



A Choctaw veteran tells his story

Page 5



The value of hard work

Page 7



5 Tribes Storytelling Conference

Page 10



6th Annual Pow Wow to be held

Page 14

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CHOCTAW NATION

BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

November 2010 Issue

Serving 203,830 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Tribal Council holds October regular session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met on Oct. 9 in regular session at Tushka Homma. Tribal Council Speaker Delton Cox called the meeting to order, welcomed guests and then asked for committee reports. After committee reports were given the Tribal Council addressed new business.

- Approval of several budgets including: Upward Bound Math/Science Program FY 2011, DHHS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Medicaid and State Operations Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), Department of Justice for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for the Tribal Youth Program (Project Hokli Nittak), DHHS for the Injury Prevention Program, Institute of Museum and Library Services for the Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grant, Department of Justice for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for the Tribal Courts Assistance Program, and the Department of Justice for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for the COPS Tribal Resources Program.

- Amend the name on the application for CB-107-10 to be changed to Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) Healthy Heart Initiative.

- Approval to renew membership with National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

- Approval of application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the Museums for America Grant. The institute will assist Choctaw Nation in their ongoing efforts to preserve our cultural heritage.

Child Development Center opens in Durant

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

A ribboncutting was held at the new state-of-the-art Choctaw Nation Child Development Center in Durant on Oct. 19, marking the end of five years of preparation, construction and hard work, and the beginning of learning, laughter and growth at the center.

On hand for the ceremony was Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren, Senator Jay Paul Gumm, Durant Mayor Jerry Tomlinson, Durant City Manager James Dunegan, Choctaw Nation Executive Director of Education Joy Culbreath, Choctaw Chaplain Bertram Bobb, along with the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, and a host of other state, local and tribal dignitaries.

Brother Bobb, first of many to address the large crowd on hand, opened the



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, and a host of tribal, state and local dignitaries cut the ribbon at the new Child Development Center in Durant.

ceremony with prayer and by singing Choctaw Hymn #48.

Next, Assistant Chief Batton, in his introduction of Chief Pyle, said, "Chief Pyle talks a lot about our 100-year vision and he knows it starts with our youth."

"This is a community

effort," continued Batton. "Chief Pyle always extends his heart and his olive branch to see how we can improve our community."

Then Chief Pyle thanked all in attendance, saying the Choctaw Nation was thankful for everyone's help in making the center a reality.

"We have so many friends. We love our partnerships," he said.

He spoke about the importance of education centers such as this one to the future of the tribe. "Education is paramount for our future," he said. "We're doing this for the kids."

He also spoke of how the facility is well-built with metal roofs and quality, earthquake-proof construction. Soft-ground playgrounds with awnings, are among the many features throughout the center. "We want to protect them and

See CENTER on Page 11

DRUM Awards go to Choctaw SAP program, Code Talkers

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) and the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I have been chosen to receive awards at the inaugural Native American Drum Awards event to be held Nov. 1 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant. The Drum Awards is a national program recognizing both individuals and tribes whose contributions represent the best path forward for the Native American community. Nominations for the Drum Awards originated from several states and tribes. A committee of representatives from different tribes made award selections through an in-depth evaluation and interview process.

The Scholarship Advisement Program, recipient

of the Education Award, focuses on college preparation and retention for Choctaw students and strives to support and encourage college-bound students to set and achieve high goals and standards. The Education Award honors outstanding educators or programs that instill wisdom, impart knowledge and contribute to the growth of Native American communities.

"We are very excited to receive the Education Award from the inaugural Drum Awards Program," says Jo McDaniel, SAP director. "This is a validation of everything we've been working for from providing test preparation to guiding students towards the best choices in higher education and a rewarding career."

SAP supports college bound Choctaw students

by guiding them to the best school for their educational goals. Once enrolled SAP tracks and follows its students. Through a series of programs and one-on-one support, SAP helps high school students prepare for college and keeps students already in college on track to graduate and receive a diploma. SAP was created to combat high college attrition rates in the American Indian community. Recent statistics show even though 44 percent of American Indians aged 25 or older have attended some college in their lifetime, only 9 percent have gone on to earn a bachelor's degree.

To combat the high college attrition rate in the American Indian community, SAP has developed a multi-faceted approach to keep Choctaw students on

track for success, including helping students find funding through scholarships, grants and internships. SAP also supports students through peer advisement, mentoring programs, and college test preparation activities.

Since its founding in 2006 more than 3,000 Choctaw students and parents have joined SAP's member rolls and over 13,000 students, parents and Native American educators follow the program closely via its online newsletter, SAP News (www.choctawnation-sap/newsletter.shtml). SAP is looking forward to continuing its successful operation in the years to come by reaching out to as many Choctaw students as possible.

The DRUM Award for patriotism is being awarded

to the Choctaw Code Talkers of World I for their contribution to freedom, liberty, peace and security.

A decade ago, news of the Choctaw Code Talkers was beginning to spread around the country. "Who were they?" many asked. Everyone had heard of the Navajo Code Talkers in World War II but the small group of Choctaw who first used their language to win a war was an enigma.

Many Choctaws volunteered their service to the United States at a time when some Native Americans weren't considered citizens of the country they swore to protect. Their language was being banished. Often, talking to each other in Choctaw had to be done secretly.

Some of these Choctaw

See DRUM on Page 10

Choctaw Nation to honor its veterans

The Choctaw Nation will honor its veterans with a ceremony on Nov. 11 at Tushka Homma. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

"We look forward every year to having this special opportunity to thank our veterans," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "As I look at their faces, young and old, I am reminded of the sacrifices made so that we can enjoy our freedom."

Maj. Gen. Leroy Sisco is keynote speaker. Sisco is currently retired after a 42-year career with the military. General Sisco's military experience spans command positions from company to Deputy Commander 49th Armored Division and Commander of the Texas State Guard. His commands included the 231st Engineer Company, the 386th Engineer Battalion, and 111th Area Support Group which

required a lot of his time in Germany working the 21st TAACOM. He has served in a variety of joint and combined assignments that included major staff positions with the 71st troop command. In his civilian career he is the CEO and president of Military Warriors Support Foundation.

The State of Texas has honored him twice with a joint resolution on the House floor from the Senate and House for his duty and dedication to the State of Texas and his country.

Capt. Teri Scroggins is scheduled to present the Tvshka Chunkash (Heart of a Warrior) scholarship. She began her tour at IKD-M as a ground military intelligence analyst covering the 15 countries of West African Region and would be the first Army element officer-in-charge for IKD-M. Cur-

rently, she is a dynamic targeting officer.

The Tvshka Chunkash Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship offered through the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program. Tribal members who are enrolled in SAP and are attending an accredited college or university were eligible to apply. The award is given on behalf of the veterans of the Afghan and Iraq wars. Capt. Scroggins is responsible for starting this scholarship and a major contributor for the award.

Cara Caldwell, a Texas Tech Junior from Ovilla, Texas, was selected as this year's scholarship recipient.

Staff will be on hand at 10 a.m. on the Capitol Grounds near the War Memorial to present all Choctaw veterans with a token of gratitude from the Choctaw Nation. A free lunch will be provided.

◆ What's inside

Notes to the Nation.....	2
Columns	3
Nursery News	4
Food Distribution	4
People You Know	6
VocRehab Calendar	10
Obituaries	12
Iti Fabvssa	13

The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

The BISKINIK is printed on recycled paper.



Mary Watson and Melvin Tom

2010 Outstanding Elders

Mary Watson, District 7, and Melvin Tom, District 2, were honored Oct. 12 as this year's Outstanding Elders of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Watson and Tom were chosen from a list of nominees from each district. The Outstanding Elder Banquet was held at the Choctaw Resort Conference Center in Durant. Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the Tribal Council presented the honorees and each nominee with plaques of appreciation. ■ More on Pages 8-9.

Looking forward to honoring heroes on Veterans Day



From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

My family and I are looking forward to celebrating Veterans Day. It always touches my heart to look out at the crowd as the salutes to our flag and country give visible testimony to the love and respect our Choctaw people have for our great Nation.

Last year, we were blessed with a beautiful day of sunshine and mild temperatures. Everyone enjoyed being outside, and I noticed that a lot of family members either arrived early or stayed late and spent time getting a close look at the names inscribed on the wall of honor that designates our Choctaw warriors who were killed in action during wartime.

It is impossible not to be grabbed with emotion when seeing an individual or family with paper and pencil getting a “rubbing” of the name of their ancestor or loved one. I can only imagine the importance of this fragile memento as they take it home with them for safekeeping, perhaps to be placed in the family Bible. My family is blessed that we don’t have

a family name on that wall – our soldiers have returned home safely thus far, and I give God the glory and thanks for that.

Veterans Day is one of the most touching and exciting of all of the celebrations hosted by the tribe. Always held at our Capitol, Tushka Homma, hundreds of veterans, active military and families spill onto the lawn in front of the huge granite memorial, and patriotic music echoes through the valley. Our Choctaw Color Guard, one of the most professional and earnest I have ever seen, honor their fellow veterans with a 21-gun salute.

Please make plans to join us on November 11th this year at Tushka Homma as we pay homage to the men and women who have sacrificed so much in order that we may enjoy the freedoms that are often taken for granted here at home. I appreciate all of our military personnel, past and present.

A quote that means a lot to me is something said by our 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, “Great thoughts speak only to the thoughtful mind, but great actions speak to all mankind.” Our heroes’ actions have spoken with distinction!

Our elders offer wisdom and guidance

From the desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

It was an honor to be present at the 2010 Elders Banquet to honor Outstanding Senior Citizens of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Each year, the twelve districts of our tribe choose outstanding elders who work especially hard for their community and one man and one woman are voted from among this group to epitomize the tribe as the Outstanding Elder for the Year.

As I walked from table to table, greeting friends from the different counties, I realized how thankful I am to know so many of the senior citizens. These wonderful people have endured and survived hardships and yet still endeavor to keep our culture and heritage alive. Many of the elders have traditional shirts and dresses,

most can speak at least some words in Choctaw, and of course, they share our history with the generation following them.

The seventeen community centers in the Choctaw Nation each have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration each November, hosted by Tribal Council members and the senior citizens in each district. It is a special blessing to be able to attend these

and visit with the seniors of our Nation. The elders of the Choctaw Nation are held in great esteem by Chief, Council and myself – they offer wisdom and guidance in many areas. Just listening to their stories of their life’s experiences is a great way to share in their vast knowledge. To all of them I say, Yakoke, for what they have given to me over the years in advice and example.



Let us give thanks

Thanksgiving greeting to you in the Choctaw language:

“Yakni moma kut yakoki achi nitak ai uljpihisa tok a il afamah mak osh e hieli hokut, Chihowa ut pi hullo, micha pi nukhaklo na nan ulhpesa bieka ho ai itunohowat afumi achuffa moma ka il afama hokut, Yakoki! il ima hachi pullashke.”

Interpreted: “Thanksgiving day is a day set aside as a national holiday. A day when we can pause and thank God for His Love, and for His abundant blessings bestowed upon us during the past year. Let us thank Him!

The apostle Paul wrote in First Thessalonians 5:18, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Paul wrote in II Corinthians 9:15, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

Someone made this Thanksgiving statement: “Every time I find myself complaining about something I don’t have, I am going to say ‘Thank you, Lord,’ for something He has given me.”

If we are to give thanks for everything, we can begin with happy things we enjoy regularly, the fellowships with our family and friends. Let us thank God that we are alive. If we had never been born, we could never enjoy our family.

Thank the people who are making life better for us. It is good to read the many grateful expressions of thanksgiving in the Choctaw Nation official publication “Biskinik” each month.

Many of us know that we have learned the most through the rough experiences of life. God’s way is to bring about the best in us under the pressure of tough times. God usually gets our attention when we feel our inability to cope with these circumstances.

Our weakness gives God an opportunity to show His strength. Paul writes in II Corinthians 12:9:

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

We live in a world filled with hurts, by hunger, sickness, disease, an exposure to danger. It ends with death, which is usually a painful experience. Suffering is a major factor in life.

Human life is also characterized by another form of isery, the suffering and death, or fear of the future. People live daily with the fear of death hanging over them, many are trapped in the slums of a large city or gripped in the clutches of alcoholism or drug abuse. They face each day with a feeling of desperation and hopelessness.

Yes, our world is so filled with suffering that a sensitive person cannot help but wonder why God has allowed it to be this way. The question keeps coming up: “Why doesn’t the Lord do something about these terrible conditions?” A non-Christian may

Chaplain’s Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

conclude that no God exists, that life is hardly worth living.

We find the answer as we turn to His Word, the Bible. The opening chapters of the Bible make it clear that pain, grief and death are present in the world because of sin.

We read in Genesis 1:31, “... God saw that everything that he made, behold, it was very good ...”

The second chapter depicts Adam and Eve as living in a garden in which everything was in the state of perfect harmony. There were no sin, suffering or death.

Something happened to change the whole picture. Satan, who had been created an angelic being named Lucifer, but who had rebelled against God, led Adam and Eve to disobey God. As a result, man’s perfect fellowship with God was broken. Guilt plagued his conscience, fear filled his heart, and sin became a part of his life.

Genesis 3 records God’s judgment spoken to Eve and to Adam. We read in Genesis 3:16-19:

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

“Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return.”

Suffering and death now become part of human beings as a result of man’s sin. The apostle Paul wrote of sin and death in Romans 5:12:

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

We thank God for His love. He loved us so much He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for sin in our place. (John 3:16)

Confess means to agree with God. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) Will you repent of your sins and trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today?

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

Choctaw Nation launches online link for Choctaw mineral owners

As a result of growing concerns of Choctaw tribal members regarding their mineral rights, including oil and gas, Chief Gregory E. Pyle has started a new outreach program through our Natural Resources Office. This program has been designed to assist individual Choctaw citizens with mineral interest related questions within the Choctaw jurisdictional area.

A new online database will give Choctaw Mineral Owners an opportunity to help themselves with information that is available online to answer their questions. This database can be accessed by following these simple steps:

1. Go to <http://www.choc-tawnation.com>;
2. Click on “Services” at the top of the page;
3. On the bottom of this page, in the lower right hand corner, look for a section called Quick Links.

Click on “Frequently Asked Questions.”

This link will go to http://www.fctmc.org/frequently_asked_questions_by_mineral_owners. Once there, information is available regarding some helpful hints on minerals leasing.

Many other valuable sources of information can be found on the page. Some of the information available is listed below:

Oklahoma Corporation Commission - this link will highlight Hot Topics going on in the State of Oklahoma.

Escrow Account information - this will allow you to search for information regarding monies that have been escheated to the State of Oklahoma.

Oil and Gas Database - this a link maintained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission for producing oil and gas wells in Oklahoma. You can search for well information and production for your property with this link.

Oklahoma Oil & Gas Conservation Division (District Office) - for a District Office in your area, they also can help with problems with your oil and gas lease.

Mineral Management Link - will help you with posted gas prices for Southeastern Oklahoma (look at zone 3).

