Dustin Cochran.

Class 1: 1st, Riley Powell, Durant; 2nd, Aaron Purkins, Caddo.

Class 2: 1st, Colby Jones, Coalgate; 2nd, Lane Stewart, Healdton; 3rd.

Class 3: Lane Stewart, Healdton; 2nd, Austin Gibson, Morris; 3rd, Dillon Burns, Coalgate.

Class 4: Jacob Hartin, Madill; 2nd, Julie Cullum, Silo/Bryan County; 3rd, Aspen Clemens, Coalgate.

AOB

Breed Champion: Ashlyn Kellum; Reserve Breed Champion: Abbie Schoolfield.

Class 1: 1st, Abbie Schoolfield, Kingston; 2nd, Dakota Robinson, Caddo; 3rd, Nathan Thompson, Durant.

Class 2: 1st, Tristian Wilson, Kingston; 2nd, Josie Bennett, Silo/Bryan County; 3rd, Walker Weger, Eastward.

Class 3: 1st, Ashlyn Kellum, Silo/Bryan County; 2nd, Judge Hartin, Madill.

Cattle Senior Showman: Kody Silas.

Cattle Junior Showman: Christian McGowan.



Brahman Reserve Breed Champion Heifer: Dustin Cochran.



AOB Reserve Breed Champion Heifer: Kes Reeves.



Grand Champion and Continental Breed Champion Steer: Lane Stewart.



Reserve Grand and Continental Reserve Breed Champion Steer: Jacob Hartin.



English Breed Champion Steer: Ailey Gunsolus.



English Reserve Breed Steer: Laramie Beal.



AOB Reserve Breed Champion Steer: Abbie Schoolfield.

When the bottle will be behind us

Award-winning essay written by Trevin Cole

From a very young age I've been intrigued with Native American stories and the proud, overwhelming history of my tribe, the Choctaw. I was always fascinated when I was growing up, hearing the intricate Choctaw language spoken by my great-grandmother; frightening and wonderful stories of the "little people" and the daunting tales of the woods and of the owls' badomen. Throughout my life I've enjoyed listening to those stories on the back porch of my Granny's house while eating a fresh bowl of wild onions. However, in the midst of the beauty of my people there has been a prevalent attacker, a terrible assailant throughout the history of my people. Alcoholism.

Alcoholism is the greatest pandemic we as a people face. Alcoholism has harmed my tribe and it is rampant throughout my family, constantly ripping my family apart; however, that's not all, alcohol has done much more damage than even that. Alcoholism has marred the strength, the beauty, the dignity, and the great pride of Native America; it has ruined us in our own eyes, but even more so in the eyes of world where they have labeled us with a harsh broad stereotype. Sadly, I've seen the truth and the pain of this affliction, personally, in my own family.

"The men [Native Americans] have a good and an evil side. Sober, they are angels. Drunk, their evil side comes out, and they are drunk a good part of the time." (Mary Brave Bird, Native American Quotations) The depressing element of this quote is the truth of the dichotomy of proud native and the miserable drunk that the world tends to notice. I recently lost a cousin and an uncle to alcohol, the former to the grave and the latter to a concrete cell with steel bars; alcohol broke them down and those are just two very recent examples, a small stitch in the family quilt. The fond memories I've had of them at family reunions and those of my uncle and I shooting fireworks every Fourth of July are not lost, but the future memories I gain will only be of conversations through the bars of a six-by-eight cell.

The rich history of my people was harmed when the first of the Choctaw were given alcohol. "Introduced in the early days of contact between Native Americans and European visitors, alcohol became a permanent resident in a fleeting way of life for an age-old culture," and, "old men as well as young got drunk, and the traditional teaching ceased." (Treatment-Solutions/Introduction, Pre-removal Choctaw History)

My family, my tribe, and my people's generational curse has continued from the first

Native's introduction to alcohol like an unbroken chain. My cousin and my uncle, whom I have had very fond memories of throughout my life, were powerless to the legacy that they had been given. They were never handed a heritage of aspiration, given a new path with a gateway to success, and neither one was ever told that it would be possible that they could maintain the greatness that many Americans take for granted; they inherited a bottle, a "magic" drink that could take away the pain that they were raised up feeling. This curse among my people, the awful cycle handed down to my family has been continuous for generations; luckily it stopped with my father and I aim to continue the tradition of my father, not his father.

About every one in 10 Native American's cause of death is alcohol. (essortment.com) A staggering number in contrast to the rest of the American population, a number that can be changed. The alcohol rehabilitation programs for Native Americans are few and far between and generally those that are found, particularly in the Choctaw tribe, are reserved specially for adults only. The alcohol programs are ordinary rehabilitation programs that are, in the midst of an alcohol thirsty culture, failing. The solution I propose is this: stop alcoholism before alcoholism has ravaged a life; I call for more programs encouraged at youth.

A child in an alcoholic home is much more likely to become an alcoholic; the problems of having an alcoholic mother or father have a very high likelihood of leading to more alcoholism, only continuing the vicious cycle. The culture of the alcoholic Native American society is a recurring pattern and the simplest solution is to end it with the children that are to be raised up, to change the culture and to break the chain of a beaten down people by removing the links before they're connected. I propose that youth rallies targeted at stopping alcoholism in the Native American community are staged. I believe that Native programs for alcohol are brought into public schools and reservation schools to infiltrate the hearts and minds of the youth so that they will not continue the sad heritage of alcoholism.

In the meantime I offer that the rehab centers become better funded, more in-depth, and more prevalent throughout tribes of all of the United States; while children and teens are taught to not continue the tradition, the parents are helped to stop the problem with themselves. A positive shift is possible, we just need to begin taking small steps in the right direction.

"He [the Native American] no longer had to die on the battlefield; now he...drifted demoralized into alcoholism, and grubbed what...mean subsistence he could, lived and died



Choctaw Nation: JUDY ALLEN

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Tribal Councilmen James Frazier and Anthony Dillard congratulate Trevin Cole on his award-winning essay.

Trevin Cole wins 2011 Young Native Writers essay contest

Congratulations to Trevin Cole for earning the Native American Writers Scholarship from the Holland and Knight Law Firm in Washington, D.C.

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. First-place winners received an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to visit the National Museum of the American Indian and other prominent sites. The winners were accompanied by the teachers that inspired their entries into the contest. Winner also received special awards for display at their home or school. In addition, winners were given scholarships of \$2,500 to be paid directly to the college or university of his or her choice.

Trevin wrote the 1,200-word essay and was notified the day after graduation he had won the national scholarship and would later go to

Washington D.C. He, along with the teacher who inspired him to write the essay, Laura Clark, made the trip to Washington in July of 2011. He had dinner at the Kennedy Center every evening except one evening, when he went to Maryland and had dinner with the Holland and Knight Law Firm's CEO.

He spoke at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., in front of many Congressmen and women as well as many political figures. He was awarded his scholarship and was the only person representing the Choctaw Nation.

Trevin is working on his bachelor's degree at East Central University where he received the Presidential Plus Scholarship and will later attend Harvard Law.

Trevin's parents are Travis and Katherine Cole, grandparents are Johnny D. and Debbie Ward and Shirley Cole, and great-grandparents are the late Nell Prince and J.C. Ward, Doc and Pat Ingram.

impoverished, powerless, ignored." (Robert Burnette, American Indian Quotations) My desire is that the world will no longer see this image, a proud Indian with a lack of dignity and a bottle in his hand, but a dignified Native American with his head held high and the bottle smashed far behind him.

It is possible to stop alcoholism, to end the oppression of our people, but the greatest way to move forward is to change the mindset of us as a body, to stop the need of a pain-killer in Native America, be a voice to the youth, and

to pry the bottle out of their parents' hands. A lack of alcohol would be a revolution among us as a people and the best part is that we get to decide what our future will become. We can change ourselves in the eyes of all other peoples. Some day soon, when the image of a drunk Native in awful excess is just a faded memory our people be able to excel to greater lengths; only then will the proud, strong Native be able to stand tall, stand dignified in the eyes of the rest of this nation.

