



Continuing publication
of recorded interviews of
Choctaw elders from 2007

This month – Carrie Bohanan,
Ruby Choate, Bertram Bobb and
Viola McCurtain
Pages 17-19



Veterans Day
Ceremony
information

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CHOCTAW NATION

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The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

October 2011 Issue

Serving 209,342 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Chief Pyle sworn in for fourth term

Delivers State of the Nation to capacity crowd

Chief Gregory E. Pyle greeted a huge crowd as he stepped to the podium on Sept. 5 at Tushka Homma. The amphitheater was filled to capacity and hundreds more stood on the Capitol grounds for the closing ceremony of the annual Labor Day Festival, listening as Pyle gave the State of the Nation address on the day that marked the beginning of his fourth term as Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

“This year’s Labor Day theme is ‘Building and Sustaining our Heritage Through the Legacy of Those Who Came Before,’ he said. “We are a proud nation of Choctaws and we have a mighty legacy to live

up to. Our ancestors were brave and strong and determined, and they survived many hardships to become the great tribe we are today. It is our responsibility to sustain our heritage in such a way to honor those who came before us, and to continue this legacy by teaching our children their heritage.

“Our Going Green program continues – ‘sustaining our people, our traditions, our earth.’ The Choctaw Nation has always been a protector of the environment, especially water, and we continue in that role today,” Chief Pyle emphasized. “By treaty with the federal government, the tribe’s

See STATE OF NATION Page 5



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, with wife Patti by his side, is sworn into office during the Labor Day ceremony by Tribal Judge Mitch Mullen.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Tribal Judge Fred Bobb swears in the Tribal Councilmen during the Labor Day ceremony, from left, District 1 Thomas Williston, District 5 Ronald Perry, District 11 Bob Pate, District 8 Perry Thompson, District 3 Kenny Bryant, and District 2 Tony Messenger.



MISS
CHOCTAW NATION
AMBER TEHAUNO



JR. MISS
CHOCTAW NATION
ADRIANNA CURNUTT



LITTLE MISS
CHOCTAW NATION
SUMMER MOFFITT

Princesses crowned for 2011-12

The Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant was held opening night of the annual Labor Day Festival in Tushka Homma, crowning the 2011-12 princesses. The reigning royalty for the next year are Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno from District 2, Jr. Miss Adrianna Curnutt, District 4, and Little Miss Summer Moffitt, District 8,

In the Miss division, Amber Colwell from District 4 is 1st Runner-up and Melissa Gueli from District 7 is 2nd Runner-up.

In the Jr. Miss Division, 1st Runner-up is Cherish Wilkerson, District 11, and 2nd Runner-up is Myrah McKinney, District 2.

The Little Miss 1st Runner-up is Callie Armstrong, District 10, and 2nd Runner-up is Kyra Wilson, District 9.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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



DELTON COX
SPEAKER



THOMAS WILLISTON
SECRETARY



JOE COLEY
CHAPLAIN

Tribal Council elects officers, swears in Assistant Chief

The Tribal Council elected officers for 2011-12 during its regular session on Sept. 5 at Tushka Homma. Delton Cox was chosen once again by acclamation to serve as Council speaker. Council members voted unanimously for Thomas Williston to fill the seat of secretary and Joe Coley to remain chaplain.

Speaker Cox reappointed Bob Rabon as parliamentarian, Sylvester Moore as sergeant-at-arms and Patty Hawkins as secretary of the Tribal Council.

In new business, Assistant Chief Gary Batton was sworn in by Speaker Cox for another term.

Four language instructors were presented certificates during the meeting. With the certification of Catherine Wade and Ruby Murphy of Oklahoma City, Bobby Coley of Talihina and David Bacon of Pocola, the School of Choctaw Language now has 37 community teachers.

Council members approved 10 tribal program budgets as well as applications for the Tribal Climate Change Grant Program and the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.

With the Tribal Climate Change Grant, funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs will assist the tribe in developing and implementing projects to as-

sess climate changes on various tribal resources so appropriate measures can be taken to adapt to or mitigate these changes.

The Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture will assist the tribe in providing fresh fruit and vegetables at a lower cost to some of its most vulnerable members, the senior citizens, and help tribal and other farmers in the area.

A council bill to apply for one-time supplemental monies through the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Head Start American Indian Alaska Native Program Branch was approved to purchase playground, hearing and vision equipment.

Approved council bills also included those for:

- the Head Start policy procedures

See COUNCIL Page 5



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Assistant Chief Gary Batton is sworn in for another term by Council Speaker Delton Cox during the Tribal Council meeting on Sept. 5.

Ardese promoted to U.S. Marine colonel

Chief Gregory E. Pyle pinned Choctaw member and U.S. Marine Tray Ardese to the rank of Colonel in a special ceremony at this year’s Labor Day Festival. Ardese is a decorated serviceman of nearly 22 years, sporting a bronze star with a “V” for valor in combat, 15 air medals, Navy commendation with “V” for valor in combat medals and a purple heart.

Ardese has served extensively throughout the United States and the world and made the Choctaw Nation proud during his seven combat tours, which include three to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

As a display of his pride for his country and heritage, this Choctaw warrior flew an American flag, which he gave to Chief Pyle, and the flag of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma over his stations while on tour.

Ardese is the son of Raylene Ardese and Joe Amos.



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Notice to Biskinik E-News readers

Biskinik E-News readers – We have changed how we get the news to you! Instead of sending several stories every two weeks we are publishing them as they happen. Watch for the link on Facebook or log on to www.choctawnation/news-room for the latest news from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Each month’s Biskinik is also available in PDF format.

Don’t forget to “like” the official Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma.

Honored to speak to U.S. Congress on self-governance

From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

You would think as many times as I have been to Washington, D.C., I wouldn't get butterflies when talking to members of Congress, but even after all these years, when asked to speak on behalf of the tribes of the United States, especially our tribe, the importance of that task is awesome. In September I had the honor of being requested to testify to Congress on self-governance at a hearing on HR 2444, the Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2011. Congressman Dan Boren, a member of the subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Natural Resources Committee and the U.S. Representative for the 2nd District of Oklahoma, was the sponsor of this bill.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma successfully operates under self-governance and we are blessed to have

tremendous opportunities for our tribal people in recent years. Because of self-governance, the Choctaw Nation has seen achievements in economic development which has paved the way for additional employment. We have seen advancements in tribal health service both through additional facilities and superior care. Through self-governance, the Choctaw Nation has made accomplishments in education that have helped us progress in many ways, such as building an academic facility at Jones Academy and initiating programs that help students of all ages. We are able to "think outside the box" – and do something with those ideas!

Self-governance works! And I was humbled to speak to members of Congress about how it works for our tribe. I truly appreciate the trust the Choctaw people put in me as the Chief of the tribe and want to always represent you well. Our tribe is 208,000+ people strong and growing every day. We are a blessed nation of people!



A 100-year sustainable vision

From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

One of the duties of Assistant Chief is helping tribal executives oversee the many budgets of the 120+programs of the Choctaw Nation. October is the month that a new year begins for most of our services, and there is always a flurry of activity as we gear up to make sure the needs of tribal members continue to be answered. As I work one-on-one with the people who are in charge of these programs, I am humbled by their giving attitude of time and resources.

The Chief has explained to all of the executives and directors that he has a long-term plan for the tribe, because he wants to ensure a 100-year sustainable vision for Choctaw Nation can be attained. The men and women who administer the education, health, heritage, elders, children and families, social services, economic development and other programs are all dedicated to helping the Chief make this vision a reality.

Many times during this past year I have seen evidence that the staff are all enthusiastic and supportive of ideas and efforts that will help this goal become reality. Events like the Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian NMAI (another of a long line of "firsts" for our tribe) received a huge volunteer effort. Education programs such as STAR, Career Development and Scholarship Advisement have assisted thousands of tribal members across the United States, giving them encouragement, and providing opportunities to accomplish dreams. It is great to know that the Choctaw Nation has people in place who are continuing down the path of ensuring that the tribe will continue to be successful for many generations.

Notable successes in tribal health have been much more than the eight clinics, hospital, diabetes centers and other health facilities that have been constructed – health care professionals make sure that patients needs are met with the best care possible.

Heritage based programs allow people to learn our history – Chief and I actually made our first



pieces of pottery this year! Watching the firing of the small hand-made clay pot I had crafted in the same manner as many of my ancestors out of clay was overwhelming, not because my little pot was particularly beautiful, but because it had such tremendous meaning to our culture. I keep it on a shelf in my office to remind me of how important our past is to all of us.

As a part of the cultural awakening in the 6,000 tribal employees, the headquarters, field offices, and many other Choctaw facilities now participate in Heritage Monday on the first Monday of each month, where we celebrate by wearing traditional clothing and accessories, greeting guests in Choctaw language, and other interesting and unique ways of highlighting our history. I have seen posters on office doors explaining history, bookmarks with Choctaw/English words on them, and even handouts with children's legends. This has been a tremendous learning experience for all of us and I look forward to seeing all the employees in the hallways and at their desks in their traditional shirts and dresses.

I truly do see the Choctaw Nation "Growing with Pride, Hope and Success." And it is thanks to the tremendous tribal members and the great staff!

Yakoke!

Chaplain's Corner

We all need to be saved

I join Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Tribal Council members in praising the Lord for another year of a great celebration of family reunion at Tushka Homma. Falamut ishla chike! (Come back again!)

I missed visiting with any 1932 former students of Jones Male Academy. I missed seeing Buster Jefferson. I did see Alvie Carney, a classmate and a football and basketball player at Goodland School. Alvie served in the 5th Marine Division on Iwo Jima in World War II.

It was good to visit with our leaders and friends at the Labor Day Festival, too.

If somebody says, "saved," what does that mean to you?

A doctor saves a patient's life by the skill that he uses in surgery. A lifeguard saves a child from drowning. But in the religious term, many people do not understand what "saved" means.

Paul said to the Philippian jailor in Acts 16:31:

"... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

We all need to be saved. The Bible teaches that we have all broken God's law. We have all sinned against God. We all need salvation.

We have problems in our homes. They are breaking up. We have business problems, health problems, family problems. Sometimes we want to scream. We want to just quit. We try to escape the reality of everyday living by using alcohol or drugs or even by trying suicide. Like that jailer in Philippi, mankind is crying out, in Acts 16:30 we read, "... what must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas had been preaching the Gospel. In Macedonia they went to Philippi and went to the place of prayer at the riverside. On their way they met a girl who was demon possessed. Paul said to the demon in the girl, "... to come out of her." (Acts 16:18). And the demon came out.

The evil men who controlled the girl became angry because she had been telling future events and they were making money on her fortune telling. The men took Paul and Silas to the magistrates who had them beaten and thrown into jail and put in bonds.

Instead of moaning and groaning, what did they do?

We read in Acts 16:25-31:

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would



REV. BERTRAM BOBB
Tribal Chaplain

have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, "Sirs what must I do to be saved?"

And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Paul and Silas "prayed and sang praises unto God," and the other prisoners heard them.

All of a sudden an earthquake shook the whole prison, the doors opened, and the prisoners' bonds and chains were broken.

Under Roman law, if the keeper of the prison ever lost a prisoner, he had to die, so the jailer was on the job all the time. When the keeper of the prison saw the open doors, he thought he would be killed. He pulled out his sword and was ready to kill himself, when, in Acts 16:28, we read:

"But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here."

The jailer fell trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas and said, "... Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

He had been listening to their singing and heard their testimony of praises to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas answered in Acts 16:31:

"... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

The Bible teaches that God created the whole universe, and that He holds us accountable for what we do with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

There will be a day of judgment. If we do not know Jesus Christ, we should be trembling. The good news is that, in spite of our sins, God loves us. He is willing to save us. He wants to take us to heaven.

The thief on the cross said, "... Lord, remember me ..." and in that moment Jesus said, "... Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-42)

That thief had committed evil. He had no time to go and tell anybody he was sorry. He had no time to straighten anything out. He had no time to do anything. But he was saved that day. That's how marvelous salvation is.

Is He your Savior? Have you said, "I want Jesus Christ to be my Savior and be my Lord." I am praying for you.

Remember to pray for America. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our men and women in our armed service.

Thanksgiving

District dinners will be held for everyone
to gather together in this season of thanksgiving.

Antlers	Nov. 9.....	12 noon
Atoka	Nov. 9.....	12 noon
Bethel	Nov. 21....	12 noon
Broken Bow	Nov. 16....	12 noon
Coalgate	Nov. 9.....	12 noon
Coalgate Community	Nov. 6.....	2 p.m.
Crowder	Nov. 16....	11 a.m.
Crowder Community	Nov. 20....	1 p.m.
Durant Community, Event Center in Durant	Nov. 14....	6 p.m.
Hugo	Nov. 15....	6 p.m.
Idabel	Nov. 10....	6 p.m.
McAlester	Nov. 16....	11:30 a.m.
McAlester Community	Nov. 20....	1 p.m.
Poteau	Nov. 9.....	6 p.m.
Smithville	Nov. 16....	12 noon
Spiro	Nov. 8.....	11:30 a.m.
Stigler	Nov. 9.....	12 noon
Talihina	Nov. 17....	12 noon
Tushka Homma, cafeteria on Capitol Grounds	Nov. 15....	6 p.m.
Wilburton	Nov. 16....	11:30 a.m.
Wright City	Nov. 4.....	12 noon



Softball tournament to benefit Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship

A softball tournament benefiting the Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship will be held at the Choctaw fields in Broken Bow located behind the field office. The first game begins at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 29. Twelve teams are scheduled to play and shirts for first and second place will be given out.

Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the fun and support this great cause! All proceeds from the concession stand and tournament will go toward the scholarship fund.

The Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a Choctaw student living in the 10-1/2 counties who is entering or returning to college for a degree in criminal justice or social work.



■ See Page 13 for more information on this scholarship

Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

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

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

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



NOTES TO THE NATION

Thank you for medical assistance

I just wanted to say thank you for the help that was needed during my mother’s final days at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. We needed to get one of her medications paid for, and I was informed the Choctaw Nation would take care of it. I went into the room and told my mother and she had a smile that you wouldn’t believe. I knew she was very appreciative. She wanted to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping with the financial cost of one of her leg prosthesis. A representative told us not to worry, that her prosthesis would be paid. My mother never thought of herself as an elder until her final days when we found out that Choctaw Nation helped with the prescription, since being an elder and a Choctaw tribal member. Mother and I looked at each other and I asked her, “Mom, are you an elder?” She looked at me and nodded yes. She was a proud full-blood Choctaw who has never forgotten the help she received from the nation and Chief Pyle. I’m thanking you for being a part of my mother’s life, because without you I wouldn’t know how she would have gained her dignity to be herself, to be able to come to you or call to get questions answered. She never knew the right things to say when you would get things taken care of far in regards to her utilities, prescriptions and of course her prosthesis. She would always tell me, when I can, to tell Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation, thank you.