Choctaw Nation Mineral Outreach Program - this link will take you to a Power Point Presentation in a PDF format. This site will provide a lot of helpful information. Future meetings will also be posted there.

The Choctaw Nation hopes that all will join in to share in the information that is available. Everyone’s cooperation and involvement will expedite the growth of this new Outreach Program to assist Choctaw citizens. For more information, call 800-522-6170, ext. 2259.

Jingle Bell 5K and Fun Run

Dec. 4 at the Choctaw Casino Resort & Hotel in Durant

Runner check-in at 7 a.m.
Race begins at 8 a.m.

Registration fee is one unopened toy and one non-perishable food item.

The first 200 registered racers will receive an event t-shirt at the race (t-shirt will be long sleeve in red or black.)
All runners will be provided jingle bells and a Santa hat to wear during the race.

Early registration ends Nov. 19
Registration booth: set-up at the Choctaw Durant Wellness Center.

Hot chocolate, apple cider, water, Gatorade and fruit will be available.

Get your photo taken with Santa! Dibbon Marris Photography will be available to take photos with Santa Claus in front of the Resort Christmas Tree. (Recipient will be charged for photo.)

FINISH

Sponsored by the Choctaw Nation & Choctaw Casino Resort.
5K race will be sanctioned and time chip will be used for runners' time.

Things to know about diabetes

Type 2 diabetes accounts for 90 to 95 per-cent of all diagnosed cases with diabetes. It is a progressive disease that, in many cases, is present long before it is diagnosed. Type 2 diabetes is usually associated with a strong genetic predisposition, and the risk of devel-oping the disease increases with age, obesity and lack of physical activity. Affected persons are often older than 40 years at diagnosis; however, it is now being diagnosed fre-quently in young adults, adolescents and children.

In the majority of cases, type 2 diabetes results from a combination of insulin resistance and failure to produce in-sulin. Due to the insulin resistance higher blood glucose de-velops.

As a result there is an increase in insulin released into the blood; this may cause acanthosis nigricans, a skin condi-tion when the areas around the neck, underarms, elbows, upper legs and backs of knees become darker and rough. Over time insulin production gradually decreases, leading to type 2 diabetes.

Lifestyle strategies, independent of weight loss, can im-prove glucose control and risk factors for cardiovascular

WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS
AND CHILDREN

disease. Making appropriate food choices, increasing physical activity and monitoring the effects on blood glucose dose improves metabolic outcomes. These strategies should be implemented as soon as the diagnosis of diabetes (or prediabetes) is made; however, it is never too late to make changes.

The American Dietetic Association has shown that con-sistency in carbohydrate intake results in improved gly-cemic control. Thus meal and snack carbohydrate intake should be kept consistent on a day-to-day basis. Other important factors in controlling type 2 diabetes are having balanced meals and snacks by including non-starchy veg-etables, lean meats and/or meat substitutes, fruits, whole grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy and healthy fats from nuts, avocados and olive and canola oils.

So, in order to prevent or control type 2 diabetes use moderation when taking in energy from foods and bever-ages and release energy with great zeal on a daily basis. This will lead to balance.

Here is an example of being in balance. Recipe provided by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

BEEF AND BEAN CHILI

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs lean beef stew meat, trimmed of fat, cut in 1-inch cubes
- 3 Tbsp canola oil
- 2 cups water
- 2 tsp garlic, minced
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- Tbsp flour
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 2 lbs (3 cups) tomatoes, chopped
- 1 Tbsp oregano
- 1 tsp cumin
- 2 cups canned kidney beans (to reduce sodium no salt added or beans prepared at home without salt)

Preparation:

1. Brown meat in large skillet with half of canola oil. Add water. Simmer covered for 1 hour until meat is tender.
2. Heat remaining canola oil in second skillet. Add garlic and onion and cook over low heat until onion is softened. Add flour and cook for 2 minutes.
3. Add garlic-onion-flour mixture to cooked meat. Then add remaining ingredients to meat mixture. Sim-mer for 1/2 hour.

Nutrition Information: Serves 9 Serving size: 8 oz
Calories: 284 Sodium: 162mg Total Fat: 10g Saturated Fat: 2g Total Fiber: 4g Protein: 33g Carbs: 16g Choles-terol: 76mg Potassium: 769mg

Serve this with a garden salad, 5-6 Triscuits, a small apple and an 8 oz glass of skim or 1 percent milk and you will have a colorful and delicious meal. Then, finish it off with a good walk.

NURSERY NEWS

Derick Andrew Cass

Drew and Becky Cass of Riverside, Calif., are proud to announce the birth of their son, Derick Andrew Cass. He was born Sept. 1, 2009, in Riverside. He weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces. His grandparents are Dale and Jodell Cass of Riv-erside and Rick and Sandy Rowe of Tecate, Mexico. His great-grandparents are Glenn and Janet Johnson of Corona, Calif., and Irene and the late Chuck Rowe of Lula.



Sebastian D'Wayne Pugh

Sebastian D'Wayne Pugh was born Aug. 30, 2010, at OU Chil-dren's Hospital in Oklahoma City. He weighed 4 pounds 10-1/2 ounces. Proud parents are Billy and Cyndi Pugh of Durant. Maternal grandparents are Daniel and Shawn Cress of Antlers and Tom Wheeler of Durant. Paternal grandparents are Lee Pugh and Keith Millard of Durant. Maternal great-grandmother is Lucille Frasher of Truckee, Calif., and paternal great-grandmother is Mary Millard of Silo. Sebastian has been welcomed into a very large family of aunts, uncles and cousins and a lot of friends. He was born with caudal regression syndrome and faces many challenges, but he has many people pray-ing for him.



Terrin Phillip Steed

Matt and Tahasha Steed and big brother Cayden Hostletler of Hugo would like to announce the birth of Terrin Phillip Steed, born Sept. 13. Terrin was 9 pounds 3 ounces and 20-1/2 inches long.

Terrin's grandparents are the late Terry Ward of Hugo and Mary Payne of Paris, Becky Peters and Dwayne Taylor of Hugo and Nona Alonna Steed of Dell City. Terrin also has several cousins, aunts and uncles.



Hydee Ayanna Lyman

Brian and Joyce Watson are proud to welcome their first grandchild to the family, Hydee Ayanna Lyman, on April 8. Hydee was 8 pounds 6 ounces and 20-1/4 inches long. She is the first great-grandchild of Shirley Watson.

Proud parents are Heather Watson and Brad Lyman of Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. Pictured for the four generations, on front, Heather Watson, Hydee Lyman and Shirley Watson, with grandfather Brian Watson standing in back.



CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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When Not in Use, Turn off the Juice

The following issues should be considered regarding lighting energy use.

- Are lights on during unoccupied periods? Often, lights are left on during the day or night for no functional or aes-thetic reason. One 32-watt fluorescent tube can consume \$23 worth of electricity in a year's time. If a building has 1500 tubes, the cost would be \$34,500 a year. An energy management system or a series of occupancy sensors can turn off lights automatically, but employees can also be an effective way to control usage.
- Lighting accounts for about 39 percent of commercial electricity use. Known as the mother lode for energy effi-ciency, lighting retrofits represent a significant opportunity to cost-effectively reduce utility bills and improve lighting quality.
- Is the lighting in a particular area too bright? De-lamp-ing, removing light tubes, is the low cost – no cost option for fixing an overlit area, saving energy and improving comfort.



A friendly message from Luksi



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

It's time for fall fitness and fun

The fall season is here and what a wonderful time to enjoy fun family outdoor activities. With the beau-tiful weather and the chang-ing foliage, fall is a perfect time to combine fitness and fun. Outdoor activities like pumpkin picking, jumping in leaf piles, hiking and bike riding are activities families can enjoy together this time of year.

Ways to enjoy fitness in the fall:

- Visit the park - 45 min-utes of play at the park, swinging, sliding and push-ing the merry-go-round gives everyone a work out.
- Family walks - walking 15-25 minutes every other day helps the whole family stay fit and enjoy the color-ful season.

- Raking leaves - 20-25 minutes of raking leaves uses muscles all over our bodies and creates piles of fun for leaf jumping.
- Outdoor sports - 10-15 minutes of kicking the soccer ball around or shooting some hoops is fun physical activity that the whole family can enjoy.

Family fitness and fun helps to create strong family relationships and healthy habits. Families feel more connected to each other while they are enjoying family fun together. Fall is a great time of year to enjoy inexpensive outdoor activities. Share your love with fit-ness and fun. Remember, family time creates happy, healthy memories that last a lifetime!

HONEY APPLES

Ingredients:

- 4 cooking apples
- 4 Tbsp raisins
- 1/3 cup honey (no honey for children under 2)
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
 2. Wash and core the apples and place them in a non-stick baking pan.
 3. Loosely fill the center of each apple with raisins and top with a dash of cinnamon.
 4. Pour some honey into each apple and allow it to seep down the center.
 5. Add lemon juice to water and pour into pan. Stir excess honey into the pan liquid.
 6. Bake for 25 minutes or until the apple skin starts to split. Baste the apples with the pan juice several times during the baking process.
- Hint: The best apples for baking are Rome Beauties, Jonathans or Granny Smiths.

Did you know...

...how many pounds of aluminum cans were collected to be recycled at the 2010 Labor Day Festival?
1,000 pounds!

...how many pounds of plastic bottles were collected to be recycled at the 2010 Labor Day Festival?
2,020 pounds!

...how much space 1,000 pounds of aluminum cans filled?
Floor to ceiling, front to back, of a 12-foot covered utility trailer with 6 1/2-foot-tall ceiling and 7 feet wide!

...how much space 2020 pounds of plastic filled?
Floor to ceiling, front to back, of an 18-foot covered utility trailer with 6 1/2-foot ceiling and 6 feet wide!

Thank you to everyone for making this year's festival so "green!"

Aluminum Recycling Facts

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days.

Paper Recycling Facts

If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into pa-per grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A busy supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermar-ket can go through over 6 million paper bags!

Solid Waste, Landfills

The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year.

A veteran's tale to be heard

Choctaw veteran George Robison, one of many we have to thank for our freedom

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Veterans Day comes around every November and becomes another day marked off the calendar. Near and far, Americans honor the military servicemen and women with gestures either great or small, but always well-deserved.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma takes pride not only in its members who have served, but all soldiers who have done their part in keeping this great land free.

When speaking of veterans, stories of valor and duty will fill the air. As with any soldier, there is a tale to be heard, and a sacrifice to be respected. One of those tales to be heard is that of Mr. George Robison.

George was born on Dec. 28, 1930, in Shreveport, La., to George and Essie Robison. After six months he was brought to the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma. At the age of 17, Robison decided to join the National Guard. Along with feeling his innate call to duty, he desired to follow in the footsteps of his cousin, Billy Robison, who was already serving in the military.

In 1947, he enlisted with the 45th Infantry Division and in 1950 was called into active service. His journey began in F Company, 180th Infantry regiment, based in Hugo. He traveled to Camp Polk (now called Fort Polk), La., on Sept. 1, 1950. He spent eight months there for combat training.

When he finished his training in Louisiana, he shipped out from New Orleans to Hokkiado, Japan, located on the North Island. He spent eight more months in that location taking part in advanced combat training. He left there for Korea in November of 1951.

Robison landed at Pusan Harbor. Upon arriving, Robison and the others with him took train boxcars deeper into Korea. The train could not make it to their destination, so they disembarked from the train and traveled by truck and foot to relieve the 1st Calvary Division on the front line.

When Robison and the men with him took over for the platoon they were to replace, they encountered unpleasant happenings. "The first bunker I went into, they had left a man behind who had frostbite. It was very cold... there was snow knee deep," described Robison.

It would be a six-month



Choctaw veteran George Robison.

stay for Robison from then. "During that time, we were on several different hills," said Robison. He described the geography of Korea as multitudes of hills with limited flat surface. "We would take over one hill, stay for about 30 to 40 days, then they would relieve us," he continued.

During his time in Korea, Robison kept on a usual rotation of seizing control of hills, rotating back to "block" positions, about 10 miles back from the front lines, and back to reserve, which was approximately 25 miles from the front. From the reserve, he would rotate back to block, and then back to the Main Line of Resistance (MLR), which was the front lines.

During the encampment near the MLR, Robison's company sent patrols out to scout the area ahead of them. Robison, as the company clerk, stayed in the rear command post, which was 200 to 300 yards back from the MLR. "Most of the time we were just at a standstill, we would send out patrols, make contact and move back," said Robison as he described the majority of his company's duties.

Due to his position, he was not directly involved in gratuitous amounts of action. He did receive barages over his position and once had a mortar shell hit his bunker. His bunker caved in on top of him, but "I didn't get a scratch," said Robison.

The most significant amount of warfare Robison was a part of was an operation called "Clam Up." "That was to make the Chinese and North Koreans think that we had left," described Robison. "We couldn't smoke or anything

for about a week... that drew them closer to us," he continued.

Once the opposing forces were fairly close, they had an infantry and tank attack. As a result, an American tank had gotten disabled in "no-man's-land." It was Robison's company's responsibility to dismantle the weapons from the tank and destroy it.

Robison, as the company clerk, did not go out with his company during this endeavor. While disarming the tank, the Chinese attacked. "That was the biggest battle the company ever had. They fought all night long and my

best buddy got killed," explained Robison.

Robison's best friend, Archie Thomas, was killed and several men were wounded that night, but the soldiers were successful in their mission. Though many were injured and some lost lives, their actions aided in the cause for which they were fighting.

During his service in Korea, Robison and fellow soldiers would gain points for service. After enough points were earned, they would be able to return home to the states. In his six-month stay in Korea, Robison had earned enough points to return home.

One morning Robison was told he and a few other men were to return home. During the trek to the port where they would depart from Korea, the enemy spotted them. Mortars were fired on their position, but Robison and his companions reached their destination without injury.

Upon leaving Korea, he went to Japan, where he stayed for a week and then on to Camp Stoneman, Calif. After a week there, he took the troop train back to Fort Sill, Okla. There, he was discharged on May 29, 1952.

In November of that same year, the 45th Infantry Division reorganized with Robi-

son in its ranks. He did not return to Korea, but went on to serve his country outside of the battlefield.

Since enlisting in 1947, Robison has spent a total of 38 years, eight months and four days in the service. He retired as Battalion Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion of the 180th infantry.

As a citizen soldier, Robison also held a career for 20 years in the Oklahoma State Employment Service, from which he retired in 1987. As a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, he serves on the Choctaw Housing Authority Board of Directors, and has served on the Hospital Board and Youth Advisory Council.

Robison has displayed his pride in military service by being a part of the Choctaw Color Guard, in which he and fellow veterans would march in parades and other events to represent veterans across the country.

Through his busy life of military service and civilian career, Robison, along with his wife of almost 55 years, Lavella Robison, have created a wholesome American family. The have two children, Mike and Kathy Robison, who now have children of their own.