*Works cited upon request at biskinik@choctawnation.com

Chief Pyle nominated for 'Most Admired CEO' program



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, one of 32 leaders recognized as a top CEO in Oklahoma.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle was one of 32 Oklahoma leaders honored this month by the Journal Record's 3rd Annual Oklahoma's Most Admired CEO special recognition program. The program recognizes talented business and nonprofit leaders throughout our state. Nominated CEOs are ones who consistently demonstrate strong leadership, integrity, values, vision, commitment to excellence, financial performance and commitment to community and diversity.

After nomination, finalists were selected by a panel of Oklahoma business leaders and will be profiled in Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs magazine.

Chief Pyle, along with this year's finalists and overall winner were honored at a prestigious awards dinner attended by more than 450 people at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation's Justin Tillery, Tracy Horst, and Cyndi Houser, and Southeastern's Dr. Tim Patton finish loading recycled paper from the university campus in Durant into a trailer for transport to the tribe's recycling facility.

Choctaw Nation assists Southeastern in campus-wide recycling initiative

Southeastern Oklahoma State University has recently initiated campus-wide recycling for a variety of materials, an effort made possible by the Choctaw Nation and Southeastern's Campus Sustainability Committee.

In 2009, the Choctaw Nation received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Energy to implement recycling at its facilities. In doing so, it developed a collection center in Bryan County and numerous drop-off locations across southeastern Oklahoma.

More recently, the tribe has extended recycling opportunities to the community and often offer days on which the general public can drop-off acceptable materials.

In Fall 2010, based on requests and recom-

mendations from various faculty members, the Faculty Senate and Administration worked together to develop a new committee, the Campus Sustainability Committee. The new committee identified recycling as one of its highest priorities and contacted the Choctaw Nation to discuss collaboration. The Choctaw Nation generously agreed to accept our materials.

Currently, the university holds recyclable materials in the shed at the grounds facility. When needed, the Choctaw Nation sends personnel to pick up and deliver the materials to its facility for further processing. Southeastern officials say they are indebted to the Choctaw Nation in providing this service free of charge to the university, and sincerely appreciate its commitment to recycling.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Remember the 3 R's and Renew the Earth

A message from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Tribe contributes to 'Beef 4 Battle'

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recently added its name to a list of contributors helping to provide deployed Oklahoma soldiers with a small piece of comfort from their home state.

This effort began in early 2011 when retired World War II veteran George Huggins had an idea to send a small piece of home to Oklahoma's soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Kuwait. This "piece of home" came in the form of something good, convenient, and nutritious to eat – beef sticks. Through donations and contributions from many businesses, farmers and ranchers, Huggins saw his idea become reality.

"Beef 4 Battle" is the name chosen for this collaborative effort whose goal is to send beef sticks to Oklahoma troops serving overseas as a source of much-needed protein in the field.

From the donation of the actual cattle to the processing of the meat, the making of the package labels to the postage to mail the beef sticks to the soldiers, the effort is completely Oklahoma-based.

"Beef 4 Battle" involves numerous entities across Oklahoma and has been in the works for nearly a year. The first batch of beef sticks was sent to the troops in November.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma added to the venture recently by facilitating a large second shipment of the beef sticks.



Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

Veterans Advocacy Deputy Director Brent Oakes prepares the boxes of beef sticks for shipment to Oklahoma Army National Guard troops serving overseas.

Several Oklahoma farmers and ranchers, working through the Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Matters Foundation, donated the cattle, which were processed by the Chickasha Meat Company. Beef sticks were then produced from that meat at Schwab's Meat Company, according to shelf-stable meat formulations provided by Oklahoma State University's Robert M. Kerr Food & Ag Products Center, ensuring the beef sticks met USDA requirements. Keystone Labels provided the product labels on the packaging.

In early February, the Choctaw

Nation donated its services by providing the postage shipping costs to mail 77 boxes containing over 2,000 pounds of the beef sticks for distribution to the soldiers overseas.

"One of the things that really drew to me this project is that it links together Oklahomans home and abroad," says Brent Oakes, Choctaw Nation Veterans Advocacy deputy director, who coordinated the shipment. "So many organizations have brought its services to the table to ensure this project is a success. The Choctaw Nation is proud to be a part of it."



Photo provided

Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton, right, and Chickasaw Nation Administrator of Education Services Lisa John present Southeastern President Larry Minks with a plaque of appreciation.

Tribes recognize Southeastern, President Minks for commitment to Native American students

The Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nations recently teamed up to honor Southeastern Oklahoma State University and president Larry Minks for the school's commitment to and support of Native American student success.

To recognize this commitment to excellence, a program and reception were held Feb. 10 in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union on the Southeastern campus.

Representing Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Chickasaw Gov. Bill Anoatubby to offer remarks and jointly present a plaque of appreciation to Minks were Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Administrator of Education Services Lisa John. Both tribal representatives praised Minks and the University for their leadership and commitment to Native American students.

In his comments, Minks said he was proud of the fact that this spring, 30 percent (1,164 students) of Southeastern's enrollment are Native American students.

Minks also commended director Chris Wesberry and his staff at the Native American Center for Student Success for the contributions they make each and every day. He noted that the partnership with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations' education departments has created more than \$4 million in federal grant monies to support Native American students.

Finally, Minks proudly stated that Southeastern has been recognized among the nation's leaders for graduating Native

American students in a number of fields. According to one national publication, Southeastern ranks sixth in the nation in awarding undergraduate degrees to Native American graduates in all disciplines combined.

"We take a great deal of pride in this (national) recognition," Minks said. "It confirms that the initiatives and programs that we have in place are working and working well. The University's commitment to Native American students could not be stronger, and that is only possible because of the outstanding support of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. Time after time, they have stepped up to partner with Southeastern to establish academic support programs, scholarships, or help fund improved facilities. It's just a tremendous partnership and one of which we are very proud."

Serving as master of ceremonies for the event was Rep. T.W. Shannon, Speaker Designate, from the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Also on the program were Native American students Brenner Billy, Caley Wesberry, and Jessica Gann, Chris Wesberry, and the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw elder and tribal chaplain.

The students presented Minks with a gift as well – a gorget – an accessory worn around the neck symbolizing one who leads. The three-piece silver gorget was handmade by Eddie Postoak, Chickasaw Artist and Director of Cultural Resources of the Chickasaw Nation.

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OKLA CHAHTA

Okla Chahta Gathering to be held May 5-6

Continued from Page 1

Games were a large part of Choctaw culture, especially stickball. Used to settle disagreements by Choctaws centuries ago, a game would sometimes last for days. During the gathering, players will team up in the circle and show the audience the fundamentals of the sport. The popular corn game will once again be held for the kids with the girls battling the boys for the most ears of corn.

Choctaw social dancing is a favorite to either watch or to join and learn. Steps to dances such as the Wedding Dance, Rac-

coon Dance, Stealing Partners Dance or Walk Dance will be demonstrated. The chants accompanying the dances and the sounds of Choctaw hymns will fill the air. A rousing rendition of the National Anthem will also be sung in the Choctaw language.

Arts and crafts booths and a wide variety of food options will line up around the perimeter of the circle, available for strolling visitors to enjoy. A free dinner will be served Saturday night for all in attendance.

A highlight of the annual gathering is the crowning of the Okla Chahta princesses. Three young ladies are chosen to serve as 2012-13 Miss Okla Chahta, Jr. Miss Okla Chahta and Little Miss Okla Chahta.

Mark your calendars for the first weekend in May and plan to bring your entire family to enjoy this Choctaw reunion.

