



Students saddle up at Jones Academy

◆ Page 7



Annual birthday bash held in McAlester

◆ Page 8



All ages join in planting garden for elders' use

◆ Page 9

BISHINIK
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHOCTAW NATION



The Official Publication of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

May 2010 Issue

Serving 198,980 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Council holds April session

Members of the Tribal Council met April 10 in regular session at Tushka Homma.

Committee reports focused on a number of entities within the Choctaw Nation.

McAlester Clinic, the newest health facility built by the tribe, has 30,000 charts on file and is averaging nine new ones a day with approximately 185 patients seen per month. The pharmacy fills 6,925 prescriptions. One room is being remodeled to provide space for a Behavioral Health office.

Committees also met with – Food Distribution where they checked out new products available to participants.

– CMDC: The manufacturing company has 183 employees. They have completed 15 MVTA trailers and are ready for testing.

– Jones Academy: The residential school has 177 students, 60 full-time personnel and 30 part-time/tutors on staff. They have developed a Web site, www.jonesacademy.org, with the latest news and information. Jones Academy has also been awarded a \$184,000 COPS grant for campus security.

– Scholarship Advisement Program: SAP has 3,000 students participating and has been notified that it has been selected as a semi-finalist of Harvard University's Honoring Nations.

– Title IV: The elder program provides meals weekly at each of the Choctaw Community Centers. Special days have been scheduled to honor veterans in each area – June 3: Talihina; June 4: McAlester; June 6: Stigler, Durant and Smithville; June 9: Poteau, Antlers and Hugo; June 16: Spiro, Coalgate and Wright City; June 23: Broken Bow, Bethel, Idabel and Atoka; and June 30: Crowder and Wilburton.

New business on the agenda included Council Bills

- to authorize application and proposed acquisition and holding of title to a parcel in Haskell County in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;
- disposal of equipment;

See COUNCIL on Page 3

◆ What's inside

Notes to the Nation.....	2
Columns	3
Nursery News	4
Food Distribution Calendar.....	4
People You Know	6
Voc Rehab Calendar	7
Iti Fabvssa	9
Obituaries	10-11

The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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



The BISHINIK is printed on recycled paper.

Honoring our earth

Tribe partners with Wister area to clean up lake

The Choctaw Nation, Wister community leaders, area students and representatives of the Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Water Science Center and The Nature Conservancy joined forces recently in an effort to improve the quality of water in Lake Wister. Together, the groups planted bulrushes and other plants in four floating rafts which will help to naturally cleanse the water.

Lake Wister serves 40,000 residents (including many Choctaw tribal members) in LeFlore County. The lake suffers from excessive sediment and nutrients entering the lake from its watershed. This causes algae to grow, which harms the fish and other lake life. It also affects the treatment plan that the water must go through before human consumption.

The rafts, a floating wetland growing plants to absorb the harmful nutrients and phosphates from

See LAKE WISTER on Page 12



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and students from area schools “plant” bulrushes in a raft that will be floated onto Lake Wister.

Choctaw Nation signs contract for wind power

On behalf of the Choctaw Nation, Chief Gregory E. Pyle signed a contract with Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) on April 12, that will allow all of the energy used by the Choctaw Nation office buildings in Durant to be drawn from 100 percent wind power. The contract went into effect at the next billing cycle at the end of April.

Though using wind power will cost the Choctaw Nation about \$15,000 more per year than current operating costs, Assistant Chief Gary Batton says it's a price the Choctaw Nation is gladly willing to pay. “We're investing in the protection of our future and our resources and that's something you can't put a price tag on,” said Batton. “We've made a commitment to ‘go green’ and this is another way we're living by what we say.”

The burning of coal for the generation of electricity, where OG&E gets a majority of its power, releases one of the largest amounts of carbon dioxide emissions from anthropogenic sources – those from human activity – globally each year. However, with the building of two wind farms in northwestern Oklahoma, OG&E is now able to offer its consumers the option to purchase their power from wind as opposed to coal. And the Choctaw Nation, whose slogan in its going green campaign is “Sustaining our people, our traditions, our earth,” was happy to take them up on that offer.

According to OG&E, purchasing as little as 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of wind power per month for one year is equivalent to removing nine



Assistant Chief Gary Batton looks on as Chief Gregory E. Pyle signs an agreement to power its office buildings in Durant with 100 percent wind energy.

tons of emissions from the air. The Choctaw Nation complex uses about 120-times that many kWh per month, making its impact on the environment even greater. By switching to the clean, renewable wind energy, the Choctaw Nation's usage is comparable to displacing 1,080 tons of emissions from the air annually!

“OG&E has provided an opportunity for us to take a major step to improve our environment,”

said Chief Pyle. “We are looking beyond today, to the world our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will inherit.”

The transition to begin using this type of alternative energy source required no new equipment at the complex and resulted in no interruption in service. The switch to wind power is something anyone, residential or business, can make to do his or her part in preserving our natural resources.

The Choctaw Nation's commitment to “walk the talk” on going green doesn't stop at just switching to cleaner power. The Administration Building in Durant has undergone energy-efficient updates that include the installation of energy-efficient lighting, reduction in the amount of lighting, and new, more efficient windows throughout. Energy efficient insulation was added in the Choctaw Nation day care and all Choctaw facilities are currently undergoing energy efficiency audits.

Another project in the works is the building of a recycle center in Durant to help further reduce the Choctaw Nation's carbon footprint. The center will receive paper, plastic, aluminum cans and corrugated cardboard for recycling and has a scheduled completion date of late June 2010. Initially the center will serve only employees of the Choctaw Nation but has plans to open it up to all residents in the community at a later date.

Also, all offices of the Choctaw Nation collect used printer cartridges, aluminum cans, plastic

See WIND POWER on Page 12

CSI class held for tribal, government agencies

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recently hosted a three-day archaeological crime scene investigation class for tribal and government agencies. The agencies represented were the Tulsa office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Muscogee-Creek Nation criminal investigators, Chickasaw Nation Light-horsemen, and various departments within the Choctaw Nation. The training consisted of classroom work and hands-on training at a mock archaeological crime scene.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton opened the training on the first day with remarks of support and told of how the tribe holds the training in high regard.

“This training ties back to what is important to our tribe – the preservation of our culture. We want to show that we mean business and that we have a zero-tolerance policy on this issue, no matter how big or small the violation,” said Batton. “To keep our culture alive we have to protect our ancestors and all that they've left behind. We are the ones that have to

do it and that's why this training is so vital.”

Two Choctaw employees in the Historic Preservation department, Terry Cole and Ian Thompson, received archaeological crime scene investigation training in California a few months ago and saw the need for more training among all the agencies throughout the area. This led to the idea to organize and host a class so that all could benefit from the training.

“Archaeological crimes happen all the time and all over the place. It's important to have people trained and certified to go out and investigate these crimes and to be able to serve as expert witnesses when and if they make it to trial,” said Cole. “We wanted to provide an opportunity to the other agencies to come out and get the same training we received so they can go back and use it in their organizations.”

Two experts in the field of archaeological investigation, Martin McAllister and David Griffel, were brought in to lead the training. McAllister and Griffel

See CSI on Page 5



Choctaw employees Tony Krebs, Skyler Robinson and Steven Flowers pour plaster into a shoe print on the ground to create a mold.

Carter Ceminary-Bloomfield Reunion

The Carter Seminary-Bloomfield Alumni Reunion will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 14 at the Carter Seminary Gym, located on the campus at Ardmore.

Indian Nation’s Ministries Youth Camps

Indian Nation’s Ministries, Nashoba, is announcing two weeks of summer camps for young people. Senior week, for ages 13-18, is June 6-10. Junior, ages 8-12, is June 13-17. Campers’ families are invited to the evening meal at 5 p.m. on Thursday and for the closing program and awards at 7 p.m. Each camp will offer cash prizes for Bible Memory Work and other accomplishments. Camps include recreational activities, including water sports and “Lake Day.” Cost is \$50 per camper. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, call 580-244-3232 or 918-755-4570. Camp Rendezvous is held at the Wild Horse Trail Camp between Nashoba and Honobia.

Chilocco Alumni Reunion

The Chilocco National Alumni Association 2010 Reunion will be June 10-June 13 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 1815 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City. Registration begins at 4 p.m. on June 10 in the hotel lobby. For more information or a full schedule, please contact Betty Jones, 405-392-5536, or Charlotte Warrior, 405-948-4073.

Chilocco Students and Staff Meeting

Chilocco Indian School students and staff are invited to meet every fourth Saturday at 1 p.m. at Villa Isenbart, 3801 NW 19th & Portland, Oklahoma City, 1/2 block west. A potluck lunch is served before each meeting. The meeting is held for former students and staff in an effort to build the alumni group, choose board members and officers, and schedule events. Classmates from the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s are being sought. For more information, please contact Betty Jones, 405-392-5536, or Charlotte Warrior, 405-948-4073.

Ward Family Reunion

The second Ward Reunion will be held in Coalgate, Okla., at the Choctaw Community Center on June 12 for the descendants of Abraham Parsons Ward. All descendants are welcome to come. If you plan to attend please RSVP! For any information please feel free to contact Giles Ward at 940-745-1067 or Lynn Glover at lynnglover565@yahoo.com and/or 940-325-6306.

Dock Nail and Henington Family Reunion

The late Dock Nail and Henington Family Reunion will be June 30-July 4 at 31 Landing, four miles West of Krebs, Okla. All are invited to come camp out or just drop by and visit any time. For more information, please call Lillie Henington, 918-429-3382; Benjamin Henington, 918-470-5885; or Patricia Henington, 918-470-3997.

Searching for descendants of Abbott, Emmitt, Willie Jim or Frances (Jim) Haney

My name is Lisa (Taylor) Mitchell and I am the daughter of the late Brenda (Taylor) Samuels, granddaughter of the late Jo Ann Jim, great-granddaughter of the late Abbott Jim. I’m looking for the descendants of Abbott, Emmitt, Willie Jim and Frances (Jim) Haney. My cousin and I are planning the 2010 Jim Reunion and we are in need of some updated contact information for a lot of our relatives. We are trying to carry on the tradition of the “Jim Family Reunions.” If you are a descendant of the Jim Family and would like to attend our upcoming 2010 Jim Family Reunion, please contact me with your updated contact information at 405-625-1957 or e-mail lisa.d.mitchell@ou.edu.

Wade Family Reunion

All desendants of Abel and Agnes Wade are reuniting on May 29 at the Bray Community Building at Bray, Okla., starting at 11 a.m. The community building is an indoor facility with all the amenities. It will be potluck, same as last year, so bring your favorites. Bring pictures to share and games to play!



Eco-Beautification

Project

10 Summer Associates Needed

June 07, 2010 to August 6, 2010

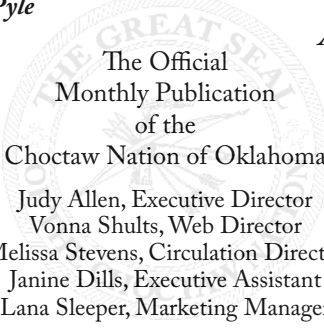
Ecologically beautifying the following counties of **Pushmataha, LeFlore, Choctaw, and McCurtain counties.**

Anyone interested in summer associate service, who will commit to working 40 hrs. a week, at \$200.00 for 8 weeks, a summer associate will receive a stipend of \$200.00 or a \$1,000 SEG education award at the end of that 8 weeks. Must be 18 years old. Requires full time service, with no outside commitments and reside in or near these county projects.

For Information and Application process: 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2272,

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief



The Official
Monthly Publication
of the
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Executive Director
Vonna Shults, Web Director
Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director
Janine Dills, Executive Assistant
Lana Sleeper, Marketing Manager

Lisa Reed, Editor
Karen Jacob, Purchasing Coordinator
Brenda Wilson, Administrative Assistant
Larissa Copeland, Copy/Production Assistant

P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
(580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170
Fax (580) 924-4148
www.choctawnation.com
e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com

The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK 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 BISHINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

The BISHINIK 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.

BISHINIK® 2010



2010 Bow Shoot Schedule

Tuskahoma Capitol Grounds



Registration- 10:30 a.m.
Competition- 11:00 a.m.

Long Bows, Recurve, Selfbows
Commercial or Handmade

NO COMPOUND BOWS

Prizes for each age group will be awarded at the end of each shoot.
A final prize will be awarded at the end of the year for overall points.

AGE GROUPS:

5 and under:	Co-Ed
6 to 8:	Co-Ed
9 to13:	Co-Ed
14 to 16	Boys and Girls
17 to 19	Boys and Girls
20 & Over	Women and Men

Lunch will be provided

For more information please call:
Sue Folsom:1-800-522-6170 ext. 2134
Cyndi Houser: 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2559
Les Williston: 918-569-4552
Pam Waugh: 918-413-8914



Dates:

February 13
March 13
April 17
May 8
May 15
Choctaw Nation 3-D Adult Competition
June 12
July 10
August 14
September 5
(8:00 a.m. during the Labor Day Festival)
October 9
Cherokee Nation Corn Stalk Shoot
October-16
All dates are on Saturday.

NOTES TO THE NATION

Lives enriched

I know your mission is to enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles. So as a mother of three talented children, who happen to be part Choctaw, I had to let you know how you have truly enriched our lives in such a special way. My name is Natalie Sylvia Anderson-Shipp, daughter of Mrs. Wyvette Anderson who resides in Muskogee. I live a few thousand miles away in Jonesboro, Ga.



Standing: Sharri Shantel, Keith L. Jr., Keianna NaCole; seated, Natalie Sylvia and Keith L. Sr.

My first blessing from the Choctaw Nation was for my oldest daughter, Keianna N. Shipp. She graduated in the spring of 2007. She is a three-year Chemical Engineering major at Georgia Technical University in Atlanta, Ga. She has been able to maintain her status in school due to your gracious scholarships sent each semester and your one-time clothing award. Next her sister, Sharri S. Shipp, who came out the next year, and is currently in her second year at Georgia State University as a Biology/Pre-Med major. Sharri has consistently received the Choctaw Nation scholarship for her two years of school.

As if that was not enough, I began looking for opportunities to improve my own Professional Development. I enrolled in a master’s program with Cambridge College in hopes of receiving assistance from the Choctaw Nation, and of course you didn’t let me down. The Choctaw Nation agreed to assist me in improving my education by aiding me financially in my educational endeavors.