Debbie Battice



Thank you

Yakoke, and God bless all tribal administration and staff who assisted us with our booth, Choctaw Horse Conservation, at the Labor Day Festival. Working with our registry, Southwest Spanish Mustang Association (SSMA) and many other conservators, breeders and owners of the Choctaw horse, we brought a well-rounded educational experience to festival attendees. Our event was a huge success.

Our family, Windrider Farm Choctaw Horse Conservation, along with SSMA and many others, such as Rickman, Locke-Bray, McConnell, Smith, Hicks, Charlesworth, Stephens, Wilson, Dale, Carlile, Dukes and other families, were very pleased with the warm welcome given to the horses during the festival. Many came to see and ride the Choctaw horses in the village area, discuss their long history with the Choctaw people as well as get literature and information about them. Many folks commented on how truly unique and precious these versatile horses are, and many smiles popped on faces.

We gave over 350 rides to young old and taught many children and adults what makes the Choctaw horse one of the most amazing horses in the world today. It was a grand time! We also raised apple funds with our raffles and T-shirt sales to purchase winter feed and hay for the main Choctaw horse conservation herd in Oklahoma. With the severe drought this year, we felt they needed our assistance.

If you would like to read more about these Choctaw horses, please visit our website at windriderchoctaws.com. If you would like to contribute by purchasing a T-shirt, 100 percent of proceeds got directly to the horses. We have also posted some pictures there of everyone having a great time.

Once again, thank you to our tribe and all those who stopped by to see and learn about “the best little horses in the world,” as our registry chairman, Bryant Rickman, likes to say. See you next year!

Monique and Doug Sheaffer

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

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

The BISKINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

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



BISKINIK® 2011

Thank you for elder care

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation and its employees for taking care of the elders of the tribe. We have a very good chief, Gregory E. Pyle, and thank you to Jimmy Smith, Paula Lynch, Kristen Crenshaw and Carol Harris, they are very kind, helpful and considerate.

Donnie James

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services

CHR Fall Fest

**Tushkahomma
Arts and Crafts Building
October 19, 2011
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Door Prizes
Entertainment
Special Guest Speakers**

Morning snack and lunch will be provided.

**Choctaw Nation Outreach Services and other programs will be available with information.
Everyone is welcome.**

Seeking information

I was very interested to read the recent account of the delegation to Washington, D.C., and especially the tour of Congressional Cemetery. John Pitchlyn was the husband of my great-great-grandmother, Sophia Pitchlyn Folsom. John came to the east coast in the late 1730’s via St. Thomas island with his father, who was sailing the Caribbean from Scotland for trading purposes. Sophia’s father, Samuel Folsom, ran a trading post on the coast of Mississippi. John Pitchlyn was elected principal chief after their marriage and was one of our greatest and most influential chiefs. He went to Arkansas and became a lawyer and later was the official tribal translator between Choctaws and the U.S. government. He did serve a short term in the cabinet of George Washington in that capacity. He and Sophia raised seven daughters and one son, Joseph, who himself in later years was elected principal chief, establishing the education system still in place within the tribe as well as the state of Oklahoma. When on the Trail of Tears, Joseph was allowed to stay in Mississippi, but she was forced to go to Oklahoma. At 92, she walked the trail. I’m sure with much sorrow in her heart, she clutched tightly a container holding her favorite wild yellow roses. A portion of that bush exists today in the corner of my mother’s garden. The original plant grows today at her daughter’s house in Harris, Okla. The house is Harris House and is maintained by the Oklahoma Historical Society and occupied by descendants unknown to me.

Diana Latham-Brammer

Happy to see recycling center

I am writing to congratulate the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma on the opening of the new recycling facility in Durant. I was excited to read that the Choctaw Nation was involved in helping to save our environment in such a big way. The new facility sounds like it is off to a great start and will have a positive effect. My scout troop and myself are doing our part in a small way. We have an aluminum can recycling trailer at our meeting place and I’m in charge of recycling at home. It’s great to know we are all working together to improve our environment.

Josh Curry, Troop 424, St. Catherines, Orange Park, Fla.



Through a fund raiser held by the Denison Little League, age 9-12, coached by Jerry Bruce, everything from sporting goods and uniforms to cakes, cookies and necessities were collected for soldiers’ care packages for the Choctaw Nation Veteran’s Advocacy. Local Durant soldiers currently deployed will be receiving these supplies that filled the Veteran’s Advocacy office. Pictured is Veteran’s Advocacy employee Darla Moody whose husband is currently serving overseas.

Appreciative of visit

Thank you for your hospitality during my Congressional trip to meet with the Choctaw Nation. I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet Chief Pyle and the Council and appreciated learning about your history and gaining insights into the issues that are important to your community. I hope that the discussions we had will translate into substantial action. I would also like to extend my thanks for your gifts, I will treasure them. I look forward to continuing our relationship in the future.

Betty McCollum, Member of Congress

Thank you for care package

Thank you to Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for the gifts and support. I am sharing the candy with others in my office that don’t get any care packages.

Amy Testerman, stationed in Afghanistan

Events

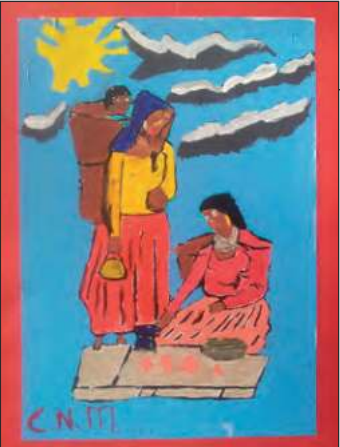
Labor family reunion

The Labor family reunion will be held Oct. 15 at Rebel Hill Guest Ranch, 3 1/2 miles east of Antlers on Highway 3. Turn north on Ethel Road and go a half mile.

Betty McMahan

Irish/Choctaw art exhibit

Between the 18 and 28 of October, the school community of Gaelscoil na gCeithre Mastri will host a unique art exhibition in O Donnell’s castle, Donnegal Town. The exhibition, entitled “Celebrating Generosity,” involves the art work of pupils from the local Gaelscoil and the art work from the pupils attending the Choctaw primary school in Hartshorne. Both schools, though separated by an ocean and half a continent, are united by the generous act of the Choctaw community, who in 1847 gathered money from their meagre resources and sent it to help the Irish people during the dark days of 1847. Throughout 2011, Sean Mac Giolla Fhiondain, principal at Gaelscoil, and Brad Spears, the administrator at Jones Academy, have, with their teachers, participated in the unfolding art project that is now cumulating in this art exhibition at O Donnell’s Castle. Pictured is a painting completed by a Gaelscoil student.



This artistic event is unique in being the first time that the cultural links between the Choctaw Nation and the Irish nation have been celebrated by the young descendants of both nations in such an artistic manner. The official launch of the shared art project will be performed by Hohn Hume, Nobel Peace Prize winner, on Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. in O Donnell’s Castle.

Will Clinic

The Will Clinic Preparation Clinic Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. (OILS) will be holding a free Wills Clinic, where they will help individuals prepare their wills. The event will be held Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 2408 E. Lincoln Road, Idabel, Okla. To register for the clinic, call 1-800-658-1497. Registration is limited, so call as soon as possible.

OILS is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For additional information regarding other legal services, please call OILS at 1-800-658-1497.

Haskell Alumni reunion

The Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma will hold a one-day reunion on Nov. 5 at Sac & Fox Tribal Community Center in Stroud, Okla. All alumni and friends are invited. If interested in the golf scramble that will be held, contact Dan Little Axe at 405-413-8443. For any further questions, please contact Carmen Ketcher at 918-333-7483 or email at mscarmen2009@hotmail.com. RV and camp grounds are available, please contact Carmen for rates. Please pass this information on to all Haskell alumni.

District 12 annual cake walk

The District 12 annual cake walk and chili supper will be held Saturday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at the Coalgate Choctaw Center. All proceeds will go to the children’s Christmas party.

Choctaw Nation Harvest Carnival

Come join us for a frightful night full of fun and games!

**Thursday, October 20
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.**

Tushka Homma, Arts and Crafts Building

Halloween booths and games with prizes
Haunted trail
Costume contest
Food

Appreciative for help

I would like to take this time to express my great appreciation for the Choctaw Nation for helping me throughout the hard times in my life, from the past and present. This tribe has gone far and beyond my expectations. One debt I really want to point out is vocational rehab and Mr. Tim Holt of the Hugo office. You truly care about getting those in need assistance and going the extra mile. The help that you and your coworkers have done has not gone unrecognized.

B. Wilson

Seeking information

If anyone knows or is a relative of Cassie Wims (Durant), please call Judy Rose at 918-721-2106. Cassie was related to Randall Durant and was married to Jasper Wims. She was the mother of Ed and Eli Wims and he half sister of Governor Dukes.



Submitted photo

Chief Gregory E. Pyle traveled to Livingston, Texas, in July to attend the grand opening of the Alabama-Coushatta Food Distribution. After a short tour of the reservation, Chief Pyle met with Chief Oscola Sylestine (pictured), Second Chief Colabe Systine and some of their tribal council members.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for: Nov. 11
Nov. 2 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
Nov. 9: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)
Closed Nov. 23-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 3 & 14, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT
Market open weekdays: Nov. 1-22, except for: Nov. 11
Closed Nov. 23-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 9 & 21, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER
Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for: Nov. 11
Closed Nov. 23-30 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 1 & 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays Nov. 1-22, except for: Nov. 11
Closed Nov. 23-30 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Nov. 7 & 16, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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

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

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

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Eat better, eat together this October

October is “Eat Better, Eat Together” month. According to research conducted by Washington State University when families eat together the positive effects last long past dinner time and into a healthy lifestyle which can decrease the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease. About 17 percent of children in the U.S. today are obese, a staggering reality. Research has suggested that obese children are likely to become obese adults, putting them at risk of developing cancer, heart disease and diabetes. Colleen Doyle, MS, RD of The American Cancer Society, sites a recent study from a group of Harvard researchers who found the consumption of certain foods and/

or beverages are most likely to cause a slow and steady weight gain over the years. Topping this list are potato chips, potatoes/French fries, sugar-sweetened beverages and processed meats such as hot dogs and bologna. Not only do these foods/beverages tend to be kids’ favorite choices, we tend to “also” carry these choices with us on into adulthood. Yet there are some ways we can help the children around us as well as ourselves to add healthier foods and beverages to the favorite list. Having some healthier options more readily available makes it easier to choose healthier foods and beverages. Here are healthy options to keep on hand:

- String cheese and whole

NURSERY NEWS

Hunter Southerland

Richard and Sara (Prihoda) Southerland of Schulenburg, Texas, are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Hunter Elizabeth Southerland, born Sept. 16, 2011. Hunter weighed 6 pounds, 4.8 ounces, and measured 20 inches long. She is welcomed into this world by siblings Jacob, Caitlin, Zachary and Annabella Norrell and Kurtis, Shelby and Gracie Southerland. Hunter is also welcomed by her extended family and friends. Grandparents are James and Carolyn Prihoda of Schulenburg and the late Eldon and Vivian Southerland of La Grange, Texas.

10 tips to improve your meals with vegetables and fruits

WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

- Discover the many benefits of adding vegetables and fruits to your meals. They are low in fat and calories, while providing fiber and other key nutrients. Most Americans should eat more than three cups, and for some, up to six cups of vegetables and fruits each day. Vegetables and fruits don’t just add nutrition to meals. They can also add color, flavor and texture. Explore these creative ways to bring healthy foods to your table.
- 1. Fire up the grill.**
Use the grill to cook vegetables and fruits. Try grilling mushrooms, carrots, peppers or potatoes on a kabob skewer. Brush with oil to keep them from drying out. Grilled fruits like peaches, pineapple or mangos add great flavor to a cookout.
 - 2. Expand the flavor of your casseroles.**
Mix vegetables such as sautéed onions, peas, pinto beans or tomatoes into your favorite dish for that extra flavor.
 - 3. Planning something Italian?**
Add extra vegetables to your pasta dish. Slip some peppers, spinach, red beans, onions or cherry tomatoes into your traditional tomato sauce. Vegetables provide texture and low-calorie bulk that satisfies.
 - 4. Get creative with your salad.**
Toss in shredded carrots, strawberries, spinach, wa-

- tercross, orange segments or sweet peas for a flavorful, fun salad.
- 5. Salad bars aren’t just for salads.**
Try eating sliced fruit from the salad bar as your dessert when dining out. This will help you avoid any baked desserts that are high in calories.
 - 6. Get in on the stir-frying fun.**
Try something new! Stir-fry your veggies, like broccoli, carrots, sugar snap peas, mushrooms or green beans for a quick and easy addition to any meal.
 - 7. Add them to your sandwiches.**
Whether it is a sandwich or wrap, vegetables make great additions to both.
 - Try sliced tomatoes, romaine lettuce or avocado on your everyday sandwich or wrap for extra flavor.
 - 8. Be creative with your baked goods.**
Add apples, bananas, blueberries or pears to your favorite muffin recipe for a treat.
 - 9. Make a tasty fruit smoothie.**
For dessert, blend strawberries, blueberries or raspberries with frozen bananas and 100 percent fruit juice for a delicious frozen fruit smoothie.
 - 10. Live up an omelet.**
Boost the color and flavor of your morning omelet with vegetables. Simply chop, saute and add them to the egg as it cooks. Try combining different vegetables, such as mushrooms, spinach, onions or bell peppers.
 - Go to www.ChooseMyPlate.gov for more information.

Choctaw travels to NYC to show off softball skills

Stormi Kelley, a senior at Binger-Oney HS, this year’s Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch High School State Champs, played in the Triple Crown Sports Fastpitch 18U All American Games held in New York City’s Central Park July 10-15. Stormi was one of three Oklahoma players, along with girls from Texas, Calif., Ga., Colo., Wash., and Minn., invited to play for Team USA’s 12-player roster. The team was coached by college coaches from Florida and Ohio. Every morning the team took the subway from their hotel to Central Park and back, that was quite the experience to say the least. They played another Triple Crown All-American Team, along with four other All-Star teams from N.Y. and N.J. Stormi’s team won three games, including a 2-0 win over the other All-American Team, and tied two games in the round-robin exhibition games. Stormi was 7 for 12 at the plate for a .583 percent average, while playing second base and outfield for Team USA. Stormi played travel ball this summer for the OK Sensations out of Choctaw.



can Teams put on the Harlem RBI Softball Clinic for about 100 inner-city young girls between the ages of 8-12. Stormi had four young girls that she worked with on hitting and fielding. After it was all over, all the girls on the team were touched by these young kids from Harlem. Several of the girls on the two teams gave some of their equipment away to these kids. Stormi gave one girl her cleats, another girl a new softball, but the one girl who never wanted to let go of Stormi, just wanted the red ribbon in Stormi’s ponytail. It was very emotional for the players, coaches and parents. Stormi is the daughter of Devery and Trenda Kelley of Eakly. Grandparents are Gene and Trina Kelley of Alfalfa and Bobby and Carolyn Cope of Eakly.