For more information on entering the princess contest or about the gathering, log on to www.oklachahta.org.

Announcing The 2012 Young Native Writers Essay Contest

The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation is proud to welcome entries for the **Young Native Writers Essay Contest**, which we organize each year in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian.

This essay contest for Native American high school students is designed to encourage young Native Americans to think about the most important issues affecting their tribal communities, as well as ways in which challenges can be addressed.

Hundreds of Native American high school students participate each year. While all participants receive a Certificate of Honor for submitting their essays and adding their voices to this important dialogue in Indian Country, **the five first-place winners are awarded an all-expenses-paid "Scholar Week" trip to Washington, D.C.**, accompanied by a teacher or mentor nominated by each winner, to visit the National Museum of the American Indian and other prominent Washington, D.C. sites. **Each winner also receives a \$2,500 college scholarship.**

Please help us spread the word about this year's contest by forwarding this email to groups and individuals who might be interested in submitting an essay. **The deadline for submission is April 30, 2012.**

We look forward to reading this year's essays!

For more details please visit: <http://www.nativewriters.hklaw.com/>

OBITUARIES

Bronell Jones

Bronell "Buck" Jones passed away on Dec. 27, 2011, at the home ranch in Springfield, Ore. He was born Aug. 17, 1924, and was a loving husband, father, papa and friend. Born in Allen to original enrollee Frank Pierce Jones and Christella Montague Jones, grandson of original enrollee Mary Barnett Crawford Jones. He died of kidney disease and age related causes.



He was married to Ingeburg Jones and they had three sons; Barney, Bruce, Brian and one adopted daughter, Belinda. They later divorced and he married Ruby Clark on Jan. 5, 1973. They had one daughter, Christella, and have two stepsons, Patrick and Travis Clark.

Buck was schooled at the Black Rock Indian School in Allen and graduated from Ada High School. As a youngster he worked as a paperboy in Ada, and later as a ship welder in the Kaiser shipyards of Richmond, Calif., when World War II broke out. He was proud to be on the welding crew that constructed a Liberty ship, the SS Robert Peary, in a little over four days from start to finish, a record that stood until the end of the war. He joined the U.S. Army after his 18th birthday and served in both World War II and the Korean War. He was especially proud of his service as a combat medic during the Leyte Philippines beach invasion. He retired as a Master Sergeant after 20 years of excellent service and was awarded the Bronze Star along with numerous service medals. He served with the 45th Infantry Division in Korea and received the Wharang Distinguished Service Medal, the highest Korean bravery award for his service during the Korean War. He travelled all over the world and was proud to have served his country.

He was a real estate broker of Cascade and Red Carpet Real Estate in Springfield, Oregon and also ran bus tours to Reno, Nev. He loved meeting new people, playing black jack and he loved the glitz and glamour of Reno. When he was 50, he went to Lane Community College in Eugene, Ore., to take business courses and learned to play better black jack. Buck retired a second time to become a full-time husband, father and grandfather.

Preceding him in death were sons, Bruce and Brian; and grandson Jessie.

Buck has six grandchildren, Jerald and Colton, the youngest who lived nearest him in Springfield, and Katie, Nicolas, Dean Patrick and Nathan.

He is survived by son Barney Buck Jones of Pebble Beach, Calif.; daughter Belinda of Pebble Beach; wife Ruby; daughter Christella Moore; and sons, Patrick and Travis Clark, all of Springfield, Ore.

Susie Noah

Susie Noah, 81, of Battiest, passed away on Jan. 31, 2012, at the Broken Bow Health and Rehab Center.



The daughter of Harrison S. and Eliza A. (Jones) Noah, Susie was born Nov. 20, 1930, in Battiest. She enjoyed quilting, gardening and doing beadwork. Susie cherished her family. She particularly enjoyed special occasions and family reunions.

Susie was a faithful member of the Battiest Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Felene Carney and Thelma Carnes; and one grandson, Eli Jo Noah.

She is survived by one son, Thomas Noah Sr. of Battiest; three grandchildren, Thomas Noah Jr. of Battiest, Geneva Josay of Arizona, and Chris Noah of Arizona; 12 great-grandchildren; one brother, Sim Noah of Hugo; one niece, Mary Pipping of Sobel; and one nephew, Orville Noah of Hugo.

Ongele Barnett

Ongele Marie Barnett, 30, passed away on Dec. 24, 2011, at home. She was born Oct. 18, 1981, the daughter of Alyce Barnett and Gregory Dockery. Ongele received her education through the Kansas City of Kansas school system. She was very creative and enjoyed her music, her dogs, basketball, hunting, dice, fishing and cooking, but most of all, spending time with family. She will be truly missed by all who knew her.



She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, William (Billy) Barnett; paternal grandfather, James Dockery; and paternal grandmother, Fairy Dockery.

She is survived by her loving mother, Alyce Barnett-Matchett; stepfather Daniel Mann; father Gregory Dockery; two sisters, Shawanna Matchett and Chantily Flucas; maternal grandmother, Alyce Barnett; great-aunt Willa Petty; two aunts, Rhoda Hicks and Claudine Barnett; three uncles, Tony Barnett, TyRese Barnett and William Barnett Jr.; and a host of cousins and friends.

Billy Bornmann

Billy Ray Bornmann, 76, passed away on Nov. 14, 2011, at his home in Cottonwood Calif., after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.



He was born on Sept. 15, 1935, in Soper to Perry Bornmann and Lara Ada (Edge) Bornmann. He spent his childhood in the Boswell area and moved to California as a teen, living there for over 50 years.

He was very proud to be a Choctaw. He was a very hard worker and had retired from the Laborer's International Union of which he had been a member for over 25 years. He loved his family and friends, as well as hunting, fishing, horses, rodeo, barrel racing and NASCAR. He was a fine gardener and loved sharing his wonderful produce with family, friends and neighbors.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Rosanne L. Bornmann; two sons, Michael Bornmann and Marty Alan Bornmann, both of Redding, Calif.; four daughters, Julie Tumino of Redding, Michelle Ann Bornmann of Igo, Calif., Melissa Lea Bornmann of Willow Creek, Calif., and Susan Ellen Bornmann of Elk Grove, Calif.; three sisters, Virginia Ary, Ramona Pugh and Betty Jo Robinson; two brothers, Verlin Bornmann and Ueal Bornmann; 17 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Thomas Page

Thomas David "Tom" Page, 69, of Blanchard, formerly of Tuttle, passed away on Dec. 31, 2011. The son of Oma Mae (Hendrix) and James Irvin "Bo" Page, he was born on July 24, 1942, in Soper.



He retired from SAIA Motor Freight as a truck driver. Tom married Letha Pearl Franklin on Aug. 8, 1984, in Chickasha. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, but his greatest love was his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Jim, Bill, Charles and Harold Page; and two great-granddaughters.

He is survived by his wife, Letha Page of Blanchard; sons, Keith Dewayne Page of Illinois, Kendall Frank Sires of Blanchard; daughters, Bonita Denise Armstrong of Illinois, Tammy Renee Killman of Arkansas, Barbara Darlene Sims of Blanchard, Lori Zydell of Texas, Gayla Michelle Andrews of Tuttle, Paula J. Cannon of Blanchard; 30 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mary Beth Batten of Rush Springs, Rosita Sewell of Florida, Myrtle Barnes of Lindsay; numerous nieces and nephews; and many other loved ones and friends.

Benjamin Williams

Benjamin "Frank" Williams, 102, passed away on Jan. 16, 2012, in Hugo. He was born July 8, 1909, in Soper, to Henry and Ida (Bond) Williams. He had lived all of his life in this area and attended the Assembly of God Church in Soper. He married Pauline Virginia Roebuck on June 23, 1934, in Soper. He worked and retired after 30 years with the Bridge Gang for the railroad. He was a cattle rancher and enjoyed hunting.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Pauline Williams in 2006; granddaughter Linda Williams; brother Robert Williams; and sister Sue Lester.