My heart is truly overflowing when I think of all you’ve done for me and mine. It all began with my great-grandmother, Mrs. Callie Gladney, who lived on the hill in a little town called Haskell. She lived to be 103 and her family will live on for generations to come. We will never forget what the Choctaw Nation has done and will continue to do for its people.

My mother, Wyvette Anderson, has set up a special meeting for both my girls and I to meet the Chief. I will be more than honored to attend this outstanding event. Both girls are really excited to meet the Chief and tour the entire Choctaw Nation facility.

Thank you again for all you do to improve the lives of your people!

Mrs. Natalie S. Shipp of Jonesboro, Ga.

Thank you

I would like to thank you for assisting me in obtaining hearing aids. They have been very helpful to me. Also, I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation’s department that approves the higher education scholarships which were given and continue to be given to two of my granddaughters, Racheal Henry and Molly Henry, while attending college. This is the best program available and obviously helps many young people obtain degrees.

Wallace B. Henry of Tulsa, Okla.

Traditional Choctaw Pottery Classes

DURANT
May 16, June 6 – 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Cultural Events Building,4451 Choctaw Rd.

POTEAU
May 24, June 7 – 5-9:30 p.m.
Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

IDABEL
May 25, June 8 – 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

ATOKA
May 20 – 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Rd.

McALESTER
June 3 – 6-10 p.m.
Meet at McAlester Field Office, 1632 S. George Nigh Expwy.

TUSKAHOMA
June 4 – 6-10 p.m.
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Council House Museum

COALGATE
June 7 – 6:30-10 p.m.
Meet at Coalgate Field Office, 103 E. California Ave.

CHOCTAW POTTERY EXPO – MAY 15
All Choctaw pottery students are invited to come show their finished work and demonstrate the art of making Choctaw pottery at a booth that will be set up at the Trail of Tears Walk, May 15th, Tushkahoma.

Questions about classes? Please call 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2216

Calera gets first-ever band scholarship

The Choctaw Nation has helped many organizations with generous donations over the years, and Calera Schools has been one of them. Your donation in January 2007 helped us start an instrumental band program, allowing us to purchase our first two trumpets along with two alto and two tenor recorders and sheet music. In the words of the music teacher, Mrs. Rhynes, “it was like Christmas.”

Mrs. Rhynes has continued to expand the quality and quantity of the program and recently shared some very exciting news. Calera School was notified that one of our senior students, Kym May, has received scholarship for 10 semesters to play in SOSU’s ensemble band. This is Calera’s first-ever band scholarship. We are very proud of Kym and Mrs. Rhynes for all their hard work.

Again, on behalf of Kym May, Mrs. Rhynes and the rest of the students taking band I want to thank you for your donation that got our music program off to a good beginning.

Aaron Newcomb, Superintendent

A job well done

Over the past several months, I have been attempting to replace a CDIB card. On several occasions I had the opportunity to talk with Daphne and Tiffany in the Tribal Membership Office. On each occasion it was a pleasure to speak to each of these ladies as they were knowledgeable in advising me what I had to do and where to go to get the information, as well as always being cheerful and pleasant to speak to on the phone. In today’s world it is very rare to receive the assistance that these two ladies provided. Please thank and praise them for an excellent job well done. Another reason to be proud of my Indian heritage!

Karen Williams

Receiving blessings

I want to thank the Rev. Bobb for his “Chaplain’s Corner” articles. I am blessed when I read them because it is very that the Rev. Bobb walks with God. Even though he must be busy with the daily needs he sees around him, I am grateful that he takes the time to write so that those of us living in outlying areas may get the benefit of what God is saying through him.

Carrie L. Foster of Norman, Okla.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Youth Advisory Board

SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Requirements:
(ALL INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED)

- Must have typed, double-spaced essay of 250-500 words describing your future educational plans/goals
- Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member living in the 10% county area ONLY
- Must attach copy of CDIB and Membership cards
- Must attach Letter of Admission from post secondary education facility
- All applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2010
- Must complete attached activities form
- Provide- GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ ACT/SAT score: _____
- Winning applicants will be notified by June 30, 2010

1st Place-\$500 2nd Place-\$250 3rd Place-\$150

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Current High School: _____

Name of Post Secondary Education Facility you plan to attend: _____

[Please mail your application and essay to:](#)
Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles
P.O. Box 652
Clayton, Oklahoma 74536

Sponsored by:
Choctaw Nation YAB

Former leader of Cherokee Nation leaves great legacy

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

My friend Wilma Mankiller was a tremendous role model throughout her life, and even in her last days, she showed the rest of us her positive, sunny side and remained a great role model in how to live our last days.

When first diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Wilma issued a statement, “I want my family and friends to know that I am mentally and spiritually prepared for this journey; a journey that all human beings will take at one time or another. I learned a long time ago that I can’t control the challenges the Creator sends my way but I can control the way I think about them and deal with them.”

It was an honor to visit with Wilma at her home just weeks before her death, because she was always very clear in what she felt was the right path that families and our tribes should be on.

We had been friends for many years – when I began working for the Choctaw Nation in the early 1980s, Wilma was employed at the Cherokee Nation. For several years, while I was serving as the Assistant Chief of the Choctaws, she was serving as the Assistant Chief of the Cherokees. This placed us in many meetings together, and we became good friends.

We found we had a common past, both being raised as youth in California because our folks needed jobs. We both spent a lot of time on Route 66, traveling to see family in Oklahoma, and our goals were parallel – making a home in Oklahoma and working to serve the people of our tribes.

During one of my last visits to Wilma, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and I sat with at her at the Mankillers’ kitchen table reminiscing and discussing past and present issues with her. One of her friends asked each of us to tell what we considered qualities of a good leader. Wilma’s answers inspired me.

Wilma Mankiller re: What it takes to be a

good leader:

“Your life must be seamless between your personal and work life. You must say the same thing in Washington, D.C., as you do in Oklahoma.”

“You must have a positive attitude – or people won’t follow you! Nobody wants to follow someone who is grumpy or depressed all the time. My dad always called me Sunny because no matter how bad it got I could always be happy and see the positive side of things.”

“Don’t micro-manage! Trust your employees to do their job!”

“Never see obstacles as roadblocks to make you quit – see them as challenges to overcome!”

And for those who wonder what Governor Anoatubby and I responded:

Governor Bill Anoatubby re: What it takes to be a good leader:

“Servant Leadership. It is never about what you can do for yourself – it is always what you can do for others.”

“Have Christian principles.”

“Have NO fear, (or have more Courage).”

Chief Gregory E. Pyle re: What it takes to be a good leader:

“Serve others from your heart.”

“Always find a way to accomplish helping people, regardless of opposition and challenges.”

“Be sincere and honest.”

“NEVER give up.”

“Hire the BEST! My dad always said to hire people smarter than you, because if they weren’t smarter than you, why would you need them?”

“Trust your team!”

Wilma Mankiller was a treasured friend to me personally and to all Indian people. I am thankful for all her good examples and everything I learned from her. She left us all a great legacy.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby reminisce with former Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller.

Looking for that ‘blessed hope’

Today, I want to share with you what is a wonderful blessing to me during my Christian life. I heard messages of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ during the brush arbor days from our Choctaw preachers. There are probably some that remember those days.

The preaching in Choctaw, “Chisus vt mihintit, ‘Vm villa holitopa ma! Chi hot aya lishke’.” Interpreted, “Jesus is coming, ‘I am coming for my blessed children’.” Then the congregation would sing the Choctaw Vba Isht Taloa 120. My father led this hymn after every message. These are the blessed times I will never forget.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is a subject that has often been misunderstood, but I feel we have Biblical basis for thinking and looking for His Coming again.

The Apostle Paul writes to Titus about the Second Coming and calls it the “blessed hope” in Titus 2:13:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

We can read in the Bible many more promises of His Second Coming, His literal return to the earth. We read this promise from the Book of Acts, just after the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven in Acts 1:10-11:

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven.”

As we look at this subject of the Second Coming of Christ we are reminded that there are some who will scoff at the idea of the literal, visible return of Jesus Christ to this earth. Here are some of the reasons why people scoff at the idea of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

First, many professing Christians say it is a false teaching since the Second Coming of Jesus Christ did not take place as the early Church predicted. It is true that the first century Christians looked for the Lord Jesus’ personal return in their time, but the Lord never said that His return would be in the first or second century.

The Apostle Peter does say in II Peter 3, that in the end time, just before Christ’s return scoffers will arise denying the Second Coming of the Lord. We read in II Peter 3:3-4:

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

“And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

Chaplain’s Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

Then, secondly, the theory of evolution keeps many people from believing the teaching of the Second Coming of Christ. If we believe that man is progressing upward and getting better and better, we will never accept the promise of Christ that He will return and bring an end to sin and death.

Thirdly, the truth that Jesus is coming again tears right into the plans and dreams of many people. They want to eat, drink and be merry without interruption with their selfish desires.

This was exactly the reason why the scoffers of Noah’s time refused to believe in a flood, for they did not want anything to interrupt their godless, selfish plans.

Again, I refer to the Apostle Peter’s epistle II Peter 3. In this passage, Peter notes that the scoffers who deny Christ’s return, also follow their own lusts.

We have had many in the past years and even now who set dates for the coming again of Jesus Christ, for this reason many do not want to preach or teach on this subject. But, the Bible teaches this wonderful truth that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth.

The teaching on of the com-

ing again of Christ has an important place in the Bible. It is mentioned over 300 times in the New Testament alone.

The Apostle John quotes Jesus in John 14:2-3:

“... I go to prepare a place for you.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

John gives us another promise in his epistle I John 3:2:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him: for we shall see him as he is.”

Do you believe this? Do you see this wonderful truth? The most glorious truth is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

In a world such as today, when people are trying to satisfy the desires of the flesh, to be a separated and yielded disciple of Jesus will never be “popular,” but you continue to trust and stand true to Him. The rewards of knowing Christ are worth a million times more than the friendship of the world.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior?” Are you ready for His Coming?

Whether you are ready or not you will one day stand before Him.

Will you trust Him as your Savior today? You can pray something like this:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know You did everything necessary for me to be born again into spiritual life and to be forgiven of my sins. I am placing my trust in you and you alone to save me.”

You can pray that prayer right now.

Remember to pray for our country and for our leaders. Remember our brave men and women in our armed service.

History of Choctaws is awesome

*From the Desk
of Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

The more I learn about the history of the Choctaw people, the more exciting our heritage becomes! Choctaw language is a natural component of community meetings the tribe hosts across the United States. Teachers from the School of Choctaw Language take the microphone at these community meetings to give the audience “mini-lessons” so that everyone can learn a few words and phrases. This has inspired my office and I to try and incorporate our Native language into our workday. Don’t be surprised if you enter the headquarters in Durant and are greeted with a smile and “Halito!” As we strengthen our knowledge of the language, we strengthen our connection to the past.

Choctaw heritage is coming to life one step at a time for many of us. The Special Projects office has hosted classes on pottery where students actually dig their own mud and sculpt the pottery in the old Choctaw way, and then fire it in an open fire. Soon, an opportunity will be given to make Choctaw moccasins. There have also been exhibitions and classes on stickball, dancing,



basket weaving and beadwork. These events are not only in Durant, they are held in other communities as well. Even the gathering in Bakersfield, Calif., features classes in Choctaw craftsmanship and social dancing.

As mentioned earlier, the language seems to be the glue that holds it all together. One of the first programs that Chief Pyle began when he took office was the School of Choctaw Language, which offers classes on language and history on

the Internet, free of charge. Now the language classes are offered in public schools and universities. Ironically, these classes are accredited as a foreign language. I wonder what our ancestors would say about that?

The tribe has published books of children’s stories, written in both Choctaw and English, has published a history book and language curriculum books, and a dictionary is currently in progress. These literary accomplishments are testament to the value people are placing on our heritage.

Visitors to the Capitol of Tushka Homma (RED WARRIOR) see a walking path in front of the red brick building that serves as our museum and court. This walking path tells the story of Choctaw history. Also, a village of hogans and a longhouse located across the road from the Capitol museum is filled with activity at each Labor Day weekend festival so that everyone can view, first-hand, what Choctaw daily life would have included 200 years ago.

It is enjoyable to read about Choctaw history and to see the crafts of our past, but the most awesome experience for me is to be able to talk with elders and hear of their life experiences and be told what their parents and grandparents taught them. To me, our people are the greatest heritage we have.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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


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

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

Council: *Council Bills addressed*

continued from Page 1

- conversion of debt owed by CMDC;
- approval of certain loan agreements, notes, mortgages and security agreements between Choctaw Management Services Enterprise, Choctaw Archiving Enterprise, and First United Bank and Trust Co., and a limited waiver of sovereign immunity; and,
- applications to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation and for the Services to Advocate for and Respond to the Youth Program Call for Concept Papers.



Are you ready to purchase a new home?

The first step in the home-buying process is attending a

Homebuyer Education Class

Come to one of our Homebuyer Classes nearest you to learn the important steps in the home-buying process. You will become more aware of the benefits and risks associated with owning your own home. We make the process fun and educational, so call us for an appointment today! To register, call Debbie Childers at 1-800-235-3087, ext. 297, for one of the following classes:

• May 12	Wilburton Choctaw Community Center	4:30 p.m.
• May 20	Poteau Family Investment Center	4:30 p.m.
• June 15	Coalgate Choctaw Community Center	4:30 p.m.
• June 17	McAlester Choctaw Community Center	4:30 p.m.
• June 22	Stigler Choctaw Community Center	4:30 p.m.
• June 24	Idabel Choctaw Community Center	4:30 p.m.



National High Blood Pressure Education Month

Hypertension, diabetes go hand-in-hand

May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month. Since hypertension (high blood pressure) and diabetes go hand-in-hand we are taking a look at just how these two diseases are affecting us.

Diabetes and hypertension combined increases the risk of microvascular complications. Since diabetics are more likely to have hypertension, their risk of heart disease is increased by two to four times that of someone without diabetes. Along with the rise in type 2 diabetes the incidence of heart disease is also increasing. Thus hypertension is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in diabetics.

A normal blood pressure classification according to the JNC-7 classification is <120/<80.

Prehypertension is 120-139 systolic blood pressure OR 80-89 diastolic blood pressure.

Stage 1 hypertension is 140-159 systolic OR 90-99 diastolic.

Stage 2 hypertension is >160 systolic OR >100 diastolic. The good news is for every 10 points decreased of systolic blood pressure:

- diabetes related mortality decreases 15 percent
- risk of a MI (heart attack) decreases 11 percent
- microvascular complications decrease 13 percent

In regards to hypertension The American Diabetes Association states, “Many patients will require three or more drugs to reach target goal.”