Robison is thankful for his wife. "She had a great stay in raising the kids," he said. He was on the go most

of the time, and said that if there was one regret he had for his service, it would be that he did not get to spend as much time as he wanted with his children. "They grew into good Christian people," said Robison as he described his children.

Robison is very proud of his military service. "Every young man should serve if they are called," he declared. He has lived that advice, and as a result is a decorated veteran, worthy of upmost respect.

Sgt. Major Robison holds many decorations for his military service, with one in particular; the Meritorious Service Award for going through enemy lines at night, to deliver reports to battalion headquarters at night. This award was bestowed after Robison arrived back in the states.

When speaking about his service, Robison makes the point to say, "I was not a hero." He speaks of his actions with humility and knows others have made greater sacrifices.

Though he sees himself as an average man doing his duties, the Choctaw Nation and the people of America hold him, veterans like him and active servicemen in the highest regards for defending the freedom that the people of this nation hold so dear to their hearts.



Highway Beautification Wildflower Program

An Oklahoma Department of Transportation employee lays wildflower seed in the median in front of the Choctaw Nation Casino & Resort in Durant on Oct. 18. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma partnered with the ODOT for its Highway Beautification Wildflower Program and planted the wildflower seeds at six locations throughout the Choctaw Nation. Once bloomed in the spring, the wildflower seeds – Bachelor Buttons, Red Poppy, Lanceleaf Coreop and Ox Eye Daisy, along with Crimson Clover – will cover eight roadside acres at the following locations: Hartshorne, an area between Broken Bow and Idabel, Talihina, Grant, Durant and Stringtown.

The flowers are all native to the area so they'll require little to no maintenance and the colors match those in the Choctaw seal. In addition to the aesthetic factor, the wildflowers are also part of the Choctaw Nation's "go green" initiative as the areas will not require mowing while the flowers are in bloom. The Choctaw Nation paid for the cost of the wildflower seeds and ODOT covered the cost for planting.

Reservations for Labor Day RV sites

No reservations will be accepted prior to January 1, 2011

-PAYMENTS

All 2011 reservations will be made by mail. Reservations must be post-marked Jan. 1, 2011, or later. Reservations must be paid in full in the form of a money order or cashier's check.

NO PERSONAL CHECK WILL BE ACCEPTED. All personal checks will be returned without reservations being made. The fee for the weekend's camping from Thursday through Monday will be **\$75**.

-VEHICLES WITH RVs

The payment of \$75 allows one (1) RV/travel trailer and one (1) vehicle into the RV area. A \$10 fee will be charged for each additional vehicle pass requested.

Due to limited space, no reservations will be made for public tables, tents, or boats in the RV area. No tents will be allowed to hook up to an RV outlet. The \$75 camping fee is for one RV only.

-REFUNDS

No refunds will be given after Aug. 5, 2011. All pads not filled by 6 p.m. on Saturday will be offered to those on a waiting list. A fee will be charged to these RV campers.

-PHONE RESERVATIONS

NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED - NO EXCEPTIONS. One reservation per application. We will do our best to respect requests for preferred RV pads, however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested. Reservations will be dated and time stamped as received.

-GENERAL PARKING

No RVs will be allowed to park in general parking.

-ANIMALS

Animals will NOT be **allowed** in the festival area with the exception of dogs owned by physically challenged individuals. Respect your neighbor and clean up after your animal.

-SANITATION

A sign-up sheet will be provided at the RV booth for those wishing to have on-site dumping of gray and black water tanks.

Payment will be made to employees at the RV booth. There will be a \$50 fine for anyone caught dumping gray or black water in the RV area. A local dumping station is provided for individual dumping by sanitation personnel. A second warning would mean eviction from the camping area.

-TOW-AWAY OF VEHICLES

Any vehicle blocking access roads/areas between RV rows may be towed at owner's expense.

RVs may pull into the camping area no earlier than 8 a.m. on Wednesday before Labor Day.

Please return the form on the right with your reservation. Please include a copy of your CDIB. Be sure to include the length of your RV or camper and the number of slide-outs. We need a daytime telephone number should we need to contact you. Thank you.

2011 RV Space Reservation

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Daytime Phone/Cell Number_____

Email_____

RV self-contained camper description and length:_____

Number of slide-outs_____

- Only one (1) reservation per application -
No reservations accepted prior to Jan. 1, 2011.

Please return to:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

ATTN: Margaret Jackson

P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

McClanahan to join Board of Directors of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society

Dr. Melinda L. McClanahan of Silver City, N.M., has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society for a 3-year term. Dr. McClanahan is a native Oklahoman and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

As a member of the AISES Board of Directors, Dr. McClanahan will provide managerial, fiscal, and program oversight for the 2500-member society as well as mentoring of American Indian students. Her professional background gives her strong credentials for this service.

Dr. McClanahan was born in Ardmore and attended grade school in Durant. Her family moved to Ardmore when she was 9 years old, and she graduated as valedictorian from Ardmore High School in 1957.

Dr. McClanahan earned the Ph.D. degree in Radiation Biology from Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, in 1974. She then joined the Biology Department at Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, La., as assistant professor and served as department head from 1978 until 1990. From 1990 until 1994 she was Dean of Science and Engineering at New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico and earned the MBA degree in 1991. As dean she coordinated a science consortium of nine minority colleges and universities including three tribal colleges in Montana. Los Alamos



National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory were also members. The consortium, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, encouraged minority student interest in science and engineering professions.

In 1994 Dr. McClanahan joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., as director, Office of Exploratory Research. In 1995 she became the associate director for science for the EPA National Center for Environmental Research, and from 1997-1999 served as executive for Reinvention and Organizational Improvement and as senior Indian program manager for the EPA Office of Research and Development.

In 1999 she became the associate area director for the Northern Plains Area of the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins, Colo. She provided oversight to agricultural research programs in 42 laboratories in eight states. In 2002 she was appointed chief information officer and directed the computer, Internet, and cybersecurity program for the 9,000-employee agency. She was the agency's liaison with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and promoted information technology services for tribal colleges.

Dr. McClanahan retired from federal service on Sept. 30, 2009, and moved to Silver City, N.M.

A few colorful and little-known facts about Dr. McClanahan's 35-year career include the following:

In 1974, she was the first woman ever hired by the NLU

Department of Biology. In the 1980s she was chairperson of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium that designed and built Louisiana's first marine research facility on Louisiana's Gulf Coast. She has twice served as distinguished visiting professor in The People's Republic of China in the fields of Radiation Biology and Genetics. In 1988 she was granted a research sabbatical and lived for a year in a remote gold mine camp in the mountainous jungle of Papua New Guinea.

She has received many university awards, including "Outstanding Professor of the Year," nine awards for "Favorite Professor," and the 1993 Texas Woman's University Alumna of the Year Award. Her federal awards include the Presidential Rank Award for Federal Service and the EPA Bronze Medal for Commendable Service. Her most unusual award was being voted "Outstanding Actress of 1993-94" by New Mexico Highlands University.

Dr. McClanahan is married and has four children, four stepchildren, five grandchildren, and six stepgrandchildren. She is the sister of the late Rue McClanahan, the Emmy-award-winning actress who played "Blanche" on the TV sitcom "The Golden Girls." Her mother, Rheua-Nell McClanahan, was a beautician and owned beauty salons in Durant and Ardmore and her father Bill McClanahan, was a general contractor in Ardmore. Her grandmother, Ida Alice "Allie" Airington Medaris lived for many years in Kenefic and Achilles, then Borger, Texas, and was an original Choctaw enrollee of the Dawes Roll.

Talihina student makes Premium Sale at Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair

Mikala Helm, Talihina 4-H student, placed second in Class 1 with her Hamp lamb and third in Class 5 with her Cross lamb at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair. Mikala's Hamp placed fourth in the sale lineup and went on to place fifth out of 20 lambs in the overall Premium Sale. Mikala is the daughter of Mike and LaQuetia Helm, her greatest support team. Mikala would like to thank Choctaw Nation for its support in the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair Premium Sale.



Happy birthday, Parksion girls!

All of the ladies in the Parksion family have birthdays in the fall. Nancy Parksion turned 68 on Oct. 9; daughter Dawnette Brewer was 40 on Sept. 26; granddaughter Salem Brewer was 7 on Sept. 29; and granddaughter Kirsten Parksion was 22 on Aug. 19. Nancy's grandmother, Ethel Willis, was an original enrollee and we are proud of our Indian heritage. We attended the last meeting in Fresno and really enjoyed it.



Congrats on your wedding!

Jonathan Davila and Amanda Short were joined in holy matrimony on May 1. The wedding took place in Ontario, Canada, with a host of family and friends. We wish them both everlasting love and happiness. Love, Mom and Dad.



Sealy selected honorary basketball coach

LeRoy Sealy has been selected by the University of Oklahoma's Athletic Department to serve as the Oklahoma Women's Basketball Honorary Coach this season. Sealy will be recognized during the women's home game with Western Illinois on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Lloyd Nobel Center in Norman. Sealy was selected by the athletic students and the athletic department for this honor. He is the head Choctaw Language Instructor for the University of Oklahoma. He has taught with the university for 13 years. He also teaches the Choctaw Community Language classes in the Norman/Moore area for the Choctaw Nation's School of Choctaw Language.



Smart wins big at Pittsburg County Fair

Samantha Shooter Smart of Alderson, 17, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Pittsburg County 4-H, won first place in three different art categories, at the 2010 Pittsburg County Fair. The categories include watercolor, acrylic and pencil. She also won first place at the Tulsa State Fair in the watercolor division, with her painting titled "Choctaw Spirit Horse." She and her family are also jewelers, saddle makers and silversmiths. She attends ACE Christian Academy Home School.



Happy birthday, Alex Cummins!

Happy birthday wishes to Alexandria Jene Cummins from her mom and stepdad, Amy and Larry Bourque. Alex turned 13 on Aug. 20. She is the granddaughter of Madeline and Dudley Comeaux.



New director of Tribal TANF

Tracy Blue has been hired to be the Tribal TANF Director for the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California. The Tribal TANF program operates in Madera, Mariposa, Merced and parts of Fresno counties. Tracy is a California native, and has family that lived in the Talihina area. Tribal TANF is a welfare-to-work program for parents to get on their feet again, learn a new trade or to start a new business. TANF laws allow sovereign nations such as tribes to have their own programs separate from the county systems that sometimes are not culturally sensitive to the Native American needs. TANF works with schools and other stakeholders, as prevention is the key to getting our next generation of workers and business people to understand navigation in the business world.



Happy birthday, William Sockey!

William Sockey celebrated his 90th birthday on Aug. 21, 2010, along with his family in Pittsfield, Mass. His eight children were in attendance, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sockey's family would like to wish him a very happy birthday and a grand year to follow.



Gomes as DHS Homecoming Queen

Amanda Gomes was crowned Homecoming Queen at the Durant High School football game on Sept. 24, 2010. Trey Bowman escorted Amanda to the field. Both are seniors this year and are members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Amanda is the daughter of Jeanna Gomes and Trey is the son Bart and Karen Bowman.



Happy birthday, Francis!

Happy birthday to Francis Wesley Matthew Constable. He turned 1 year old on Aug. 3. He is the son of Echo and Eric Constable. He is the great-great-great-grandson of Gilbert Wesley Dukes, former Choctaw chief (1900-1902), whom he is named for.



Happy Birthday Britney!

Britney Lee Powell of Norman/Oklahoma City celebrated her 11th birthday on Nov. 15, 2010. Britney is now a fifth-grader and enjoys school. She is a fourth-year Girl Scout who is involved in student council, playing the viola in the orchestra, and most recently photography club. Happy 11th birthday from all your family!



Our little angel turns 1

The entire family of Xanden Lee Ward would like to wish him a very happy birthday on Oct. 23. Xanden celebrated with friends and family having a Mickey Mouse themed party. Xanden's parents are Cody and Amber Ward of Valiant. His grandparents are Mary Payne of Paris and the late Terry Ward of Hugo. His "Grams" is Becky Peters of Hugo, great-grandmother is Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson and grandma is Brenda Wyrick of Hugo. Xanden has one older brother, Drake Stubbs, who is 4 years old, several aunts, uncles and cousins.



Weese honors veterans at Arlington National Cemetery

This photo was taken at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., on June 14, 2010, of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Post 4465 Princess Jordan Weese of Clinton. Jordan is now 11 years old. She is the daughter of Michael and Brandi Weese of Beason's Flat, Okla. Jordan and her family flew to Washington, D.C. to place a wreath on U.S. Marine Corps WWII Veteran CLP Ira Hamilton Hayes's grave. He was one of six men who raised the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima and 55 years have passed since anyone has placed a wreath on his grave. This trip was possible for Jordan because of the Choctaw Nation, VFW of Clinton, car lot dealers, individuals at pow wows, family members and a quilt was even made to raise money. Jordan thanks everyone who made it possible for her to go. Please remember our Veterans.

This is Jordan's 10th year as VFW Princess and she is very proud.



Grateful graduate

Whitney Margaret Sims, of Tyler, Texas, graduated May 14, 2010, from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, with a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences, with an emphasis in Child and Family Studies. Whitney will use her degree as part of the Nashville Teaching Fellows, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to select, train and place committed teachers for at-risk students in the schools in the Metropolitan Nashville School District. Whitney is teaching fourth grade at Pennington Elementary School this fall.

Ms. Sims is the daughter of Steve and Deanna Sims, and granddaughter of Davis Ray and Margaret Sims of Chandler, Texas. Her great grandmother, Gracie Syble Jones Jesters, was an original enrollee in the Choctaw tribe.

Whitney is especially grateful to the Choctaw Nation for its generous scholarships from the Higher Education funds throughout her undergraduate career and will be continuing her studies at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn., in pursuit of a Masters Degree in Teaching.



Happy retirement, Roland Wade!

Roland Wade, the owner of Arrowhead Welding in Calera, is retiring from his 30 years of welding service. Roland has traveled far and wide, helping to construct various bridges and buildings. He plans to enjoy his retirement by spending time with his children and grandchildren, as well as enjoying his wife's cooking. Roland also plans to spend considerable time doing what he enjoys most, playing dominoes, going fishing, and building things. Roland was the 2010 domino tournament champion at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Labor Day Festival. Roland is a proud member of his labor union (#790, years 1985-2010).



Congrats on the wedding!

Amy Leigh Herring and Larry Joseph Bourque were wed on May 15, 2010. Amy is the daughter of Madeline and Dudley Comeaux of Waco Texas. Larry is the son of Betty and the late Lloyd Bourque of Youngsville Louisiana.



Wyatt turns 15

Wyatt Lane Williams of Idabel celebrated his 15th birthday on Sept. 9. Wyatt's parents are Barry and Linda Williams. His grandparents are Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel and the late Arvel and late Pauline Williams of Summerfield.