Benjamin is survived by three sons, Henry C. Williams with wife Lorraine of Muskogee, Roy F. Williams with wife Shirley of Tulsa, and Joe Williams of Soper; two daughters, Ruth Waugh with husband Atwood of Soper, and Ida Zellner with husband Coleman of Newcastle; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Ramona Lewallen

Ramona Woolard Lewallen, 52, of Spiro passed away on Jan. 8, 2012, in Spiro. She was born on March 23, 1959, in Fort Smith, Ark., to Walter Charles and Melba Lois (McNoel) Woolard. She loved animals, drawing, playing cards and cutting hair. She especially loved her family and friends.



She is survived by two daughters, Christina Tobler of Spiro, and Hillary Kay Moore of Spiro; son Charles "Chucky" Moore of Spiro; sister Sandy Master-son with husband Jeff of Spiro; three brothers, Alan Woolard with wife Jennifer of Barling, Ark., Walter Charles Woolard of Bokoshe, and Brian Woolard with wife Sara of Tahlequah; and six grandchildren, Breanna, Bethany, Layla, Trinity, Dylan and Olivia.

Roy Christie

Roy "Leroy" Christie, 79, of Dickson, passed away on Jan. 6, 2012, in Marietta.



Leroy was born June 22, 1932, to Edward Christie and Mina (Pickens) Christie in McMillan. He married Larine James at Pickens Baptist Church in McMillan.

Leroy attended McMillan Schools and then moved to Chicago where he became a bartender for several years. He moved back to Ardmore in the early 1980s and took a position with Bruce and Tom Harris as a truck driver for Southern Vending. As a member of Pickens Baptist Church, he served as a deacon. Leroy loved working in the garden and working on cars. He also enjoyed listening to gospel music and watching westerns.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; three brothers, Isom Christie, Gilbert Christie and Elmer Christie; stepson Gerald Sockey; and stepdaughter Patricia Sockey.

Leroy is survived by four sons, Terry Christie with wife Denise of Philadelphia, Miss., Larry Christie of Philadelphia, Rick Christie of Ardmore, and Eddie Christie of Ardmore; two daughters, Darla Henry with husband Kendal Thompson of Ardmore, and Kathy Eye with husband Dan of McMillan; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; stepsons, Patrick James with wife Lynne, Glen James, Dennis James and Mark James; stepdaughters, Lenora James and Marilyn Cooper, both of Ardmore; two brothers, Aaron Christie of Lone Grove, and Frank Christie of McMillan; two sisters, Leona Johnson of Ardmore and Ella Ross of Mannsville; as well as his close friends of Choctaw, Miss., and a host of family and friends.

Mary Lockhart

Mary Elizabeth Reese Bender Lockhart passed away peacefully with her children at her bedside on Aug. 5, 2011, at Vaughn Regional Medical Center in Selma, Ala.



Mary was born in Albertville, Ala., on Jan. 22, 1935, to Orville (Jack) Reese and Aphry Elizabeth Barclift Reese. Orville is the direct descendant (grandson) of Dixon Durant, founder of Durant, Okla.

Mary married Lorenza Lee Bender in Meridian, Miss., on June 2, 1950. She graduated with a certification in upholstery from John Patterson in Montgomery, Ala., in 1985. She held several jobs, from waitress to seamstress, to help her husband with the monetary necessities of raising their six children. Her accomplishments were many and her ability to "stay in the background" was well known. She was best known for her guidance to and her love for her children and any other child that came within her presence. Her first loyalty was to God and His guidance in raising her children.

Mary is survived by her six children, Coline (Larry) Sheffield, Lorenza Lee (Babs) Bender Jr., Clair Carden, Jerry (Debra) Bender, Sarah (Tommy) Harris, and Lloyd (Martha) Bender; her sister, Margie Allen of Marianna, Fla.; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Ada Lusk

Ada Marie Lusk, 87, of Haywood, passed away on Jan. 11, 2012, at McAlester Regional Health Center. Born April 4, 1924, in McAlester, she was the daughter of Adam and Winnie (Pope) Gibson. She grew up there and after high school she attended Southeastern State College in Durant for a couple of years. She married Andy A. Lusk Aug. 30, 1943, in Amarillo,



Texas. They lived in California for a while where they owned and operated a produce market and grocery store. She had lived in the Haywood area for a number of years where she loved to work in her abundant vegetable garden every year. She was a member of the Haywood Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; a son, Stanley Lusk; a daughter, Judith Lusk, and sister Viola Blevins.

Survivors include one daughter Linda Cox with husband Jack of Hanford, Calif.; son Robert Lusk of Haywood; six grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; brother Jim Gibson with wife Marie of Haywood; and three sisters, Caldonia Choate of Watsonville, Calif., Ann Smith of McAlester, and Clara Blevins of McAlester.

Helen Davis

Helen Wyota Earl Davis passed away on Dec. 21, 2011. She was born to James Rodgers and Helen Earl in Idabel on Dec. 23, 1923. She graduated from Antlers High School in 1941.



Attending Oklahoma A&M, she was a majorette with the Aggie Band, met many of her lifelong friends, and graduated in 1945. While at A&M she met Doyle Davis of Ponca City and they were married in 1946 in Winfield, Kan. They were married for 64 years and lived in numerous places during Doyle's nearly 35 years with Continental Oil Company (CONOCO). A retired school teacher and librarian, she lived each day of her life with a joy, strength and faith that cannot be duplicated. Wyota celebrated each day and taught us to live life in the present. A keen wit and sense of humor were her trademarks, and yet, she was always a lady. She treasured her family and dear friends, loved dancing, fishing, playing bridge and serving the Lord and her church. She was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation, OKC Geologist Wives Club, Antique Club, and Swinging Rebels Square Dance Club. She and Doyle were volunteers for Meals on Wheels, and she supported the Presbyterian Urban Mission as well as serving as a Deacon of Central Presbyterian Church.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the multitude of friends that supported Wyota with cards, care and love - you are a reflection of all the wonderful things she was and considered each of you a blessing in her life. Also, a "thank you" to the superior staff at Excell Health Care.

Wyota was preceded in death by her loving husband, Doyle W. Davis.

She is survived by her son, Rodgers E. Davis; daughter Debbie and son-in-law Rex Thomas; granddaughter Holly L. Thomas; and cousin Betty Jean Jennings.

Willis Watts

Willis Leroy Watts, 85, passed away on Dec. 5, 2011. Willis was born March 17, 1926, in Red Oak, to Dewey Elmer and Luavina Elizabeth (Fout) Watts. Willis was a loving man and spent much of his life as an Assembly of God preacher.



He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Juanita Watts; infant daughter, Thelma J. Watts; siblings, Raymond Watts, Opal Mayhall and L.V. Watts.

Survivors include his children, Harold Watts (Shirlyn), Doyle Watts (Wynona), Terry Watts (Judy), Larry Watts (Carla), Charles Watts (Jamie); siblings, June Paxton (Emil), Donnie Watts (Julia); seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Raymond Kent

Raymond Herbert Kent, 44, passed away on Jan. 20, 2012, in Lone Grove.

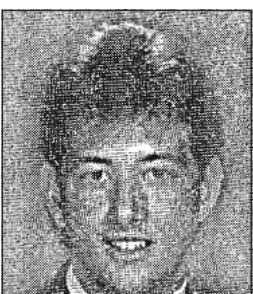
Raymond was born on Aug. 22, 1967, to Cecil Herbert Kent and Anita Louise (YellowEagle) Kent at Atoka. Raymond was a carpenter by trade. He worked as a roofer for Erick Brawley Roofing and other local construction companies. He had a great love of family and, in recent years, took care of his grandmother. Raymond enjoyed fishing, hunting, and he greeted everyone with a smile. He was the perpetual joker and loved listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Janis Johnson.