Lifestyle changes to help prevent and control hypertension include:

- decrease body weight if BMI is > 24.9
- reduce sodium to no more than 2.4 grams a day
- walking daily for at least 30 minutes most days of the week

• eating more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low fat dairy

So, to help prevent and control hypertension here is a wonderful recipe to help increase everyone’s vegetable and whole grain intake.

Caribbean Casserole

- 1 medium onion, chopped**
- ½ green bell pepper, rinsed and diced**
- 1 tbsp canola oil**
- 1 can (14 ½ oz) stewed tomatoes**
- 1 can (15 ½ oz) low-sodium black beans, drained and rinsed**
- 1 tsp dried oregano**
- ½ tsp garlic powder**
- 1 ½ cups instant brown rice, uncooked**

Sauté onion and green pepper in canola oil, in a large pan, until tender. Do not brown.

Add tomatoes and beans (including liquid from both), as well as oregano and garlic powder. Bring to a boil.

Stir in rice and cover. Reduce heat to simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat, and let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

Finish the meal with delicious tropical fruit, such as mangoes, papayas or pineapple.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION
ANTLERS Market open weekdays June 2-27, except for: June 2: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed) June 9: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed) Closed June 28-30 for inventory Cooking with Carmen: June 8 & 18, 10 a.m.-12 noon
DURANT Market open weekdays: June 1-27, except for: Closed June 28-30 for inventory Cooking with Carmen: June 10 & 22, 10 a.m.-12 noon
McALESTER Market open weekdays June 1-27, except for: Closed June 28-30 for inventory Cooking with Carmen: June 4 & 16, 10 a.m.-12 noon.
POTEAU Market open weekdays June 1-27, except for: Closed June 28-30 for inventory. Cooking with Carmen: June 2 & 14, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday. We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon
WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
Antlers: 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431
FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES
Bethel: Choctaw Community Building
Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Idabel: Choctaw Community Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center
Stigler: Choctaw Community Center

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NURSERY NEWS

Walker Allen Crank	
Kaw-liga and Shonda Crank of Salem, Ill., are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Walker Allen Crank. He was born Dec. 21, 2009, at 7:44 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Breese, Ill. He weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. His grandparents are Diane Sill of Odin, Ill., and the late Ellis Sill, and Allen and Peggy Crank of Iuka, Ill. His great-grandparents are Bill and Erma Borcharding of Iuka and the late Katherine Crank of Talihina. Walker was welcomed home by brother Marc, age 10, and sister Shyla, age 8.	
Kyлина Marie Ortiz	
Wyoming Jewel Perry Sr. and Calista Marie Ortiz of Ardmore announce the birth of their daughter, Kyлина Marie Ortiz. She was born Feb. 20, 2010, and weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces. She joins brother Wyoming Jewel Perry Jr., 8 years old. Her grandparents are Ronnie and Wanell Perry of Ardmore and Marico and Rose Ortiz of Dickson.	
Trenton Joe Hider	
Trenton Joe Hider was born March 7, 2010, to Kalyn and Steven Hider of Durant. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. His grandparents are Kay Bray of Oklahoma City, Alice and David Periman of Durant, Phillip Hider of Durant and great-grandparents are Tom and JoAnn Hopkins of Caddo. His aunt is Norma Belvin of Durant.	
Mason Lang Webb	
Amber Pool and Buck Webb of Antlers are proud to announce the birth of their son, Mason Lang Webb. He was born Dec. 20, 2009. His grandparents are Mike and Jolene Pool of Antlers, Sharla Hampton and Dustin Henderson of Atoka and the late Robert Webb. His great-grandparents are Lee and Sharon Mast of Bonham, Texas, Joyce Hampton of Boswell and Bobby Hampton of Bennington, Bobby Pool Sharp and Tom Sharp of Snow, Curtis and Joann Sappington of Antlers, the late Charlie Webb and the late Marrin Lang Pool. Mason would like to wish his mother Amber a happy mother’s day and happy graduation!	

Choctaw savers get a boost for college, housing and business ownership

Jeremy Riggs, a single father in Spiro, has been working and raising his small child while going to school to become HVAC certified and will graduate this month. Riggs jumped on the chance to join the Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program in November 2009. His savings goal is to save \$2,000 over the next 6 to 36 months. Once he has reached his goal, the Choctaw Nation will match his savings with \$6,000. He will then use the total of \$8,000 for a down payment for a home for himself and his son.

Riggs recently credited the financial education he received for being able to save money, saying, “The classes have taught me how to manage my money better. They opened my eyes up to saving for bigger and better things.”

Amanda Martin of Boswell is also taking advantage of the CAB program. Martin is working to save \$2,000 and with a match of \$4,000 from the Choctaw Nation will have enough to start a small business.

“CAB is giving me an opportunity that I would not have had otherwise,” said Martin. “The financial education classes taught me the importance of pulling my credit report to check for errors, managing my debt, and to be an overall good steward of my finances.”

The Choctaw Asset Building program is helping Choctaw tribal members who participate in the Choctaw Nation Career Development program to realize their dreams of financial freedom. The overall goal of the program is to instill savings habits in tribal members in order to help them become more financially secure. The program offers a matched savings account as well as financial education classes. Participants can save for one or a combination of three assets: a first-time home purchase, a post secondary education or small business ownership. Savers deposit anywhere from \$25 to \$700 a month for 6 to 36 months. When the saver is ready to purchase their asset, the Choctaw Nation will match their savings 3 to 1 for a home purchase and 2 to 1 for an education or small business ownership. For example, if the participant saved \$2,000, the Choctaw Nation would match their savings with \$6,000 for a first-time home purchase or \$4,000 to pay for educational expenses or to capitalize a small business.

For more information about CAB call Dawn Hix or Janie Joplin at 866-933-2260 or go to www.choctawcareers.com and click on the CAB tab.

Preparing safe food and safe eating

WIC **Preparing safe food**
Round, firm foods can cause choking, especially foods that are the size of a child’s throat - about the size of a nickle.

1. Cut foods into small pieces -- no larger than half an inch.
2. Cut meat across the grain into thin, small pieces.
3. Offer soft meats that are easy to chew, such as chicken.
4. Slice grapes, cherry tomatoes and other round foods into two or three small pieces.
5. Cook carrot sticks or broccoli pieces until slightly soft.
6. Grate raw vegetables -- carrots, cucumbers, squash.
7. Spread peanut butter thinly on bread, crackers or tortillas.
8. Do not let your child eat a glob of peanut butter on a spoon.

Safe eating
1. Have your child sit down while eating at the table.
2. Do not let your child run, walk, play or lie down with food in his/her mouth.
3. Stay with your child while they are eating.
4. Keep dangerous foods out of reach.
5. Teach your child to chew his/her food before swallowing.
6. Do not let your child eat in the car.
7. Learn to provide early treatment for a child who is choking.

Learn more...take classes in basic first aid, CPR and emergency prevention from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. More information can be found at the mypyramid.gov or aap.org (American Academy of Pediatrics.)

This article provides general nutrition information; medical advice should be obtained from your health care provider.

Malachi Deshawn Valliere	
Crystal Williams and Chris Valliere announce the birth of their son, Malachi Deshawn Valliere. He was born Dec. 21, 2009, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma Women’s Center in Durant. He weighed 6 pounds 15.5 ounces and was 19 inches long. His proud grandparents are Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Robert and Cynthia Valliere of Lafayette, La.	

Teagan Wesley Miller	
Ryan and Bavette Miller of Owasso are proud to introduce their new son, Teagan Wesley Miller. Teagan was born at 11:02 a.m. on March 16, 2010, at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa. He was 19 inches long and weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces. He has one brother, E.J. Leeper. He is the grandson of Bobby and Barbara Clyma of Mounds and Mike and Pam Nix of Bixby. He is the nephew of Blake and LaDawn Bazille of Mounds and Bryan Nix of Houston, Texas. His cousins are Brendon and Brooklyn Bazille of Mounds.	

William Henry Whisenand Shallenberger	
William Henry Whisenand Shallenberger was born July 20, 2009, at 5:05 a.m. at Renown Medical Center, in Reno, Nev. He weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was welcomed by parents Mathew and Jolene of Carson City, Nev. His grandparents are Frank and Judy Shallenberger of Genoa, Nev., E. Nena Dilbeck of Stagecoach, Nev., and Bruno Irmer of Bladen, Neb.	

Adam Matthew Caldwell	
Michael Caldwell and Catherien Clein proudly announce the birth of their son, Adam Matthew Caldwell. He was born at 6:38 a.m. on March 30, 2010, in Las Vegas, Nev. Adam weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces and was 20 inches long.	

Mckenna Jo Collette	
Andrew and Kendall Collette are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mckenna Jo, on Dec. 19, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 inches long. She joins her older brother, Mason. Her grandparents are Syd Motal and A.C. and Susan Collette. Her great-grandmother is Mary Beams Siems, daughter of original enrollee, Levi Lee Beams. Proud aunts and uncles are Kassidy Motal and A.C. and Katie Collette. Mckenna’s godparents are Bobby and Bernie Collette.	

Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN			
	SITE	PHONE	HOURS
	Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00
	Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30
	Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00
	Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00
	Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30
	Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00
	Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30
	Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30
	Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30
	McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30
	Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30
	Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00
	Spiro	918-962-5134	8:00-4:30
	Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00
	Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30
	Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00
	DAYS		
		Every Tuesday	
		Every Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.	
		1st Tuesday	
		1st & 2nd Friday	
		Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	
		2nd Wednesday	
		Daily	
		Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 3rd & 4th Friday	
		Mon. & Fri., 1st & 3rd Thurs. 1st/2nd week - Mon., Tues. Wed., Fri.; 3rd/4th week - daily	
		Daily	
		2nd Thursday	
		Every Wed., Thurs. & Fri.	
		Every Monday & Tuesday	
		Every Tuesday & Wednesday 1st & 2nd Thursday	



Thousands are motivated during annual Career Expo

More than 180 booths set up to show some potential career paths at the 2010 Career Expo in McAlester. Assistant Chief Gary Batton introduced the leader of the Choctaw Nation, the host of the event, “In 1997, when he became Chief, Greg Pyle said he wanted to break the cycle of poverty and the key is education. He

started programs like Career Development, Scholarship Advisement, STAR, and this Career Expo.”

Chief Pyle welcomed the group saying, “The Choctaw Nation wants to be able to elevate everyone. We want everyone to have a good job. We want all families to be able to live here in Oklahoma

if that is their wish.”

Other speakers at the Expo included U.S. Congressman Dan Boren, who motivated the hundreds of attendees with words of encouragement for their future, and owner of Eskimo Joe’s, Stan Clark, who told his testimony of big success from growing ideas.



The Career Fair featured 180 booths – job and training opportunities, universities and colleges, and exciting windows of opportunities were highlighted across the Expo Center for the thousands of people who attended.

CSI: ARPA a powerful law

continued from Page 1

own and run Archaeological Damage Investigation and Assessment (ADIA), a private investigation firm that specializes in crimes of this nature. Together the men have a combined 70-plus years of experience and relate their job to being like a medical examiner at an archaeological crime scene. Their experience ranges from the Mayan ruins for McAllister to working for the U.S. Forest Service for Griffel, and everything in between for the two of them. Griffel has been involved in approximately 25 felony convictions against violators of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

The ARPA protects archaeological resources against crimes including vandalism, such as defacement of petroglyphs, damage to prehistoric structures and cemetery headstones; and theft, such as isolated artifacts, those from archaeological sites and collections, looting and artifact hunting. ARPA also prohibits trafficking of any illegally obtained resources.

“ARPA is a very powerful law. It enables us to protect our historical sites. We don’t want future generations to say ‘Where is my heritage?’” Martin told the class. “It’s up to us, not just for ourselves, but for future generations, to preserve our heritage.”

According to Griffel, every archaeological site with known resources is a potential target for vandalism and theft. No location is immune and all geographic regions are affected.

“Everyone hears about it, they all read about it, but they all think of it as something that happens somewhere else, such as in the American south-west, but this could be going on right here in their backyard,” he said. “This is a world-wide problem and it occurs on a daily basis.”

“We hope that what they learn in the class and the mock-up demonstration can be taken out and applied in their jobs to help stop these crimes,” continued Griffel.

For the hands-on portion of the class, the students participated in a mock crime scene on tribal property. The class split up into three teams, each led by a tribal police officer. The teams are taken to a remote location on tribal land in Durant. They came to this site based on a tip they received about suspicious activity. They immediately notice the ground has been disturbed in several areas as though someone was digging for something.

Then they see him. A man dressed in camouflage, dirty from head to toe, is hiding in the tall grass.

After a back and forth dialogue between the officers and the man, a resulting search, and the subsequent questioning of the man’s friend who drove up in the middle of the conversation, the officers discover that the man was digging on the tribal land in search of valuable artifacts. He and his friend are taken into custody for violating ARPA. Then the groups moved in and began their processing of the scene, putting all they’d learned over the past three days to task. They took photos, drew diagrams, marked all the evidence, took footprint castings, collected items and treated the scene as any investigator would in any type of crime. Their objective is to mark the scene to prevent further contamination and do meticulous documentations.

Class participant, Choctaw tribal police officer Tony Krebbs, said the process is the same for any crime scene they would investigate but the training helped him understand a crime he hadn’t been familiar with. “I didn’t realize this happened around here. It made me aware of a crime that I didn’t know was going on and now I know how to deal with it. The process is the same with other crimes we investigate,” he stated.

Not every violation is going to end with the perpetrator being caught in the act though. The training they received ensures that the teams know how to process the scenes of these crimes to protect and document the vital evidence left behind. This allows for a possible future charge and successful prosecution should they determine the person responsible.

For Steven Flowers, a Choctaw Nation employee in the Land and Titles department, the training opened his eyes to something that he never thought to look for while out doing his job. “Now I know to look a little closer if something doesn’t seem right. There’s a chance that we’ve come upon a crime scene like this and didn’t even realize it.”

Skyler Robinson, who works in the Historic Preservation department, echoed that outlook, saying he now knows what to do should he ever encounter a scene like this. “I never knew what to look for before when we were out. Now I know the process to follow, I know how to recognize a crime scene and I know whom to call to do the investigation,” he said.