Students benefit from an array of health services

The Choctaw Nation Health Services offers an array of benefits to the Jones Academy students during their nine months of residence. Students receive health screenings which include physical exams and vision, dental, and hear-

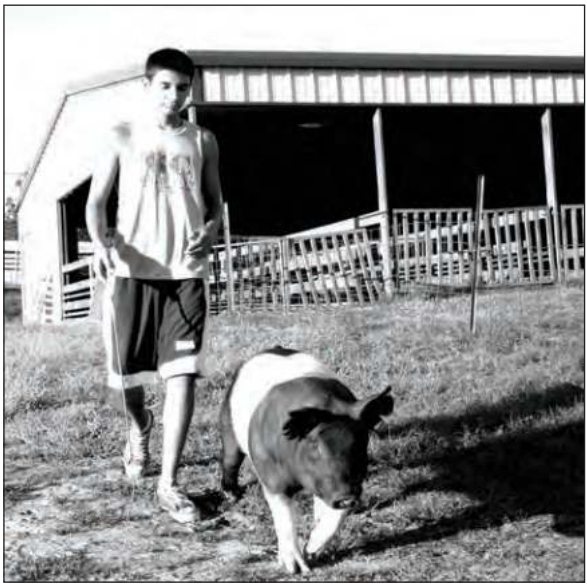
ing assessments. They also have access to the hospital in Talihina and the McAlester Clinic. Pictured is Director of the Choctaw Nation Hearing Clinic in Talihina Lana Moses and Jones Academy Elementary second-grader Jordan Hayes.

The value of hard work at Jones Academy

This is a story about hard work, diligence and devotion. Justin Daniel came to Jones Academy in the fall of 2000. He was a first-grader from the Wewoka area. His parents were struggling at the time to provide Justin and his siblings a stable home life.

In a short time, Justin adapted to life at Jones Academy. He persevered, worked hard and did his best to meet the school's expectations. Just a few years later when Jones Academy opened its FFA program for enrollment, Justin jumped at the chance. He threw himself into the program and listened to his instructor, Brandon Spears. This is where the fun began and Justin's luck started to change. He started winning.

He can now recite his hog show achievements like an acrobat doing mental gymnastics. During his fourth grade year, he won Reserve Breed Duroc at the Pittsburg County Fair; in the fifth grade, he had Grand Champion overall at the Pittsburg Jr. Livestock Show. As a sixth-grader, his hog was Supreme Breeding Gilt at the Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock Show. He then went on to the Oklahoma City Youth Expo and captured Champion Hampshire and Reserve Grand Champion overall. The same pig sold for an



astounding \$21,500. This is where all the hard work and long hours started to pay off. A year later, he would win Reserve Grand Champion at the Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock Show. During the same show season, his Chester Barrow made the sale at the Oklahoma City Youth Expo earning Justin \$2,500. He won Reserve Cross Barrow the next year at the Fort Smith Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair. The winnings continued.

Justin readily admits now he can't recall the numerous jackpot shows and the cash prizes that his hogs have earned him.

He seems humbled by his fortunes and is filled with gratitude for the opportunities Jones Academy has offered him. Life has not been perfect at the academy and at times Justin has stumbled, but he perseveres and presses on with his work and life. To date he thinks he might have over \$30,000 in his savings.

Justin is preparing for college or some kind of vocational training after he graduates. That's a year away and his future looks promising. For now, he works quietly putting in long hours attending to his charges. This is a life about hard work, diligence and devotion.

Library to honor Oklahoma author, poet and playwright Leanne Howe

LeAnne Howe, a member of the Choctaw Nation, will receive the Tulsa Library Trust's "American Indian Author Award" on March 5 at Central Library.

Howe writes fiction, poetry, screenplays and plays dealing with American Indian experiences. Her works have been translated in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. Currently Howe is Professor of American Indian Studies and English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Her first novel, "Shell Shaker," received the American Book Award in 2002. The story is a parallel tale of a family in the mid-18th Century and the familiar traps their ancestors face in 1991. The French translation for "Shell Shaker" was a finalist for Prix Medici Estranger, one of France's top literary awards.

Howe's second novel, "Miko Kings: An Indian Baseball Story," was chosen by Hampton University in Virginia as their 2010 "Read-in" selection. Chapter three of Miko Kings is set at Hampton University and also documents the ethical challenges throughout Indian Territory in 1906.

"Evidence of Red," an introspective look at American



Indian persistence and struggle, received the Oklahoma Book Award for poetry in 2006.

Howe also is active in American Indian film productions, serving as co-producer along with Jim Fortier, "Playing Pastime," a 30-minute documentary of Indian Baseball Leagues in Oklahoma; and screenwriter and on-camera narrator of the PBS documentary "Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire," a 90-minute documentary on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians aired nationally in 2006.

Founder and director of Wagon Burner Theatre Troup, her plays have been produced in Los Angeles, New York City, New Mexico, Maine, Texas and Colorado. Her one-act play, "The Mascot Opera, A Minuet," was part of a production at Mixed Blood Theater in Minneapolis.

In 2003, she was the Louis D. Rubins Jr. Writer-in-Residence at Hollins University, Va. She has received an Artist-in-Residence grant for theater from the Iowa Arts Council. In 2004 she was the Regents Distinguished Lecturer at University of California, Riverside. She was the John and Renee Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi at Oxford in 2006 and 2007.



The School of Choctaw Language produced several more graduates in Durant this June. Pictured left to right are Language Director Jim Parrish, Durant Community Teacher Ann Kaniatobe, Sharon McGee, Ernest Hooser, Oneida Winship, Carole Ayers, Connie Hudson and School of Choctaw Language Assistant Director Richard Adams.

James teaches cooking

Tommie M. James, Family and Consumer Science Extension Educator, presented a workshop titled "Oklahoma Native American Cooking" at the Oklahoma Home and Community Education State Meeting held in Oklahoma City. The workshop featured traditional dishes of the Five Civilized Tribes. The cultural awareness and health promotional lesson was developed by James. James is a proud tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and resides in Boswell.



Happy birthday, Kristin

Kristin Scott celebrated her 10th birthday on Oct. 16. Kristin is the daughter of Michael and Lena Scott of Durant and has a little sister named Michaela. Kristin's family would like to say happy birthday. Kristin is pictured with Steve Owens, Billy Simms and Jason White at the Sooners Tailgate Party 2010. Kristin is a big fan of the Sooners and has looked forward to the tailgate party the past two years. Happy birthday, Kristin!



Lola Lockler

Little miss Lola Lockler made a trip to Tushka Homma. Lola is 1 year old and the daughter of Andrea and Justin Lockler. Her grandmas are Chaula Camnan and Connie Lockler.



To the Youth of the Nation

By McKenzie Baldwin, Youth Advisory Board
3rd Place Scholarship Winner (CDIB)

When I look toward my future. I have set personal as well as professional goals for myself. In May 2010, I will graduate from Antlers High School in the top 10% of my class, which has been my short term goal throughout high school. One can tell by my class ranking that I am a very dedicated and determined student. I plan to continue my education by attending Northeastern State University in the fall of 2010, where I will work towards my bachelors and master degree in Speech/Language Pathology.

I have had an extreme interest in Speech Pathology since I was a sophomore in high school. The reason I am so interested in the career field is because when I was 16 years of age, a relative of mine had a stroke which caused her to have a tremendous speech impediment. I always wanted to be able to help improve her speech, but didn't know the proper technique to do so. From this time on I have set a goal for myself to achieve the learning ability to improve the speech of others by obtaining a career in Speech/Language Pathology.

I plan to achieve this goal by working with determination, studying diligently and making college work my foremost priority while still enjoying the college experience. After completing college and earning my degree, I plan to obtain a successful job on a school base as a Speech/Language Pathologist. I look forward to aiding children, and whoever needs help with their speech. Also, an educational institute allows their faculty to spend more quality time with their family than any other professional career. Though this career has numerous fields to work in, I am not dwelling upon which field I should choose. I am a very family oriented individual so choosing to work on a school base was a simple decision for me.

My field of study, Speech/Language Pathology, is a six-year program. Due to my parents' income I will not be eligible for financial aid, yet it will not be sufficient in paying for my education. This scholarship would help tremendously with my tuition, room and books. I would greatly appreciate consideration of this scholarship and to make my Native American people proud of my accomplishments.

Jernigan named All-American Scholar

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Justin Jernigan of Durant has been named an All-American Scholar. The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher GPA. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified sponsor are accepted. Justin, who attends Durant High School, was nominated for this honor by Brent Glilis, who teaches math at Durant. Justin will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook which is published nationally. He is the son of Joey and Melissa Welch of Durant.



Congrats, Robert

Robert Fixico of Brownwood, Texas, graduated from Texas State Technical College on Aug. 21 at the Abilene Civic Center. He is the son of Joe and Armetta Looney of Davis.



Happy birthday, Josh

Happy 13th birthday to Josh Adams on Oct. 15. Love Judy, Justin, Jared and Janessa.

Happy 77th, Ott

Ott Ladner's 77th birthday was celebrated in August at the Ladner family's annual weiner roast and catfish fry birthday weekend. Each August, this celebration is held at the Ladner Family home on the Ladner farm at Jintown in honor of Ott. The family cake-baker, Linda Taliaferro, outdid herself this year with the Choctaw heritage cake complete with the great seal of the Choctaw Nation. Many members of this large, close Choctaw family attended.



Happy birthday, Jeffrey

Jeffrey Keith Davis of Texarkana celebrated his 15th birthday on Sept. 14. Jeffrey is the son of Keith and Sharon Davis. His grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Jones Academy alumnus wins scholarship

Former Jones Academy student, Judy Picone, was a recent recipient of the prestigious O.J. and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation Scholarship at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Judy, a sophomore at SOSU, was recommended by university staff and the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program. The nomination was then approved by the Harvey Foundation Board. The award is worth \$5,000 a year until she graduates. The scholarship was granted on the basis of need and academic performance. This year Judy is receiving the Presidential Leadership Class Award which covers resident tuition at SOSU. She also works in the recruiting office at the university and has been featured on the school's brochures. Judy is an English major and has goals of becoming an English professor. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and active in the Native American Council at SOSU.



Happy birthday!

Happy 30th birthday to Matt Smith on Oct. 7, and happy 28th to Brookelyn Wolf on Oct. 5 from Mom. Wishing a happy birthday to Noma Horton Lunsford on Sept. 21 from Necie and Mom. Hope you all had great ones!

2010 Choctaw Nation Outstanding Elders



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Jack Austin, Mary Watson and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Mary Edna Jacob Watson, District 7 - Wright City, was born Jan. 12, 1935, in Wright City to the Rev. James and Nettie Jacob. Mary attended Wheelock Academy in Millerton from 1941 to 1948 where she learned to speak English at the age of 8 as she says, “after many trials.” She spent her junior high years in Wright City and then high school in Atoka.

Married in 1951, she moved to Los Angeles under the BIA relocation program where she lived for 17 years. She returned to Oklahoma and began her career in health services, first as a lab assistant and X-ray technician for McCurtain Community Hospital and then as a Community Health Representative for the Choctaw Nation for 12 years. Mary served nine years on the Bilingual Board of Education out of SOSU. She also served on local school boards, JOM, and advisor for Choctaws and interpreters for legal and social services. Mary retired in 1985 on disability.

Mary had six children. One son died at age 7 and a daughter died in 1993. She has been a single parent most of her adult life, raising her children and her children’s children. That is her legacy. Of all her children she has six nurses, one an RN and another working towards an RN degree. The others are all hard-working individuals. She has 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and is currently raising a 15- and 9-year-old grandchild at home. Mary enjoys her time at the Wright City Community Center with all the activities and social gatherings. She praises the Lord for the strength he has given her to do what she has done in her lifetime.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Mike Amos, Melvin Tom and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Melvin Tom, District 2 - Broken Bow, was born Jan. 9, 1937, near Boswell to Mose and Encey Tom. Soon after his father’s passing when he was 2 years old, he was sent to Goodland Indian Orphanage where he remained until 1953. Reunited with his family, he continued his education in Idabel. Melvin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1954. He volunteered for training as a U.S. Army paratrooper and later trained in long-range reconnaissance. He has kept in touch with many of his comrades and is proud to have participated in the funeral of one of our past presidents, Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1973. After three tours of duty in Vietnam, he retired from military service in 1974. He participated in numerous campaigns, receiving the Presidential unit citation, the meritorious unit commendation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and the Bronze Star.

Melvin is the proud father of four. After retiring from the military he worked for the U.S. Postal Service in the Dallas area and attended night school to earn a heating, cooling and ventilation certificate. In 1979, he rejoined his extended family in Idabel and Broken Bow, where he made use of his training. In 1982, he received his state contractor’s license which allowed him to start his own business, Quality Heating and Air Conditioning, for which he worked until his youngest daughter finished college and he retired.

Now at 73 years, he devotes his time to veterans’ causes, the Choctaw Nation’s Color Guard and being helpful wherever he can. A lifetime member of the VFW and the Disabled American Veterans of America, he is co-founder of the Choctaw Veterans Association, whose efforts have been to establish the Choctaw Veterans Cemetery of Tushka Homma. Tom has worked on the constitution and the by-laws for the Choctaw Veterans Association, the rules and procedures for the operation of the Veterans Cemetery and the burial log book.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Debbie Conley and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Odell Nichols, District 3 - Smithville, married Edna Mae Phillips on April 9, 1960, and in April 2010 they celebrated 50 years of marriage. Odell is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and proud father of five wonderful children. He received an honorable discharge after eight years of service in the U.S. Navy. He is proud to mention that generations of his family have served the United States through the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His award was accepted by his daughter, Debbie Conley.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Evelyn Ludlow and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Evelyn Ludlow, District 3 - Smithville, attended a local school for a short period but also attended an all-girl BIA boarding school. She and her late husband, Lem Ludlow, a councilmember for a number of years, raised two sons who have given Evelyn her grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She received her LPN license and has held positions in Albuquerque and Crown Point IHS facilities until an opportunity arose to work with her Choctaw people at the hospital in Talihina. She returned home. She was employed with the Choctaw Nation for a number of years as a Community Health Representative and received many hours of training in preventative health.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Jimmy D. Paxton and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Jimmy D. Paxton, District 1 - Idabel, raised five sons and two daughters, one of which he adopted. He is a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy and later was employed at the McAlester Army Base Ammunition Plant for 35 years. He received his Safety Security Service Clearance with the U.S. Government which he still holds today. He was also employed as a supervisor as a team truck driver traveling coast to coast for 10 years. His community involvement extends to donating food, preparing meals for churches, funerals and events and he volunteers at the Idabel Senior Center driving the shuttle bus for transporting elders. He enjoys music and reading Native American History.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Mike Amos, Mary Lou Baker and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Mary Lou Hodge Baker, District 2 - Bethel, is the spouse of the late Billy Paul Baker, former councilmember of District 2. She is the proud mother of two sons and grandmother to five. She attends Bethel Hill United Methodist Church in Battiest. Mary recently retired from the First Bank and Trust of Hochatown and prior to that she was employed with the Choctaw Nation for 10 years as a Choctaw Travel Plaza Manager. She serves the Bethel seniors as the committee secretary and volunteers at the center.