Raymond is survived by his grandmother, Lela Mae Cooper of the home; children, Lyndsie Kent and Christopher Kent, both of Moore; three grandchildren; and four siblings, Robin Kent of Albuquerque, Cecil Kent Jr. of Ardmore, James Paul Johnson of Ardmore, and Yolanda Johnson of Lone Grove.

Lester Addington

Lester Charles Addington, 42, passed away on Nov. 14, 2011, in Sardis. He was a Daisy/Sardis resident who was born on Jan. 12, 1969, to Kenneth and Donna (Hutson) Addington in Talihina. He graduated from Clayton High School in 1987. He attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Talihina Nursing School. He was a LPN. He loved gardening, cooking and working in his yard with flowers.



He was preceded in death by his grandpa Lester "Sonny" Hutson; great-grandparents Charlie and Arabella Addington, Luther and Effie Baker, Jim and Alpha Hutson, and Charlie and Angie Isom.

He is survived by his partner, Tommy Miller of Sardis; mother Donna and Bobby McSpadden of Sardis; father Kenneth Addington of Kenefic; brother Jonathan and Telisa Addington of Daisy; grandparents, Alice Hutson of Daisy, and Charles and Edith Addington of Kenefic; aunts and uncles, Wendy and Glen Wyrick of Daisy, Cathy Boles of Kenefic, and Danny and Linda Addington of Sardis; nephews and niece, Dillon, Garrett, Dawson and Gracee Addington of Daisy; along with numerous cousins, relatives and dear friends.

OBITUARIES

David Wilson

David Milton Wilson, 62, passed away on Jan. 6, 2012, in Reno, Nev. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. David was born on Aug. 29, 1949, in Augusta, Ga., and raised in Idabel. He will be missed by all who loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Virginia Irene and Ray Wilson; and one brother, James Ray Wilson.

In addition to his life companion Betty Hailey, he is survived by his daughters, Lisa and Lesli of Arkansas; sons Cody and Casey of Kansas; two sisters, Lura Wilson of Martinez, Ga., and Peggy Blush with Bill of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; three brothers, Donald Wilson with Nita of Locust Grove, Larry Thomas Wilson with Syble of Princeton, Texas, and William "Bill" Wilson with Diane of Royce City, Texas; along with his grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Oneita Wilson

B. Oneita Wilson, 99, of Octavia, passed away on Dec. 19, 2011, in Talihina. The daughter of Raymond and Matilda E. (Smith) Wilson, she was born Aug. 18, 1912, in Octavia. Oneita loved life and being outdoors. Being the prankster that she was, Oneita never missed an opportunity to pull a joke on someone. She enjoyed gardening, playing bingo and painting. Oneita was a member of Big Lick Presbyterian Church in Smithville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Matilda Wilson; two brothers, Dukes Wilson and Desmond Wilson; five sisters, Mona Wilson, Ethelind Wilson, Imogene White, Evadne Maggard and Rayma Wilson; and a special friend, Kathleen Pilgram.

Oneita leaves to cherish her memory, several generations of nieces and nephews; special friends, Bobby Joe White, Juanita Futrell and Wanda Leet; caregivers; great-nephew Raymond Wilson with wife Melissa; and niece, Helen Caldwell with husband Ben.

Robert Lyle

Robert C. "Bob" Lyle, 87, passed away on Feb. 5, 2012, in Marlow.

Bob was born on March 15, 1924, in Marlow to Robert Clifford Lyle and Martha Ann (Hill) Lyle. Bob lived most of his life in the Stephens County area. He attended Rocky Point Public School and Marlow Schools. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. Bob married Patsy Jane Palmer on February 24, 1951, in Dallas. She preceded him in death in 1977. On July 14, 1977, he married Jean Edwards in Duncan. She preceded him in death in 2003. He later married Margaret Gatlin on July 5, 2004 in Lawton. She preceded him in death in 2008. Bob was a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Marlow American Legion, VFW and Kiwanis Club of Lawton. He served as president of the Wilson School Board and belonged to the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association. Bob loved quail hunting and his life-long love was raising and working his cattle. He owned and operated Farmers and Ranchers Stock Yards and Cattleman's Steakhouse in Comanche. He also owed a commission company at the Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City and was an order buyer for National Commission Company in Oklahoma City. Bob was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Marlow.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Clifford Lyle Sr. and Martha Hill Lyle Savage; son Russell Thomas Lyle; and sister Fannie Louise Lyle.

Survivors include two sons, Richard Owen Lyle of Milburn, and Robert Clifford Lyle III with wife Amelia of Perry; daughter, Martha Louise Lyle Tanula with husband James of Lake Forest, Ill.; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.



Bertha Micco

Bertha Mae Micco, 81, went to be with the Lord on Oct. 30, 2009, in Durant. Bertha was born on March 2, 1928, in Spencerville. Her parents were Wister and Jencie David. She was a retired certified nurse's aid, member of the Red Hats and Corinth Baptist Church in Fort Towson. She received an award of 60 years of church service from the Corinth Baptist Church on Mother's Day in 2009.

She was a proud and active member of the Choctaw Senior Citizen's group in Hugo. She made fry bread and worked the food booth for the Choctaw Seniors at the Choctaw Casino in Grant. She loved being with her family more than anything in the world. She loved to sing gospel hymns and attend gospel singing events. She also loved to cook, make homemade blankets, garden and worship God.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband and Baptist preacher, Norman Jessie Micco; sisters, Eunella Satterfield and Luella Williams; and brothers, Happy and Orville David.

She is survived by one son, Norman David Micco of Oklahoma City; daughters Debbie Childers of Hugo, and Pam Weaver of Lake Charles La.; brother Wyndle David of Fort Towson; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.



Norman Thompson

Norman William Thompson Jr., 62, passed away on Jan. 11, 2012, in Childress, Texas.

Norman was born Oct. 18, 1949 in Durant to Norman and Georgia Creason Thompson. He served his country in the U.S. Army. He also served in National Guard where he was stationed in Amarillo and Louisiana. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and loved country and western music.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his sons, Bill Thompson with wife Anita of Childress, Jason Thompson, Jeffery Thompson and Raymond Steadman, all of Amarillo; daughter Jonnie Kay Bozarth of Amarillo; sisters, Georgia Lovelady Palestine, Texas, Opal Bailey of Childress, Linda Lax of Shamrock, Texas, and Norma Alexander of Lubbock; brothers, Lawrence Thompson of Clovis, N.M., and David Thompson of Childress; along with numerous grandchildren

Kenneth Oliver

Kenneth Gene Oliver, 81, of Georgetown, Texas, passed away on Jan. 19, 2012. He was born March 13, 1930, in Wetumka, the second son of Jasper Hugh Oliver and Lou Evalena Walls Oliver, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He was a Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) in the U.S. Army. He and his older brother, Tom, grew up in Oklahoma and Hobbs, N.M. Ken graduated from Hobbs High School, went to work in the Phillips Oil Refineries, and then enlisted in the New Mexico National Guard to finance his music studies at Oklahoma University. While at OU, his brother Tom introduced him to another OU band member, Marion Lee Giblet, of Oklahoma City. They were married in December 1950. Ken's active military career began in 1951 when he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps. Ken and Marion began their life together through nine duty stations and 13 family moves, including a tour with SHAPE Headquarters in Versailles, France, in Germany during the Berlin Crisis, and Vietnam. Their first son Bryan, was born in Oklahoma; first daughter, Lou Ann at Fort Knox, Ken.; Samuel and Katy in Versailles; Thomas Wade in Germany; and Kenneth Craig at Fort Sill. Ken retired from the Army at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., after 24 years of active service, began a new career in the field of corrections. His first work was in consulting, then as superintendent of the Kansas State Reformatory in Hutchinson, warden of the state penitentiary in Lansing, and finally as deputy director of corrections for the State of Kansas, before retiring again in 1983, and eventually moving back to Texas.