The deterring of these crimes is the ultimate goal of this training and that is done through increased awareness for the public. “The more people who know we’re looking for this and actively prosecuting, perhaps the more people will be deterred from committing these crimes. I would be more than happy to never have to process another crime scene of this nature ever again,” said McAllister.



Jones Academy third quarter ‘Super Students’

Congratulations to the third nine weeks Super Students at Jones Academy. They are, back row, Santos Rojas, fourth grade; Tuscon Evans, fifth grade; Jeffrey Yeager, sixth grade; McGavynne Lone Elk, fourth grade; and Mariss Smith, Campus Alternative School.

In the front row, Jacinda Butler, fifth grade; Melina Tushka, first grade; Liliana Bernal, sixth grade; and Odalys Lujano, second grade.

Jones Academy raises awareness for diabetes

Jones Academy elementary third-sixth grade students participated in the “School Walk for Diabetes” during the school days March 23-29. The activity was an effort to raise awareness for diabetes. The “School Walk for Diabetes” is an educational school fundraising program that promotes healthy living, school spirit, and community involvement.

While raising money for the American Diabetes Association, students learned about diabetes and the importance of making healthy choices, including eating nutritional foods and exercising every day.

The money raised through the “School Walk for Diabetes” will help to fund diabetes research, education, and advocacy in support of the mission



of the American Diabetes Association.

Native Americans are a group at risk, being particularly susceptible to type 2 diabetes. Students who participated in the walk learned about the

seriousness of diabetes and the things one can do to prevent the disease. The goal was to have 40 students and staff to walk three miles per day for five days. The participants walked a total of 600 miles and raised

about \$2,000 for the cause.

Physical Education Coordinator Crissy Baker, and the third and fourth grade teacher’s assistant, Sheila Bailey, were responsible for organizing the event.

District 12 group wins first at language fair

Fourteen students from the Coalgate/Tupelo Choctaw Language Club of Mrs. Paula Carney, assisted by Cheryl Weeden and Sharon Post oak, participated in the 8th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair on April 6. They entered the sixth-eighth grade group language division with music/dance and performed Choctaw Hymns 21, 77 and 48.

Students from grades one through eight competed against six other groups from grades eight through 12 to bring home the first place trophy. This is the second time that this group has won first place. They also captured the title in April 2006.

Eight students were new to the fair this time with seven returning students. These students worked very hard, on their own time, putting in long practice times and dress rehearsals, yet never complaining. Research says that children who learn a second language do better in school. But for us when it is their own language it is even better. The gift of learning the hymns will last a lifetime. This will help to preserve the culture and traditions of our elders and make them ours.

A special thanks to all who helped with contributions, jewelry and traditional clothes. A special thanks also to the parents, grandparents and friends who allowed their children to participate and supported them from start to finish.



Front row: Tvli Birdshead, Alizaye Buckley, Tyson Buckley, Warren Birdshead; middle row: Abby Maple, Ashley McClure, Neiatha Hardy, Carrie Clem, Kelsey McClure; and back row, Angelia Post oak, Nate Hardy, Jacob Cole, Jeremiah Weeden, Mekyla Jacobs

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Happy 6th birthday

MaKayla Hood of Hugo celebrated her 6th birthday on March 8, 2010. She had a princess birthday party and celebrated with family and friends.

She is the daughter of Christie and Thomas Hood and the sister of Dakota Hood. Her grandparents are Linda and Lee Knight and Charles and Kathy Hood. Her Papa Lee celebrated his birthday on March 9.

Also, happy 19th birthday to Sharena Ward. She's the daughter of Ruth Ward and Donnie and Jacque Knight of Shawnee. Her grandparents are Linda and Lee Knight and Lloyd and Mary Ward and Nana Pat and Papa Ray.



Valliere / Williams to exchange vows

Chris Valliere and Crystal Williams will exchange vows on May 22, 2010, at Cornerstone Church in Bennington. Father of the bride, Pastor Olin Williams, will officiate. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington. She is a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is employed by Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The prospective groom is the son of Robert and Cynthia Valliere of Lafayette, La. He is a graduate and current employee of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



Haggar / Ward wedding

Amber Haggar and Cody Ward of Valliant were united in marriage Feb. 20 at the Corinth Baptist Church in Swink. Amber is the daughter of Becky Peters of Hugo and the granddaughter of the late Clem Shawhart and Betty Shawhart and the late Lois Jenkins of Fort Towson. Her brothers are Cody Peters and Canyon Taylor. She is a student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Cody is the son of the late Terry Ward of Hugo and the grandson of Lloyd and Mary Ward of Paris, Texas, and Cliff and Dorothy Workman of Grant. His sisters are Tahasha Steed and Terra Ward.



Meadows / Ferguson to marry

David and Helena Ferguson of Ohio announce the engagement of their son, Staff Sgt. Jonathan D. Ferguson, United States Marine Corps, to Diane Meadows.

A 2010 wedding is planned and the couple resides in California.

The future bride is the daughter of Steven and Esperanza Meadows. She is a 2000 graduate of Apple Valley High School in Minnesota. She graduated from National University in 2008 with an associate's degree.

The future groom is the grandson of the late Mrs. Minnie Voyles, formerly of Talihina. He is a 1998 graduate of Greenon High School in Ohio. He graduated from National University in 2009 with an associate's degree.



Ferguson named Wentz scholar

Connor Ferguson, a junior Agribusiness major at Oklahoma State University, is the recipient of a Lew Wentz Research Project Award to study weed management in wheat. He has also been named the Sitlington Outstanding Plant and Soil Sciences Student for 2010 and is on the President's Honor Roll. Connor is very thankful for the tribal assistance and support he has received through the Scholarship Advisement Program.



Happy 9th birthday

C.J. Briley celebrated his 9th birthday on April 27. His family would like to wish him a very happy birthday. He is the son of Edwanna and Robert Briley and the grandson of Lavada Baker, all of Wright City.



Happy 35th anniversary

Happy anniversary to Robert and Betsy Criswell of Muldrow. The couple celebrated their 35th anniversary on April 19, 2010. They were married on April 19, 1975, in Fort Smith, Ark., by the Rev. Hightower at St. Paul United Methodist Church. Betsy is the daughter of the late Joe Frank "Bill" Statham and the late Mildred "Tooter" Statham of Spiro. Robert is the son of the late James and Dorsey Criswell of Muldrow. The couple has one daughter, Misty Sutton (Criswell) of Muldrow.

Happy birthday Cody

Cody of Whitefield celebrated his birthday April 1, 2010. His family sends him birthday wishes and hopes he had a great day.



Happy birthday Tonya

Tonya of Stigler celebrated her birthday on April 25. Her family sends her birthday wishes and hope she had a great day.



Happy birthday Jesse

Jesse of Chaney, Kan., celebrated his birthday on April 5. His mother, father, Jess, Trenton, Jennifer, Ethan and Dustin all send him happy birthday wishes and hopes he had a great day.



Happy birthday Terry

Terry of Stigler celebrated his birthday on April 2. His family sends him birthday wishes and hopes he had a great day.



Twins celebrate 5th birthday

Deandre and Deasia Bailey of Broken Bow celebrated their 5th birthday on April 26. They are the children of Feasey Cooper of Idabel. Grandparents are Gloria Lewis Bond of Broken Bow and Frank Cooper of Atoka and great-grandparents are Barrentine and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow and Lorena Cooper of Stringtown.



Happy 10th birthday

Carlos Villegas of Broken Bow celebrated his 10th birthday on March 22. He is the son of Casey Cooper of Idabel and the grandson of Gloria and Louis Bond of Broken Bow and Frank Cooper of Atoka. His great-grandparents are Barrentine and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow and Lorena Cooper of Stringtown.



A'taria turns six

A'taria Bailey celebrated her 6th birthday on April 15. She is the daughter of Casey Cooper of Idabel and the granddaughter of Gloria and Louis Bond of Broken Bow and Frank Cooper of Atoka. Her great-grandparents are Barrentine and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow and Lorena Cooper of Stringtown.



Five generations

Imogene Welch recently welcomed her 10th great-great-grandchild. Imogene is pictured with her daughter, Edith Welch Ward, her granddaughter, Susan Ward Cantwell, her great-grandson, Matthew Cantwell, and great-great granddaughter, Adrianna Marie Gist-Cantwell. Adrianna was born Feb. 22 at the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina.

Moore deploys to Iraq

Spc. J.R. Moore, U.S. Army, has deployed to Iraq, his third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is assigned to repair and maintain vehicles and serve as a radio operator. His wife, Christina, and children Heather and Kyle are at home in Fort Carson, Colo. Moore grew up in eastern Oregon and is a great-grandson of original Choctaw enrollee Katie Barnhill Moore. He partnered with his grandfather, Ray, to walk the annual Trail of Tears walk in 2006. He also participated in the Tough Choctaw contest, placing fourth after over-turning his loaded wheel barrow to prevent hitting a toddler on the course. He said he appreciates the Choctaw care packages he has received while in Iraq.



Happy 6th birthday

Jailyn Harris celebrated her 6th birthday on April 4. She is the daughter of Richard Noah and Jasmine Harris and sister to Brendon Noah. Her grandparents are Edwanna and Robert Briley Sr. and Nettie and Cecil Caldwell, all of Wright City. Also wishing her a happy birthday are her uncles C.J. and Robert Briley Jr. and aunt Monica Noah.



Happy birthday Gary

Gary French will celebrate his 29th birthday on May 16. He is the son of Elizabeth Tonihka McKinney of Oklahoma and Gary Dean French of Orlando Fla. He is the nephew of Alan Tonihka, Sherill Tonihka, Wilbur Tonihka, and William Tonikha, all of Idabel, and grandson of the late Wilson and Bertha Tonihka and Clyde Roy and Nona French. He is the great-grandson to the late Leno Bohannon.

Also, congratulations to him on the completion of his Associates degree in Criminal Justice. He lives in Mount Dora with his wife, Michele, and children Madalyn, Coen and Abbi. He is employed by the Lake County Sheriff's Office and currently holds the rank of Corporal in the Road Patrol Division.



Happy birthday Jamie

Jamie of Wichita, Kan., celebrated her birthday on April 22, 2010. Her mother, father, Jess, Trenton, Jennifer, Ethan and Dustin all send her happy birthday wishes and hopes she had a great day.



Happy 90th birthday Bill

Bill Anderson of Ponca City will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 16, 2010. Bill's entire family wants to wish him a very happy 90th birthday.



Four generations attend Webster wedding

Sarah and Kevin Webster were united in marriage on March 13, 2010, in Fort Worth, Texas, at the Lockheed Trinity Ballroom in front of family and friends. Scott Sharman officiated. A reception of dinner and dancing followed the ceremony.

Sarah is the daughter of Dan and Lisa Parasiliti and Chuck White. Kevin is the son of Sam and Cindy Webster. Their grandparents are Victor and Helen Embry, Charles and Charlotte White, Tony and Florence Parasiliti and Fannie White.

Four generations of Choctaw members from both Oklahoma and Texas gathered for the wedding. The groom's father's families are natives of eastern/southeastern Oklahoma and moved for parent's employment in 1965 to Fort Worth. Interestingly, all of the great-great-great-granddaughters of Harrison Wood, enrollee for the Choctaw Nation, live in Oklahoma, and all of the great-great-great-grandsons descending from Wood live in Texas.



Calmes awarded Outstanding Educator

Congratulations to Keith Calmes who was awarded an Outstanding Educator Award from the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) for his work as a guitar teacher at Wall High School in New Jersey. Keith has taught at Wall High School since 1995.

Congratulations Emily

Emily Essary of Bethel High School in Shawnee competed in the state Poetry Out-Loud competition March 6 after advancing from the regional final at Oklahoma City University against eight others. She is a junior and a concurrent enrollment freshman at Seminole State College. She is also the daughter of Lisa and Don Essary, granddaughter of Merle and Melba Shaw and James and Beverly Essary.



Sending birthday wishes

April birthday wishes go to Bertha Amos from her husband, Rufus, and from Louise. Louise also sends her sister, Naoma, very happy birthday wishes. Naoma celebrated her birthday on April 1.

Samuels / Guttery exchange vows

Donna Autumn Guttery and Ricky Lynn Samuels exchanged wedding vows on April 14 at the Community Pentacostal Church in Manifest, La. Brother Ronnie House officiated and a reception was held following the wedding in the church reception hall.



Choctaw Nation
GED Classes

Pushmataha
County

Beginning June 7, 2010
Mondays & Wednesdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Community Center
400 1/2 "O" St.
Antlers, Oklahoma

Latimer County

Beginning June 7, 2010
Mondays & Wednesdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Community Center
515 Center Point Road
Wilburton, Oklahoma

Bryan County

Beginning June 8, 2010
Tuesdays & Thursdays
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Tribal Complex
South building, downstairs
Durant, Oklahoma

North LeFlore
County

Beginning June 8, 2010
Tuesdays & Thursdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation
Family Investment Center
Poteau, Oklahoma

The class will meet two days each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

OK Choctaws
to host speakers

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance (OCTA) in Oklahoma City is hosting speakers from the Choctaw Nation at its monthly General Meeting on May 10. Subjects that will be discussed are Scholarship Advisement, Veterans Advocacy, the STAR Program, and Career Development. The meeting will start about 7 p.m. immediately after the potluck dinner that begins at 6 p.m.

Prior to the General Meeting date, they will have their monthly Taco Sale on May 8 from 11 a.m. and going until 5 p.m. this time. In addition to their great tacos, they also have pashofa (tanchi labona), fry bread, pinto beans, and more. To wrap around the taco sale on the same day, they are also hosting a HUGE one-day yard sale from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information on either the taco sale or the yard sale, contact Paula Mitchell at 405-397-1707.

On May 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Alliance will have Native American Storytelling where you can listen to and even share some of your stories with others. For more information on this, contact Stella Long at 495-949-2147. This is an OCTA fundraiser event with hot dogs with all the trimmings and dessert available for purchase. The Alliance is located at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City, about five blocks north of SW 59th Street between May and Pennsylvania Avenues.



Side Buster Tristan “Buster” Tiger Saddles Up for the Ride

Jones Academy students saddle up

One activity that is very popular with Jones Academy students is the equine program. Selected times are scheduled for the students to ride horses on the campus grounds. It is an experience in which students can connect with the past and with nature.

Riding horses can be very therapeutic; it is often used to help disabled and troubled individuals. On Tuesday and Sunday each week, the horses at Jones get saddled and ready to go.