Lloyd Bond, District 2 - Bethel, (not pictured) is the father of one son and has one grandson. He is a member of Kulli Chito Presbyterian Church of Bethel. He worked as a logger for a number of years prior to dedicating 27 years with Wright City Weyerhaeuser. He volunteers for the Bethel seniors and serves as their chairperson. His duties at the center vary from the serving line to monitoring the bus routes.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Gary Crank and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Gary Crank, District 3 - Talihina, and wife Leslie have seven children and are blessed with four grandchildren. He attended school in Talihina where he received a number of awards. He joined the U.S. Marines and served in active duty for two years and four years inactive. He held the rank of Corporal. He received numerous awards as a sharpshooter, National Defense to Vietnam Service Medal and good conduct award. He later attended Okmulgee Tech and received Heating and Air Certification. He was then employed at the IHS Talihina Hospital, then received electrician certification. He enjoys raising horses and dogs as his hobbies.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Matilda Paxton and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Matilda Davis Paxton, District 1 - Idabel, has been employed with the Choctaw Nation for 19 years, beginning as a teacher’s aide with Head Start. She spent a number of years as a Community Health Representative and now serves as the District 1 Field Office Supervisor. Matilda is a resident of Valliant and has been blessed with three children and recently wed Jimmie D. Paxton. She has assisted the late Hap Ward, District 1 councilmember, represent the Choctaws in his district. She worked with the elders scheduling and coordinating activities for trips, concerts, senior day and numerous other activities for the older population of District 1.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Mike Amos, Geraldine Rowell and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Geraldine Ludlow Rowell, District 2 - Broken Bow, and husband Phillip have three children and seven grandchildren. They attend Oka Chukma Presbyterian Church. Geraldine has worked for 22 years as paraprofessional with Broken Bow School dealing with students challenged with multi-disability. In 2009, she was selected as the Broken Bow American Indian Educator. Her hobbies include reading, quilting and spending quality time with her family.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Shirley Marcille and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Shirley Winship Marcille, District 3 - Talihina, was the oldest child of nine. She attended Broken Bow Public School and attended Chilocco Indian School. She received her beautician license and then owned and operated her own business for over 20 years. She currently works and volunteers at the Talihina Senior Center on a part-time basis and enjoys the trips and activities surrounding the Talihina Center.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

in the Choctaw Nation
– Senior Citizen Dinners & Kids Christmas Parties –

Antlers SeniorsDecember 15 11:30 a.m.
Antlers Kids..... December 7 6 p.m., up to age 12
Atoka KidsNovember 30..... 6 p.m., up to age 12,
at the Atoka Community Center on Liberty Road
Bethel Kids December 9 6 p.m.
Broken Bow Kids December 7 6 p.m.
Broken Bow Seniors.....December 16 12 noon
Buffalo Valley Kids December 9 6 p.m.
Burkhart Kids December 9 7 p.m.
Coalgate Seniors.....December 8 12 noon
Coalgate Kids December 4 2 p.m., up to age 12
Crowder Seniors.....December 15 11:30 a.m.
Crowder Kids December 11 1 p.m.
Durant Kids December 3 6 p.m.
Eagletown Kids..... December 7 7:30 p.m.
Heavener Kids December 6 7 p.m.
Hugo Seniors..... December 15 11:30 a.m.
Hugo Kids December 10 6 p.m. at Housing Culture Center
Idabel Kids December 6 6:30 p.m.
Idabel Seniors December 22 11:30 a.m.

McAlester KidsDecember 11 1 p.m., up to age 10
McAlester Seniors December 15 11:30 a.m.
Poteau Seniors.....December 15 11:30 a.m.
Poteau Kids..... December 11 4-6 p.m., up to age 10
Quinton Kids December 10 6 p.m.
Smithville Kids December 7 7 p.m.
Smithville Seniors.....December 15 12 noon
Spiro Kids December 13 4 to 6 p.m., age 10 & under
Spiro Seniors..... December 14 11:30 a.m.
Stigler Kids December 10 4 to 6 p.m.
Stigler Seniors..... December 8 12 noon
Summerfield Kids..... December 12 2-4 p.m.
Talihina Kids December 10 7 p.m.
Talihina Seniors..... December 8 12 noon
Tuskahoma Kids..... December 4 1 p.m.
Wilburton Kids..... December 11 2 p.m.
Wilburton Seniors..... December 15 12 noon
Wright City Kids December 9 6 p.m.
Wright City Seniors December 16 12 noon

2010 Choctaw Nation Outstanding Elders



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Wanda Ferguson, Kenneth Ferguson, Councilman Delton Cox and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Kenneth Ferguson, District 4 - Poteau, and wife Wanda have two sons. Kenneth is very active in his community and enjoys ballroom dancing, fishing and hunting. Mr. Ferguson served in the U.S. Army for 23 months. He was instrumental in the foundation of Eastern Oklahoma Historical Society and served as secretary for a number of years. He assisted in the organization of the Vo-Tech in Poteau and the Kerr Museum in Poteau. He promoted the Skyline Drive and the state park south of the Talimena Drive. Above all, he organized the Choctaw Nation Historical Society in 1970.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Jack Owens, Dixie Owens, Councilman Delton Cox and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Dixie Stafford Owens, District 4 - Poteau, and husband Jack have been married for 54 years and have four boys. Prior to employment with BIA, she was a school teacher for 19 years. While with the BIA's Office of Indian Education, she earned the title, "Mother of FACE," because she was instrumental in initiating FACE (Family and Child Education), a program for Native American families. Not only did she initiate the program, she was its first administrator.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, June Parent, Ronnie Parent, Councilman Delton Cox and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Ronnie and June Parent, District 4.5 - Spiro, are both in the field of education. Ronnie attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and after graduation Ronnie began his teaching career at Poteau High School. He served in the U.S. Navy with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He returned home to a teaching position at Spiro High School, serving as High School Assistant Principal then later as Middle School Principal. He has retired from education and is now the Mayor of Spiro. June enjoys attending the Spiro Senior Center. She attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, earning her degree in education. She returned to the area and taught school for 10 years. She took a break from teaching to raise her children and then returned to teaching at Spiro School.

Norma Crum Coleman, District 5 - Stigler, (not pictured) was the mother of three sons, caregiver to her late husband and her aging mother. She credits the Stigler senior participants for their continued support during her caregiving years. She enjoys attending the senior center and traveling on the senior bus to all planned activities.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Joe Coley, Paulette McCord and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Paulette Carol McCord, District 6 - Wilburton, and husband William have raised five children and now are blessed with 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She attended school in Keota Public School and moved with her husband to Texas for employment opportunities. She returned to the area after retirement and has been totally involved with the Wilburton Senior Center serving as the president for the past three years. She enjoys being involved in fundraising and trips. She participates in the LeFlore Veterans Day parade and volunteering for VFW Ladies Auxiliary.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Jack Austin, Albert Tom Jr. and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Albert Tom Jr., District 7 - Wright City, is married to Lora Thomas Tom and together they are the parents of six sons and two daughters. They have 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He served in the U.S. Army for seven years and was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his heroism in the Vietnam War. He returned to the states and began employment with the Forestry Service for 15 years, then Pan Pacific Mill for 10 years. He now works part-time with the Choctaw Nation as a bus driver for senior citizens.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Jack Austin, John Underwood and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

John Underwood, District 7 - Antlers, and wife are members of Finley Baptist Church. John is active with his grandchildren and watching their sporting activities. He served in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and again in 1946 through 1950. He enjoys the senior citizen dinners and is very active in their fundraising to make all overnight trips.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Perry Thompson, Ronald Springs and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Ronald Springs, District 8 - Hugo, and wife Vi have been married for 52 years, raised two daughters and is blessed with one granddaughter. He has lifetime experience as an auto body mechanic. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves for seven years. Ronald attends Southside Baptist Church, serving as deacon and Sunday School teacher. His hobbies include working with woodwork creating beautiful furniture and crafts. He enjoys traveling and spending quality time with his family.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Perry Thompson, Evilen James and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Evilen James, District 8 - Hugo, enjoys singing Choctaw hymns and attending singings with a carload of elders from the Hugo Senior Center. She enjoys fishing and cooking her catch over open flame. Her hobbies include picking "wild onions" for Hugo and Wilburton centers. She volunteers at the Hugo Senior Center assisting in serving of meals.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, James Cox, Councilman Ted Dosh and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

James William Cox, District 9 - Durant, and wife Ann enjoy their family of six children, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. James is an active member of First Baptist Church of Bennington, member of Southern Baptist Convention Association and serves as chaplain of District 9 seniors. He served in the U.S. Army, being trained in Fort Sill and toured Baumholder, Germany. He is trained in disaster relief and is lead maintenance for the Bryan County Unit. His volunteerism during disasters has taken him from ice storms in Muskogee to flooding in Miami, Okla.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Rosa Gilmore, Councilman Ted Dosh and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Rosa Taylor Gilmore, District 9 - Durant, was raised in Latimer County. She attended St. Agnes School in Antlers and Southeastern State College, now Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She and her husband have been married for 55 years and have raised three children, enjoy nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She is an active member of Grace Indian Baptist Church and serves as Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School and Church Camp leader. She also serves as the president of the Women's Missionary Union and treasurer for the Kiamichi Baptist Association.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Anthony Dillard, Joe Ray Hayes and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Joe Ray Hayes, District 10 - Atoka, attended schools from Redden to Stringtown and then was employed in the timber industry in the state of Wyoming. At the age of 18, he began his service to the U.S. Army and spent time in Germany as a trained medic. After returning from the service, he met and married Katherine. They traveled to the west coast for employment opportunities. He spent 17 years employed with the 76 Oil Co. in Prineville, Ore. He then made a decision to purchase ranch property, worked it for the next 20 years and then returned home to Oklahoma to retire. Community involvement includes serving on Stringtown Council and attending the Choctaw Center in Atoka.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Anthony Dillard, Alice Isom and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Alice Billy Isom, District 10 - Atoka, married Lester Huston in Pueblo, Colo., on their way to Vancouver, Wash., for employment opportunities. They returned to Daisy to make their home, raised two daughters and now enjoy two grandsons and four great-grandchildren. As a homemaker, she worked side-by-side with her husband on a ranch and they owned and operated a grocery store. Alice is active in the Choctaw Center in Atoka and two other senior adult groups, GHAT (Gray Haired Angels Traveling) and GGJ (God's Golden Jubilee) as well as volunteering with her church activities. She is still active at age 81, mowing her own yard and working in her garden.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Bob Pate, William Johnson and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

William Johnson, District 11 - McAlester, and wife Demett have been married for 40-plus years and they have one daughter. William retired from Union Pacific and Katy Railroads with 38 years of service. He has volunteered for Camp Pleas for 20 years and helps with fundraising for families in crisis. He is also a Volunteer Fire Chief for Blanco Fire Department and then volunteers on Wednesdays at the Choctaw Senior Center and for holidays in preparing the meals. He helped with the table centerpieces during the recent 2010 birthday bash.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Bob Pate, Suzanne Heard and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Suzanne Heard, District 11 - McAlester, taught public school for 25 years, first at Spiro and Hennessey, returning to Haileyville and Hartshorne schools. She worked with Bureau of Indian Affairs for 15 years, promoting Native American programs. After retirement she tutored children who attend school at Jones Academy and she serves on their school board. She has had the honor of meeting and visiting Lady Bird Johnson and Robert Kennedy, and above all fellow Choctaws. She was honored by Oklahoma Eastern Star with 50 years of service and in 1957 she was crowned Oklahoma's Semi-Centennial Princess and in 1969 she received a lifetime commission as Choctaw Princess by Principal Chief Harry J.W. Belvin.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Margaret Yocco, Councilman James Frazier and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Margaret A. Yocco, District 12 - Crowder, was raised in Quinton. She raised three children in the state of Wisconsin. She retired from Edward Jones Investments in 2004 and since has been involved in the Choctaw Center in Crowder where she serves as president. She also attends Choctaw Language classes and enjoys Choctaw history and singing Choctaw hymns. She enjoys the fellowship at the Choctaw Center. Her hobbies include knitting, quilting and assisting other families when possible. Although she is a Choctaw Indian she is known as an Italian cook.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Nellie Hunter, Councilman James Frazier and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

Nellie Miller Hunter, District 12 - Coalgate, was born in Clayton Hill. She joined the U.S. Army and was assigned as administrative specialist in the Office of the Commander in Chief. She had seven children and then entered college, earning an accounting degree. She was employed at the Veterans Administration Hospital, advancing to the position of assistant chief of purchasing and contracting. She assisted the American Indian Training and Employment Program. She was active with the American Indian/Native Alaskan faculty and staff association during her employment. She returned to Tupelo and has been active with Tupelo Special Education Class, with developmental disability clients through use of her certified nurse aide training. She is very active in her church, the Choctaw seniors group, Color Guard and Veterans Association.

A common thread woven through time

By LISA REED

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

A common thread was evident throughout the 5 Tribes Story Conference – the importance of knowing where you came from and of sharing that information. Students and writers of all ages attended the event Sept. 24-25 in Muskogee to hear narratives from notable storytellers, historians and researchers. Their presentations ranged from traditional to contemporary, from fictional tales to emotional accounts that have been woven through time.

Co-hosts Tim Tingle and Greg Rodgers along with Mary Robinson, executive director of the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, and her staff have devoted many long hours to planning the first 5 Tribes Story Conference.

Rodgers introduced Tingle, a wonderful teacher who who has planted seeds all over the world, encouraging many Choctaws to begin their own path of finding stories to tell.

An award-winning Choctaw author, storyteller and folklorist, Tingle made his first trip to Mississippi in 1995 in search of people with stories.

Tingle looked across the large group in the Bacone College Chapel. “We take

the history they give us, take the stories they give us and help the magic along.

“People kept telling me I needed to meet Archie Mingo,” he recalled with a smile.

After days of looking for the Choctaw man in Mississippi, Tingle found him at his home. About 200 Choctaws were gathered in the back yard while a pot of pashofa bubbled on a fire, a celebration on Mingo’s 75th birthday.

After only a few minutes, just enough time for a greeting, Mingo asked Tingle to get up. “I’m your teacher,” he said. “Get up,” and he took the wooden chair Tingle had been sitting on and stuck it in the fire under the pashofa. It started burning.

“By now the 200 people came flooding around the fire, laughing and joking, watching my expressions,” Tingle said. “He was having a great time, just burning that chair. And then he started banging what remained of the chair legs together.”

“These make pretty good chant sticks,” he told Tingle. “What do you think about that?”

Tingle politely told him what he thought about that, “I think you’re crazy.”

“Yeah,” banging the chant sticks together the whole time, “one crazy backwoods Choctaw, aren’t I? That’s what people from the city



Greg Rodgers, Tim Tingle and Mary Robinson devoted much of the last year in planning the 5 Tribes Story Conference.

used to say. For about 15 to 20 minutes we had about 200 Choctaws laughin’ and laughin’, cuttin’ up and laughin’, watchin’ me burn that chair.