An avid outdoorsman, competitive marksman and antique firearms collector, Ken instilled in his own children a joy of adventure, good sportsmanship, tolerance and appreciation of American History. He was known for storytelling and history lessons, patriotism and even towards the end of his life, he was still passing out copies of the Constitution to his kids and grandkids. Generosity, honesty and integrity are key components of him. His example, together with Marion's grace and strength, raised six children to respect service to country and cherish their strength of faith and family. He personally swore into the Armed Forces three of his sons. Another still pursues a successful career in law enforcement. His daughters have raised their own families with the same grace and strength that, along with their brothers, has produced a total of nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Ken is survived by his wife Marion of Georgetown; brother Thomas Marion Oliver of Lamesa, Texas; sons, Bryan with wife Jane of St. Louis, Samuel with wife Ann of Killeen, Texas, Thomas Wade with wife Marianne of Norco, Calif, Kenneth Craig with wife Anna of Lawrence, Kan.; and two daughters, Lou Ann with husband Dean Didde of Liberty Hill, Texas, and Katy with husband Robert Colvin of Lansing, Kan.



Delilah Ary

Delilah Ann Balch "Delsie" Ary, 72, went to be with the Lord that she so faithfully served on Jan. 30, 2012. She was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, artist, hairdresser and friend to so many.

Delsie was born in Boswell on Nov. 1, 1939, to Bernice and Lake Balch. She and her mom moved to Andrews, Texas, in 1941, where her mom met and was married to Pete Echols. She graduated from Andrews High School in 1958, where she designed the Andrews High School logo that is still used today. Delsie was married to W.A. "Buddy" Dame and started her family. In 1983, she met and was married to Eldon Ary in Brownwood, Texas. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Enid, for a period of 10 years where she entered into the antique business. Upon returning to Blanket, Texas, to retire, Delsie continued her antiquing for the next 10 years. She was a member of the Blanket Methodist Church, Emmaus, and a very devout supporter and volunteer of the Good Samaritan Ministry.

She is survived by her loyal and loving husband, Eldon Ary; sister Zanna Tucker; sons, Steve Dame with wife Stacey, Tim Dame with wife Angela, Kirk Ary with wife Becky, Joel Ary, and Jeff Ary with wife Debbie; 10 wonderful grandchildren; four beautiful great-grandchildren; and numerous other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Jacquetta Bowman

Jacquetta L. Bowman passed away on Jan. 19, 2012, in Haskell, after a trying battle with cancer. Known by most as "Grammur," she was a faithful witness of Jehovah for over 40 years.

She was born on July 2, 1939, in Lubbock, Texas, to John and Loyce Jackson as the oldest of three children. She married Donald W. Bowman on Aug. 5, 1956 in Munday, Texas. They had six children together, along with 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Jacquetta loved serving Jehovah and telling others of her many blessings and promises. She enjoyed camping, fishing, playing games like Farkel, Skip-Bo, marbles, putting puzzles together with family, having children around and being outdoors.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband Donald; son Wesley Eldon; and sister Caren.

She is survived by a brother, Eddie with Mary Jackson of Hebron, Ken., and her 14-year-old Chihuahua, HI-T; her children and their families which consist of James and Lynn Lenard and Rhyder of Haskell; Lisa Morgan and Tyler, Chelsea and Caden of Haskell; Mike and Kathy Woodley Beitzell and Jason and Makayla of Poteau; Kurtis and Myke Rorabaugh and Austin, Kaylee, Emma and Aydinn of Heavener; Greg Colledge and Brandy Kingston and Melissa, T.J. and Brandon of Bountiful, Utah; Chris and Amy Lenard and Moses, Maribelle, Marissa, Faith and Christopher of Haskell; Mike and Sarah Babb and Brianna, MaKenna and Lailyn of Layton, Utah; Jean McCants of Quinlan, Texas; Chief Bowman and Ariel and Kaniowa of Haskell Bobby and Desiree Bowman and Elise and Kayden of Haskell; Lucky Bowman and Kristen of Austin, Texas; Daniel and JoJo Bowman and Nathan and Royce of Austin; Tracy Skougard and Shelby and Taylor of Folsom, Calif; Camie Larsen and Cheryl and Ariana of Haskell. She is also survived by extended family Chris and Debbie Bana and family of Oregon; Chris Gist and family of Haskell; Cassandra Cranston and family of Oregon; Camera Bartolotta and family of Pennsylvania; Chase and Sarah Heller and family of Wales; as well as aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She will be greatly missed by all who have had the opportunity to meet her.

Juanita Tormey

Juanita "Jip" Tormey, 80, of Pocola, passed away on Jan. 26, 2012, in Pocola. She was born on Dec. 6, 1931, in Pocola to Walter Lee and Lillie Mae (Gregory) Nolen. She was a member of Christian Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Pocola.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Margie Cox and Dorothy Rodgers; and brother Otis Lee Nolen.

She is survived by daughter Wanda Munsinger of Pocola; sons, Dennis Eugene Ward with wife Robin of Stratford, and Jimmy Dale Ward with wife Vivian of Pocola; sisters, Barbara Conrad of Spiro, and Charlene Ramsey of Alma, Ark.; 14 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



Esta Pipkins

Esta Alice "Shorty" Pipkins, 95, of Pocola, passed away Jan. 8, 2012, in Fort Smith, Ark. Shorty was born June 21, 1916, in Pocola to Eric Jasper and Gaitha (Tucker) Gregory. She was a homemaker and of the Baptist faith.

Shorty was preceded in death by her parents; husband Andy; two sisters; two brothers; and two grandsons.

Survivors include her daughters, Mary Welker and Melba Large of Spiro, and Linda Oehlschlager of Poteau; seven sons, Tom Pipkins, Aaron Pipkins of Pocola, Gary Pipkins of Spiro, Paul David Pipkins of Big Cedar, Roy Daniel Pipkins of Hackett, Ark., Kenny Eugene Pipkins of Spiro, and Gerald Don Pipkins of Pocola; three generations of grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; other relatives and loved ones; and many beloved friends.



Lucille Willie

Lucille Willie, 91, of Broken Bow, formerly of Wright City, passed away Feb. 14, 2012, in Talihina.

The daughter of Willis G. and Lucy (Cooper) Wesley, Lucille was born April 6, 1920, in Broken Bow. She loved her family and enjoyed gardening, quilting, sewing and yard work. Lucille was a member of Bokchito Methodist Church in Idabel and was involved in the Methodist Women's Society.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Elliot Willie; three brothers, Harry, Emmitt and Williamson Wesley; niece Cleta Wesley; great-niece Christina Willis; and sister-in-law Lydia Wesley.

Lucille leaves to cherish her memory five nieces, Joy Ruiz, Gwen Wesley Pond with her husband Mark, Lola Wesley, Rosie Wesley and Wilma "Tootie" Wesley, all of Broken Bow; two nephews, Larry Jones and Willis Wesley, both of Broken Bow; one half-brother, Mose Williams of Eagletown; great-nieces and nephews, Mark Wesley, J.P. Pond, Cody Noah, Megan Noah, Kim Tims with her husband Arnold, Chris Tisho, Jade Wesley and Kerry Willis; great-great nieces and nephews, Alyssa, Ashton, Akeiley and Ashur Willis, and Kylar and Makaylan Foshee; special nurse, Sherri Quigley; and a host of other family and friends.



Michael Elder

Michael Eugene Elder passed away on Dec. 11, 2011, in Longview, Texas.