Tuesdays after school are set aside for the older boys and girls, while Sunday is open to all ages. There are five horses available for the students to ride. Jones has over 500 acres that students and supervisors may explore. This area includes pastureland and trail-ride paths just waiting to be traveled.

Inexperienced riders receive individual attention and training. So, riders, put on some boots and get ready for an adventure!

March Against Meth message shared



Devania Rowell, Choctaw Nation Project Safe; Wendy Dewitt, Health Department SWAT; Laura Ross Wallis, District Attorney, Region 17 Drug Task Force; Sandy Hall, Choctaw Nation Lifetime Legacy; Kristi Adams, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles; and Robbie Mullins, SOIC/APRC.



Wendy Dewitt with SWAT visits with students at Hugo Jr. High during the March Against Meth.

Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles partnered with District Attorney Laura Wallis and the Region 17 Drug Task Force, Hugo Police Department, Valliant House Residential Rehab, Choctaw Nation Lifetime Legacy, Choctaw Nation Project Safe, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, Oklahoma State Department of Health SWAT, SOIC/Area Prevention Resource Center, and Kiamichi Council on Alcoholism to March Against Meth at the Hugo Jr. High and Fort Towson School, along with Eagletown, Idabel Middle School and Valliant Middle School. The presentations from the different programs lasted about one hour.

Valliant House participants gave the students first-hand knowledge from their personal stories on how meth affected their life. Lifetime Legacy covered gateway drug dangers and effects on the body.

D.A. Wallis, along with a Task Force Agent, spoke of the dangers of meth.

Students were asked as they marched the halls of their schools, to remember all law enforcement that lost their life in the fight against meth.

Fullfilling her dream

Ever since I was a small child, I have dreamed of attending law school. With Chief Pyle’s and the tribe’s help I am now at the threshold of finishing that task. I graduate OU College of Law this month.

I want to thank you for your support in accomplishing this endeavor and would like to state that without your help I would not have been able to have completed my goal. Without donors like you, many students would be unable to pursue the career of their dreams.

My future plans include pursuing a career in criminal law. I not only have a passion for the law, but also a vision to help make my community a safer place to live.



Kara Bacon

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

JUNE 2010

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

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

To the Youth of the Nation

Growing with
Pride, Hope and Success

Third Place Essay Winner
By Jessie Blackwell, Youth Advisory Board

“To achieve healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws” – this is the vision of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. My vision for the Nation in the 21st century is to equip, empower and educate Choctaw youth for a brighter future. Teaching youth to be respectful and proud of their heritage will ensure them in continuing to make the Nation proud as they become young adults within the Choctaw Nation.

Equip the youth of the Choctaw Nation

With the many programs offered to Choctaws, and more becoming available every day, there is an ample amount of opportunity to provide youth with the resources needed to grow in the 21st Century. Being a member of things such as the Youth Advisory Board will give youth experiences during high school that will help throughout all of life. From public speaking to meeting with college representatives, being a part of the Youth Advisory Board will provide the much-needed familiarity with such events, as well as other available programs within the Nation. The existence of aid for youth is prevalent; however, we must make it easily accessed.

Empower the youth of the Choctaw Nation

What better way to encourage the youth of the Nation than with a “You can do it” attitude? At most stages in life, especially childhood and adolescence, what you are told you are is what you become. Tell a child he can be president, and he will aspire to do so. If you give them no hope and do not encourage them to follow their dreams, no one will ever know how huge of an impact that child could have left on our world. The Choctaw Nation should empower youth to be all that they can be. Promoting positive lifestyles and giving confidence to youth will establish strong leaders in this generation – leaders who will carry on the legacy of the Choctaw Nation for years to come.

Educate the youth of the Choctaw Nation

Many accounts of the history of the tribe have been passed down from generation to generation. From the Trail of Tears to Choctaw government, past and present, Choctaw youth should learn the heritage of the tribe. Cultural enrichment programs should teach the customs, traditions language of the Choctaw Nation. Teaching youth about the history and culture of the tribe will enhance their ability to appreciate the hard work and knowledge of Choctaw elders and past leaders, as well as help them progress into the future.

The Choctaw youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. By equipping, empowering and education youth, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will continue to grow with pride, hope and success in the 21st century.



Nurses complete CDE training

Congratulations to Diabetes Wellness Center staff who have recently completed Dertified Diabetes Educator training are Nancy Clark, RN, who works out of the Poteau Clinic; Lee Ann Griffin, RN, McAlester Clinic; Janet Maddox, RN, Lora King, RN, and Deborah Wilson, RN, all who work out of the Talihina Clinic, and Annette Choate, RN, Idabel Clinic.

Academic All-State

Ashlyn LeDawn Choate, 18, is the daughter of Russell and Annette Choate. She is the granddaughter of Johnny and Barbara Tonihka and Lyman and Ruby Choate of Broken Bow. She is a senior at Broken Bow High School where she is ranked second in her graduating class. Ashlyn is a member of Student Council, Gifted and Talented, National Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society, History Club, and Who’s Who Among American High School Students. She is the vice president of American Indian Leadership Youth Council and American Indian Math and Science Society. She was the Honorary Head Lady Dancer at the 2010 AILYC Pow Wow. Ashlyn is also a member of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. She is an All-American Scholar and an Oklahoma Academic Scholar. Ashlyn was selected as an Academic All-Stater. She is only the fourth Broken Bow High School student to ever receive this honor. She was also chosen as a Kiwanis Club Senior of the Month, Lions Club Senior of the Month, and was voted Most Successful Female Senior by her teachers. Ashlyn is currently a concurrent student at SOSU-McCurtain County campus. She will attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall and plans to become a nurse practitioner. Congratulations, Ashlyn!



Arcadia senior presented
at Grand Cotillion Ball

Amanda Elina Robbins was presented to the Honorable Mayor Jim Lane of Scottsdale, Ariz., at the 45th Annual Grand Cotillion Ball, held April 3. Amanda was one of 50 debutantes chosen from the five Scottsdale high schools based on high academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and character.

The young ladies attended weekly classes on subjects ranging from college applications to contributing to their community. The young ladies also volunteered for Crisis Nursery and STARS Adult Rehabilitation Centers.

Amanda is a senior at Arcadia High School, a member of National Arts Honor Society, the Ad Art Club, team member of Skill Olympics, member of freshman and varsity volleyball teams, volunteer coach for Christ Lutheran School volleyball, and alumnus of People to People Student Ambassadors (Australia 2008). She plans to attend Arizona State University, majoring in American Indian Studies. She is the daughter of Mark Robbins and Teresa Mandelin, granddaughter of Ruby Elinor Williams Mandelin and great-granddaughter of original enrollee Frank Nelson Williams.



The annual Birthday Bash is a blast!



Councilman Bob Pate presents a bow and three arrows to Chief Pyle.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, right, and Councilman Bob Pate wish each other Happy Birthday during the annual Birthday Bash held at the McAlester Expo Center on April 13. They are pictured with young Tenaya Perkins (above right).



Miss Choctaw Nation Ashton Rachelle DiNardo signs the Lord's Prayer.



National JOM President Virginia Thomas presents Chief Pyle with a Pendleton Blanket.



Andrew Johnson passes out barbecue and trimmings.



Presley Byington plays the flute.



Kenneth and Lorene Eubanks attend the festivities.



Eva Lanning and A.R. and Dorothy Kirkpatrick.



Chief Pyle says hello to Ruth Cummins.



Councilman Pate visits with Dr. Kenneth Miller and wife Geneva. Dr. Miller's birthday is the same as Councilman Pate's.



District 11 Little Miss Cheyehoma Dugger is pictured with younger sister Jenessa Dugger.



Councilman Pate is pictured with Pittsburg County's Youth Advisory Board advisor Clint Cannon and daughter Brooklyn, and YAB members, 2009-10 Alla Himmita Princess Cherish Wilkerson, DaNetta Wilkerson, Dustin Finch, Austin Kenitubbe, Amanda Kionute, District 11 Jr. Miss Tasha Meashintubby and Heather Finch.

Trail of Tears

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

T-shirt Order Form

T-shirts are black. Sizes available are:
Children – (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) and (14-16)
Adults – Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X, and 3X

Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-shirt – \$10 ea.			
Cap – \$10 ea.			

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone Number _____
E-Mail _____

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of children and 3X sizes. To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:

Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Trail of Tears Walk

May 15, 2010

Tushka Homma Capital Grounds

Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.

Free meal to follow

YOU ARE INVITED

Choctaw Nation 3-D Bow Shoot

1:00 p.m. Tushka Homma Capital Grounds

May 15, 2010

Ages 16-Over Co-Ed

All Tribes Welcome

Rules:

1) Each team will bring their flag or association flag
2) Teams will consist of 5 people Bring as many teams as you can
3) There will be 12 3-D Targets with 2 arrows per target
4) WOOD ONLY BOWS-Handled or "D", Straight, may be backed with sinew or rawhide NO BAMBOO BOWS
5) Gloves or Finger Tabs (No mechanical releases)
6) Arrows-Wood or Carbon with target field points

TOTAL TEAM POINTS WILL BE THE WINNER OF ALL FLAGS

BREAK----POTLUCK DINNER----BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH

INDIVIDUAL JACKPOT \$2.00 PER PERSON WINNER TAKES ALL!!!

For more information please call:
Sue Folsom:1-800-522-6170 ext. 2134 Cyndi Houser:1-800-522-6170 ext. 2559
Pam Waugh:918-413-8914 Les Williston:918-569-4552

Details on the Choctaw Migration

Question:

I read in the inaugural Iti Fabvssa that a prophet told the Choctaw they had been directed to move east until the iti fabvssa [pole] stood perpendicular, thus indicating the end of their migration. What the article did not say is where the migration started, nor the name of the prophet. Can you please tell me these two names?

Blessings, Bill

Answer:

Dear Bill,
Many Choctaw stories explain the beginning of the Tribe in terms of a vast migration of Choctaw people into our Mississippi Homeland at a distant time in the past. To the best of our knowledge, none of the Choctaw oral traditions that are told today or that survive in written form give the precise starting point for this Choctaw migration or the personal name of the prophet whose pole indicated the direction that the journey should take.

Some information relevant to your questions may possibly be included in an account of the Choctaw migration that was written by Dr. Gideon Lincecum in 1861. Lincecum claimed to have received the story from the mouth of a Choctaw alikchi named Chahta Immataha, back in the 1820s. Unfortunately, this manuscript has some issues. Lincecum clearly embellished the account beyond factuality, but his writing also makes it obvious that he was familiar with traditional Choctaw culture. Because of this, it is often impossible to tell which parts of the story Lincecum made up himself and which parts of the story could possibly reflect reality. Keeping this in mind, according to Lincecum the Choctaw migration apparently began somewhere west of the Rocky Mountains and lasted for 43 years. His account does not mention the prophet by name, but refers to him simply as Isht Ahullo. Today, this title



Iti Fabvssa

has a bad connotation for many Choctaw speakers, but in the past it simply meant something like “miracle worker” (see Byington 1915:202).

Many other, much less detailed, accounts of the Choctaw migration exist. These stories were being told at the time when Europeans first began taking notice of them (e.g. Du Pratz 2006:326 [ca. 1720]) and are still told in Choctaw communities today. Like Lincecum’s account, they describe a long journey made by a large group of Choctaw people that ended at the present site of Nvnih Waiya. Renditions of these stories sometimes differ in such details as, which tribe(s) made the journey with the Choctaw, whether a prophet or Chahta himself carried the pole, and the color of the pole. Most, but not all of them describe the starting point as an unspecified location far to the west of the present state of Mississippi.

Interestingly, the Choctaw term for “west,” hvshi aiokat-ula, means literally the “place where the sun falls in the water.” Some believe that this term may be evidence that the Choctaw people began the migration at the Pacific Ocean, where they would have observed the sun “falling into the water” every evening. While this could be a possible explanation, it is a certainty that for centuries in Mississippi, the Choctaw watched the sun set over the Mississippi River to the west. Today, there are many ideas about where the migration mentioned in the stories could have begun, but with the currently available evidence, it seems unlikely that definitive proof for a specific location will be forthcoming.

As we briefly referred to in the inaugural (August 2009)

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

edition of this column, a second major group of Choctaw origins stories exists. According to these, rather than journeying from the west, the Choctaw people came out of the ground from a cave that is located near Nvnih Waiya, in what is now Winston County, Mississippi. Like the migration accounts, these earth-emergence stories were told when Europeans first began writing about Choctaw people (e.g. Romans 1999:169 [1775]) and they are still told in Choctaw communities today.

Skeptical outside observers often have difficulty accepting any historical truth in Choctaw oral accounts about our own history because they perceive that our migration and earth-emergence stories contradict each other. After all, one story seems to clearly indicate that the Choctaw people originated in the Homeland of Mississippi, while the other suggests just as strongly that Choctaw people began some place far to the west and had to migrate to find the Homeland. Yet, to many Choctaw people: “Interpreted symbolically, spiritually, socially, pragmatically, and affectively, the stories are not contradictions at all” (Mould 2004:62).

Because they are transmitted



Nvnih Waiya Mound, located in Winston County, Miss., is the ending destination of the Choctaw migration stories and the Tribe’s most sacred site.

by the spoken word, Choctaw oral histories have a different nature than written texts. This does not mean that they are inaccurate; to the contrary, some Native American oral histories have been shown to document events that happened thousands of years ago (Deloria 1995:195-197). At least some Choctaw communities systematically passed on their history to upcoming generations, through regular daily instruction from Tribal elders and storytellers. Such repetition could ensure that the details of oral histories were accurately memorized. However, this traditional system of education had already fallen out of practice by the early 1800s (Hodgson 1823:278-279). An untold amount of Choctaw historical and cultural knowledge was as a result.

Even the oldest detailed Choctaw oral histories were recorded a generation after the discontinuation of the formal, traditional education. This may explain some of the differences in the details of the specific renditions of Choctaw origins stories told by different people. However, this would not explain why Choctaw people have told both the migration and earth emergence stories for hundreds of years.

As noted by Roger Echo-Hawk (2000:274), oral histories, because they are continually dependant on memory, tend to compress information. In extreme cases, the effect can be similar to what would happen if American history were condensed into a single page of text; the most major details are retained, but their context is lost.

When examined uncritically, Choctaw oral accounts appear to depict the history of an unchanging group through time (“THE CHOCTAW TRIBE”), when actually they represent a collection of snapshots of the complex history of our dynamic ancestors who lived in many different communities that changed and developed over time.