Applications for holiday food vouchers accepted

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services will begin taking applications for Thanksgiving and Christmas food vouchers beginning Oct. 1, 2011. Completed applications will be accepted until Nov. 1, 2011. Only one application will need to be filled-out to receive vouchers for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The food vouchers will replace the food baskets. To apply for a food voucher, you must submit the application, copy of Tribal Membership, address and income verification. Applicants must reside in the 10.5 counties.

Applications will be available from any Outreach Services worker at the Community Centers, however, if you have any questions you may contact the Outreach Services Office at 877-285-6893.

The Outreach Services staff will be distributing the Thanksgiving vouchers for those who qualify at the Community Centers on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Christmas food vouchers will be available at the Community Centers on Dec. 7, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Choctaw Nation WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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



NURSING SCHOOL APPLICATION WORKSHOP SERIES

LEARN THE STRATEGIES NEEDED TO OBTAIN ADMISSION TO NURSING SCHOOL!

WORKSHOPS BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

DURANT	OCTOBER 27
HUGO	OCTOBER 25
IDABEL	OCTOBER 27
McALESTER	OCTOBER 25
POTEAU	OCTOBER 27
STIGLER	OCTOBER 25
TALIHINA	OCTOBER 26

SPACE IS LIMITED! CALL JANA TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT **(866)933-2260.**

Choctaw Nation Career Development

Recipe: Waldorf Salad

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup fat free mayo or salad dressing
- ¼ cup plain fat free yogurt
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp fat free (skim) milk
- 2 medium not peeled red eating apples, coarsely chopped (2 cups)
- 2 medium celery stalks, chopped (1 cup)
- 2 tbsp coarsely chopped nuts

Preparation:

1. Mix mayo, yogurt, lemon juice and milk in medium bowl.
2. Stir in apples, celery and nuts. Serve on salad greens. Cover and refrigerate left overs.

Nutrition Information: Serves 4 (3/4 cup)
Calories: 90, Sodium: 150mg, Cholesterol: 0mg, Protein: 2g, Total Fat: 3g, Sat Fat: 0g, Total Carb: 16g, Dietary Fiber: 2g

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

STATE OF NATION

‘It is our responsibility to sustain our heritage in such a way to honor those who came before us’

Continued from Page 1

water has never been given up. This is still our water and we will continue to fight for the protection of this natural resource in southeastern Oklahoma. Our interest is in a solution that is beneficial to our region and all of Oklahoma.

“Speaking of treaties, it was my honor and privilege recently to see some of the original treaties between the Choctaws and the U.S. government. During Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and I were allowed to access a vault in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where these treaties are kept. They were in a small room with extremely tight security. When we entered the National Archives building, we were met by a host, one of only four people with a key to this secure room holding the treaties.

“We were allowed to see several treaties, but the most impressive was the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, dated Sept. 27, 1830. This is the first removal treaty and ceded about 11 million acres in Mississippi in exchange for 15 million acres in Indian Territory. Shortly after this treaty was signed, the Choctaws began the first Trail of Tears in

the fall of 1831.

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

“Today the Choctaw Nation continues to grow and prosper. Our tribal vision is ‘to achieve healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws.’ This continues to be our goal – to better serve you – the Choctaw people. Our continued economic development will create more jobs, more revenue and ultimately more services for our tribal members. Road projects will improve access to health care, schools and jobs.

“For example, here at Tushka Homma roads on our Capitol grounds were recently paved. We will continue to provide for our Choctaw people,” Chief Pyle said. “I want all of our families to achieve our vision of healthy, successful and self-sufficient Choctaws.

“I want to take a moment to recognize our Tribal Council. These 12 people have made a commitment to serve the Choctaw people and we appreciate their service to the Nation. We are especially pleased to introduce two new

Council members – Ron Perry and Tony Messenger. We welcome them to the Council and look forward to working with them.

“We also want to remember one of our Council members who passed away this year. Charlotte Jackson was an incredible lady who will long be remembered for her devotion to all Choctaws. She loved her people and served them well for many years.

“We also want to take a moment to honor members of our military and their service to our country,” Chief Pyle said, asking all veterans to stand and be recognized. Several generations of warriors rose to their feet, representing World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We have a great relationship with the military and the Choctaw Nation provides support to our troops in many ways. We continue to send care packages to our troops stationed overseas. We also provide help with Veterans Airlift Command flights that assist our wounded warriors to visit family or for medical treatment.

“In closing,” he said, “I want to emphasize that the Choctaw Nation continues to be strong. As we honor our culture and the legacy of our ancestors, we remember our heritage and continue our traditions. Our strength and our continued growth will sustain our future generations to follow. And we will remain a proud Nation of Choctaws!”

Conservation program helps landowners recover from drought

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission has announced Program Year 13 of the state’s Locally-Led Conservation Cost-Share Program. The agency approved guidelines for the latest program at its Sept. 1 meeting. The program began in 1997 with the goal reducing soil erosion and improving water quality by providing financial assistance to landowners for applying soil and water conservation practices. A few changes were made with the goal of going further to help landowners recover from the effects of the exceptional drought this year.

One change is that the program is being opened up earlier than most years. The Cost-Share Program overlaps years because it is designed to extend through two growing seasons to allow ample opportunity, under normal conditions, to install the conservation practices. In past years the program has opened at different times of the year from October to February, and the run for 16-24 months for completion of installation of the practices. Only once before has it begun in September and only once has it begun earlier. The first year of the Cost-Share Program, 1997, it began in August, also a year of exceptional drought.

“With the losses the state’s agricultural producers have endured this year, it’s impor-

tant we help them recover and the conservation cost-share program will be of great assistance,” said Gov. Mary Fallin. “I appreciate the Commission expediting these funds more quickly than normal to help producers prepare for the next rain event,” she added.

“This is a great time to expand our water holding capacity on farms for when it does rain,” said Jim Reese, state Sec. of Agriculture and Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

“We want to open up this year’s program as soon as possible so that local conservation districts can make it available to help landowners, farmers and ranchers, who have been impacted by the severity of the drought,” said Mike Thralls, Conservation Commission executive director.

Another change that might be of help during dry weather is allowing the installation of a pipeline to move water from a supply source to a point of use for livestock. Previously, installation of pipelines was only covered in the creation of a new watering facility. Now as a stand-alone practice, a pipeline can be installed in an existing watering system. This change is intended to help rotational grazing operations by providing additional locations to water livestock.

Funding for Program

Year 13 in the amount of \$1,150,527 is made up of \$739,391 appropriated for that purpose by the state Legislature for fiscal year 2012 along with \$411,136 in funds not spent from previous program years.

Practices in the Conservation Cost-Share Program vary across the state according to priorities set by the local conservation district board of directors. Some of those available that also provide benefits during dry weather include constructing ponds, installing water troughs or tanks and drilling new wells.

“Our area producers will welcome the opportunity to create more watering facilities or water storage,” said Jeff Brown, Chair of the Bryan Conservation District. “When we get more rain again, these practices will help prepare for future dry spells.”

Practices that help reduce soil erosion during wetter periods are also included in the Conservation Cost-Share Program. Those practices are terraces, grassed waterways, diversions, critical area planting and grade stabilization structures. Additional practices available are brush management including removal of eastern red cedar, fencing, pasture and hay planting, range planting, nutrient management and pest management.

Reserve your 2012 Labor Day RV Site

In order to reserve an RV site with electric and water hookups for the 2012 Labor Day Festival, please mail the reservation request form below no earlier than Jan. 1, 2012. RV sites will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Please include a copy of your CDIB card. Also, include the length of your RV or camper and the number of slide-outs. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY AT THIS TIME.** After the deadline, all reservations will be drawn randomly for RV sites. If your name is drawn, you will be notified by mail. At that time you will send in your cashier’s check or money order in the amount of \$75.00 to receive your confirmation and rules for RV camping at the Labor Day Festival.

No phone reservations will be accepted. Please only include one reservation per application. We will do our best to respect the requests for preferred RV pads, however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested.

Please watch the Biskinik newspaper for future articles or changes in parking, tent camping and tribal preferences for the 2012 Labor Day Festival.

2012 RV Space Reservation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone number _____

Alternate phone number _____

Email _____

RV camper description and length: _____

Number of slide-outs _____

– Only one (1) reservation per application –
No reservations accepted prior to Jan. 1, 2012.

Please return to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Margaret Jackson
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO JAN. 1, 2012

Oklahoma Conservation cost-share sign-up announced

The Bryan Conservation District has set the application period for the Oklahoma Conservation Cost-Share Program Year 13 to begin October 10th thru November 11th.

The program offers financial assistance of construction of new farm ponds at the rate of 75 percent of the total cost.

Landowners can make application of the cost share at the Bryan Conservation District office located in the Durant USDA Service Center, 200 Gerlach, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Because of limited funds, a ranking system will be used to determine who is approved if more applications are received than can be funded.

“This system ensures fairness to landowners and ensures that cost-share funds are used to meet conservation priorities,” said Jeff Brown, Conservation District Board Chairman.

Some restrictions apply in the program. Land tracts must be 20 acres or more and

have at least \$1,000 of soil dependent products sold annually.

All applicants will be notified if they are or are not approved for funding. In order to qualify for payment, the application must be approved and a performance agreement must be signed by both the participant and the District before any installation work begins.

This program, authorized by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1998, is administered at the state level by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and at the local level by the Conservation District.

The District takes applications and helps participants complete the necessary paperwork for payment.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance for the program.

Landowners with questions about the program are invited to visit the Bryan Conservation District office or call 580-924-5464.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

and staff handbooks;

- a right-of-way easement for Valliant Telephone Company in McCurtain County;
- an oil and gas lease for KEPCO Operating Inc. in Pittsburg County;
- adaptation of certain codes for use in the Court of General Jurisdiction of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;
- donation of playground equipment to Cedar Baptist Church in Red Oak, and
- sale of unclaimed lost and found items from the casinos, hospital, clinics, travel plazas and other Choctaw Nation entities. The ensuing funds will be deposited into the Choctaw Nation Security budget to offset the expense of materials and labor to maintain the lost and found.

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



Choctaw Nation: LISA REED

Four language certifications were presented during the Choctaw Tribal Council’s meeting on Sept. 10. Receiving their certificates are Bobby Coley of Talihina, David Bacon of Pocola, and Catherine Wade and Ruby Murphy, both of Oklahoma City. Making the presentations are Councilman Kenny Bryant, Councilman Anthony Dillard, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Councilman Bob Pate, Council Speaker Delton Cox and Community Language Assistant Director Roger Scott.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Happy birthday, Ryan

Ryan J. Thorne turned 10 years old Aug. 28. He celebrated his birthday with family at the San Diego Sea World. Ryan is the grandson of Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. He also shares his birthday with the late Ella Murphy of Idabel, who is his great-grandmother.



Gage turns 12

Happy 12th birthday on July 29 to Gage. Wishing him a very happy birthday are his parents, Donnie and Jacque Knight of Shawnee; his sister, Sha of Hugo; and his grandparents, Linda and Lee Knight of Hugo and Pat and Ray Booze of Shawnee.



Happy birthday, Hannah and Jaden

Hannah Elu Storie turned 4 years old on June 16 and her brother, Jaden Elan Storie, turned 2 on Feb. 18. Their parents are Jeff and Darlene Work Storie of El-lijay, Ga. Their grandmother is Betsy Work of Farris, Okla. They are 1/8 Choctaw and they have Native American middle names.



Curtis/Nelms engagement

Evan Curtis and Kelly Nelms are happy to announce their engagement. The couple has planned a June wedding in Dal-las. Evan is the son of Sheila and John Curtis and the grand-son of Lu and Lewis Hamp-ton Jr. of Dallas. Kelly is the daughter of Carolyn and Felder Nelms, also of Dallas.



Happy birthday, Mary

On Aug. 12, Mary Beams Siems celebrated her 85th birthday with family and friends at Don Jose’s Mexican Restaurant in Houston, Texas. Mary is the daughter of Levi Lee Beams, an original en-rollee, and Dollye Tignor Beams. She has two daughters; Shelly Narciso, who lives in San Jose, Calif., with her husband, John, and children, Nicole, John and Sarah, and Syd Motal of Houston who has two daughters, Kassidy Motal and Kendall Collette, who has blessed Mary with the addition of her husband, Andy, and two great-grandchildren, Mason and McKenna. Happy birthday, Mary!



Happy anniversary

Travis and Katherine would like to wish Kenneth and Wilma Gardner a happy anniversary. They were married Oct. 21, 1961, and have been together for 50 years.



Capshaws complete ascent

On Aug. 21, father and son, Phillip Capshaw, 56, and Michael Capshaw, 25, com-pleted the 13.2 mile race called the Pike’s Peak Ascent. It was the 56th year of America’s Ultimate Challenge, and it started in downtown Manitou Springs, Colo., finishing at the top of Pike’s Peak. This race has almost 8,000 vertical feet of eleva-tion gain. Phillip is from Ardmore and Michael, formerly of Ardmore, now resides in Colorado Springs.



Happy birthday, Jeanette

Happy 90th birthday to Jeanette Cole Jones of Gerty, who was born Sept. 21, 1921, and resides in Oklahoma City. She is the daughter of Sampson Cole and Snolen Cole. Jeanette is a retired nurse who is very proud of her nursing career. She has four children, 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and four known great-great-grandchildren.



Congratulations, Natane

Congratulations to Natane Tom for winning in the Tiny Tots buck-skin division at the Granite Falls Pow Wow. Natane is the daugh-ter of James Tom Jr. of Stillwa-ter, Minn. She has an older sister, Crystal Tom, and a brother, Chas-ta E. Tom. Natane can be seen at the Granite Hills Pow Wow on Youtube.

Happy birthday, Bethany

Happy fifth birthday to Bethany Anderson on Aug. 30. Wishing her a happy birthday are her parents, Sha Ward of Hugo; her grandparents, Ruth Ward and Donnie and Jacque Knight of Shawnee; great-grandparents, Lloyd and Mary Ward of Paris, Texas, and Linda and Lee Knight of Hugo; and her little sister, Haley Clinton.