“Well, that’s your first lesson for the day, son,” Mingo told Tingle. “That will be your only lesson today. I figure you can get you some pashofa, eat it and go on home. I don’t want to cloud your brain, ’cause this is too heavy a lesson.”

“If you can get people smiling and laughing, full of joy even for a few minutes ... what is a chair? ...” Tingle’s voice dropped to

just above a whisper as he recounted Mingo’s words. “What is a chair?”

Tingle continued sharing highlights of a decade of memories of Mingo and what he has learned from countless others.

“We are here to tell the stories we know. We have no idea,” he stressed, “we have no idea the people that are hearing the stories, the people that are influenced by what we do, what we say, what we write, what we sing, what we make. It’s our legacy.”

Tingle talked about the sad stories we have, how to

approach subjects such as the Trail of Tears, smallpox and land theft.

“If everyone in your audience leaves happy, you’re not changing anything. If someone isn’t provoked or upset to some degree by something they are hearing for the first time, you aren’t changing anything.

“We have the responsibility to tell these stories,” Tingle said.

The conference broke up on the first day into sessions on Fictional Depictions of Removal, Boarding Schools and Land Thefts; Stories for Cultural Preservation and Awareness; and How the Oral Tradition Informs Contemporary Native Fiction. The impressive list of panelists included Tingle, Rodgers, Diane Glancy, Linda Hogan, Lorie Robins, Philip Harjo, Choogie Kingfisher, Ryan Mackey, Dr. Pete Cosser, Dr. Leslie Hannah, Dr. Daniel Littlefield and Dr. Phillip Morgan.

A cultural dinner followed by musical performances and a storytelling concert closed the first evening.

Sessions on the second day included Stories and Language Preservation; Hands-on, Cedar-smoked Writers Workshops; the Future of American Literature; and Blood Brothers in the Indian Narrative: The Spoken and the Written.

Rodgers credits Tingle for jumpstarting his walk in life as a storyteller. Four years later, his first book has been published and he has a career traveling around to schools and libraries.

Opening with haunting strains from his flute, Rodgers begins a tale of a family making the long, long journey from their homeland in Mississippi to Indian Territory. The family split, the father seeing his wife and children board the riverboat while he reluctantly stayed behind to sell their cattle. He vowed to catch up with them later.

Rodgers tells of the last wave between husband and wife, the words “chi pisa la chike” spoken.

The conference attendees came from a wide variety of backgrounds – educators, writers, historians and many who just wanted to learn more of their heritage. They all left with the understanding that a story is not only a story – it’s a teacher of life.

The 5 Tribes Story Conference was made possible by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the We the People Initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Also, special thanks are extended to Martha Griffin White for her donation to the 5 Tribes Story Conference.



Jones provides haven for siblings from Ohio

When Enrique Guerrero first arrived at Jones Academy in the fall of 2005, he was a bright-eyed, energetic first-grader from Ada. The following year, his family moved to Columbus, Ohio, and Enrique brought his younger brother Wilmer along for the Jones Academy experience.

The boys adjusted well to boarding school and excelled in academics and athletics. Enrique and Wilmer are enrolled in the Choctaw Nation STAR (Success Through Academic Recognition) Program and have received numerous incentives for their classroom performance.

The boys’ mother, Anita Jennings, was so pleased with Enrique’s and Wilmer’s achievements that she made applications for the boys’ siblings, Lastenia and Jose. Lastenia is in the second grade and Jose is in the first. Lori Wells is their teacher at Jones Academy Elementary.

The economy and unfortunate circumstances had placed hardships on the family and Lastenia and Jose struggled in their previous schools. Ms. Wells acknowledges, however, that Lastenia and Jose are catching up and making strides every day in the classwork. She believes the students will “do fine” because they are eager to learn and they respond well to instruction.

Enrique, Wilmer, Lastenia and Jose are a long way from home, but they have found Jones Academy to be a home away from home and a place to enhance their education.

Tribe proud of the legacy of its Code Talkers

Continued from Page 1
men were heard speaking their Native language in the midst of battlefields in France, prompting an officer not to punish but to grasp an opportunity he felt would make a difference in a war where the enemy seemed to have the upper hand.

Nineteen soldiers, members of the 36th Infantry Division, were trained to use their Choctaw words as “code.” They were placed strategically on front lines and at command posts so that messages could be transmitted without being understood by the enemy. The Germans had been tap-

ping the Army’s phone lines, but when the Choctaws were put on the phones and talked in their Native speech, the Germans couldn’t effectively spy on the transmissions.

The project was so successful, the U.S. Army recruited Native Americans before the beginning of World II to perform the same duties the Choctaws did in World War I.

“The Choctaw Nation is proud of the legacy of its Code Talkers,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “They were sworn to secrecy and many of them kept the secret of their participation until they died. They are

the epitome of valiant patriotism. It is fitting that the very first DRUM Award for patriotism honor the Code Talkers of World I.

“Legislation has also been passed in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate that includes awarding a gold medal to our Choctaw warriors and other Indian Code Talkers in subsequent wars,” Chief Pyle said.

“We dedicated a monument last month on our capitol grounds honoring Tushka Homma, or red warrior. The face of the warrior is that of Joseph Oklahombi, one of the World War I Code Talk-

ers,” he said. “Oklahombi was awarded the Silver Star for his bravery in service to our country. His face is symbolic of all Choctaw warriors including those on the line today.”

Other members of the World War I Choctaw Code Talkers were James Edwards, Walter Veach, Otis Leader, Solomon Louis, Victor Brown, Tobias Frazier, Robert Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Calvin Wilson, Mitchell Bobb, Pete Maytubby, Ben Carterby, Albert Billy, Ben Hampton, Joe Davenport, George Davenport, Noel Johnson and Ben Colbert.

OCU student travels to NYC for national forum

Oklahoma City University student David Scott will travel to New York City to the World Business Forum 2010 at Radio City Music Hall.

Oklahoma City University’s Meinders School of Business prepares graduate and undergraduate students to be socially responsible leaders in a global economy. Through teaching excellence and faculty scholarship in business practice and the disciplines OCU will continue to prepare their students for their place in the business world by sending a contingent of 15 students to the World Business Forum 2010. This #1 Global Forum in the United States will be held Oct. 5-6 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Eighty percent of attendees are at the VP level or above and represent companies from every sector of business. More than 5,000 business executives from more than 50 countries will be in attendance. This top networking opportunity is specifically tailored to provide the latest insights



on three overarching areas critical to the success of any organization. These three areas are economy, leadership/performance and strategy/communication.

Among the OCU students scheduled to attend this forum will be senior marketing major David Scott, a 2007 Ada High graduate. David is the son of Larry and Rita Scott of Ada and the grandson of Ann Scott Thompson and the late Charles Scott and R. Leon Thompson of Ada. He is the brother of Lesley Scott Rackley of Norman. He is also the grandson of the late Frank and Lavene Johnson of Marietta.

David is 1/2 Choctaw. He is the great-grandson of enrollees, Hattie Jamison (maternal), Adam Brokeshoulder (maternal) and the great-great-grandson of Frank Huddleston (paternal). He is a Native American Scholar at OCU and serves on the Student Government Board for OCU. He is scheduled to graduate in May of 2011.

Bolt receives national honor

Audrey Diane Bolt, daughter of Thomas and Pam Bolt of Fairfax, Va., was initiated into the Phi Kappa



Phi National Honor Society at Lynchburg College on Sept. 25. Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest national academic honor society, which recognizes academic excellence in all disciplines. The honor society elects from the top five percent of junior students and the top ten percent of senior students, as well as outstanding graduate students, accomplished faculty and staff and distinguished alumni.

Bolt is a junior athletic training major at Lynchburg College, a private liberal arts college in central Virginia, enrolling nearly 2,600 students in the liberal arts and sciences as well as professional and graduate students.

NCAI Youth Commission

The NCAI Annual Convention is taking place in Albuquerque, N.M., Nov. 14-19. The Youth Commission will also meet at the convention and elections will be held to elect a new executive board. The positions available are male and female co-president, recording secretary, treasurer and four members-at-large. The co-presidents will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship for two years, and the secretary and treasurer will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The NCAI Youth Commission offers excellent opportunities for Native students interested in political science, tribal government, Native American legislative issues and those who wish to gain valuable leadership experience and make a difference for youth in Indian Country.

If you are interested or wish to recommend a student, please contact Alexa Old Crow at alexa.oldcrow@gmail.com or visit the NCAI website at NCAI.org for more information.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

DECEMBER 2010

Phone: 1-877-285-6893 Fax: 580-326-3087
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Idabel 9:00-12:00 Broken Bow 1:30-3:00	4
5	6 Durant 8:00-4:30	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Talihina 10:00-2:00 Durant 8:00-4:30	14 Antlers By Appt.	15 Poteau 11:30-1:00	16	17	18
19	20 Crowder By Appt. Durant 8:00-4:30	21 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	29 Atoka 9:30-11:00 Coalgate 12:30-2:30	30	31	

Choctaw Nation welcomes Falmouth Institute to Casino and Resort

Choctaw Nation (CN) Human Resource Training Departments from the Casino and Government hosted the prestigious Falmouth Institute's Human Resources Certification. The certification is a week-long training that lasted from Sept. 13-17 at the CN Casino and Resort. Falmouth Institute is also the publisher of the "American Indian Report" and consultants since 1985 to numerous North American Indian tribes across the United States.



Stephanie Crowder of the Choctaw Nation Human Resources Training Department addresses those in attendance at the week-long Falmouth Institute HR certification seminar.

Numerous tribal HR departments traveled to Durant to attend the event. Tribes in attendance came from as far away as California, Washington and North Dakota. Key-note speaker attorney Rick McGee gave an in-depth perspective on American Indian Tribal Sovereignty, Federal-Tribal Relationships, Indian Civil Rights Act and many other issues concerning tribal human resources.

Tribal HR representatives from across North America were warmly welcomed to the five-day training event including a large number of CN Human Resource personnel. Tribes such as the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, The Wyandotte and many more gathered for this important certification.

CN employees certified as Tribal HR Professionals

Congratulations to staff members of the Choctaw Nation Human Resource Department, Benefits Department, Organizational Development Program, Gaming Centers, Housing Authority, Travel Plaza Administration and Head Start Administration who have recently been certified as Tribal Human Resource Professionals (THRP). The Tribal Human Resources Professional testing program is a week-long intensive study course sponsored by Falmouth Institute and The National Native American Human Resources Association. Subject matters studied were Employment Law for Tribes and Tribal Organizations, Grievance and Appeal Procedures for Human Resources Professionals in Indian Country, Managing Human Resource Departments for Tribal Organizations and Enterprises and Assessing and Revising Personnel Policies and Procedures for the Tribal Organization.

Certifications are valid for one year and must be recertified each year with qualified training and continued education.

Receiving the certification were: Margaret Jackson, Shelia Kirven, Crystal Morgan, Tony Wesley, Shawn Speers, Frankie Foster,

Tammie Lawson, Charlotte Dickey, Elaine James, Lana Dill, Brandi Miller, Carolyn Anderson and Denise Stewart (Tribal Headquarters HR); Sheila Stevenson, Doree Wingfield, Evy Nunley, Stacie Belvin and Malissa Buchanan (Benefits Department); Stephanie Crowder-McDowell, Joe Cernero, Chris Ribera, Wanda Vanderveen, Jennifer Carlile and Sheila Harbin (Organizational Development Program); Lana McPherson (Travel Plaza Administration); Judy Johnson (Head Start Administration); Duane Winship and Angela Henson (Housing Authority); Melinda Branch, Layla Brown, Kyle Burch and Monica Moore (Gaming HR Administration); Aaron Impson and Barbara Jones (Broken Bow Gaming HR); Rosemary Krebs, Kimberly Maxwell, Jamelah Murray, Michelle Peel, Jamie Pierce, Pamela Savage and Kenna Wingfield (Durant Resort HR); Larry Ball, Jennifer Barnett, Victoria James, Sherrie Searles and Debbie Park (Grant Gaming HR); Tanya Impson (Idabel Gaming HR); Deelyn Hall and Caitlin Rose (McAlester Gaming HR); and Blakeney Fulton, Janell Law, Janie Mallett (Pocola Gaming HR).



A hog fry was held in Smithville in October. Pictured are Jerry Lowmar, Kenny Bryant, Benny Wesley, Nelson Samuels, James Melton, Mitchell James, Randall Bohanon and Aaron Bryant. Kenny supplied two hogs and 200 people were fed.

Child Development Center opens in Durant

Continued from Page 1

make the buildings sustainable for many years," said Chief Pyle.

Congressman Boren spoke about the importance of early education, no matter what a child's background. "Education is the great equalizer in America," he said. "With this facility, we can do that and I'm glad to be a part of that."

Ted Dosh, Tribal Councilman for District 9, said it was a great day for Durant and for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. "It's been a long time coming. We appreciate everyone for helping to get it here," he told the audience.

Joy Culbreath spoke next, telling of the early days of the center. "I went to Chief Pyle, and I know the way to his heart – and it's not with food," she joked. "It's with the children," she said, more seriously, stating that the legacy Chief Pyle leaves will be about all he's done for the children of the tribe.

Spanning the crowd, "I look around and see teachers, educators and people here who really do care

about children," said Culbreath. "My heart is full today. This is what we're all about."

She went on to repeat Congressman Boren's earlier comments "'Education is the equalizer.' And our kids can sit at the table with the best of them," she declared.

She went on to recognize the artists whose work adorns the inside of the center. The artists include: Glenn Nerwin, Meggan Taylor, Lyman Choate, Norma Howard, Carole Ann Ayers, Gwen Coleman Lester, Ruby Bolding, Brenner Billy, Rose Billy, Debra Billy, Sara Billy, Byron Billy and Jones Academy art students.

A formal ribboncutting concluded the ceremony.

Following the ceremony was a tour of the 25,807-sq.-ft. facility, which houses both the Child Development Center and Head Start. The center has an atmosphere designed to immerse students in Choctaw knowledge, history and culture, leaving no part untouched. From the hanging of the stickball sticks in the front

Idabel Public School JOM Pow Wow

December 11, 2010
Idabel High School Gymnasium

Head Staff

MC - Dennis Parra
AD - Bill Takeshorse
Head Man - Presley Byington
Head Lady - Shauna Bushiey
Head Singer - Pat Oyebi
Head Gourd Dancer - Michael James
Color Guard - TBA

Public Welcome
Free Admission
Cake Walk
Dance Specials

Saturday Schedule

2-5 p.m. Gourd Dancing
5-6:30 p.m. Supper Break
6:30-7 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7 p.m. Grand Entry
10:30 p.m. Closing Song

All drums and dancers are invited.

For vendor info call

Mary Lou Hunter at 580-212-6964.

No drugs, alcohol or weapons allowed.

Not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Marshall honored with National Impact Award

Gale Marshall has been awarded the 2010 National Impact Award by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) for her outstanding service to advance American Indian and Alaska Native Health. The awards ceremony took place at the NIHB Annual Consumer Conference held in Sioux Falls, S.D., in September.