We posit that the two different Choctaw origins accounts may describe the different histories of some of the separate groups people that have come together through the millennia to create the Choctaw communities of today. Now, rather than being something that separates, these ancestral origins stories serve as a unifying connection between all Choctaw people.

Deloria, Vine Jr.
1995 Red Earth White Lies:

Native Americans and the Myth of Scientific Fact. Scribner, New York.

Du Pratz, Antione Simon Le Page
2006[1758] History of Louisiana: Or of the Western Parts of Virginia and Carolina... Bibliobazaar, U.S.A.

Echo-Hawk, Roger C.
2000 Ancient Indian History. American Antiquity.

Hodgson, Adam
1823 Remarks During a Journey Through North America, New York.

Mould, Tom
2004 Choctaw Tales. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

Lincecum, Gideon
1861 History of the Chahta Nation. unpublished manuscript on file with the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin.

Romans, Bernard
1999[1775] A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida, edited by Kathryn Holland Braund. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

An historical account of Chief George W. Harkins

“It is with considerable diffidence that I attempt to address the American People, knowing and feeling sensibly my incompetency; and believing that your highly and well improved minds would not be well entertained by the address of a Choctaw.”

So begins the Farewell Letter to the American People written by George W. Harkins featured in the March issue of Bishinik. This account is one of the few surviving representing the Choctaw point of view of the removal. Almost all other written accounts originate from U.S. government officials, contractors or reporters during the removal process. But, who was this enigma George Harkins and why has he been largely overlooked by history until the rediscovery in recent years of his letter?

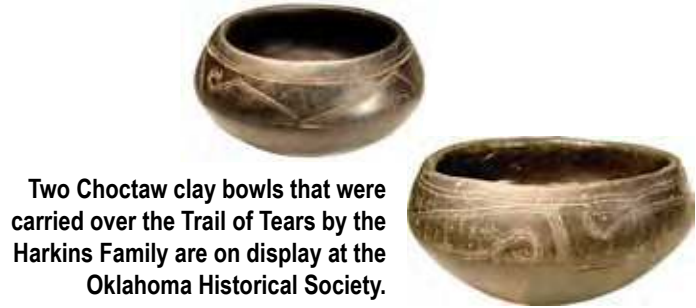
George was born between May 1809 and February 1810 at or close to Frenchman’s Camp on the Pearl River in the old Choctaw Nation, now the state of Mississippi. His father was an Irish American who came to live in the Choctaw Nation by 1806 as part of the Jeffersonian trade policies for the purpose of effecting land cessions from the tribes. His mother was descended from a line of chiefs and a member of the mixed blood Leflore family. He was educated at least partially at the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky.

On July 25, 1828, Col. Richard Mentor Johnson founder of the Choctaw academy writes “... Two of the young men have obtained leave of the Chiefs of the Choctaws to go with me to the City [Washington] next winter and to remain during the Session and appropriated \$500 for that object –These two young men, George Harkins

and Pierre Juzan, are an ornament to any nation ...” (1).

On Sept. 27, 1830, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek between the U.S. and Choctaws was signed and the removal process began. Within a short time of signing George and brother-in-law Robert Folsom organized and embarked with a private exploring party to assess the new country and determine best places to settle and start over. While in the new country the nation met in council and elected new chiefs. George was elected to replace his uncle Greenwood Leflore, however the U.S. government merely refused to recognize the election and continues to do business as usual with the old chiefs.

Serving as conductor of a large party of about 600 Choctaws their journey begins somewhere east of now Jackson, Miss., and proceeds overland. According to Grant Foreman’s “Indian Removal” the party arrived at the concentration point of Vicksburg, Miss., on Nov. 11, 1832. About Nov. 25, the horses, cattle and the members of the party that were going overland were ferried across the river to begin their journey of approximately 350 miles. The rest of the travelers, 564 in charge of J.H. Nail and 600 in charge of George, board the steamships Talma and Cleopatra respectively and head down river about 75 miles to Natchez, Miss., where he delivers his famous letter to a reporter. Continuing on down river to the mouth of the Red River then turning up that stream they passed Monroe, La., and turned up the Washita to Ecor a Fabre (now Camden, Ark.), arriving here on Dec. 9, 1831. The group coming overland with the livestock had become lost and stranded in the huge swamps



Two Choctaw clay bowls that were carried over the Trail of Tears by the Harkins Family are on display at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

surrounding Lake Providence and had to be rescued by conductor S.D. Cross and Captain Shirley of the Talma. Reunited at Ecor a Fabre the party now numbering 1,200 souls began their overland march.

By letter to New York Observer dated Dec. 28, 1831, he reports, “We arrived at this place about two weeks ago. Joel Nail and his party came in company with us. We came up to this place in steamboats from Vicksburg. We sent our horses and oxen by land, and about 250 head of horses have died on the road. We have had very bad weather. Since we landed at this place, about twenty of Nail’s party have died, and still they are continuing to die. Two of my party have died. We are about 200 miles from our country on the Red River. It will be sometime in February before we get to where we want to settle. There are 1,200 of us in company, and we are compelled to travel slow, as there are so many sick people. I am afraid a great many will die before we get home. Nail has 400 with him. He has been very sick, but is now on the mend.” (2).

According to Foreman’s book the Harkins/Nail party fared considerably better than some of the other parties due to having for several months before leaving engaged many of the Choctaw women in weaving cloth and thus this group was better supplied by their

own means to endure the hardships of the foul weather.

Traveling overland through Washington Arkansas the party continues westward until they sign in at Fort Towson on Feb. 11, 1832. Covering a distance of at approximately 600 miles with at least 250 miles being overland and taking about 13 weeks of constant exposure to possibly the worst winter weather of the 19th century. All this was undertaken before his 23rd birthday.

Upon arrival Thomas Leflore was elected Chief of Apukshunubbee district and held that office for many years. In a letter to Greenwood Leflore in June of 1845 George reports, “Col. Thomas Leflore makes an excellent chief, he has energy and firmness about him he keeps very good order and regulations in this district.” (3). After ultimately serving four terms as chief he retired in 1850 and George was then elected chief to succeed him.

The 1850s were set up to be a tumultuous time with both natural disasters and man made obstacles, internal and external forces coming to bear to create turmoil and hardship in the Indian nation. The Treaty of 1855 forced changes in the constitution which ultimately led to the what was called the constitutional crisis of 1858 when a minority faction of the Choctaw government with the backing of the U.S. Indian agent wrote and adopted a new constitution

without the approval of the voters or the input of the two largest and most populated districts Apukshunubbee and Pushmataha. George’s opinion was that if they let the new constitution stand the nation would be sectionalized and cease to exist within a decade. “See I am afraid it will not suit our common Tubbies. They will be the sufferers as it respects to myself I do not know as it would injure me much. I can live anywhere. The fate of the the common Indian his case should be considered. Never study our private interest to the injury of others.” (4). This led to a two-year plus struggle with him as the defacto leader of the opposition party which actually consisted of a majority of the old government and at one point the nation was even threatened with federal troops. In December 1860 a new constitution was finally written with the oppositions changes and adopted by the voters. This became the document that the Tribal government operated under with only minor changes until the 1970s.

Mrs. A.E. Perry, daughter of Forbis Leflore, summed it up best in her March 1928 article in the Chronicles of Oklahoma.

“In the fifties were the times when ‘giants’ thrived among the men of the Nation; it was the hey-day of the big men. The roster is long and one of which we as a nation should be excessively proud. We grew such men then as J.E. Dwight, who made such an eloquent speech for the new constitution that the entire audience became firm adherents; Peter P. Pitchlynn, Thompson McKinney, Old Col. George W. Harkins, Allen Wright, Edmon McCurtain, Alfred Wade, Peter Folsom, Coleman Durant, George Hudson, Lewis Durant, Benjamin Smallwood, Holmes Colbert,

and Allen Carney. Those early pioneers’ bodies were made of steel and their hearts were filled with the love of their fellow men. They played a man’s size game of politics, but all their energies were devoted to bettering conditions in the Nation.” (5). It is unclear if he lived long enough to realize the full extent of his victory as evidence strongly indicates that he died before October 1861 with both the cause of death and the place of burial being lost to history.

Contributed by
William Saint
A great-great-great-grandson
of George W. Harkins
wcsaint@tds.net

1. Chronicles of Oklahoma-Volume 6, No. 4December, 1928THE CHOCTAW ACADEMYCarolyn Thomas Foreman, page 453
- 2.http://anpa.ua1r.edu/trailOfTears/letters/1831December28GeorgeWHarkins.htm
3. George Harkins to Greenwood Leflore, Okla., Historical Society
4. Peter Pitchlynn collection, box3, folder 58, University of Oklahoma Library
5. Chronicles of OklahomaVolume 6, No. 1 March, 1928 COLONEL FORBIS LEFLORE, PIONEER AND STATESMAN BY MRS. A. E. PERRY

Editor’s Note: The photo included with Chief Harkins’ letter in the March BISHINIK was mistakenly ran as a photo of the former Chief. It is in fact a photo of Col. George W. Harkins, a descendant of Chief Harkins.

OBITUARIES

Esias J. Jefferson

Esias J. Jefferson, 69, of Pickens, passed away March 13, 2010, at his home. He was born June 1, 1940, in Bethel, the son of Preston and Annie (Noahubi) Jefferson.

Esias was a member of the Kulli Chito Presbyterian Church in Bethel. He enjoyed reading, going to gospel singings, and spending time with family and friends.

Esias was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Beverly Jefferson and Theresa Colbert; son Jerry Dean Jefferson; two sisters, Maecine Bond and Serena Ward; two brothers, Hugh P. Jefferson Sr. and Elliston Jefferson.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Jefferson, of Bethel; son Franklin Jefferson of Bethel; daughters and sons-in-law, Ramona and Charles Willis of Broken Bow and Phyllis and Elias Roberts Jr. of Broken Bow; brothers Truman and Randall Jefferson both of Idabel; sister, Lucy Sanchez of Longview, Texas; 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; the mother of his children, Mary Jane Jefferson; many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Ellies James ‘Jim’ Loring

Ellies James “Jim” Loring was born Dec. 9, 1938, to Edmond and Minnie (Thomas) Loring in Bennington. He passed away Feb. 18, 2010. He had Hodgins Lymphoma (brain) in remission 12 years as of this past August. He was a retired Optical Lab Tech. He leaves behind his wife, Carol, son Kevin Haffner and daughter Kim Eastman; sister Barbara Payne; two nieces Suzie Mayfield and Lavada Crawford; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



Bill Guest

Bill Guest, 70, of Garvin, passed away March 23, 2010, at his home. He was born Jan. 18, 1940, at Cisco, the son of Mellie and Henry “Boots” Guest. He was a member of the Millerton First Baptist Church.

Coming from Dallas in 1969, Bill worked for Brown and Root when the papermill was being built, then he went to work for the TO&E and D&E Railroad. He was a Union Representative for the railroad employees and a member of the JC’s. He served on the KEDDO Board and the Valliant School Board for two terms. He was an avid fisherman and loved hunting.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Henry Wheeler Guest Jr. and Donald Ray Guest; sister Margie Claborn; brother-in-law, J.W. “Bo” Fields.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Joyce Guest, of the home; son and daughter-in-law, Ray and Tina Guest of Valliant; brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Sue Guest, Larry and Janice Guest, Gary and Mary Guest, all of Millerton, and Gerald and Pat Guest of Valliant; sisters, JoNell Fields of Millerton, Debbie Stokes of Stillwater; grandchildren, Christopher Guest and Chris Aniello of New York City, Elizabeth and Milton Harvison of Millerton; great-grandchildren, Cody, Kevin, Peyton, Lyndon and Mollie Harvison; sister-in-law, Dorothy Guest of Valliant; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.



Vivian Carlotta Martin Jordan

Vivian Carlotta Martin Jordan, beloved mother, aunt, great aunt and grandmother passed away on March 24, 2010. A full-blooded Choctaw, she was born in Lequire to William “Billy” and Charlotte Folsom Martin on Aug. 3, 1921, just at the time when Native Americans were recognized as citizens of the U.S. She was the middle child in a large family, which no doubt accounted for her mischievous nature.

She graduated from secretarial school in Albuquerque and volunteered for the Marines where she served until 1946, just before Pearl Harbor. She worked as a civilian payroll clerk and moved to San Francisco to be with her sister Emaline and brother-in-law Neil. There she met Gene Jordan, a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. They eloped to Reno, Nev., on April Fool’s Day, 1950.

They were stationed in London, Guam and various locations stateside before retiring to Arkansas with their two children, where they lived for 30 years. After Gene passed away, she moved to Fort Collins in 1999, to be with her children and their families.

Through the years, her greatest joys were being active in her church, and watching her grandchildren grow and play. She loved baking goodies for them and sharing her love of reading, cooking and sewing with them. Vivian was an inspiring person who handled life’s challenges with courage, compassion and practicality. She is particularly remembered in her later life for her wonderfully healthy diet, persistent activity and her impressive personal bookkeeping. Vivian also had a soft spot in her heart for squirrels and wild creatures that frequented her yard.

She is survived by her son, James (Laura Sullivan); daughter, Jennifer, former daughter-in-law, Alice; grandchildren, Mahaya, Imantia and Onna Jordan, Mitchel Reynolds, Kyle and Danika Minthorn; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

She was preceded in death by her husband and all of her siblings.

David Alan Dobyns

David Alan Dobyns, 43, passed away from heart failure while snowboarding with his friend Scott Woodall at Winter Park Mountain on March 26, 2010. Dave was enjoying his favorite pastime. He was born April 27, 1966, in San Diego, Calif.

Dave leaves behind his ever loving wife, Debra Sue (Carson) Dobyns; parents Tom and Barbara Dobyns; brother Tom (Michelle) Dobyns and sister Lori (Kiko) Savage, both of San Diego, Calif.

He also leaves behind his nieces and nephews, Ryleigh and Kyle Dobyns and Malia and Noah Savage, and his grandfather, Lawrence Kramer.



Felix Joe Lara

Felix Joe Lara, 64, of Topeka, Kan., passed away Feb. 20, 2010, at his home. He was born July 31, 1945, in Topeka, the son of Lidio Felix and Tiajuana (Weaver) Lara.

Felix was employed by Topeka Public Schools for 16 years before he retired in 2005. He previously was employed by Whelan’s as a truck driver. After his retirement he worked two years at Washburn University.