Happy birthday, Claudine

On Aug. 27, approximately 40 family members surprised Claudine Wheeler with a blast of party horns and birthday wishes as she walked into the Choctaw Community Center in Durant. The event was planned by her two daugh-ters, Catherine Mueller and Diana Woodard. Claudine turned a young 70 years on Aug. 31.



Gibson, Pope reunion a success

The families and friends of the late Adam and Winnie Pope Gibson held their annual family reunion at the Choctaw Com-munity Center in June. A total of 81 people attended, including Anna Gibson Smith, Ada Gibson Lusk, Clara Gibson Belvins, Jim and Marie Gib-son, Kathy Blevins Falkenstein, Diana Joan Blevins, Dick and Jeanne Steele, Joey Lynn and Colter Steel, Roger and Deana Blevins Wilson, Jay and Blake Wilson, Randall Wilson, Janie Gibson Lampkin, Debbie Gibson Workman, Dana and Des-tiny Workman, Harley Sage, Laticia Workman, Althea Gibson Johnson, Phillip, Dixie, Augusta and Anthony Reagan, Melissa Johnson and John Coffman, Walter Amos, Kathy Amos Mow-ery, Larry Amos, Bob Karr, Earl, Steve and Hildrie Gibson, John Henry and Erlene Cook, Pat Johnson, Atonya and Bryer Stites, Brian Hauck and Bob Pate. Guests from out of town included Wade and Debbie Du-nagan and Lee and Jason Woodward of Blackwell; Kendall, Peggy and Gage Steele of Okemah; Delana and Eli Bohn from Dodridge, Ark.; Daniel, Lori, Adam, Alex and Avery Johnson from Muskogee; Lamon Pope from Mayer, Ariz.; Rhonda, Alyx-Marie and Kole Kleinsteinber from Surprise, Ariz.; Jeff, Linda and Jelynn Pope from Prescott, Ariz.; Larry and Becky Hill from Crosby, Texas; Chris, Christen and Paighton Hill from Anahuac, Texas; John, Susan and Dylan Scharpf from San Diego; Leslie and Cindy Gibson from Shawnee; Less, Ad-die and Gage Gibson from Anna, Texas; and Lisa Gibson and Chance and Chelcey Edwards from Shawnee.

Justin advocates bullying prevention

Congratulations to Justin Tyler Abraham of North Little Rock, Ark. Thirteen-year-old Justin has persuaded Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to pass three key tools to assist in bullying prevention. Justin is the president and founder of his organization called, “Young Americans Advoc-ating Civil Rights,” pertaining to school violence. President Obama has referred to Justin as “our brighter future of tomor-row.” Justin is the son of proud mother Shanna McCoy-Rollins and the grandson of the late W.C. Rollins. President Obama has personally addressed Justin as being a brave young man, who continued to make good grades while dealing with bullying during the years of 2007-2009 and while dealing with school violence. Justin has a passion for law and has the desire to study in the field of civil and tribal affairs, and he wishes to attend Har-vard School of Law. He also received an outstanding academic achievement award in May from his Catholic Academy in Ar-kansas.



Terry turns 50

Terry Busha of Garland, Texas, will turn 50 on Oct. 24. His family plans to surprise him with a big celebration at his church home late in October. Dozens of friends and family members will be attending to show how much they care for Terry, their respect and support of this one of a kind man, a truly incredible husband, dad, father-in-law, son, grandpa, coworker, brother and friend. Happy 50th birthday, Terry!



Happy birthday, Wyatt

Wyatt Lane Williams of Idabel celebrat-ed his 16th birthday on Sept. 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. His grandparents are Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel and the late Arvel and the late Pauline Williams of Summerfield.



Happy birthday, Jeffrey


Jeffrey Keith Davis of Texarkana cel-ebrated his 16th birthday on Sept. 14. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana. His grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His great-grandmother is Ev-elyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Happy birthday, Trinity

Trinity Skye Thorne turned 6 years old on Sept. 12. She celebrated her birthday at Celebration Station with her parents and sisters. Trinity is the grand-daughter of Gene and LaHoma Mur-phy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. She attends kindergarten at Northern El-ementary School in Moore. Her great-grandparents are the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.





A Salute

PFC Mayo graduates basic training

Private First Class Joshua T. Mayo, a 2004 graduate of Avon High School, has completed U.S. Army basic training at Fort Jack-son near Columbia, S.C. This training included training in mili-tary disciplines and studies, Army values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. Mayo graduated with awards for Expert Marksman (rifle and grenade) and Company Pugil Stick Champion. A pugil stick is a heavily padded pole-like training weapon used by military personnel for training in rifle and bayonet combat. He also received special recognition as an honor graduate and was recognized as a “Soldier of the Cycle.” Mayo is a member of the Indiana National Guard and will be serving at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Mayo is currently receiving Air Traffic Control Training, MOS 15Q, at Fort Rucker, Ala. Fort Rucker, named Army Aviation Center of Excellence in 2008, serves as the head-quarters for Army Aviation. While the garrison command manages the daily operations of the Fort Rucker community, the Aviation Branch Headquarters develops, coordinates and deploys aviation operations, training and doctrine. PFC Mayo has also received the U.S. Army Achievement Certifi-cate of Excellence in Tower Operations Academics and the Physical Training Achievement award. He also serves as the class leader and “Bay Boss.”

The MOS 15Q curriculum encompasses job skills train-ing, physical training, common task training and military customs and courtesies. Training for the ATC students is fur-ther enhanced through virtual simulation. The battalion also provides operational and administrative support for graduate level aviation students returning for advanced aircraft transi-tions and all international students for flight training.


The Fort Rucker Headquarters and Headquarters Com-pany manages the Enhanced Tower Simulator (ETOS), the newest and most advanced air traffic control simulator in the U.S. Army.

The ETOS gives ATC students a realistic experience of what it is like inside an ATC tower. As the primary trainer for the tower 1-13th Aviation Regiment trains the Army’s ATC personnel phase of ATC training in the Army, ETOS is used to train soldiers in initial entry training on how to safely and expeditiously move aircraft to, from and through designated airspace in a simulated, virtual environment.

Most of the training uses virtual landscape with high fidel-ity images of aircraft and the airfield, including the runway, hangars, nearby trees and ground vehicles. The weather sys-tem, vehicles, stars, lights, sun and rain are just like the real thing, and voice recognition software helps students learn.


ETOS can simulate almost every aircraft in the U.S. mili-tary inventory and civilian commercial aircraft. The training at Fort Rucker can apply to ATC operations at military air-fields or civilian airports worldwide.

PFC Mayo completed his Business Management Associ-ate Degree in 2008. He is also employed by Liberty Mutual Insurance as a health, life and casualty insurance salesman. He is related to Sophie Anderson, an original enrollee, and he is proud of his ancestry and continuing the noble tradition of service in the Armed Forces of the United States Army.



MSG Griffin retires

Master Sergeant Rusty Griffin, grandson of Lee Cusher and Ennie Cusher, son of Charles and Georgie Griffin, retired after honorably serv-ing 24 years from the 189th Medical Group of Little Rock Air Force Base. MSG Griffin began his military ca-reer in 1988. He completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and technical school in Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. Griffin’s military decora-tions include the Meritorious Service medal, Air Force Com-mendation medal and Air Force Achievement medal. He is currently employed with Cameron in Little Rock as the bio-environmental and public health officer. His family is very proud of him and thank him for serving their country.



Lyman and Elizabeth Pusley reunion

A reunion of the family of Lyman and Elizabeth Pusley was held on Sept. 4 at the home of Doyle and Helen Crufts of McAlester.

Those attending from out of state were David, Josh and Jordan Harris of Fairhope, Ala.; Marland and Sandra Hayes of Amarillo, Texas; Frankie, Pattie, Michael and Judy Sheffield of Atlanta, Ga.; Bobby, Jill and Bryan Robinson of Gilbert, Ariz.; Rodney and Nelda Harrell of Lewisville, Texas; Doris Puckett, Clay and Libby Miller, Lane and Mary Clark and Darlene Sug-ar of Pampa, Texas. Also, Bertha Harris of Dangerfield, Texas and Ken and Patricia Weaver of Plano, Texas.

Others attending were Sheri Harris of Tulsa; Mike, Kayla and Brody Nazworth of Yukon; Earl Ingram of Ada; Ruby McCoy and Donna Stafford of Holdenville; Greg and Helen Wichert of Fairview; Michelle, Briley and Britt Sims of Fairview; Earl and Tommie Harris of Canadian; Gary Weatherly and Tommye Harris of Canadian; Gary Rigsby and Johnnie Rigsby of Drum-right; and Sherry and Mark Andrews of Arpola.

Those attending from McAlester were Tommy and Shirley Braswell, Joe and June Stone, Buster and Tina Harris, Bengie Harris, Kase Martin, Terri Murdaugh, Melissa Harris, Susie Stanley, Jim and Sharon Blasengame, Joe and Karen Molande-ie, Annette Morse, Randy and Wanda Powell, Margaret Autrey, Willa Mae Hayes and Helen and Doyle Crafts.

EDUCATION



Submitted photo

STAR students get awarded

Lauren Bookout of the Choctaw Nation recently presented STAR awards to Choctaw students from Heavener Schools. The program rewards those students who have made all A's, A's and B's, and/or perfect attendance with Walmart gift cards. Congratulations, students.

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

McCurtain County

Beginning: October 31, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays
1 - 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
210 Chahta Rd., Broken Bow

Pittsburg County

Beginning: November 1, 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays
6 - 9 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center
1632 South George Nigh Expressway, McAlester

Haskell County

Beginning: October 31, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays
1 - 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center
2208 E. Main, Stigler

Bryan County

Beginning: November 1, 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays
6 - 9 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex, Durant
South building, downstairs

The class will meet for approximately three months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10-per-day transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ex. 2319 or 2122. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

NATIVE NOVEMBER

Celebrating Native American history, culture and students at Southeastern Oklahoma State University

2011 Native November Events

The Native American Center for Student Success at SE is hosting events on the Durant campus during November to celebrate Native American Month. Events will include:

Nov. 1	Guest speakers
Nov. 2	Round table: History and culture discussion
Nov. 2-4	Native American Symposium
Nov. 5	Native scholars recognition at SE football game vs. Ouachita Baptist at 2 p.m.
Nov. 7 & 14	Native movies (hosted by SE Native students)
Nov. 9	High school visitation day (campus tours, services, tribal funding, lunch)
Nov. 12	Stickball (social game)
Nov. 15	Native storytelling competition
Nov. 15	Traditional dress fashion show
Nov. 15	Meet Miss Indian SE
Nov. 15	Choctaw social dancing
Nov. 19	Tour Chickasaw Cultural Center

For more information concerning Native American programs at SE, call the Native American Center for Student Success at 580-745-2376 or 580-745-2812 or visit se.edu/native-american-center.

SE has 29 percent Native American student population and ranks sixth nationally in producing Native American graduates.

Chris Wesberry, Coordinator
Chantelle Standefer, NAEIE Academic Advisor
Blaine Parnell, Choctaw Nation Peer Advisor
Amy Gantt, Chickasaw Retention Coordinator

To the Youth of the Nation

By: **Tori Karr**

Youth Advisory Board, McCurtain County
“Catch the wave of laughter”

Who would have ever thought that one tiny laugh could be so contagious and so powerful. Have you ever thought how a laugh could not only bring a smile, but heal your soul? Laughter is not just about an old memory or an embarrassing moment in your life but it is good for you and everyone around you.

There are many physical, mental and social benefits to laughter. Humor is infectious. The sound of roaring laughter is far more contagious than any cold, snuffle or sneeze could be. Just think, the sound of children laughing is the best sound in the world. Have you ever thought why more people love to watch comedy rather than horror shows? Humor and laughter strengthens your immune system, boosts your energy level, takes away pain and protects you from damaging effects of everyday stress.

Laughter relaxes the whole body. It relieves physical tensions and stress, leaving your muscles to relax up to 45 minutes after a belly-shaking laugh. Laughter also boosts the immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, which improves your resistance to disease. Laughing can also protect your heart by helping fight against heart attacks. Laughter improves the function of blood vessels and increases blood flow and oxygen levels in the body.

Another fun fact about laughing is it burns calories. It turns out that 10 to 15 minutes of laughing can burn up to 50 calories. Laughing actually exercises your abdominal muscles.

So, what are we waiting for? Catch the wave of laughter and laugh your body into shape.

Melissa earns master's

Melissa G. Hart has graduated with her master's in business administration from the Graziadio School of Business and Management at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. Her maternal great-grandfather, Tandy K. Walker, was the son of Gov. Tandy C. Walker, a past chief of the Choctaw Nation. Melissa will use her MBA in her current position to grow the advertising clients she manages.



Little Miss Mahala says farewell and thank you

Halito, I am Mahala Danielle Battiest, I'm 10 years old and attend Wright City Elementary School's fourth grade class. I am the outgoing Little Miss Choctaw Nation, 2010-11, and the daughter of Rachel and Scott Battiest of Wright City. My grandparents are Darla and Ryman Battiest Jr. and Virginia and Milven McCleskey. My great-grandparents are Mary Jane and the late Ryman Battiest Sr. and the late Elias and Josephine Roberts, all of District 7. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell. It has been a wonderful year and an experience I will never forget. I have so many people to thank for helping me have the time of my life.

I would like to start with our wonderful coordinators, Faye Self and Elaine Thompson. They have made the year go so smoothly and always kept my mom informed of events I needed to be at. Thank you both for being so nice and always available for questions, I hope in the future to have the pleasure to share another wonderful year under your guidance.

Thank you, Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton, for all the words of encouragement and for giving young girls like myself the opportunity to represent our nation in such a wonderful and positive way. Thank you to my councilman, Jack Austin of District 7, for being supportive and wishing me well.

I want to thank my mom and dad for always supporting me and for working so hard to get me to all the events throughout the year, I know how much you love me. I love you both very much. I want to thank my grandparents for helping mom and dad all year with my brother, Ayden, and my sister, Ayionna. Thank you for babysitting and providing the time to be there. Thank you to the rest of my wonderful family for all the support and words of encouragement you all have given me, you all mean the world to me and I love you all.

Thank you to my school and my teachers for all the help and keeping me updated on my homework so that I could maintain my straight-A average, which is super important to me. Thank you to my ball coaches for knowing how important these events were that I attended, and thank you for the encouragement and support as well.

I've learned so much this year from the various trips we took to North Carolina, New Mexico, Washington, D.C. and California, as well as numerous events here in Oklahoma. I have enjoyed meeting and having fun with the other reigning tribal princesses. I've had a blast traveling with Miss Choctaw Nation Kristie McGuire and Junior Miss Choctaw Nation Nikki Amos. You both are so much fun to be with and I'll remember you both always. Thank you for watching out for me and for being great big sisters to me, I love you both.