He was born March 29, 1958, in Hugo. Michael was a wonderful witness for the kingdom of Christ and proud to be a Choctaw.

He is survived by his mother, Ann Stephenson Elder of Longview, Texas; sister Susan Elder of Longview; brother James Elder with wife Shaynee of White Oak, Texas; niece Ashley Elder; nephew Zachary Elder; aunts, Pat Howerton with spouse Floyd of Hubbard, Texas, Nelda Graves with spouse Frank of White Salem, Wash., and Peggy Hill with spouse Charles of Dangerfield, Texas; uncle Calvin Stephenson with wife Patricia of White Salem; along with numerous cousins, all descendants of Myrtle Ervin Page, an original Choctaw enrollee.



Bonnie Mae Stowers

Bonnie Mae (Folsom) Stowers, 83, of Marshall County, passed away on Feb. 16, 2012, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. She was born April 30, 1928, in Cement to the late Leonidas Folsom and Mae Buchanan Folsom. Leonidas was an original Choctaw enrollee. She attended Carter Indian Seminary in Ardmore and later Chillico Indian Boarding School for Native Americans located in North Central Oklahoma on the Kansas border. She married Millard Monroe Stowers on July 1, 1948, in Ardmore. He preceded her in death on Oct. 15, 1993. She had worked in Madill Manufacturing and in the Brookside Nursing Center in Madill. Bonnie had resided with daughter and son-in-law Jerry and Sandra Byrd in Mead for the past six and a half years. She took great pride I being a loving wife and mother. Bonnie loved family gatherings, doing crafts, reading and was an avid seamstress.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one brother; three sisters; and one grandchild.

She is survived by children, Millard Steven Stowers with wife Diana of Calera, Leslie Ann Brewer with husband Don of Red Oak, and Sandra Mae Byrd with husband Jerry of Mead; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sister Evelyn Griffin of New Braunfels, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

James Jackson

James Arthur Jackson passed away on Feb. 15, 2012. He was born in Spiro, on Aug. 15, 1936. He served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper and was a retired truck driver.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lorene Robison Alexander; father Raynold Jackson; and his brother, Andrew Mixon Jackson.

He leaves behind a daughter, Patricia Longobardi; two sons, James (Jimmy) Jackson Jr., and Jack Steven Jackson; sister Nancy Gournail (Jackson) Wright; and a brother, Sherman Guy Alexander.

Making Choctaw arrows

Previous editions of Iti Fabvssa have presented information about the Choctaw bow and arrow in action (1/10), Choctaw “arrowheads” (7/11), and the process for making a traditional Choctaw bow (10/10). The next two editions of Iti Fabvssa will add to these previous articles by focusing in depth on Choctaw arrows and how to make them.

As many readers can probably already surmise, a traditional Choctaw arrow is a lot more than just a stick with feathers tied on one end. The traditional arrow is part of a complex weapon that also includes the bow and bow string. All three must be finely tuned to each other to work effectively. To produce an accurate shot, the arrow itself must have the correct length and stiffness for the particular bow that it is fired from; the arrow must be the right weight, and this weight must be properly balanced to keep it from tumbling; the arrow must have the correct aerodynamics to fly straight; and the tip must be properly suited to its intended function. A traditional arrow is a deadly weapon, no question about it, but it is also very much a piece of art.

In the Choctaw language, an arrow is known as “oski naki,” or iti naki.” The first term translating literally as “cane projectile” is used if the arrow shaft is made from river cane. The second term, translating as “wooden projectile,” is used if the shaft is made from any type of wood. Traditional Choctaw arrows are made in several different types, depending on their intended uses. The most common types include arrows for war/hunting large game, for hunting small game, and for bow-fishing.

Choctaw archers of the past used the same type of arrows both for war and for hunting large animals. Today some Choctaws still use them for hunting deer. These arrows are long and heavy. Usually, their arrowheads have sharp edges, designed for creating a bleeding wound in any-thing unfortuna-te enough to be hit



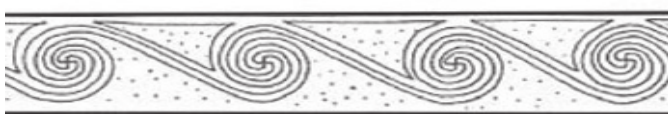
Figure 1
Deadly Southeastern war arrows.

by one. Contrary to Hollywood movies, it is usually not possible to pick up a random war arrow and know what tribe made it. However, it is often possible to tell what region of the country a traditional arrow comes from. This is the case with five of the earliest surviving war arrows from the Southeast (Fig. 1). Currently housed at the Peabody Museum on the Harvard University campus, they were collected in Georgia before 1828 (note-Georgia Territory included what is now Mississippi and Alabama until 1796). These very well-made arrows are probably either Choctaw or Creek in origin. Their shafts are made from hardwood shoots from a bush or tree sapling. The arrows are fletched with three turkey wing feathers that have been split and trimmed. The quills of these feathers were glued down to the arrow shaft along their lengths, and their ends were wrapped in animal tendon covered in glue. The large points of these arrows are made of carefully shaped deer antler. The arrows are painted in red and black, colors that Choctaw traditional thought associates with war and death.

A different type of Choctaw big game / war arrow is in the collection of the Red River Museum in Idabel (Fig 2a). This arrow is made from a straightened piece of river cane. It has no fletchings at



Figure 2
Three Choctaw cane arrows with rolled metal points. “A” is from Oklahoma, “B” and “C” are from Mississippi.



Iti Fabvssa

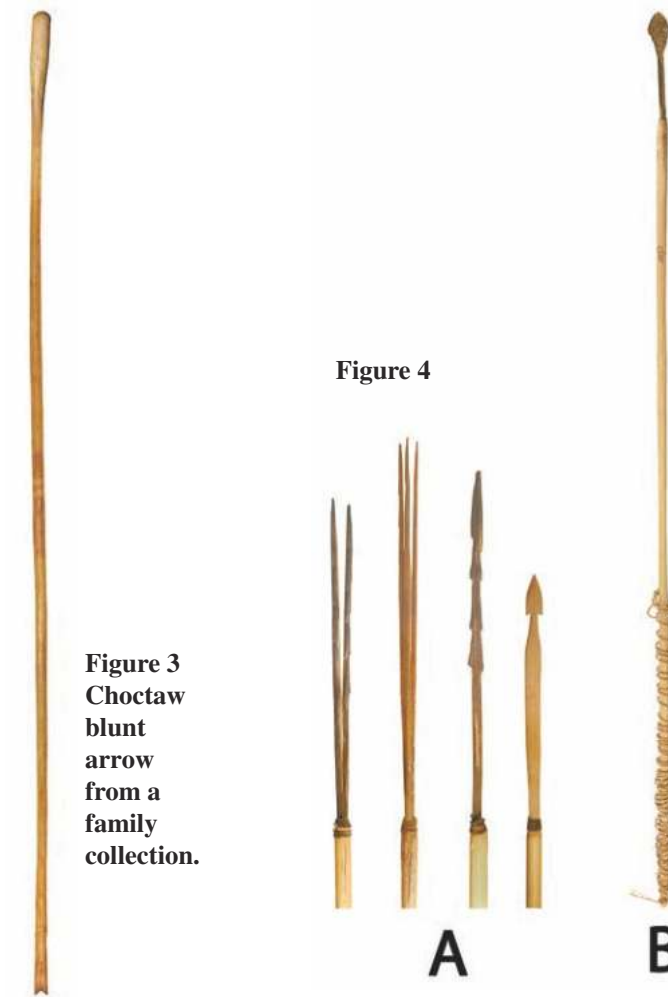


Figure 3
Blunt arrow from a family collection.