NIHB stated, "Related to diabetes, Gale Marshall is a true, national unsung hero; from her work with the local, regional and national efforts, including Association of American Indian Physicians, American Diabetes Association, National Indian Health Board, National Institutes of Health, CDC, writing congressional testimony and helping countless Tribes at the local level. Her work is felt everywhere in Indian Country."

Ms. Marshall is the owner of Two Feathers Management & Media, a national consulting firm that provides health communication and media services to a variety of federal organizations, marketing firms, universities and tribal organizations.

In addition to her work, Gale has been a long-standing volunteer and leader in national advocacy efforts in support of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and currently serves as the Chair of the Awakening the Spirit Team for American Diabetes Association.

Gale is the daughter of Jimmie and Wilene Marshall of LaBelle, Fla., formerly of Talihina, and the granddaughter of the late Virginia LeFlore Marshall, an original enrollee.



Students are pictured with Mrs. Betty Ward who teaches Choctaw language classes through distance learning. The students got to see Mrs. Ward, who teaches them Choctaw language on the TV every Tues., Wed. and Thurs., in person. Mrs. Ward was able to hear the fifth grade recite eight poems and describe the figurative language in the poetry. She also shared some Choctaw words with the students.



Jones Academy students learn some 5th grade math objectives the fun hands-on way. They get to measure flour, corn meal and lemon pepper. Some objectives discussed were fractions, percents and cups.



Miss Oklahoma visits Jones Academy

Emoly West, Miss Oklahoma 2010, made a special visit to Jones Academy on Wednesday, Oct. 13. She was able to meet with the entire student body, grades 1-12, in an assembly after school. During her visit, she spoke to the students about leadership and character development. Ms. West gave a short talk about being responsible, making good decisions and persevering through periods of failure and hardship. The students were buoyed



by her encouraging words that emphasized the value and worth of every person. She told the students that their lives had meaning and purpose, and they need to respect others as well as develop good and healthy relationships in life. Her

talk addressed the importance of building character and integrity. Ms. West expressed that "character goes right to the heart of what makes us better people." The reigning Miss Oklahoma is a senior at the University of Central Oklahoma and is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in Broadcast Journalism. She serves as a certified coach for Character First and is a board member of the Character Council in Edmond.

OBITUARIES

Robert M. ‘Matt’ Weaver

Robert “Matt” Matthew Weaver, born Dec. 9, 1983, in Oklahoma City to Robert E. and Amanda (Hampton) Weaver, passed away on June 28, 2010, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 27. Matt lived with his beloved 4-year-old son Chase and worked as a painter in Dallas.



He was preceded in death by two grandmothers, Patsy Grissom and Jeane Weaver, grandfather Bennie D. Hampton and uncle Bennie Joe Hampton.

He is survived by son Chase J. Weaver of Dallas; parents Robert and Mandy Weaver of Dallas; brothers, Darrell “Joey” Attocknie of Balch Springs, Texas, and Adam Ryan Weaver of Dallas; grandfather Herman Weaver of Irving, Texas; three nephews, Brandyn, Angel and Dean; niece Isabella “Izzy” Attocknie, all of Balch Springs; along with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Christian Sean Sanders

Christian Sean Sanders passed away on Aug. 19, 2010. He was born on Aug. 19, 2010, to David Christian Sanders and Victoria Rachelle Leflore in Ada. He was preceded in death by great-grandfathers Abraham Leflore and Robert Gebron, and cousins, Kevin Gibson and Gerald Leflore.

He is survived by his parents and sisters, Cristiona Lanae Sanders and Annalise Sanders, all of Atoka; grandmothers, Marcelle Sanders of Daisy and Stephanie Watson of Durant; great-grandmothers, Margaret J. Gillintine of Stringtown and Lizzie Leflore of Atoka; aunts Carissa Merritt of Atoka, Leah Sanders of Atoka, Tosha Gillintine of Dallas, Texas, and Christina Campbell of Atoka; uncles Travis Leflore of Atoka, Patrick Leflore of Atoka, Gregory Leflore of Port Arkansas, Texas, Daniel Sanders of Daisy, Steven Reynolds of Portland, Ore., and Jayson Moody of Atoka; great-uncles, Leon Leflore and wife Anita of Atoka, and Calvin Leflore and wife Deborah of Cleveland, Okla.; great-aunt Dian Gibson of Atoka; and many cousins, other relatives and friends.

David Alfred Perkins Jr.

David Alfred Perkins Jr., 83, of Weatherford, Texas, passed away Aug. 25, 2010, at Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born May 19, 1927, in Amarillo, Texas, to David A. Perkins and Pallie D. Anderson. He achieved recognition as a 32nd degree Mason, original founder and Chief of the Southwest Indian Organization, and an accomplished stone mason and homebuilder in the Texas panhandle for 60 years. He and wife retired to Weatherford to be near family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Leon Perkins and sister Leotha Wells.

David is survived by his wife, Shirley Jean Perkins, of Weatherford; children, David D’Waine Perkins of Fort Worth, Ila Juliene Spencer of Colorado Springs, Colo., Daniel Wiley Bilbay of Clayton, Calif., Anthony Ray Bilbay of Weatherford, and Choya Jean Perkins of Houston, Texas; five grandchildren, Taylor Dayne and Riley Nicole Spencer, Christian Adam and Adrian Paul Bilbay, and David Spencer Bilbay. Other surviving family includes nephew Denny Perkins and nieces, Connie Kenny and Tommy Lynn Dover.

Kathy L. Stanley Dodson

Kathy L. Stanley Dodson, 56, passed away Aug. 26, 2010, at her home in Norman. She was born on Jan. 26, 1954, to Frank C. and Lorene Stanley in Hailleyville and was a granddaughter of original enrollee William A. Stanley. Kathy grew up and attended school in Dow and was baptized at the Oak Valley Baptist Church in Crescent in 1976. She started playing drums at age 11 which she continued through adulthood. She cleaned houses for a living.



Kathy was preceded in death by her son, Stephen Brian Vickers; her parents; and her husband, Michael.

She is survived by sister Judy Stanley of Anadarko; daughter Lorena Dee Kendrick and husband Wilson of Crescent; son William Vickers and wife Crystal of El Reno; daughter Sonya Shea of Moore; son Tommy Shea of Norman; 13 grandchildren, Loren, Bobby, Christopher, Blaike, Collin, Brianna, Shelby, Dusty, Stevie, Jordan, Kyleigh, Teagan and Jayden; two great-grandchildren, Paityn and Bella; and two neices and three nephews.

Margarete Peggy Cosby-O’Neil-Smith

Margarete Peggy Cosby - O’Neil - Smith passed away May 31, 2010, in Barstow, Calif. She was born on Sept. 9, 1919, to Elgin Cosby and Susan Nail, an original enrollee. Her grandfather, Joe Nail, was an original enrollee from Soper. Her great-grandfather, John Morris Nail, came to Indian Territory from Mississippi. Peggy and her sister lived at Goodland boarding school for two years. Peggy was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents and her sister, Correne Connie Cosby. Her second husband, Bob Smith, passed away in 1999. Her uncles were Riley Winship, Charles Nail, Austin Nail and Jenkins Nail. Her aunts were Mary Nail Ferguson, Minnie Nail-Holtz, Dolly Nail-Roland, Grace Nail and Nettie Nail. Peggy did not have any children. She is survived by many cousins.

Richard H. Wade

Richard H. Wade of Oklahoma City was born to Morvan and Josie Wade on Oct. 9, 1921, and passed away May 11, 2010, at the Norman Veterans Center. Richard served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army as a mess sergeant in several hospitals, namely in the Bermuda Islands, and later in Temple, Texas.



Richard retired in 1983 following 38 years service with the Dolese Bros. Co. He was a faithful member of the Oklahoma City Family Church for more than 60 years. He is well-known for his honesty and integrity.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife of 60 years, Rachel Ballard.

In 2005, Richard married Mattie Conley, who survives him. He is also survived by brother Leon Wade and wife Mildred of Blanchard; daughter Carolyn Ducharme and husband Robert; and son Rick L. Wade and wife Jody, all of Sun City West, Ariz.; six grandchildren, Debi Ridings of Colorado, Greg Cummings of Oklahoma City, Angela Gramlich of Arizona, Veronica Wade, Richard L. Wade Jr. and April Sonnenberg, all of California; and six great-grandchildren, Amber Rich, Brandi Cummings, Chase and Cole Gramlich, Nathan and Lucas Sonnenberg.

Annie Hoffman

Annie Hoffman, 87, of Oklahoma City, passed away Aug. 26, 2010, in Oklahoma City. She was born Nov. 14, 1922, in the Shultz Community just east of Idabel, the daughter of Clarence Ellis and Leola Phillips Potts. Annie attended Haworth Schools as a young girl before moving to Mt. Pleasant, Texas, where she graduated high school. She married George Douglas Hoffman on June 4, 1939. They moved to Crane, Texas, in 1943 where they made their home until his death in 1967. It was then that she returned to Oklahoma.



Annie was a homemaker. She was a member of the Portland Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence Ellis and Leola Phillips Potts; husband George Douglas Hoffman; brothers C.E. Potts Jr. and G.L. Potts; and sister Norma Lee Courtney.

Annie is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia Ann and Irvin Hays of Oklahoma City, Linda Gail and Harvel Edwards of Crane and Susan L. Strang of Abilene, Texas; grandchildren and spouses, Dr. Wesley H. and Nancy Boothe of Anadarko, Lance H. and Jencie Edwards of Crane, Lt. Col. Douglas K. and Gaye Watkins of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Samantha and Terry Bankhead of Longview, Texas, Brenda R. and David Ingwald of New Hope, Minn., and Ellen M. Strang of San Angelo, Texas; great-grandchildren, Christopher, Stephen and Jamie Boothe, all of Anadarko, Sarah Skofield and Perry Edwards, both of Crane, Elaine Truitt of College Station, Texas, and Hannah and Joseph Watkins, both of Fort Leavenworth.; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Elsie Jane Wesley

Elsie Jane Wesley, 71, of Sobol, passed away Aug. 25, 2010, in Idabel. Elsie was born May 30, 1939, in Stigler, the daughter of Nelson James Morris and Emaline (Wall) Morris and had lived in the Sobol area since 1955.

Elsie was a homemaker and a member of Pine Belt Pentecostal Church. As a young girl, she attended Choctaw Academy at Rufe and Wheelock Choctaw Academy near Miller-ton. Elsie loved her family, enjoyed cooking and entertaining her family and enjoyed going to church.

Elsie was preceded in death by her parents; infant son Charles Allen Wesley; grandson Jason Washington; and brothers, James, John, Jake and Josh Morris.

She is survived by sons, Richard Wesley and wife Gayle of Wright City, David Lee Wesley and wife Karen of Idabel, and Nelson Wesley and wife Debra of Rattan; daughters, Ann Wesley of Rattan, Verna Washington and husband Jamie of Idabel, Nadine Wesley of Idabel, Wanda Noah and husband David of Idabel and Sandra Williams and husband Johnny of Holley Creek; brother Joseph Morris of Antlers; sister Stella Long of Oklahoma City; 21 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren; nieces, Anna Helt and Susan Ah-dokabo and nephews, Mike Morris and Thomas Morris, and many other relatives and friends.

Carol Sue Fowler Avants

Carol Sue Fowler Avants passed away Aug. 10, 2010. She was the oldest daughter of Sims Robert Fowler and great-grandchild of Nathaniel Mears Fowler, original Postmaster of Fowlerville, forerunner of Valliant/Millerton. She was proud of her Choctaw ancestry.

Sue was born in Oklahoma City on May 2, 1936, the third of six children of Sims and Mary Fowler. She attended Putnam City schools for 12 years and in 1953 married Roy Monroe Avants. Sue and Roy had three children, Wesley, Karen and Paula. Sue resided in Bethany and had a successful career in real estate, followed by a number of years as an administrative secretary.

Jerry Dewayne Davis

Jerry Dewayne Davis, 61, passed away Aug. 24, 2010. He was born June 7, 1949, to Larnie and Marie Davis. He was laid to rest as a Choctaw Veteran at the DFW National Cemetery.



Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jimmy Ray Davis, and sister Dorothy Scott.

He is survived by his wife, Marian; three daughters, Patricia Faye and Jose Davila of Ruidoso, N.M., Jerri and Samuel Barron of Dallas, and Duana Dee Davis of Dallas; two brothers, Gerald Davis and Ernie Davis; six granddaughters, Jessica Ann Davila, Ruby Marie Arredondo, Sylvia Ann Davila, Ruby Marie Arredondo, Sylvia Ann Garza, Veronica Arredondo, Desiree Alyssa Davis and Priscilla Morningstar Villa; five great-grandchildren, Jairemyah Jose Rocha, Juliana Elisa Rocha, Julissa Eliana Rocha, Giselle Lynn Nunez and Amerie Jayde Guzman; and many other family and friends.

Robert ‘Hoss’ Bivins III

Robert “Hoss” Bivins III was born Oct. 11, 1946, to Robert Payton Bivins II and Dorothy Lea Bivins in Bakersfield, Calif. Hoss passed away June 11, 2010, as a result of an automobile accident in Grand Junction, Colo.

Hoss was very proud of his Native American heritage. He worked 43 years in the oil fields. He started out at the bottom and worked his way to the top.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Joyce Sue Bivins Brair and Barbara Lou Bivins Green.

Hoss is survived by his wife, Connie of Grand Junction; sons, Robert, Walter and Gary Bivins; daughters, Carol Hiner and husband Sean, Jennifer Aday and husband Richard, and Leslie Carter; stepson Gene and daughter-in-law Sheryl Cure; and several grandchildren.

Betty Wampler

Betty Wampler passed away Nov. 30, 2009, in the Norman Regional Hospital. She was born Jan. 14, 1931, in Non. First in Betty’s mind was her family. She also loved planting and growing flowers. She was known as the flower lady.



She is survived by her husband, Ralph Wampler and three children, Ken Wampler of Edmond, Cindy Rogers of Enid, and Amy Watkins of Frisco, Texas; grandchildren, Dylan and Aaron Wampler of Edmond, Heidi and Kyle Rogers of Norman, Natalie Rogers of Enid and Avery and Landon Watkins of Frisco; and great-grandchildren, Conner Flanagan and Kaylee Wampler of Edmond.

Colton Blaize Samuels

Colton Blaize Samuels was born March 13, 2008. He passed away June 20, 2010.



Colton was preceded in death by his great-grandmother, Rena Samuels; uncles, Stephen Chandler and Trevor Brown; and cousin Mikal Morphis.

Colton is survived by his parents, John and Natasha (Chandler) Samuels and siblings, Rena and Gunner Samuels; grandparents, Peggy Ludlow, Bobby Samuels, Daniel K., Mia Miller, Damon and Tammy Brown and Ruth Ann Pierce; great-grandparents Winford and Carolyn Chandler; aunts, Joanna Walls, Cheyanne Cranfield, Shayna Rice, Lacey Brown Langley, Tara, Shyla and Lanie Brown and Benie Miller; uncles, Tyler Brown and Daniel Miller; numerous other relatives and loved ones and a host of beloved friends.