I want to say what a wonderful pleasure it has been to be your Little Miss Choctaw Nation for 2010-11. I've enjoyed all the wonderful people I've met and all the great lessons I've been taught. I take pride in being Choctaw and want to encourage all young Choctaw girls to continue to work hard and never give up on your dreams, always keep your faith. Last but certainly not least, thank you to our Lord in Heaven for guidance and all the blessings in my life. It's been such a good year and I'm sad to say farewell, but I hope to one day be here again to represent the Choctaw Nation. I hope I've done well by everyone. Yakoke, chi pisa la chike!



Kara named Gates Millennium Scholar

Kara Young, a 2011 Wright City High School graduate, was one of 1,000 young people across the United States to receive the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Her strong leadership, community service and academic achievements contributed to her selection as a 2011 Gates Millennium Scholar. Kara is attending Oklahoma State University and is the daughter of Joe and Leah Young of Wright City.



Father, son enjoy festival

Father Willie and son Matthew Wilson, descendants of Woodrow Wilson of Smithville, were together at the Labor Day Festival where Matthew played stickball on Sunday afternoon. Matthew came from Eugene, Ore., to spend the weekend with his family and friends. He is in the Master Program for Education at the University of Oregon, graduating in December of 2011. Matthew graduated from Haskell in Elementary Education 2009. He has been playing stickball and dancing as a gourd dancer at most Pow-Wows across the lower plains.

Miss Choctaw Nation Kristie says goodbye

Halito, my name is Kristie McGuire. I have held the Miss Choctaw title for a year, now I have placed the crown on the next girl who will be an ambassador for the great Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

I'd like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and all the tribal council for their wonderful hard work they do for the great people of the Choctaw Nation. They do so much for their people, such as allowing us the opportunity to conduct a pageant and putting together the Labor Day Festival each year.

I'd like to personally thank Faye and Elaine, both of you have helped me in ways I couldn't imagine and I'll never forget what you have done for me.

This year has been a wonderful, fun-filled learning experience, especially with Elaine and Faye being the pageant coordinators. There is never a dull moment being around those two! They are a hoot to be around and they have taught me how to have fun and enjoy life. I am truly going to miss them both. I have learned so much from them and it has been a pleasure being able to travel with them and get to know them a little more.

Mahala, you are like a little sister to me and I love you and your family so much. You all have truly touched my heart and although we are saying farewell, this is not goodbye. Rachel, I hope that I have been a role model for your beautiful children and can continue to be there although our princess year has come to an end.

Nikki, this year has been so much fun and I was so fortunate that I was able to share some of the best memories of my life with you and Dayla. Many memories have been made throughout this previous year. I'll never forget the time Rachel, Mahala and I were in California driving through the mountains to see the giant sequoia and red wood trees and we almost ran out of gas! We had no cell phone service and nothing to eat but one orange, but due to God we made it to the gas station in the nick of time. I'll also never forget the time that I got into a vehicle accident with Faye, Elaine and Connie, or when Elaine lost the truck keys and we had to call someone and wait forever on the corner for the extra set to arrive.

I have met so many wonderful people with this title and visited so many beautiful places while traveling, I just hope the next girl can enjoy this whole year as I have. I have learned many valuable assets that I will carry with me throughout my life. Since I was a child, this has been a goal of mine that I had always wished to achieve. I took many, many times before I finally won. I didn't give up on what I wanted and neither should anyone. If you see something you want, work for it. Don't get discouraged if at first you don't succeed. There are other opportunities, just keep your mind set that you will achieve all that you have worked for. I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support. Farewell, and best of luck to the next Miss Choctaw!

Congratulations, Autumn

Autumn Hughes, descendent of Chief George Washington Harkins, graduated cum laude in June from Western Oregon University with a Bachelor of Science in pre-professional medical biology and a minor in chemistry. She graduated in the top of her class with this particular specialty major and received the University's Recognition in Academic Achievements of the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Department of the university. She completed the medical college entrance test (MCAT) last year and scored at a matriculate's level for medical school. Due to her mother, April Robbins-Hughes, being diagnosed with stage four colon cancer in late May, Autumn decided to move back to Idaho to support her mother and is now working with the pathology group lab at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center. She plans to continue medical school within the next five years.

Autumn is extremely thankful for the Choctaw Nation providing support over the years to pursue her dream of being a physician in the near future.



Zack excels athletically, academically

Zack Rice, a seventh grader at Cross Timbers Middle School in Colleyville, Texas, plays on the A squad at Cross Timbers Middle School as a starting receiver, slot and wide out and corner back on defense. Not only is Zack a great athlete, he is also a great student, being a member of the Gifted and Talented Program, he maintains A's and B's in a tough program that includes advanced mathematics, science, English, literature and social studies. Last year, Zack's GT group conceptualized and executed "Smart Time" in their school and won an international competition for their efforts. Several middle schools throughout Texas have adopted the Smart Time program as well as Zack's middle school. This year, he was invited to participate in the Duke seventh grade talent search by scoring above the 95th percentile in math on the Texas Assessment on Knowledge and Skills. He is also a proud Choctaw, a great big brother and a wonderful son.



CHOCTAW LABOR DAY FESTIVAL 2011



Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, members of the Tribal Council and the Choctaw princesses are joined by the family of artist John Gooden for the unveiling of the Pushmataha bust statue located in the museum courtyard.



The 2011-12 reigning royalty Miss Choctaw Nation Amber Tehauno, Jr., Miss Adrianna Curnutt and Little Miss Summer Moffitt.



Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Tribal Council are led by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard in Friday's Pow Wow Grand Entry.



Miss Okla Chahta Princess Sarah DeHerrera opens Monday's ceremony by singing the national anthem in Choctaw.



Chief Pyle greets the oldest person attending Monday's festivities, 97-year-old Cecil Spring of Mena, Ark.



Photos by
JUDY ALLEN, LISA REED,
LARISSA COPELAND, KAREN JACOB,
LANA SLEEPER, BRET MOSS & CHRISSY DILL
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma





Okla Chahta Princesses attending the festival are Taylor Archuleta, Nizhoni Felihkatubbee, Sarah DeHerrera and Lindsay Reeder.



Jim Briscoe teaches Jeffery Montgomery of Heavener how to make an arrowhead.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton had the winning bid on a unique Code Talker quilt. Presenting him with the quilt are Choctaw Code Talker Association members Tewanna Edwards and Nuchi Nashoba.



Trayvian Billy



Gracelan peeks through the fence.



Kyleigh Willis of Temple, Texas, has a healthy snack during the festival.



The Snake Dance is enjoyed in the village.

ART SHOW WINNERS

PAINTINGS

- 1st: Kevin Hardin
2nd: Yvonne Huser
3rd: Dylan Cavin
Honorable Mention: Nancy Rhoades
Heritage Award: Gwen Coleman Lester

GRAPHICS

- 1: Dennis Cokeley
2: Greg Ducla
3: Stephanie Rose
Honorable Mention: Dylan Cavin
Heritage Award: Stephanie Rose

SCULPTURE

- 1: Lyman Choate
2: Lyman Choate
3: Lyman Choate

POTTERY

- 1: Verna Todd
2: Edmon Perkins
3: Wyona Meshaya
Honorable Mention: Evangilene Robinson
Heritage Award: Marsha Hedrick

BASKETRY

- 1: Susan Locke-Charlesworth
2: Lizabeth Mitchell
3: Susan Locke-Charlesworth
Honorable Mention: Susan Locke-Charlesworth

CULTURAL

- 1: Jarvis Johnson
2: Bernier
3: Jarvis Johnson
Honorable Mention: Roger Amerman
Heritage Award: Laura Pickens

JEWELRY

- 1: Theresa Renegar
2: Marsha Hedrick
3: Theresa Renegar
Honorable Mention: Keith Pearson

Heritage Award: Chester Cowan

BEST OF SHOW: Kevin Hardin



Gwen Coleman Lester, Painting Heritage Award.



Chester Cowan, Jewelry Heritage Award.



Stephanie Rose, Graphic Heritage Award.



Layla Loman



Virginia Espinoza officiates the Choctaw wedding of Mike Watkins and Lawanna Arnold.



Above, Gatlin Dale rides Spotted Wolf on a hill in the village. There were several Choctaw horses at the festival. The Choctaw Horse Conservation supplied information about the horses and provided over 350 rides.

At right, Jan Francis of Oklahoma watches the wedding in the Choctaw village.



Matthew and Smokey hang out at the festival.



Robert Thompson of Wright City and son Anthony Thompson of Arlington, Texas.



Mackenzie Wright and Masheli Watson.

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL WINNERS OF 2011

VOLLEYBALL



1st: Mississippi Heat
Sydney Tubby, Gabrialle Crosby, Paul Crosby, Tyrus Hickman, Kristen Willis, David Crosby, Tiara Morris, Marlana Crosby, Eric Battiest, Anthony Crosby (coach) and Chad Johnson



2nd: The Crew
Lena Scott, Sarah Trusty, Taloa Camp, Melissa Culley, Mike Scott, Tim and Neva Harjochee, Thomas Hardy and Dallas Burch
3rd: The Diggers and Smoke Signals

BASKETBALL



Men 35 and up
1st: SE Ballers - Darrel Burris, Bobby Gordon, Mike Converse and Don Tsosie.



Men 35 and up
2nd: The Buckets - Dwayne Hornbuckle, Roger Coley, Stephon Battiest and Rock Lebeau



Men 18-35
1st: Main Event - Anthony Ned, Trevan Jimboy, Jeff Burris and Tyler Ennis



Men 18 - 35
2nd: Running Skins - Kirk Taylor, Caleb Taylor, "Slim" and Michael Clay
3rd: Oleta (no pic) - David Lindly, Randall Clay, Allen Clay and Fred Walton



Co-ed 15-17
1st: Durant Lions: Derek Penz, Kannon Dry, Daylan Green, Dylan Delozier and Steven Wallace



Co-ed 15-17
2nd: Mix A Lot - Brandon, Jake, Lauren and Jordan



Co-ed 15-17
3rd: NDN X-Press - Dustin Johnson, Winona Johnson (coach), Tayleur Pickup, Kirsten Chase and Clarissa "Bub" Smith



Women 18 and up
1st: Native Thunder - Catie Newport, Jalena Walker and Laura Hamilton



Women 18 and up
3rd: Kelli Shaw, Misty Madbull, Audry Jacobs and Tiffany T.



Co-ed 12-14
1st: Chiefs - K.J. Wells, Ethan Columbus, Pipkin Richards, Meshiya Bird, Dajun Pondexter, Quinton Lewis, Bow Wow Wells and Coach Richards



Co-ed 12-14
2nd: Bulls - Brandon Gray, Anthony Wilson, Michael Nafarrate and Haley Farrah



Co-ed 12-14
3rd: OK Ballers - Braden, Morgan, Jamie, Reed and Trey



Co-ed 9-11
1st: Chahta Sharp Shooters - Talon, Keyana, Nakiah, Jaylyn, Josh, Kaylyn and Watta



Co-ed 9-11
2nd: Next of Kin - Amberly Battiest, Braden Schaw, Kantynn Kaseca, Dustin Lehmann and Braccus Williams



Co-ed 9-11
3rd: Nick McKnight, Luke McKnight and Cassie Grey



Age 14-17 Free throws
1st: Dustin Johnson, 2nd: Kai Stroud, 3rd: Jeremy Furr

The first man to finish the Labor Day 5K run with a time of 18:21 was Tom Brennan.



LABOR DAY 5K WINNERS



The first woman to finish the Labor Day 5K run with a time of 20:54 was Anna Holland.

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL WINNERS OF 2011

BASKETBALL



Free Throw ages 12-13
1st: Trey Hawkins, 2nd: Keaton Jackson, 3rd: Rayburn Taylor



Free Throw ages 10-11
1st: Karson Dry, 2nd: Lucas McKnight, 3rd: Nicholas McKnight



Free Throw ages 8-9
1st: Kaitlyn Gorda, 2nd: Kantynn Kas-eca, 3rd: Wyatt Hotella



Free Throw ages 6-7
1st: Cale Clay, 2nd: Kadence Win-ship

HORSESHOES



Youth single
1st: Cody Crase, 2nd: Chipper Jones, 3rd: Blake Crase



Men single
1st: Gary Bearclaw, 2nd: John Cum-mins, 3rd: Danny Adams



Women single
1st: Emma Morris (women ringer), 2nd: Brenda Daniels, 3rd: Brandy Proctor



Women doubles
1st: Brenda Daniels and Brandy Proctor



Women doubles
2nd: Candace Tiger and Ruby Long
3rd: (no pic) Lillian Pratt and Emma Morris



Men doubles
1st: Craig Cummings and Mat Cummings



Men doubles
2nd: Elton Summerfield and Gary Bearpaw



Men doubles
3rd: Donald Qualls and Mickey Qualls



Youth Ringer: Blake Crase

TOUGH-TOUGH AND TRUCK GIVEAWAY



Men Ringer: Clint Proctor



Chief Gregory E. Pyle congratulates the winners of the two 2011 GMC Sierra pickup trucks given away at the Choctaw Nation festival – Connie Hancock, left, from Poteau won the red truck, and Lynda Boen of Calera is the winner of the black truck.



1st: Chris Hawk (center), 2nd: Seth Fairchild (right), Fighting Heart Award: Matt Arnold (left)

SOFTBALL



The first place for the men's softball tournament was the team, Next Of Kin. Front: Bradley Clay, Kyle Baker, Silas Baker, Randall Clay, Robbie, Kerry Clay, Mike Clay, Back: Kevin Kaseca, Mike Baker, Jason Baker, Hank Williams, Chris Leaf, Rodney Gann and Mike Sands.
Second place was Kansas Indians and third was Charlie B's.



2nd Place finish for women's fast pitch are Lady Warriors- Front row: Symphoni Shomo, Brittany Barnett, Savanna, Shenele Back row: Shannon Barnett, Amber Harjo, Amanda Harjo, Elizabeth Agpalo, Kayla and Danielle Fox. Not pictured are coaches Dan Barnett, Howard Harjo and Chris Shomo.
First place winners were Chahta, with Shockley's coming in third.