He enjoyed metal detecting, basket weaving and selling crafts at the Farmer’s Market. He was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Choctaw Nation Artist Registry in Basket Weaving and of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

He married Rose Mary Ramirez on Aug. 26, 1965, in Lawrence. She survives him. Other survivors include four daughters, Barbara Neese and husband Todd of Des Moines, Iowa, Debra Weatherford and husband Ed of Osage City, Anne Gomez and Adrian of Topeka, Kan., and Jennifer Lara of Topeka; six grandchildren, James, Zachery, Katelyn, Graciela, Isabelle, Elianna and Sam; one brother Manuel Lara and Christy of Oklahoma City; and two sisters, Mary Guffy of Anchorage, Alaska, and Monica Lara of Topeka. His beloved pet Jack also survives.



McKinley Taylor Jr.

McKinley Taylor Jr., 75, of Wilburton, passed away March 30 in Tulsa.

He was born Nov. 4, 1934, in Wilburton to McKinley and Lizzie (Parish) Taylor. He grew up and attended school at Damon and Jones Academy. He graduated from Chilocco High School in 1953. Following high school, he joined the U.S. Army. He was employed as a maintenance worker at the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton where he taught the Choctaw language and crafts. He was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church in McAlester.

McKinley is survived by daughter Donna Dalke and husband James of Blanchard; two grandchildren, Heather and Makenlee; sisters, Lillie Roberts of Durant, Rosa Gilmore of Calera, Ruth Tremper of San Diego, Calif., and Ethel Salvino of Canton, Ohio; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers, James Taylor, Raymond Taylor and Jerry Taylor.



Jow Dow ‘Moon’ Mullins

Joe Dow “Moon” Mullins, 87, of McAlester, passed away March 30, 2010, in Muskogee. Military honors at his funeral were provided by the Choctaw Nation Honor Guard.

Joe Dow was born to Celdon Russell and Lula (Martin) Mullins July 20, 1922, in Citra. He attended Haywood Schools. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

Joe Dow married Ruth Wellington June 19, 1947, in Fort Smith, Ark. He retired from the U.S. Army Ammunition Plant as a heavy equipment operator for Roads and Grounds in 1978. He was a member of the VFW, and member of the Masonic Lodge and a member of North Town Church of Christ. He enjoyed playing dominoes and was active at the J.I. Stipe Senior Citizens Center. Joe also worked as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

He is survived by sons Jim Mullins and wife Sue and Jerry Mullins and wife Jeanette, all of McAlester; daughter Lumae Sennett and husband Jerry of Parker, Ariz.; grandchildren Stephanie, Steven, Jonathan, Staci and Sam Welsh, Jerry Jr., and Nita, Misty, Monica and Kevin, Brandin, Amber Gerald, Lavena, Erika, Joel; great-grandchildren Michael, Shane, Megan, Andrew and Gabby Landon, Logan, Jayden, Katie, Asa, Cynthia, Sierra, Aubrey, Lane, Parke Destiny, Tyler, Courtney and Clinton, great-great-grandchild Hailey; sisters Floy Gregg of Omak, Wash., LouVene Noble Brooks of Okmulgee, special friend Virginia LaRue; numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Celdon and Lula Mullins; his wife, Ruth Mullins; sister, Lucy Soumenin Beck, great-grandson Joshua Dow Koeninger.

Daniel ‘Uncle Dan’ Thomas

Daniel “Uncle Dan” Thomas, 83, of Hugo passed away March 30, 2010.

He was born Aug. 3, 1926, in Corrinne, the son of Hampton J. Thomas and Elizabeth (Nehka) Thomas and had lived in Hugo since 1975. His parents preceded him in death. He was a member of Blackjack Methodist Church and the Choctaw Nation. Dan loved to garden, cook, watch westerns, and to tell stories, especially about Choctaw history and heritage. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army having served his country during World War II.

He is survived by one brother, Harrison Thomas of Hugo; nieces, Harolyn Myers and husband Bradley of Hugo and Tina Simes and husband Fred of Boswell; four great-nieces, five great-nephews, and numerous great-great-nieces and nephews along with a host of other family and friends.



Jimmie R. Wood

Jimmie R. Wood, 69, of Ringold passed away March 19, 2010, at Texarkana, Texas. He was born Sept. 9, 1940, in Soper, the son of Simeon James and Linzey Sanders Wood. He had lived in McCurtain County for the past 18 years.

He was a truck driver by trade for 56 years. He was of the Catholic faith and very proud to be Choctaw. He loved to hunt, fish, and entertain guests while camping.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers James Wood, R.C. Wood and Robert Wood and sister Gladys McLemore.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, of the home; his sons and daughters-in-laws, J.R. and Tammy Wood of Leonard, Texas, Steve and Lisa Taylor of Ringold, Jason and Kelly Zublick of Ft. Myers, Fla.; son Randy Wood of Sulpher Springs, Texas; daughter Klarissa Towne of Ft. Wayne, Ind.; sisters Patricia Blagg of Durant, Mary Foltz of Balch Springs, Texas, Mary Hardy of Wright City; grandson Daniel Wood of the home, Ashleigh Wood, Chelsey Wood, Miriah Towne, John Colley and Kandace Colley; great-grandson Jaxon Speights; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

James P. ‘Bud’ Shipley

James P. “Bud” Shipley passed away on Jan. 28, 2010, at Retirement Ranch in Clovis, N.M., at age 85. He was born Sept. 4, 1924, in a dugout in Blanco Canyon a few miles south of Floydada, Texas. He was the eldest child of Frank and Jeanette Roff Shipley.

In 1925, he and his mother and father moved to a ranch north of Clovis on the Frio draw where he grew up being called “Bud”. He lived in the Clovis area all his life.

Bud married Cleta Alexander on April 14, 1944. He served in the U.S. Army infantry in the European theater during and after WWII, and was honorably discharged as a Tech Sergeant on June 13, 1946. After the war, he returned to Clovis and went into the livestock and farming business. In later years, he owned and operated the Ford Tractor dealerships in Clovis and Portales, as well as continuing to farm.

He was an avid basketball and pool player, spending many enjoyable hours with friends at the Baxter Curren Senior Center and the Clovis Community College Health and Fitness Center. Bud also enjoyed visiting the sick and infirm. He was a member of the 16th & Pile Church of Christ for many years. But his greatest joy was his family – he was so proud of and devoted to each of them.

He is survived by his wife of almost 66 years, Cleta; son Jim and wife Carolyn of Clovis; grandsons, Gary and wife Yvonne of Los Alamos, N.M., Marty and wife Tracy of Salt Lake City, Utah and Jim and wife Dawnmarie of Gilbert, Ariz.; five great-great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; three sisters, Ora Jean Antoine, Rosemary Blevins, and Danny Jo Shipley.



Thomas W. ‘Tom’ Coleman

Thomas W. “Tom” Coleman of Talihina, recently of Norman, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather passed away March 13, 2010, in Norman at the age of 86.

Tom was born Sept. 22, 1923, near Shady Point to Aden and Amelia (Boykin) Coleman. He was a quarter-Choctaw and the youngest of eight children. After attending 10 different schools as his family moved frequently during the depression, Tom graduated from Talihina High School in 1942.

He fell in love with Marie Mashburn whom he married Aug. 24, 1942, in Falfa, near Talihina.

After his injury during his service in the U.S. Army in 1943, the next several years Tom and Marie lived and worked in Texas, Oklahoma, California and in their favorite and longest location, Flagstaff, Ariz. Tom worked as a carpenter and professional musician as a bass fiddle player with western swing bands during these years. Tom and Marie returned to Talihina in 1950. Tom served as a U.S. mail carrier and in 1952 Tom began what became a 57 plus year career as a new and used automobile dealer. Over the years he sold cars to three generations of many families. He and Marie enjoyed a very happy life together for 64 years, 4 months, and 11 days until Marie’s death in early 2007.

Tom was committed to service to others including being elected to the Buffalo Valley School Board in 1958, served as Latimer County Republican Party Chairman for several years and was an elected delegate to the 1968 Republican Convention. Tom was very active in civic affairs in the 1970s serving as President to the Talihina Chamber of Commerce in 1971, was Chairman of Choctaw Nation Enterprises, an economic arm of the Choctaw Nation which built a garment plant that employed over 40 people near Talihina, and built Indian Clinics in Broken Bow, Hugo, McAlester and Okmulgee. Tom secured federal funding for the restoration of the Choctaw Council House in Tuskahoma and ran a close race for Chief of the Choctaw Nation in 1975. In 1977 the Talihina Indian Club named him “Indian of the Year.”

Tom Coleman was a man who treated everyone fairly and helped many people without any motive or personal gain, except to help others and benefit his community and fellow Choctaws. He was a man of his word, a man of honor and a man of God.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife Marie, son Thomas Edward Coleman who died at birth Nov. 4, 1944, and by six siblings, Ray, Grady, Joe, Milo (Mike), C.D. (Bunk) Coleman and El Frieda Miller.

He is survived by two daughters, Ann Glenn and husband Chuck of Norman and Lynn Walden and husband Neil of Washington, Okla. His grandchildren are Wendy Hyde and husband Robbie of Goldsby, Tommy Glenn and wife Tiffany of Norman and Turner Walden, also of Norman. Tom had seven great-grandchildren, Evan, Mady, Holly and Aden Hyde of Goldsby and Brooklyn, Kayley and newborn Joseph Thomas Glenn of Norman and one great-great-granddaughter, Tatum Hyde, also of Goldsby. He is also survived by sister LaFaye Miller of Talihina; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dale Huddleston, a faithful friend to the end, Dr. Joe Riddle of Norman who gave Tom exceptional and compassionate care, and Loving Care Home Healthcare and Hospice.

Alice Marie (Billy) Davis

Alice Marie (Billy) Davis of Muldrow passed away April 4, 2010, in Mulberry, Ark., at the age of 49. She was born July 28, 1960, in Talihina, the daughter of Louis G. and Lucy (Watson) Billy.

Alice loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed singing and playing the piano.

She was preceded in death by her father Louis G. Billy; three sisters, Linda, Alice Jean and Loretta; five brothers, David, James, Henry, Larry and Elvis.

Alice is survived by her mother, Lucy Billy, of Pickens; six children, Misty Barrick and husband Doug of Broken Bow, Dustin Bean of Broken Bow, Jason Davis and wife Erica of Fayetteville, Ark., Craig Davis of Texas, Kayla Davis of Muldrow, and Clay Brizendine of Muldrow; four grandchildren, Brennan Barrick, Delilah Davis, Danielle Davis and Chloe Sullivan; one brother, Kenneth Billy of Battiest; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



OBITUARIES

Charles West Sr.

Charles West Sr. of Ada died April 7, 2010, at his residence at the age of 61. He was born June 27, 1948, in Francis to Elmer West and Mamie Lorene Tyler West. He married Janet Welch on Oct. 25, 1970, in El Reno.

He attended Ada Public Schools while growing up and then graduated from Capitol Hill High School in 1967. He owned and operated West Sales for many years, and was a lifelong resident of Ada. He loved being with his children and grandchildren, racing, his business, and collecting guns.

Mr. West is survived by his wife, Janet West of the home; two sons, Charles West Jr. and his wife Casey and Jack West and his wife Janesa, two daughters Maria Howeth and her husband Richard and Lori Parsons and her husband Stephen; one brother, Elmer A. West and his wife Barbara, all of Ada; two sisters, Kathryn Huckleby of Pauls Valley, and Virginia Farmer and her husband Temple of Ada; his mother-in-law, Marlene Welch of Oklahoma City; special uncle, Jack Tyler and his wife Barbara of Purcell; and five grandchildren, Noah and Eli Parsons, Colton and Lydia Howeth, and Karlee West, all of Ada.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Mamie West, and his father-in-law, Harold Welch.



Juanita Lane Brown

Juanita Lane Brown passed away at the age of 90 on Sept. 9, 2008. She was born in 1918 in Roff and never forgot the early days of life. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Juanita lived in Prescott, Ariz., for most of her adult life. She met and married Charles J. Brown in California shortly after World War II. They moved to Prescott where his family lived and raised four children there.

She is survived by two daughters, Pat Skinner and Julia Grogan, and three grandchildren, Scott, Erin Brown, and Suzanne Skinner.

L. J. Andrews

L.J. Andrews, 62, passed away March 19, 2010, after a short illness. He was born Aug. 25, 1947, to the late Z.L. and Inez (Fulson) Andrews in Bokchito. L.J. was the youngest of seven children. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany and after returning home he worked for General Motors for 10 years, and later he worked the pipe line. He loved the country. He graduated from Eastern Oklahoma College. He loved being a mechanic and working on cars.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father, and two sisters. He is survived by his wife, Gloria Andrews; son Lionel Jay and Nina Andrews; daughter Yolanda Keebie; three grandchildren Davin, Jordan and Kia Andrews, all of Tuskahoma; brothers Howard Tyson of Alderson; Joseph and Callie Tyson of Tuskahoma; sisters Bessie Dillard of Tuskahom; Versie and Vernon Traylor of Altus; a host of nephews and nieces; and a special friend Kenneth Johnson.



Jack Lowe Sr.

Jack Lowe Sr., 87, of Plains, Texas, passed away April 6, 2010, at his home. He was born in Rush Springs to J.E. and Loma Holt Lowe. At an early age, the family moved to Texas and he attended school at Samnorwood, Texas. He played in many basketball championships. He was a very good roper and took part in many rodeos. At the age of 19, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to the Philippines during WWII.

He married Cora Voorhies on Nov. 16, 1943, in Port Allen, La. She preceded him in death on Sept. 29, 1997. They moved to Plains in 1950. Jack worked for Shell Oil Company in Denver City, Texas, until retiring. Jack is survived by four sons, Jack Jr. of Montgomery, Texas, John and wife Diane of Denton, Texas, Joel and wife Debra of Plains and Jere Lowe and wife Carrie of Lubbock, Texas; daughter Judy Decoteau and husband Norris of Baton Rouge, La.; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; sister Jewel Triplett of Fritch, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Edith Mae Samuels

Edith Mae Samuels, beloved daughter, sister, wife, aunt, mother, grandmother and friend, was born May 10, 1944, to Randall and Minnie Ludlow. She passed away Sept. 25, 2009.

She enjoyed going to church and gospel singing. She listened to gospel music in the car and would continue to hum even after the car was turned off. She loved being with her children, planning weekends together. When not with her family, she loved to spend time in her garden and flower garden, to quilt, go wild onion picking, fishing and riding around with her husband in the mountains. Most of all, her grandchildren always came first to her.