William C. ‘Bill’ McKinney

William C. “Bill” McKinney, 69, passed away on Aug. 19, 2010, at his home in Redmond, Ore.

Bill was born May 25, 1941, to Lige and Josephine (Logs-don) McKinney in Oregon City, Ore. He grew up between Oregon City and Idaho when his father was following work. Bill joined the U.S. Navy and after serving worked in the paper mill, retiring as a millwright. He had lived in Central, Ore., about 10 years and on Sept. 18, 2009, he married Susie Payne in Burley, Idaho. After he retired he enjoyed fishing, camping and traveling.

Bill is survived by his wife of the home in Redmond; his sons, Michael D’Leora of Milwaukie, Ore., Patrick McKinney of Redmond and Will McKinney II of Gladstone, Ore.; stepson Zachary Davis of Santa Cruz, Calif.; daughter Shirley Ann Steffen of Milwaukee; stepdaughter Hester Fielder of Phoenix, Ariz.; and 10 grandchildren.

Dan McAlvain

Dan “The Stripe Man” McAlvain, 48, owner/operator of Dan’s Auto Trim, was born March 24, 1962, in Bartlesville and passed away Sept. 21, 2010, at this home in Olive Branch, Miss.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Ann Amanda McAlvain.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Beth McAlvain of Olive Branch; one son, Callahan Dan McAlvain of Memphis, Tenn.; one daughter, Courtney Denae McAlvain of Tahlequah; two brothers, David L. McAlvain of Pryor and Dick H. McAlvain of Memphis; and one sister, Dorinda Davenport of Tulsa.

Hugh ‘Huey’ Alton James

Hugh “Huey” Alton James, 50, a native of Orange, Texas, and a resident of Starks, passed away July 6, 2010. He passed away doing what he loved – being outdoors and floating down the Sabine River. Huey was born on July 16, 1959, to Charles “Stoop” and Dorothy Faye James. He was of the Baptist faith.



Huey had a passion for reading books and found contentment and peace staying close to nature. He spent a good bit of time helping those to whom he was close.

He is survived by his beloved, Tanya Welch of Starks; sisters, Vicki Lynn Kroger of DeQuincy and Liz Castresana of Georgia; brother Bruce James and wife Bonnie of Starks; two stepdaughters, Summer Moosman and Autumn Welch; four grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Julia Ann Merrell Kirkwood

Julia Ann Anderson Kirkwood, 88, passed away Aug. 31, 2010. She was born Oct. 8, 1921, in Chickasha to William and Nancy Anderson Merrell.



Julia married George Kirkwood in 1936 in Oklahoma City. He preceded her in death. Julia was a packer at Bunte Candy Company, retiring after many years of service.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughters, George Ann Nelson and Betty Tow; brothers, Robert “Bob” Merrell and Jesse Merrell; and sister Rosa Lee Smith.

Survivors include daughter Leota Williams and husband Gene of Allen; 17 grandchildren; sisters, Billie Morris, Ellie Davilla and Ellen Watkins and brother Frank Merrell of Oklahoma City; and several nieces and nephews.

Eunice Vail Dillard Ingram

Eunice Vail Dillard Ingram, 96, passed away April 8, 2010, at her home in Los Alamitos, Calif. She was born April 26, 1913, to Tandy Walker and Virginia Russell Dillard in Caddo. She was the youngest of 11 children. While growing up in Texas and New Mexico, her family farmed. In 1931, in the midst of the Great Depression, she married her first husband, James Sanders, a widower with three young sons. In 1932, she gave birth to her first child, Archable O. Sanders. It was during this time that they moved to southern California. In 1945, they divorced and Eunice moved to Hawthorne, Nev., where in 1946 she married William “Bill” Hellwinkel. They had two children, Sharon and Craig. Bill was killed in an industrial accident in February 1952, leaving her widowed with two small children. When she moved to Los Angeles after Bill’s death, she met Ethridge “Curly” Ingram. They were married in 1953. On Oct. 10, 2009, they celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. Eunice loved her family and was the communicator who kept the ties strong. Family reunions were planned and enjoyed on a regular basis. Her hobbies were reading, photography and doing handwork. Being raised on a farm, she also did canning and freezing as long as she was able. Traveling was another passion. She and Curly took many trips to scenic parts of the United States, as well as visiting Canada and Mexico.



She was preceded in death by her stepsons, Ellis Sanders, Doyle Sanders, William Sanders, and stepdaughter Shirley Joyce Ingram Hunt.

She is survived by husband Curly; daughter Sharon Latimer and husband Michael, sons, Neil Sanders and wife Kay, and Craig Hellwinkel and wife Donice; grandsons, Chris Sanders and wife Sue of Woodinville, Wash., Eric Sanders and wife Irene of Johns Creek, Ga., Scott Sanders and wife Marita of Reno, Nev., and Michael Threadgold of Los Alamitos, Calif.; great-grandchildren, Austin Sanders and Bryce Sanders of Reno, Jacob Sanders of Woodinville, Brock Sanders and Mikala Sanders of John Creek.

Knowledge of origins helps maintain unique identity and heritage

November is Native American Heritage Month. During this part of the year, families across the United States celebrate Thanksgiving, while locally Choctaw Nation hosts the Durant Pow Wow and sends employees to dozens of area schools to give presentations about Native American culture. At no time is Native American culture more widely visible than now, but in these colorful celebrations, the boundaries between the traditions of different Tribes can become a little blurry.

For us to maintain our unique identity and heritage as Chahta people it is important for us to be able to discern which traditions originate from our communities and ancestors, and which of them come from other sources. Over the last century, a cultural mixing has occurred, muddying the waters somewhat. Native American Tribes have been lumped together by the federal government, the general public, school textbook-writers, and Hollywood, who often do not realize the special uniqueness of each of Americans more than 500 distinct original Tribes. Also, individuals from different Tribes have created pan-Indian organizations for mutual support, where the emphasis is on being “Indian”, rather than on belonging to a specific Tribe. When Tribes begin to lose parts of their own traditional cultures through assimilation, they often replace it with elements of this pan-Indian culture. One very general result of all of the above is that “flashy” cultural elements from a few Tribes, especially those from the Great Plains, have expanded at the expense of many of the unique traditions of Choctaw and other Tribes. Today, the situation is such that many Choctaw youth envision their Choctaw ancestors living in tipis and chasing buffalo!

In this month’s edition of Iti Fabvssa, we will compare a few common parts of pan-Indian culture with their traditional Choctaw equivalents. The idea is not that one is better than the other, but rather that by gaining knowledge about the origins of all of these traditions, we empower ourselves to better understand who we are and where we stand in the world.

Pow Wow

The early origins of the pow wow are not fully remembered, but many practitioners believe that it began several hundred years ago with the Hethushka Ceremony of the Omaha Tribe in Nebraska. The modern powwow dates back roughly 100 years on the Great Plains; its form was influenced by Native American dance performances at Wild West Shows. The different powwow dance styles and outfits originate with different Plains Tribes. Over the last several decades, the pow wow tradition has been shared from the Plains Tribes to Tribes in other areas, including the Oklahoma Choctaw.

Choctaw Social Dance

Today’s Choctaw social dance has its origins in the old Choctaw dances performed at stickball games, the Green



Iti Fabussa

Corn Ceremony, and upon a war party setting out or returning from the battlefield. The distinctive traditional dress worn at these dances comes from early French clothing that was artistically adapted and altered by Choctaw people. Today, social dances can be seen at the Choctaw Labor Day festival and a variety of other cultural activities.

Tipi

Tipis are the portable traditional houses of most of the Tribes that lived on the Great Plains. Tribes located farther east, in the prairie region, often lived in more permanent houses, but also took tipis on westward buffalo hunts during the fall. Traditionally, tipis are made from bison, or more rarely, elk hide. Beginning in the 1850s, canvas tipis began to be produced. Tipis are not a part of Choctaw traditional culture.

Chukka

The traditional Choctaw house is the “chukka”. The summer chukka (sometimes known as a “chickee”), is a thatched, rectangular, open, pole-frame structure, designed to allow the breeze to come through. The circular walls of a winter chukka are formed by sticking a series of posts in the ground, weaving them with a split river cane lattice, and plastering them with clay. The peaked roof is formed from wooden joists and park or palmetto thatching. Today, chukka can be seen in the traditional village at the Tuska-homa Council House grounds.

Indian Taco

The Indian Taco consists of a fry bread base piled with ground beef and cheese, and usually a combination of beans, lettuce, onion, tomato, and / or salsa. Fry bread has no ingredients native to the United States, but was developed by Native American people from US government-issued rations of wheat flour, lard, salt, and leavening. Choctaws probably did not begin eating Indian tacos until the 1900s.

Tafula

“Tafula”, is likely a contraction of the Choctaw words “Tanchi” and “Vfula”, meaning literally “stirred corn”. The basis of the dish is hominy with broken kernels. Hickory nut oil or beans may be added, or the dish may be allowed to sit and sour. It has probably been eaten by the ancestors of today’s Choctaw for 1000 years and it is still enjoyed at many Choctaw church meetings.

Totem Pole

Totem poles are tall cedar poles that have been carved with a series of representational images, which can stand for a variety of meanings. These highly artistic sculptures are part of the traditional culture of Northwest Coast Tribes

including the Haida and Tlingit. Although Choctaws have an ancient woodcarving tradition, totem poles are not a part of Choctaw traditional culture per se.

Earth Mound

Many Choctaw and ancestral Choctaw villages have monumental works in earth called “earth mounds”. Made by piling up basket loads of dirt, the earliest earth mounds date back at least 7,000 years in the southeastern United States. Some earth mounds were made to represent the shapes of animals, others served as places to build important buildings or to bury the dead. The Moundville site, located in western Alabama, has 29 earth mounds, one of which is as tall as a 7-story building.

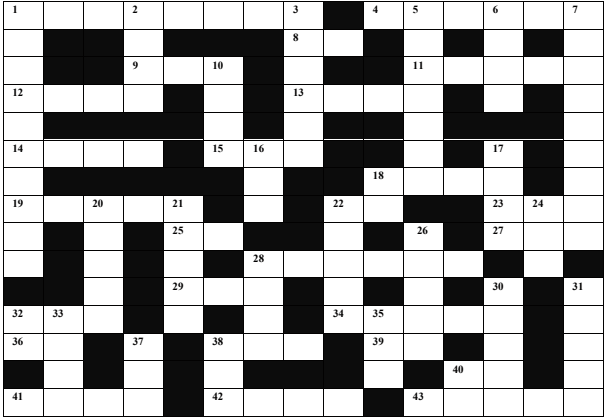
Dream Catcher

Dream catchers are part of the traditional culture of the “Ashinabbe”, or Ojibwa people from Minnesota. Originally, dream catchers were made of red willow hoops, laced with dyed plant fibers to represent a spider web with a hole at the middle. These were hung on children’s cradles, the belief being that the child’s bad dreams would be caught in the web, and the good dreams would pass through. Today, as a pan-Indian symbol, dream catchers are hung over beds, used as earrings, and even hung on rearview mirrors. Choctaws did not start using these until well into the 1900s.

Stickball Sticks

Choctaw stickball sticks are formed by bending a long, narrow piece of hickory to form a handle with a cup at the end. Strips of animal hide are used to lace the cup up so that paired sticks can be used to catch and throw a small ball. Stickball has been the Choctaw national past time for hundreds of years. Today, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has a team that competes against the Mississippi Choctaws in the Stickball World Series.

PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Tongue
- 4. Sit
- 8. My
- 9. Burn
- 11. Worth, expensive
- 12. Say
- 13. Child
- 14. Deer
- 15. Dog
- 18. Bundle
- 19. Red
- 22. The
- 27. Fire kindler
- 28. Body
- 29. Trim
- 32. Potato
- 34. Mother
- 36. Perhaps
- 38. Female
- 39. Diphthong having sound of “I”
- 40. To go
- 41. To Fly (singular)
- 42. No.
- 43. Yellow

DOWN

- 1. Thumb
- 2. Back
- 3. Limb of a body (leg)
- 5. Lip
- 6. Die
- 7. Calf of a leg
- 10. Bowl, plate, etc.
- 16. Honey
- 17. Which
- 18. I, first person singular
- 20. To come
- 21. My Sister
- 22. Earth, land
- 24. Chestnut
- 26. Suckle
- 28. A final particle of assertion (seen often in the Bible)
- 30. Night
- 31. Visit
- 32. Perhaps
- 33. To Fly (plural)
- 35. Sound when hitting a solid object
- 37. To arrive (here)
- 38. Sign of remote past tense
- 40. To go

Bow shoot season results

The overall winners for the bow shoot season were announced Oct. 16 in Tushka Homma. Each participant must have participated in five of the eight monthly scheduled bow shoots.

The new season will begin in March and last through November. Dates will be posted at a later time.



Ages 9-13, from left, 1st place Madi Macdonald; 2nd place Shaden Hendricks; 3rd place Taryn Morris.



Men 20 & Over, from left, 1st Place Al Gurganus; 2nd place: Clifton Morris; 3rd place: Jimmy Cockerham



Overall results, men: Al Gurganus 1050 points, women: Pam Waugh 1250 points.



Women 20 & Over, from left, 1st Place Pam Waugh; 3rd place Beloved Sharp; 2nd place Cyndi Houser.

Choctaw Traditional Pottery Class

Times and Locations:

– Durant –

Nov. 21, Dec. 5 – 4:30-9 p.m.
Cultural Events Building, 4451 Choctaw Rd.

– Poteau –

Nov. 22, Dec. 6, Dec. 27 – 5-9:30 p.m.
Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

– Idabel –

Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Dec. 28 – 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

– Antlers –

Nov. 11, Dec. 2, Dec. 16 – 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Antlers Library and
Community Building, 202 N. High St.

*Note – The Atoka Pottery Class has been permanently moved to Antlers.



The Oklahoma City pottery class, back row from left, Robert Sims, Curtis Stewart, Ray Tobey, Ann Tobey, Jarrod Lovick, Tina Enslinger; front row from left, Carol Bryant, Billy Bryant, Madeline Baker, Merial Chothy, Kathleen Goins, Phyllis Been, Della Eisel, Rosalie Bonine and Norris Samules.

CHOCTAW TRADITIONAL POTTERS' EXPO.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27th; 10AM-8PM
CHOCTAW RV PARK (east of the event center), DURANT, OK

- Drop in and meet the Tribal artists who are revitalizing Choctaw pottery
- View and purchase functional, wood-fired pieces made from natural Oklahoma clays
- See a live firing demonstration

Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation 1-800-522-6170 ext, 2216



6TH ANNUAL CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT

POW WOW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2010



FREE ADMISSION

CHOCTAW EVENT CENTER

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ChoctawCasinos.com

DOORS OPEN AT 10AM
GRAND ENTRY AT 12PM & 7PM