For more pictures and updates, like “Choctaw Nation” on Facebook
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CHOCTAWNATIONOFOKLAHOMA

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL WINNERS OF 2011

STICKBALL TOURNAMENT



1st: Unified



2nd: Mvskoke



3rd: Tvshka Homma

CHIEF PYLE’S PHYSICAL FITNESS CHALLENGE



The participants of Chief Pyle’s 2011 fitness challenge

CHECKER/DOMINO WINNERS AND TERRAPIN RACES



Age 3-7
1st: Jaylen Keeling of Garvin (right), 2nd: McKenzie Petty of Durant (left), 3rd: Bailee Coleman of Wright City (center)



Age 8-12
1st: Kyleigh Brown of Talihina (left), 2nd: Landon Milner of Rufe (not pictured), 3rd: Catherine Stagner of Kansas, Okla. (right)



Youth Dominoes Winners
1st: Kallie Battiest, 2nd: Koda M. Hudson



Adult Dominoes Winners
1st: Myron Johnson, 2nd: Wayne Baker



Youth Checkers Winners
1st: Casey Davidson, 2nd: Samuel Jacob



Adult Checkers Winners
1st: Jason Baker, 2nd: Wilburn Jones



Submitted photo

Princesses take part in state fair opening ceremony

Miss Indian Oklahoma City Princess 2011 Stephanie Tehauno blesses and raises the United States flag toward the four directions at the opening of the 2011 Oklahoma State Fair. Stephanie was the 2009-10 Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Looking on are Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma City Kaylon Wood and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City Rachel Scott.

Choctaw SAP, Oklahoma Christian announce MBA Scholarship Plan

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) and Oklahoma Christian University are launching a new MBA scholarship program for tribal members. According to Dr. Ken Johnson, chair of the Graduate School of Business at OC, the scholarship program will encourage and assist tribal members in seeking an advanced degree, which can be extremely beneficial in not only finding employment, but enhancing careers.

“The Choctaw Nation’s SAP is honored to add Oklahoma Christian University as a partner in our growing list of outstanding universities. This partnership provides great opportunities for Choctaw students seeking a graduate business degree,” adds Jo McDaniel, director of the Choctaw Nation SAP.

Johnson anticipates that most if not all of the Choctaw students will complete the MBA program online. “Being able to complete our fast-track MBA program on-

line is certainly an attractive feature for students who are pressured for time with job and family commitments,” he said. “Our curriculum’s emphasis on ethics, practical knowledge and real-world application, is very attractive to employers who highly value those attributes. Communication, economics, finance, global perspectives, leadership, management, marketing, organizational issues, and technology are taught by faculty members who bring a wealth of business experience and academic preparation to the classroom.”

OC’s MBA faculty is especially responsive to on-line students, Johnson said, returning emails and phone calls quickly.

All students entering the program are issued laptop computers. OC provides technical support, training, and general computing assistance to students (undergrad and graduate) on campus or while remote. Each laptop contains an ethernet card which, when

used on campus, provides the student with wireless communication, access to the Internet, and connection to campus printers and database resources

There are three main factors considered for admission to the MBA program, including undergraduate cumulative grade point average (GPA), Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) score or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score, and professional experience. The MBA program grants admission for the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Choctaw Nation SAP and OC will be co-hosting an information session in Durant at the Choctaw Community Center on Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. The information session is targeted at Choctaw tribal members and Choctaw Nation employees who are interested in pursuing the MBA. More information on the Choctaw Nation SAP can be found at www.choctawnation-sap.com.

Farm Bill programs with Natural Resources Conservation service

Several Farm Bill Programs are available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Some of those programs are the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP); Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP); and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

The EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

The CSP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by (1) undertaking additional conservation activities and (2) improving and maintaining existing conservation systems. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP is available to all producers, regardless of operation size or crops produced. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland,

nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

The WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture.

The program offers three enrollment options: (1) Permanent Easement is a conservation easement in perpetuity. USDA pays 100 percent of the easement value and up to 100 percent of the restoration costs. (2) 30-Year Easement is an easement that expires after 30 years. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the easement value and up to 75 percent of the restoration costs. For both permanent and 30-year easements, USDA pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance. (3) Restoration Cost-Share Agreement is an agreement to restore or enhance the wetland functions and values without placing an easement on the enrolled acres. USDA pays up to 75 percent of the restoration costs.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for private and Tribal land to develop or improve high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through

WHIP, the USDA-NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat on their property.

For more information and updates about Farm Bill Programs please refer to the US Department of Agriculture Website <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Website at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>

If you are leasing property from the Choctaw Nation and are interested in a Farm Bill Program you may contact Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist at (580)924-8280, Ext. 5134. If you have privately owned land you may contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office located in the county you reside in.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Choctaw SAP announces Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship

The Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program is excited to announce the Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship offered by the Tina Willis Memorial Scholarship Committee.

Tina was a wife and mother of four children; she lived life to the fullest through her family, her church, her culture and her job.

She was employed with the Choctaw Nation Outreach Services Youth Outreach Program as a social worker.

Before her death she had returned to school at Eastern State College and was pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice.

Tina’s pastime was filled with softball, stickball, beading and family activities. She was a former Choctaw Princess for District 2.

Tina was Choctaw, she loved her culture and its people, in particular Choctaw youth. She took great pride in being able to help the youth she worked with be successful in all their endeavors.

This competitive award is a \$500 scholarship available to Choctaw students majoring in Criminal Justice or Social Work. In addition to being Choctaw and majoring in one of the two fields, candidates must be a resident of the 10-½ counties tribal service area, have at least a GPA of 2.5, submit an application and write an essay describing, “Why do you want to obtain a degree in social work or criminal



justice? What does it mean to you to be Choctaw and how will you apply the social work or criminal justice degree to your Choctaw community?”

More information about this scholarship, including the application, can be found at www.choctawnation-sap.com/cnoscholarship.shtml or by calling 580-924-8280 ext. 2383. The deadline to apply is Nov. 1, 2011.

Healthy Male Research Subjects Needed

We are looking for the following:

- Ages 18-50
- American Indian volunteers w/ CDIB Card
- High school graduate or GED
- Read and speak English fluently
- No history of brain injury, substance abuse, or mental illness



Time Commitment: One 90 minute session

If you are interested in participating in a research study of computerized tests examining attention, memory, and reasoning that will aid men and women in the Armed Forces please call

918.448.6796

Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic

Sponsor Institution: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Study PIs: C. Munro Cullum, Ph.D. and Myron F. Weiner, M.D.

Contact PIs@ 214.648.4427

Participants will be compensated for their time upon completion of the study visit with a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart.

Don’t throw money out the window – weatherize your home

You may not know it, but your home is probably leaking a lot of that climate-controlled air that you’re paying so much to create every month.

Before your thoughts of “not my house!” get too loud, chew on this: The average, un-weatherized U.S. home leaks air at a rate equivalent to a 4-square-foot hole in the wall, according to the “Solar Living Sourcebook” by John Schaeffer. And with the residential sector consuming 35 percent of available energy to

consumers, reducing our use of this costly resource can result in big savings.

So what should you do to prevent wasting your hard earned cash on leaks?

Simple Tests and Adjustments

If you don’t think leaks are a big problem, think twice: the average duct system loses 30 percent of its heating or cooling to leaks. To detect leaks in your home, look to areas where different materials meet, such as between brick and wood siding, be-

tween foundation and walls and between the chimney and siding. Some of the main places in your home that you should check include:

- Door and window frames
- Mail chutes
- Electrical and gas service entrances
- Cable TV, phone lines and electric outlets
- Where dryer vents pass through walls



- Bricks, siding, stucco and foundation

- Recessed can lights
- Vents and fans
- Fireplace chimney flues

You can also try these steps to help detect leaks in your home:

1. Shine a flashlight at night over all potential gaps while a partner observes the house from outside. Large cracks will show

up as rays of light. However, this is not an accurate way to detect small cracks.

2. Shut a door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you’re losing energy.

3. Check the attic, walls and floors adjacent to an unheated space, like a garage or basement. The structural elements are usually exposed in these areas, which makes it easy to see what type of insulation you have and to measure its depth or thickness.

4. Inspect exterior walls using an outside electrical outlet. Make sure to turn off the power to the outlet before removing the cover. Then, shine a flashlight into the area, where you should be able to see if there’s insulation in the surrounding walls and, potentially, how thick it is.

If you find air leaks, check out DoItYourself.com’s guide to types of caulking and weather-stripping and where and how they should be applied to the various areas in your home.

OBITUARIES

Vivian Nesheim

Vivian Nesheim, 78, of North Little Rock, passed away on July 14, 2011, in Little Rock. She was born on July 24, 1932, in De Queen, Ark. She was the daughter of Mose Dyer and Belinda Bates.

Vivian was a retired LPN and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She loved photography and recording video footage on her camera as well as dancing.

Vivian is preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Mike White.

Survivors include her husband, Ross Nesheim; children, Peggy Wilder and Larry Young; stepchildren, Linda Maxwell, Janet Yanni, Rosalyn Carr and Norma Jean Callahan; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brothers, Doug Colbert and Junior Adams; and sisters, Mary Ballard and Julia Adams.



William Mills Jr.

William Roy Stanley Mills Jr. (Billy Mills) passed away on Aug. 6, 2011. He was born to Mary and W.R.S. Mills Sr. at Crystal, Atoka County, on Feb. 17, 1945. He married Nita Goodson in Lane on Nov. 29, 1964. They made their home in Eules, Texas.

Billy and Nita had two daughters, Regina and Teresa. Nita passed away on Jan. 4, 1978, after fighting a lengthy illness, leaving behind her young family. Nita is resting in the Mills plot in the Crystal Cemetery.

Billy later met and married Barbara Watson, who is a loving wife and a caring mother to all the children and grandchildren. Her love of children led her to opening and operating a day care at their home for several years. Billy and Barbara continued to keep in touch with many of the children who were in her care.

Billy attended Crystal Elementary School from first grade through the eighth grade and Atoka High School from ninth through the twelfth. He then attended the University of Oklahoma for one year and was in the National Guard during this time. His deep desire to work with machinery and parts led him to enroll at Okmulgee Tech. He was very excited about the skills he learned there. He thoroughly utilized that training and his skills. Much of his work was performed while standing in the early years. Later many of machines were computerized, allowing him to sit and do much of his work. However, he sometimes would work on the original machines, especially in training newer employees to operate them.

Billy had continued this line of work until recently when forced to go on disability due to his health problems. Not being able to go to work deeply grieved him. He stated, "Even if I'm sick, I would rather be at work than anywhere else." He always worked the second shift. Early on he worked for Menasco, which was later B.F. Goodrich before the company moved north, then he worked for Bell Helicopter, Oil State Rubber and Haliburton, where he was working when he became totally unable to go to work. He had also been self-employed in his own shop for several years prior to returning to work at Bell Helicopter. When a company where he was employed had layoffs, he would manage to find work at another company in lieu of receiving unemployment benefits. He tried long haul truck driving for a little while, but quickly saw the hours and the money were not up to his experience and livelihood in the machinist business. He said he did enjoy seeing the country that he had not previously had the opportunity to see.

Billy was of the Baptist faith and a 32nd degree Mason and was proud of his 1/8 degree Choctaw heritage, which came from his maternal grandmother, Estella Hutcherson Shoemaker. He is buried in the Crystal Cemetery next to his mother, Mary Mills. Barbara plans to be beside him when she reaches the end of her journey. A sister, Gayla Mills, preceded him in death as did two infant sisters, Scarlet and Rosalie.

Survivors include Barbara Watson; daughter, Regina with husband, Rodney St. John and their sons, Rowan, Reed and Ross; daughter Teresa Atwell and children, Haley and Kristen; Barbara's son, Curtis Watson with wife Brandy and daughter Ashley; and sons, Tatum and Mason; three sisters, Marlene Campo of Boswell, Shirley Toombs of Calera and Velma Althoff.

Kathryn Griffith

Kathryn Y. Griffith, 74, of Sherwood passed away on Aug. 27, 2011. She was born Dec. 7, 1936, in Allen, to the late William and Fannie Davis. She was a devout Christian lady who enjoyed singing, working in her yard, sewing, quilting, and spending time with family.

She was preceded in death by her two husbands, Harry Logan and Ken Griffith; two sisters, Wynema Moon and Arlena Davis.

She is survived by her son, Vince Logan with his wife Tammi of Austin, Ark.; three grandchildren, Britney, Hayden and Katelyn Logan; brother Wallace Davis with his wife Ruth of Dallas; and a host of family and friends.



Pearly Hope

Pearly Mae Hope, 71, passed away on July 6, 2011, in Tulsa. She was born on May 18, 1940, in Ludlow, the daughter of Preston and Carrie Ward Ludlow. Pearly lived in Ludlow, often working as a beautician and having retired from Tyson Foods. She enjoyed reading, trying out new recipes and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sisters, Sussie Jacobs and Emmie Sealey.

Pearly is survived by her husband of 31 years, Bill Hope of the home; brothers, Preston Jr. and Joanne Ludlow of Tulsa, Clarence and Vivian Ludlow of Lancaster, James and Debbie Ludlow of California, Elvis and Christine Ludlow of Catootsa; sisters, Lodean Starr of Talihina, Virre Jean and Raymond Johnson of Mesquite, Texas, Anna and Mack Carlile of Talihina; and many nieces and nephews.



Harold Williams

Harold Daniel Williams Jr., 49, of Atoka, formerly of Okmulgee, passed away on Aug. 20, 2011, in Tulsa. He was born on Oct. 10, 1961, in Atoka to Harold and Wylene (Wadley) Williams. He attended grade school and high school in Okmulgee and graduated high school in Wichita in 1980 and went on to become an auto body painter and a carpenter. He was a member of the Second Baptist in Okmulgee. He enjoyed beadwork, watching sports and reading.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harold Williams; brothers, Emmanuel, Phillip and Anthony Williams; grandmothers, Winey Brewer and Georgia Williams; and grandfather Isom Williams.

He is survived by his mother, Wylene Wadley of Atoka; siblings, Ramona Davis and Bruce Wadley of Okmulgee; nieces, Marquita Meneley, Makayla Meneley, Audasia Williams, Natasha Williams, Jahiya Harjo, Sugs Wadley, Naking Williams, Nataya Meashintubby, Nevaeh Williams, Harmony Moore, Nariah Williams and April Williams; nephews, Damon William, Phillip Wadley, Darius Moore Jr., Emmanuel Meashintubby and Michael Meneley Jr.; nephew-in-law Michael Meneley; aunt Theda Carnes; uncle Rayson Nicholas; along with numerous relatives and friends.



Farron Belone

Farron "Raimi" R. Belone passed away on June 19, 2011. He was born on May 11, 1975, in Fort Defiance, Ariz., to Rose Primeaux Wauneka of the Bitter Water Clan and Lee R. Belone of the Coyote Pass. Raimi was born on Mother's Day 36 years ago and passed away on Father's Day of 2011.