She is survived by her husband, Nelson Samuels; son Curtis Samuels; daughters Peggy Ann Ludlow Samuel, Katie Lynn Noahubi, Cindy Samuels, and Jamie Samuels Badillo; daughter-in-law Doris Samuels; sons-in-law Bobby Samuel, Nolan Noahubi, Wayne Metcalf, and David Yanwz Badillo; grandchildren John and JoAnna Samuel, Andy, Olivia, Felicia, Bianca and Noley Noahubi, Kristy, Kelly and Kassy Samuels, and Jericho Samuels Badillo; and seven great-grandchildren. Also surviving her are sisters Shirley Lowman, Juanita Samuel, Eula Ludlow, Carol Burge and Wanda Ward; brothers Kenneth Ludlow, Clifford Ludlow, Floyd Ludlow, Austin Ludlow and Marvin Ludlow; special nephew Dustin Samuels; 10 nephews, 20 nieces; and numerous cousins and friends.



Jason Leon and Leslea Nichelle Ford

Jason Leon Ford, 29, of LeQuire passed away March 21, 2010, in Antlers. He was born June 26, 1980, in Talihina to Terry and Ann (Johnson) Ford. He grew up in Whitefield, Quinton and Kinta, where he graduated with the class of 1998. He began a career as a welder.

On Aug. 29, 2004, he and Leslea Fitzgerald were married in Wilburton and they made their home together in LeQuire.

He began a prison ministry with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He loved welding, gardening and the outdoors. He loved the ministry, studying and adored his family. He especially loved working on the creek with David, his father-in-law. He was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by two sons, Joshua and Caleb Ford, of the home; mother Ann Bishop of Stigler; two brothers, Jonathan and Kara Ford of Enterprise, and Steven “Worm” and April of Briartown; three sisters, Rachel Ford of Stillwater, Julie Ford of Edmond, and Haley Ford of Bixby; step-father Steven and Kim Bishop, of Columbia, Tenn.; maternal grandmother Ruby Johnson; paternal grandmother Levet Ford; special brother Brandon Johnson of Beaver Mountain; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Terry Ford and grandfathers, Leroy Johnson and Lusios Ford.

Leslea Nichelle Ford, 23, of LeQuire, died March 21, 2010, in Antlers. She was born Aug. 29, 1986, in Muskogee to David and Leigh (McDaniel) Fitzgerald. She grew up in Warner, where she received her formal education. She graduated as valedictorian with the class of 2004, and continued her education with a year at Connors State College.

She and Jason Ford were married on Aug. 29, 2004, in Wilburton. She then devoted her life to God, Jason and her children. She loved photography, music and the outdoors. She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. She especially loved her church and witnessing. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by two sons, Joshua and Caleb Ford, of the home; parents Leigh and Brian Chambers of Warner, and David and Paige Fitzgerald of Muskogee; stepfather Jeff Franco; four sisters, Ashley Bivings and husband Jonathan, Raine Fitzgerald, Evan Fitzgerald and Ally Chambers; three brothers, Derryk and Jeffery Franco, and Colten Fitzgerald; numerous nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by grandfather James Fitzgerald.



Flora Lee Hoyt Ary

Flora Lee Hoyt Ary, 79, longtime Hoyt resident, passed away Oct. 9, 2009, in Stigler. She was born May 21, 1930, to Olin Hoyt and Golda (Cariker) Hoyt. She grew up at Hoyt and graduated from Stigler High School. She made her home in California where she started her family. She resided in Alabama for several years before moving home to Hoyt in 1964. She began working for Western Auto as a receiving clerk for many years until her retirement. She loved reading and especially her dog, Punkin.

She is survived by two sons, Danny Hoyt and wife Cyndi of Sandridge, Ferrin Pritchett and wife Kay of Newalla; one daughter, Patricia Miller and husband Tony of Moore; one sister, Linda Cunningham and husband Carl of Olympia; six grandchildren, Kristi, Jay, Laranda, Jason, Jessica and Jacob; and seven great-grandchildren.

Jonathan ‘John’ Joe Lewis

Jonathan “John” Joe Lewis, 60, of McAlester passed away April 10, 2010, at his residence. He was born Nov. 3, 1949, in McAlester to Oscar Jobe and Ella Jo (Thomas) Lewis.

He married Theresa McClure on Oct. 3, 1992, in Holdenville. He lived most of his life in McAlester. John became a member of Rock Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Oct. 8, 2006. John was an ordained as an Elder on Nov. 22, 2009. He loved doing the Lord’s work and working in his church. He had recently been elected to attend the senate meeting in Oklahoma City for the Choctaw Cumberland Presbytery. He enjoyed attending church meetings, gospel singing, camping, fishing, western movies, doing yard work and making new friends.

He is survived by wife Theresa Lewis of the home; son Jonathan Lewis Jr. and wife Stacy of Houston, Texas; daughter Martha Harrington of Conroe, Texas; sisters Cassie Stacey and husband Elbert of Scipio, Gwen Dobbs of Hartshorne; brother T.J. “Buddy” Lewis and wife Nancy of Topeka, Kan.; grandchildren Kirstena, B.J. and Brianna Singleton, Andrew, Chelsee and Gracie Lewis; mother and father-in-law Betty and H.B. Walton; sisters-in-law Valerie Rasha and husband Harry of Talihina, Billie McClure of Oklahoma City, Winona Berry and husband Cecil of McAlester; aunt Joy Pierce and husband George; numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar Jobe Lewis and Ella Jo Downs; stepfather Clyde Downs and an infant brother, Clifford Thomas.

Lee Parks Parrish

Lee Parks Parrish, died March 28, 2010, at the age of 66 in Hugo. Lee was born Nov. 2, 1943, in Hugo, the daughter of Boney Lewis and Linnie Pauline (Push) Parks.

She was raised in Hugo, attending school at the Goodland Indian Orphanage until graduation. She was the granddaughter of Simpson E. Push, an original Choctaw enrollee. She attended the Forth Worth School of Cosmetology, and later completed her nursing certification. Her passion was the nonprofit Native Women’s Advocate and volunteer social worker. She had a sharp mind for genealogy research, spending countless hours finding the people connected within families.

She was preceded in death by both parents; her first husband, James Mendenhall, and second husband Parrish.

She is survived by four brothers, Robert E. Brous of Plano, Texas, Nashoba Ilabano of New Caney, Texas, Clinton Pyle of Lone Oak, Texas and Nick Parks of Forth Worth, Texas; two sisters, Fran Fragola of Hugo and Belinda Chretien of Fort Worth; two sons, Craig and John Parrish, both of Sparks, Nev.; two nieces, Laurie Fragola of Syracuse, N.Y. and Kim Foster of Dallas, Texas; nephew Vito Fragola, Las Vegas, Nev.; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

Donna Kaye Pacheco

Donna Kaye Pacheco of Sarasota, Fla., passed away on Jan. 18, 2010. Donna was born July 19, 1965, in Tahlequah to Mayes and Katherine Leach. She was a loving daughter, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend.

Donna grew up in Oklahoma and moved to Colorado where she worked for many years. She also lived in Garland, Texas, before moving to Florida. She was a member of Northlake Baptist Church in Garland.

She was preceded in death by her father, brother Loren and son Robert.

She is survived by her husband, Albert of Colorado; her mother, Katherine of Garland; three daughters, Miranda of Florida, Aryessa of Colorado, and Santana of Florida; sisters Rebecca of Garland and Flordean of Talihina; four grandchildren, Syllicia, Christian and Anthony of Colorado, and Lyric of Florida; and many nieces and nephews



Wanda Joyce Burton

Wanda Joyce Burton passed away at the age 67 on March 18, 2010, in Warr Acres. She was born July 9, 1942, in Talihina to LeFlore and Mamie (Vanzant) Jackson-Raby.

She retired from Lucent Technologies after a 35-year career. She loved spending summers in Idaho with family members and her two dogs, Lucky and Lucy. She also enjoyed making porcelain dolls and was always working to finish some project for one of her dolls.

Wanda’s faith and many friends sustained her during her long battle with cancer.

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Ronald; daughters Latricia Joy O’Connell of Enid, Michelle O’Connell-Husler of Estes Park, Colo.; brother Larry G. Jackson of Oklahoma City.

She was preceded in death by her father, LeFlore Jackson.

Roger Don ‘Donnie’ Burns

Roger Don “Donnie” Burns, of Amarillo, Texas, passed away Feb. 5, 2010, at the age of 59.

Donnie was born March 21, 1950, in Amarillo to Jess and Grace Burns, formerly of Wilburton. He was the grandson of original enrollee Jane Winlock Burns of LeFlore and the great-grandson of original enrollee Wattie Winlock of LeFlore. Donnie was proud of his Choctaw Heritage.

Donnie was loved by all he met. He had a loving, gentle and generous spirit. He loved giving to charities helping children in foreign countries, and he loved and supported the Jewish people.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jess and Grace Burns; brother James Burns; and sister Louise Shelpman.

He is survived by sister Betty Thomas of Wilburton; brothers Charles Burns of Amarillo and Julian “Jude” Burns of Denison, Texas; aunt Youil “Skeet” Labor of Pittsburg, Okla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Bobbie J. Lowell

Bobbie J. Lowell, 75, beloved wife and mother, passed away May 20, 2009, suddenly and peacefully from complications of a stroke. She was surrounded by her loving family.

She was a resident of San Antonio, Texas, from 1968 to 2004 and recently Bossier City, La. She struggled her way from a modest education to become an award-winning interior designer before entering retirement.

Her lifelong caring, love and compassion to others earned her a dedicated legion of friends and family who mourn her passing and miss her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Larry Lowell.

Survivors include her son, Michael Lowell and wife Barbara of Carrollton, Texas; sisters Billy Rachels and Belva Lee, both of Bossier City; Kay Angel of Haughton, La., Betty King of Tacoma, Wash.; brother Ronnie Anderson and wife Kathy of Tucson Ariz.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Shirley L. Griner

Shirley L. Griner, 65, of Pueblo, Colo., passed away April 17, 2010. She was born Oct. 11, 1944, in Goodwater, Okla., to John and Bessie Dyer. Shirley worked for Colorado Mental Health Institute and 32 years at Parkview Medical Center. She enjoyed the outdoors, including fishing, and camping. Mostly, she loved being with her family, especially her children and grandkids.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Griner; her children, Deborah Lee and husband Chuck, Marsha Penn and husband Robert, Susie Griner, Elizabeth Castillo and David Griner; grandchildren Courtney, Benjamin, Aaron Lee, Samuel and Timothy Penn; sisters Sue Talbert, Joyce McNair, Kay Shumaker, Linda Cordova and Debra Lujan; and brothers Gene Dyer and wife Laura, Neil Dyer and wife Kathy and Teddy Dyer and wife Sheri.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Michelle; parents John and Bessie Dyer; brother John Dyer; sisters Florine Jackson and Faryne Dyer.

Tommy Ray Short

Tommy Ray Short, 52, a resident of DeQueen, passed away April 12, 2010, in Eagletown. He was born Jan. 5, 1958, in DeQueen. He was a supervisor for Weyerhaeuser.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Kathryn Hall Short.

He is survived by his father, Abb T. Short of De Queen; one son, Michael Thomas Short of Clarksville, Texas; one brother, one brother, Jerry Alan Short of Jacksonville, Fla; one sister and brother-in-law, Sherri and Danny Edge of Dierks; and a number of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, one great-niece and one great-nephew.

Earth Day Celebrations

Lake Wister: *Good stewards*

the lake, are a unique idea that is being studied closely, and the success of the project is cause for celebration. A two-year plant analysis indicates the plants on the floating rafts are absorbing almost two and a half times the average expected nutrient load. Currently, Lake Wister has 44 of these rafts.

In addition to the rafts planted for Earth Day, a donation of \$1,600 was made to the Poteau Valley Improvement Authority (PVIA) to construct four new rafts to place in the lake. PVIA, the distributor of the water from the lake, has been engaged with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to research the nature of the problems in the lake.

“The Choctaw Nation is historically known as a good steward of the natural resources, and we are still protectors of the environment,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “The tribe is taking steps to ‘go green’, building a recycling center, going 100% wind-powered at the headquarters in Durant, cleaning trash on highways - but the most powerful message we have today concerns the lifeblood of Southeast Oklahoma, our water.”

Chief Pyle continued, “Water must be protected. Water is needed for the citizens, and it is needed to support wildlife and the natural environment that people enjoy for fishing, hunting and camping. The Choctaw Nation is proud to be part of this team working together to protect, improve and sustain the water at Lake Wister.”



Chief Pyle presents a \$1,600 check to PVIA Chairman Ken Hammond for four new rafts. Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Hammond joined Wister area youth in planting 44 rafts on April 21. Students from Cameron, Heaven-ener, Hodgen, Howe and Wister schools attended the event.



Wind Power: *Making a difference*

bottles, shredded paper, prescription bottles, Christmas cards, and at some locations, used kitchen oil, to be recycled. To date, departments all over the Choctaw Nation have collected 45,000 pounds of paper, plastic, aluminum cans and over 600 printer cartridges.

“I would like to commend the employees who are making changes to ‘go green’,” said Chief Pyle. “I see recycle bins in our offices, our community centers and our businesses. I also see a very important change in everyone’s day-to-day habits. They are becoming conscientious not only at work but also at home. Every effort, no matter how small, will make a difference.”



Ruby Taylor, above, chops out weeds with a hoe, while Colby Hopkins, right, plants potatoes and Trinity and Nakni Anna, below, examine the area to be planted.



Truman Heron, Ernest Hooser, Loraine Blaine and Willy Walley are among the elders who will continue to tend the garden. Also planning to help with the garden are Marilyn Mitchell, Charisse Ladd, Robert Green and Rosa Gilmore.

It's time to plant a garden!

Choctaw Nation elders, CHRs and Head Start students worked together to plant a “community” garden at the Choctaw Nation Community Center on Earth Day. Councilman Ted Dosh provided the tiller to work the soil and each elder talked to the children about the meaning of Earth Day and how important it is to take care of our land every day. The elders will tend the garden, harvesting cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, radishes and potatoes to put on their Wednesday salad bar.



Mary Jo Heron, Lorene Blaine, Melissa Collier, Rosa Gilmore, Head Start staff and students.



CHR Shirley Anderson breaks up ground for the garden.



VISTA volunteer Connie Hudson sets out tomato plants.