Figure 4



A) Closeup of Chickasaw fishing arrow points. B) Choctaw fishing arrow from Mississippi.

all. The arrow tip is made from a rolled piece of metal. Rolled metal points, like the one on this arrow, are known on Choctaw sites dating back to the 1730s. Arrows of this general description were being used by some Mississippi Choctaws until at least 1900 (Fig 2b), and by some Oklahoma Choctaw hunters into the mid-1900s. The unfletched arrow is a deadly weapon at close range, but generally not as accurate for distance-shooting.

Some of the Choctaw arrows intended for small-game hunting have wide, blunt tips. These heavy, blunt-tipped arrows strike an animal with a lot of force and stun it, but do not puncture the skin. Such an arrow is preferable in skunk-hunting, to a sharp-tipped arrow, which might penetrate the animal’s scent glands. In squirrel hunting, the blunt arrow can also be preferable, because it is less likely to get stuck in a branch at the top of the tree. Blunt arrows have also often been used in bird-hunting. An Oklahoma Choctaw blunt arrow from a family collection appears to be made from a dogwood sapling (Fig. 3).

A different type of arrow was often made for bow-fishing. Two quivers of fishing arrows, collected at Fort Washita in the 1850s, are housed at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Although labeled as Chickasaw, these arrows (Fig. 4a), are probably very similar to some of the fishing arrows made by Choctaw people at that time. The shafts of these arrows are made from lightweight plant shoots that have a pithy center. The arrow tips, carved from hardwood, have multiple points and deep barbs. This design makes it difficult for the arrow to come out of the fish, and can aid in pulling it out of the water. Another style of Choctaw fishing arrow is housed at the National Museum of the American Indian SRC in Suitland, Maryland. This arrow (Fig. 4b), from Mississippi, has a river cane shaft, a metal point, and a thin string attached to the shaft and wrapped around it. This string was probably used to help retrieve the arrow and fish out of the water.

Please stay tuned for next month’s edition of Iti Fabvssa, which will present the traditional process for making a Choctaw war arrow with stone tools.

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

AILYC 16th Annual Spring Pow Wow set for April 7 in Broken Bow

The American Indian Leadership Youth Council of Broken Bow Public Schools will hold its 16th Annual Spring Pow Wow on April 7 at the McCurtain County Sports Complex in Broken Bow. Stickball will begin at 11 a.m. followed by gourd dancing at 1 p.m., supper at 5:30 p.m. and grand entry at 6:30 p.m. All stickball players are welcome to participate.

Head staff includes: emcee, Albert Old Crow of Garland, Texas; head man dancer, Presley Byington of Idabel; head lady dancer, Devon Frazier of Norman; head gourd dancer, Wilson Roberts of Ada; arena director, Carl Poor Buffalo of Ada; host southern drum, Bear Claw of Dallas; host northern drum, Tha Crew of Jones; host color guard, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; honorary head man dancer, Yukpa Bates; honorary head lady dancer, Haleigh Wesley; junior honorary head man dancer, Peyton Ward; and junior honorary head lady dancer, Marni Billy. AILYC 2011-12 Senior Princess Haleigh Wesley and Junior Princess Stephanie Contreras will also be present. All princesses, drums and Indian clubs are welcome to attend.

A number of contests will be held, including: Men’s Traditional/Straight and Fancy/Grass, Ladies Buckskin/Cloth and Fancy/Jingle, Teen Boys Traditional/Straight and Fancy/Grass, Teen Girls Buckskin/Cloth and Fancy/Jingle, Junior Boys combined and Junior Girls combined, sponsored by A’An Parra, Tiny Tots sponsored by Amber Tehauno. All dancers must register and participate in grand entry to compete.

Arts and crafts spaces are available as well. For arts and crafts vendor information, contact Kim Battiest at 580-236-1305.

The Broken Bow Inn will serve as host motel, for the pow wow rate or for further information, call 580-584-9103.

For more information please contact Monica Billy at 580-584-3365, ext. 4069, Kim Battiest or Katrina Anderson at 580-236-1280.

44th Annual Talihiina Indian Festival Pow Wow is April 14

The 44th Annual Talihiina Indian Festival Pow Wow will be held April 14 in the Talihiina school gym, located on Highway 1 and 271 on the Gateway to Talimena National Scenic Byway.

Head staff members include: emcee, Vernon Tehauno of Shawnee; head singer, Al Santos Sr. of Apache; head man dancer, John Keel of Grant; head lady dancer, Rechenda Blackdeer of Greenwood, Ark.; head gourd dancer, Don Stroud of Tahlequah; arena director, Bill Takes Horse of Colbert; and honor guard, Choctaw Nation Honor Guard. Club Princess Landry Danielle James and Little Miss Club Princess Haylee Brooke Himes will also be present.

The gourd dance will begin at 2 p.m. followed by supper at 5 p.m., gourd dancing at 6 p.m. and grand entry and intertribal dances at 7 p.m. There will also be a Tiny Tots contest for children 6 and under.

Indian handmade arts and crafts, food concession, raffles and a cake walk will take place. The public is welcome as well as all princesses, clubs and drums, and there is no admission fee. Bring lawn chairs.

This pow wow is sponsored by the Talihiina Indian Club with assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For information or booth space, contact Harry or Carol James at 918-567-2539. Booth space costs \$30 plus an item donation; tables and chairs are not provided.

All Nations Pow Wow

The All Nations Pow Wow of Ada will be held April 7 at East Central University at the Kerr Activity Center. Head staff includes: emcee, Rob Daugherty; southern drum, Otter Trail; head gourd dancer, Thomas KaudleKaule; color guard, Chickasaw Honor Guard; arena directors, Joaquin Hamilton; CO A/D, Bobby Billey and Merrill Johnson; and 2012-13 All Nations Pow Wow Princess, Faithlyn Seawright. The event is co-hosted by the ECU Native American Student Association.

The gourd dance will begin at 2 p.m. followed by supper at 5 p.m., crowning of the 2012-13 All Nations Pow Wow Princess, and grand entry at 7 p.m.

Contests will be held, age categories including adult: 17 and over, youth: 10-16 years, and tiny tots: 0-10 years.

Stickball Player’s Stick Making Class

Cultural Services will be hosting a traditional art class for stickball players to learn how to make Choctaw-style stickball sticks.

March 30 • 9 a.m.

Cultural Services building

4451 Choctaw Rd., Durant, Oklahoma

For more information

call Ryan Spring,

GIS/GPS Specialist,

Historic Preservation Dept.,

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

800-522-6170, ext. 2137

Chahta Anumpa Aiikhvna

Lesson of the Month

Speaker 1:

Halito, Chim achukma?

Hello, how are you?

Word Meaning:

Halito – Hello

chim (you/your) **achukma** (good or well)

Vm (I am), **chishnato?** (and you?)

hoke (emphatic agreement; It is so!)

akinli (likewise/too)

Speaker 2:

Vm achukma hoke! Chishnato?

I’m doing good/well! And you?

Speaker 1:

Vm achukma hoke/akinli.

I’m doing good/fine or likewise/too.

Chahta chia hq?

Are you a Choctaw?

Word Meaning:

Chahta – Choctaw pronunciation “Chah-tah”

In Choctaw, an “h” in the middle or at the end of a word after a vowel is usually aspirated or asserted. When the Choctaw “h” is spoken, air is forced out for the sound.

“Chah-ta” The second “h” is not silent.

chia (you are) **sia** (I am) **A** (yes)

hq? – Question marker with nasalization
keyu (no) **kiyo** (not)

A, Chahta sia.

Yes, I am Choctaw.

Keyu, Chahta sia kiyo.

No, I am not Choctaw.

Wanted: Choctaw heirloom seeds

The Choctaw Nation will be hosting a traditional garden this year at Choctaws Days at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., June 20-23.

We are trying to find heirloom seeds for Choctaw varieties of corn and beans to plant. If you have these seeds or know where we can find some, please contact the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2216.