Raimi was a sweet, kind and intelligent person. He enjoyed learning about Choctaw ways, languages and songs. He valued his Navajo heritage as well. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Jeanette Curley and Benny Wauneka; paternal grandfather, Roger Belone; and two uncles, Harold Wauneka and Ralph Curley.

Raimi is survived by his mother, Rose Primeaux of Heaven-er; four brothers, Vladamiur R. Belone of Pocomoke City, Md., Allen R. Bacon of Heavener, David A. Bacon of Pocola and Orentol R. Belone of Fort Defiance; two sisters, Leigh R. Charley and Michelle Belone, both of Fort Defiance; three nieces, Shaelena and Kaydance Bacon, both of Monroe, and Talina Bacon of Pocola; two nephews, Dakota Bacon of Whitesboro and Joseph Bacon of Monroe; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.



Parker Glen

Parker Glen, 57, of Hugo, passed away on July 21, 2011. He was born on Dec. 23, 1953 to Henry and Wanetta (Siddle) Glenn in Hugo. He lived his life in the Hugo area and married Rubye (Winters) Pierce on Jan. 9, 1998 in Hugo. He liked to fish, hunt and enjoyed spending time with his friends, though he especially loved spending time with Rubye, his grandkids and his brother, Larry. Parker had many friends and his Delta Chi Delta brothers he held close to his heart. He had an incredible heart. He saw no color of skin and showed no judgment. Parker left lasting footprints and memories on hearts of all people he met. His great sense of humor and kind understanding will forever be remembered in the hearts of all that knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Billy; and nephew, Victor.

He is survived by his wife, Rubye Glenn of the home; four daughters, Amber Leushner of Victorea, Texas, Connie Moore of Hugo, Sammye Loftin of Boswell and Kim Crawford of Valliant; 15 grandchildren, Kristen and Brody Leushner of Victorea, J.L. Blankenship of Hugo, Falyn and Seth Moore of Boswell, Sarah Crawford of Valliant, Chelsey Morriss of Stillwell, Austin Laura and Rowdy Loftin, of Messer, Hunter Heady of Hugo and Devontey, Jayla and Kinion Pierce of Moyers; two great-grandchildren, Draven Moore and Trenton Robinson of Boswell; brother Larry Glenn of Hugo; four sisters, Kay McIntire of Gallop, N.M., Mary Littledeer of Palmer Lake, Colo., Fayette West of Hugo and Dorothy Glenn of Hugo.



Minerva Edmondson

Minerva Lloyd Edmondson passed away on Sept. 3, 2011. Minerva was born on June 15, 1935, to Parker and Vivian Lloyd in Bennington.

In 1956 she wed Jim Allen Edmondson and they had one child, Sharron. The couple enjoyed 55 years of marriage. Minerva was a homemaker, a good wife, a caring mother and grandmother. She was known by the family as "Meme." She was a gourmet cook, a seamstress, an artist, a grand gardener whose gardens sparkled, loved to read and an avid Thursday Bridge player. To know "Meme" was to cherish her for her kindness and wit. She was one of a kind. "Meme" taught Sunday school for many years at the Maysville Bible Church and led many children to the Lord. She was preceded in death by her father, Parker Lloyd; and brother, Phillip Lloyd.

Minerva is survived by her husband, Jim Edmondson of the home in Jay; her mother, Vivian Vaughn of Ozark, Mo.; one daughter, Sharron Edmondson of Jay; two grandchildren, Dusti Crace with husband Bryan of Jay, and Rance Glenn with fiancée Desiree Burselson-Schlessman of Jay; eight great-grandchildren, Hayden and Landon Ferguson of Arkansas, Coy and Cale Crace of Jay, Kodie Glenn of Jay, Hemi Glenn of Grove, Jaxon and Ty Schlessman of Jay; and two brothers; Grady Lloyd of Ozark and Wesley Lloyd of Potosi, Mo.; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and lots of friends.



Cinda Osborn

Cinda Osborn, 51, passed away on July 29, 2011, in Orange Park, Fla. She was born on Feb. 14, 1960, to Barbara LeDancer of Willows and Stanley Osborn Sr. of Oregon. She attended school in Willows and Orland. She worked with Walmart in Florida for about 13 years.

She is survived by a son, Steven of Florida; daughter Lisa Palmer with husband Rob of Florida; grandson Kyle; granddaughters, Sabrina and Dale Nicole; brother Stan Osborn Jr. of Oregon; sister Tina Leach of Willows; grandmother Lina Osborn of Orland; uncle Ron of Orland; a nephew and niece; two great-nieces; and many cousins.



Jack Mills

Jack Walton Mills, son of Thomas A. Mills and Delora May (Beck) Mills, passed away on April 18, 2011, in Joplin, Mo. He was born Dec. 1, 1922, in Quinton. He was the sixth of nine children. On May 16, 1948, Jack married Jan Bufe and to this union three children were born.

Jack was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. His mother, Delora, was an enrolled Choctaw, the daughter of Elijah Oliver Beck and Joanna Woods. Joanna (Woods) Beck was the daughter of Stephen Woods and Eliza Dukes, both born in Mississippi.

After his family and his Choctaw heritage, Jack was most proud of his service in World War II. He was a private in the U.S. Army, and fought for his country on the beaches of Normandy (Omaha/Fox/Red) on D-Day. One of the recent highlights of his life was in November 2010, when he took the Ozarks Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to view the World War II Memorial.

In his retirement, Jack developed an interest in painting and writing. In addition to painting pictures, he loved to paint scenic images on antique objects, such as saws, saw blades of all sizes, trowels and even old-fashioned kerosene heaters. His writings included two self-published books he wrote for his family, one about his life in general, and another about his experiences in World War II.

He was most well-known among friends and family for his sense of humor and sharp wit. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Jack is now reunited with Jan, his wife of 55 years, who preceded him in death in 2003. He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Haskell, Raymond and Sylvester; and three sisters, Flora, Goldie and Alma.

Jack is survived by two sons, Gary Mills with his wife Jerre of Rolla, Mo., Larry Mills with wife Laura of Joplin, Mo.; daughter Jackie Mohring with husband Allan of St. Paul, Minn.; one granddaughter, Carrie (Mills) Rodell with husband Jim of Willard, Mo.; three grandsons, Scott Mills of Rolla, and Blake and Hunter Mills of Joplin; one great-grandson, Ryan Rodell of Willard; one brother, Denver Mills with his wife Jackie, of Salado, Texas; and one sister, Melba Goffrier with her husband Fred of Tucson, Ariz.; and many friends.

William Wesley

William Howard Wesley passed away on Aug. 11, 2011. He was born June 4, 1965, in Riverside, Calif., to proud parents Laura and Lewain, and to big sister Theresa.

William led a full life and had many wonderful adventures. His affection of family, friends, travel, surfing, and music were fierce and undeniable.

His lifelong love of fishing and camping started with family at a young age. He has traveled Europe, Canada, Mexico and many states in the U.S., including Hawaii. Whether it was driving, flying, or riding his Harley to visit friends and relatives, Will was always on the move. He enjoyed historical sites, Indian ruins, volcanoes, waterfalls, beaches, and fishing holes.

In 1979, Will and Theresa camped Europe for three months with their dad in a VW bus, sharing a once in a lifetime experience. In 2004, he flew to Washington, D.C. with his Dad, Theresa, and her children for the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. He is listed on the Honor Wall and is also a Charter Member. This year, Will and his sister went to the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma and participated in the annual Trail of Tears Walk. In a spiritual and healing moment, they sat on the sacred mound together and left their father's ashes. Will's mom instilled in him a love of music that carried throughout his life. She took him to his first concert, Neil Diamond. In return, he took her to Pink Floyd. This led him to countless other concerts, backstage areas, music festivals, and teaching himself to play the guitar. Will spent a lot of time with his niece, Christina, and nephews, Brian and Alex. He took them to Santa Cruz, the beaches, their first concert, skateboarded with them, gave life advice, and pried them out of their comfort zone. He left each of them with very memorable experiences. Will was also a great-uncle to Rachel and Wesley.

William attended Cuesta College and Orfalea at Cal Poly and earned a degree in International Business and Finance. While living in Nevada, Will and Stephanie owned Silver State Safety and Training. In 2004, Will was honored by the Reno Chamber of Commerce as "Businessperson of the Year."

In 2005, Will and Stephanie moved to Hawaii, married and started a family. They enjoyed spelunking lava tubes, hiking, kayaking, and eating "ono-kine grinds" and driving up Maui's Haleakala to pray and watch the sunrise. Dawn patrolling the surf at Pohoiki brought him great joy. As a teenager, Will learned to surf in California. He continued to frequent both coasts, hanging with his fellow lovers of the ultimate wave. A check of the daily surf report was a must. William loved being a stay-at-home dad to their son Zeus. He built him an airplane zip-line, played at the park, and encouraged him musically and educationally. Zeus was truly the apple of his eye.

William was a lot of things to a lot of people, and like his dad, a man among men. He was a listener, talker, theorist, knower, thinker, friend, musician, amateur pilot, and surfer. Most important was his role as a son, brother, husband, father, grandson, uncle, cousin and nephew. May he have peace in knowing what an amazing part he played in all of our lives.



OBITUARIES

George McKenzie Jr.

George Henry McKenzie Jr. of McAlester, passed away on Aug. 29, 2011, in Muskogee at the age of 58.

George was born Dec. 24, 1952, in McAlester to George Henry McKenzie Sr. and Suzie (Taylor) McKenzie. George graduated from McAlester High School in 1971. He attended East Central College in Ada. He worked at the McAlester High School Indian Education Department. In 1980, he married Nelda McClure. He began working at the McAlester Boy's Club as Assistant Director and Program Director from 1978-1989. He attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant and graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. He worked for the Eastern Oklahoma Youth Services and the Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Pittsburg County and Muskogee County. He was an instructor trainer for the American Red Cross, American Red Cross Board Member, CASA Board Member and Volunteer and OSSAA Sports Official. In 2001, George was inducted into the Oklahoma Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame as an Umpire. He was a member of the First Church of the Nazarene.

George is survived by his wife, Nelda of the home; daughters, Tiana Koitek McKenzie of the home and Lori Kulih Kitini McKenzie of the home; three granddaughters, Aliaha, Talia and Audrey; sister Faye Reagan with husband Dan of Indianola; aunt Elizabeth McKenzie of McAlester; cousins, Betty Thomas of McAlester, Lillie Mae Leija of McAlester, Harriet Sloan of Mountain View, Isabel Slabaugh of Valliant and Florence Emholah of Mountain View; and many more cousins, other family and a host of friends.



Paula Roberts

Paula Annette (Bagley) Roberts, 44, passed away on Sept. 12, 2011, in Midwest City. She was born on April 6, 1967, in Durant to Gary Michael and Lillie Faye (Airington) Roberts. She had been a lifelong resident of Durant and she enjoyed reading, computers and she cherished her children, family and friends. Paula was of the Pentecostal faith.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, William and Vera Airington.

Paula is survived by her children, Amber Annette Brinlee, Jonathan Mark Brinlee and Anthony James Brinlee, all of Durant; parents of Durant; sister Regina Matlock with husband Phillip of Little Rock; brothers, Christopher Roberts with wife Susan, Kevin Roberts, Bo Roberts with wife Lacy and Justin Roberts, all of Durant; two grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and other family.



Edna Blackwell

Edna Mae Blackwell, 71, passed from this life Aug. 20, 2011, in Owasso. She was born on Oct. 28, 1939, in Miller to Lloyd and Dora Mae (Cochran) Orm. Edna married Bill McGuire on July 31, 1955. They were married until his passing on Nov. 20, 1982. Edna married again, to Druce Blackwell on May 5, 1984, in Antlers. They remained married until he too passed away in Waldron, Ark., in 1995. Edna graduated from Professional Seamstress School and she was a member of the Gospel Light Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C. She loved to sew, travel, read books and dance. She was the president of the Donny McGuire Fan Club, but most of all, her enjoyment came from spending time with her family and friends.

Edna was preceded in death by her first husband, Bill McGuire; second husband, Druce Blackwell; parents, Lloyd and Dora Orm; brother Thomas Orm; sisters, Lillie Pearl Hobbs and Doris Ann Tugman; a granddaughter Samantha Rhodes; and her little dog, Penny.

She is survived by her children, Mary DeZuani with husband Ivo of Newalla, Bill McGuire with wife Virginia of Antlers, Bonnie Malone of Poteau, and Donny McGuire with wife Tammy of Uniontown, Ark.; 14 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; as well as many other relatives and friends.

Patricia Henderson

Patricia Stumpff Henderson, 86, passed away in Tampa, Fla., on July 17, 2011. She was born in Spiro, on Dec. 17, 1924. Patti was a wonderful mother to her two sons, Gregory P. Henderson of Tampa and Joe-Neil Henderson of Oklahoma City, and a mentor to all. She was a RN with special certification in Gerontological Nursing and worked in both acute and long term care settings. Patti was a teacher for the State of Florida. She didn't retire until she was 82 years old and the oldest active nursing teacher in the state. She taught students how to become nurses' aides who embody both expertise and compassion for elders. Patti's own compassion for others was reflected in her nursing style including being prone to sit on the edge of patients' beds to comfort them and make the fact of sickness more bearable.

Her love of fun and laughter was shown by her co-teachers' list of "Patti-isms!" These were terms and phrases that she grew-up with in Oklahoma. "Running around like a chicken with its head cut off" was a favorite phrase she "shared" with her colleagues when things got hectic. Her folksy comments added a feeling of warmth to the office in an otherwise cold, clinical world.

She was always for the underdog and fiercely protective of Indian issues. Patti participated in Choctaw Nation activities and Indian life. She walked the Trail of Tears walk, traveled to Tuskahoma, loved tanchi labona, banaha, and other foods, was regularly smudged, attended pow wows in Florida and Oklahoma including Red Earth, was given an honor blanket and dance shawl, and participated in her last sweat lodge only a few months ago.

Patti's mother, Pauline Smith Stumpff of Canadian was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Her father, Wilmont Raymond Stumpff, was of Cherokee and Catawba descent. Her siblings are Jo Alice Powder, Phillip W. Stumpff, and Dixie Stephens. She has five grandchildren, Matthew G. Henderson, Kara J. Henderson, Gabriela C. Henderson, Noelle B. Henderson and Stella J. Henderson; and two grandchildren, Russell G. Henderson and Lauren M. Henderson.

So many people will miss her for so many good reasons.



Betsy Lueke

Betsy Lueke, 91, passed away on July 31, 2011, in Burbank with family at her side.

Born in Globe, Ariz., on Aug. 17, 1919, to Victor and Fern Kelley, Betsy was raised in Hollywood, Calif., and attended Hollywood High School, UCLA, and Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles. She married Lloyd Lueke in 1942, and they moved to their home in Burbank in 1947, where she happily resided until her passing.

Betsy loved living in Burbank, working initially at Lockheed Aircraft and then becoming active in the community and in her children's activities such as Girl Scouts, McKinley Elementary School PTA, and Park and Recreation Department programs. It was through her involvement in local recreation programs that she was hired as an employee in 1956 and began a long and illustrious career with the Burbank Park, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Betsy worked at many parks leading various preschool, arts and crafts, fine and performing arts, and teen programs, but she was most proud of her work in establishing a quality visual and performing arts program for the City of Burbank. She had a vision of establishing quality art experiences for the community and was able to see her vision to fruition with the building of the Creative Arts Center facility and the establishment of programs provided out of that facility.

Betsy retired from the City of Burbank in 1992 but still remained active traveling, gardening, researching her Native American heritage, volunteering at City Hall and the library and teaching yoga classes at the Joslyn Adult Center.

Betsy is survived by her children, Linda (Gary) Oseransky and Kelley (Kendra) Lueke; grandchildren, Brady (Jenny) Griffin, Seth Oseransky, Jamie Lueke, and Scott Lueke; and great grandchildren Lauren and Colin Griffin.



Patricia White

Patricia Ann White, 68, passed away on Sept. 9, 2011, in Paris, Texas.

Patricia Ann White, fondly known as "Aunt Pat," was born Aug. 31, 1943, in Swink, the daughter of Bert and Jimmie (Earthman) White. She was raised in the area and lived there all her life. She started her career at the Wells Lamont Glove Factory in Hugo and spent the next 30 years with Weyerhaeuser, serving as a paper tester and Team Leader before her retirement. Pat will be remembered for her kind heart, willingness to help others, and special love for kids. For years Pat devoted herself to creating a Magical Christmas Wonderland at her home, which was enjoyed by everyone for miles around. She loved to make people laugh and put smiles on faces. Aunt Pat had a huge heart for kids, surrounding herself with the family's kids and volunteering at the local schools. She also enjoyed fishing, gardening, wood crafting, and garage sales, but more than anything she enjoyed sharing a good time with her family and friends.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents; her companion, Bev McLemore; one brother, Doug White; and one niece, Andrea Cordova.

Patricia is survived by her daughter by heart, Sandi Ross with husband Jim and their two sons of Texas; brothers, Bill White and Claude White of Swink, and Johnny White of Palestine, Texas; sister, Gwen Beene of Swink; numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.



W.C. Beal

W.C. "Bill" Beal of Springdale passed away on Sept. 11, 2011. He was born May 18, 1923, in Mead to John and Mabel Taylor Beal. He married Maxine Thomas on Sept. 6, 1941, in Oklahoma. Bill was employed as a heavy-equipment operator in the commercial construction industry. He enjoyed fishing, working on small machinery and took great pride in his yard. He especially enjoyed time spent with his grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, wife and one son, Jimmie A. Beal.

He is survived by two daughters, Carolyn with husband Angel Guzman, and Sandy Jablonsky, all of Springdale; four grandchildren, Robert Lopez, Margie Lopez, John Lopez and Steven Guzman; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



Beverly Noah

Beverly Kay Noah, 50, of Broken Bow passed away on Aug. 31, 2011, at her residence. The daughter of Jerry Noah Sr. and Amanda James, Beverly was born on Sept. 11, 1960, in Talihina. She was a member of the Tohwali United Methodist Church in Broken Bow and loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son Clifford Lewis; two brothers, Gregory and Michael Noah; sister Freda Tisho; and stepbrother Bradley James.

Beverly leaves to cherish her memory a very special friend, Juan Badillo of the home; stepfather Jacob James of Broken Bow; five children and their spouses, Anthony C. with Betsy Noah, Kelly Denise Rodriguez, Christopher Rodriguez, Christian with Anna Rodriguez, Domingo Arcenibia Jr., all of Broken Bow; three brothers and sisters-in-law Jerry Jr. with Debra Noah of Fla., Gary with Tamara Noah, Richard with Janetta Jackson, all of Broken Bow; stepbrothers, Abbie James with wife Donna of Idabel, Darrell James and Gerald James with wife Patty, all of Watonga; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Reda with Eastman Jessie, Roberta with Madison Jefferson, and Lucretia Noah, all of Broken Bow; two stepsisters, Nancy Jefferson with husband Harold of Battiest, Margie Hernandez with husband Heriberto of Nashville, Ark.; nine grandchildren; along with several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.



Walter Holland

Walter Holland passed away on Sep. 10, 2011, in Durant, at the age of 96. Walter was born on May 2, 1915, in Sawyer, the son of J. C. and Selma (Howard) Holland. He was raised in Sawyer and served his country in the Army. He worked as a construction worker in Texas and at a saw mill in Oregon before moving back to Oklahoma area in 1961. When he moved back he worked at Raymond Gary State Park. Walter enjoyed fishing, hunting, and gambling.

He was preceded in death by parents; one grandchild; four brothers; three sisters.

Walter is survived by five daughters, Faye Maxwell of Fort Towson, Mary June McNabb of Arkadelphia, Ark., Geneva Baze of Sawyer, Sandra Ward of Wayne, and Sarah Davis of Clayton; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.



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Cemetery Restoration team diligent in preserving Choctaw burial sites

By **BRET MOSS**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

In an effort to preserve Choctaw history and tradition, as well as respect those who have passed, the Cemetery Restoration Program, a part of the Historic Preservation Department has been working for many years to locate, clean and help maintain old and abandoned Choctaw burial sites.

Skyler Robinson, GPR Technician and Cemetery Restoration Coordinator, has been organizing the restoration of the burial sites inside and out of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma at an increasing rate for years now.

To begin the process of restoring burial sites, Robinson must find leads on the location of sites. He will travel to the community centers around

the Choctaw Nation to talk with those who might know of burials or remember where their ancestors might have been buried. He also receives calls from tribal members requesting a family burial plot be cleaned, which is done at no cost to the individual.

If the land where the plot is located is privately owned, Robinson must have the owner sign an inspection agreement before he can take the first steps to restoring the area. Once the agreement is signed, he can take pictures to record the original state of the land. He then judges the size of the plot, the amount of work it will take to restore it, and the materials it will require and then does a cost estimate.

Before proceeding with any physical restoration, the owner of the land must sign

a cleanup and fencing agreement. “If the private land owner wont allow us, then I’m not allowed to do a whole lot, other than try to work with them and see if we can still get it done,” said Robinson.

Once the work is allowed to begin, Alan Powell and James Carver, Robison’s crew are charged with the task of cleaning all the brush from the land and erecting a four-strand barbed wire fence with a gate. They use a wood chipper to take care of the brush instead of burning it, and place the chopped material back on the plot to help the soil.

They will take down most trees, unless they are asked to leave them by the owner, and leave cedar trees. In Choctaw history, a cedar might be planted to mark the burial spot, and Robinson and his crew do not want to remove what may be a grave marker. In cases where trees remain, they do trim them to allow for mowing around the base.

“Once that is done, it’s really a one-time deal, [we are] hoping that family members or friends will continue with the upkeep,” said Robinson. In special cases involving older individuals, he will have the crew go back for periodic upkeep on certain locations. A light spray is also applied to the area to help prevent the brush from growing back and aiding in the upkeep.

These jobs are not always within the 10.5 counties of the Choctaw Nation, but sometimes stretch within the borders of the Chickasaw Nation, which has a similar policy, because a Choctaw will sometimes be buried in Chickasaw land and vise-versa.

The clean-up jobs range in size from just two plots to five acres, with the average being about an acre and a half, ac-

cording to Robinson. It will take the crew about a week to 11 days to give the area its face-lift.

A relatively new and very effective tool that the Choctaw Nation has acquired is the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), which sends radar waves as far as eight feet into the ground and bounces them back up to a 400 megahertz antenna connected with a computer that records all the changes in density picked up by the waves. With this technology, Robinson is able to set up a grid over a specified area and find anomalies in the soil that may identify the locations of unmarked burials.

The GPR is a wheeled machine that is pushed around a grid over a surface by a single person. It visually records the signatures of returning radar waves, in intervals set by the user, and compiles them with GPS coordinates to create a map of the whole grid after it has been walked over the entire area. Every time it takes a picture of the soil, it attaches the GPS coordinates to the file.

Once the information has been collected in the field, Robinson takes it back to his office and reviews the data, looking though the shots of soil in different locations and depths.

This method for finding burial sites enables the department to act on hunches that a landowner may have about a possible burial site while not physically disturbing the land. As the word about GPR has spread, a growing number of requests for the use of the technology have been made. Robinson has 25 to 30 GPR requests at this time, and expects more to come.

As he finds and is notified about more and more burial sites, the number of clean-up jobs is growing as well. There are currently around 160 jobs in line for which the crew must tend. “It’s a full



BEFORE



AFTER

time job, but it’s an enjoyable job... you can find a lot of history,” mentions Robinson as he explains how he enjoys his busy job.

Occasionally Robinson or the crew will come across places that may need more than restoration, such as archeological attention. In cases such as these, they must pause their work and call Olin Williams, the Senior Heritage Resource Technician, or Ian Thompson, Tribal Archeologist and Historic Preservation Officer to assist according to the situation.

As more locations are mapped using GPR and cleaned, Robinson hopes to compile a database of all the cemeteries and burial plots within the Choctaw Nation,

along with their coordinates, how many human remains are included and the names associated with each via legible headstones.

He is making this database in hopes that those searching for the burial sites of their ancestors might have an easier time finding what they need, as well as to keep track of the work done. He plans to print large maps of each county with each cemetery marked to act as a visual of his database.

If you have questions about cemetery restoration services provided by the Choctaw Nation, email srobinson@choctawnation.com or call 580-924-8280 ext. 2236.

All pictures are of Roebuck Cemetery located in Choctaw County.

Emergency Management on guard to aid the state of Oklahoma

By **CHRISSY DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s Safety and Emergency Management Department provides effective precautions in case of disasters for all 10 ½ counties and 11,000 square miles of the Choctaw Nation, making readily available manpower and supplies when the need arises.

Daryl Holaday has been director of emergency management for one year and has worked with the safety department for five years. “Something happens, we respond like a resource to either Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management or the local county emergency management,” described Holaday. “We show up, get an analysis of what is going on in the community and see what the damages are. From there, we’ll determine who we need to dispatch to take care of it.”

Holaday lists some responsibilities Emergency Management is entitled to, such as gathering resources like food, water, supplies, or sending out crews of workers to repair houses that have been damaged by severe weather, patch roofs, fix windows, anything to get citizens’ homes back to a point of livability, he said.

The safety department has three employees while emergency management has one and is currently looking to hire an emergency manager, “someone with a lot of experience who can take us to the next level,” said Holaday. He describes these employees as resources, saying if the department has to respond to an emergency, their responsibilities range from making various phone calls to delivering supplies where needed.

“Emergency Management is not one department or one group of people,” stated Hol-

aday. “If something happens, everybody wants to help out and everybody is going to be there.” Holaday continued, explaining the department’s job is to contain the manpower and provide resources. “Our job is to control the effort so it is effective and we’re not in the way,” he said.

The Emergency Management department and the safety branch has experienced a call to action in the recent past, both with the tornado in Tushka this year and when a severe ice storm hit the area in 2007.

“We’ve been through two disasters now,” said Holaday. “Tushka did catch us off guard, it was the first major disaster like that, where we had mass damages and two casualties.” Holaday said as a result of experiencing this unfortunate event, the department is better prepared. “We know what we need to do now, we’ve had that experience, so if it happens again we’ll react appropriately.”

According to Holaday, each county has its own emergency manager or an emergency manager is established at a city level.

“When we showed up on site at Tushka, they were completely lost,” he described. “We stepped in and filled that role until emergency management got there and we let them take control of the situation and provided the resources.”

In small towns like Tushka, the emergency manager may also be the police chief, fire chief or mayor, according to Holaday. “They may not have the resources they need. We’ll step in as much as we can to do that until state officials or FEMA officials get there,” he said.

The department has much to be proud of because of its actions during this devastating event in Tushka. Several employees were on the scene the very evening the event

occurred and many more became involved in the days following.

The Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka was opened as a shelter through the first weekend for immediate needs. After the initial shelter, the center was used for Choctaw Nation Services to offer assistance to tribal members. The first day it was open, 103 members were seen and offered assistance.

According to Holaday, Choctaw Nation Emergency Management maintained a constant delivery of supplies to the community center, incident command center on site and the Voca Baptist Church. Deliveries included water, food, clothing and basic necessities. The department was also called upon to supply other items, such as generators for victims with medical needs, tarps for covering damaged roofs, equipment for cutting and removing tree limbs and debris and table and chairs were taken to the Vo-Tech for the high school students to use.

“It’s amazing to see the people pull together,” said Holaday. “People you wouldn’t expect to see standing behind the grill cooking breakfast for strangers.”

Many employees from all divisions in the Choctaw Nation converged on the scene to assist with clearing debris, patching roofs, providing medical attention, performing door-to-door wellness checks, setting up clothing drop-off locations, sorting clothes at Voca Baptist Church, cooking and serving food for workers and victims and delivering food to victims on foot because of blocked roads.

“The willingness for everybody involved to just jump in and help out makes it a lot easier when something happens,” said Holaday. “At Choctaw Nation, our response is phenomenal when you look at what some of the locals have done,” he contin-

ued, saying this excessive generosity helps take some of the pressure off his shoulders as director of emergency management.

While the tornado in Tushka was more severe, the ice storm in 2007 also required much attention from the Emergency Management Department. “For approximately three weeks, McAlester and the surrounding area was out of power,” said Holaday. The department opened up three community centers for shelter and provided food, water and supplies for the community. Employees cooked food and provided necessities for citizens who used the center as a place to reside until able to return home. “We filled the same roles as we did in Tushka but a lot longer stint,” said Holaday.

The Choctaw Nation also opened up the McAlester Travel Plaza to the community during the storm, providing fuel for emergency vehicles.

“I have no doubt that if we run into an ice storm this year, we know what to do and we can respond to it,” stated Holaday.

As the seasons change the Emergency Management’s responsibilities and duties do as well. “This is where a lot of our safety crosses into emergency management,” explained Holaday. With winter approaching, the department is taking such precautions as sending out information on slips and falls because of ice and making sure community members have proper equipment to deal with ice on their property. The department is also distributing public service announcements that address problems individuals may encounter because of winter weather conditions.

“We’re going to start working towards making sure everybody in each of the community centers is prepared,” said Holaday. “We’re already prepared and have generators

on standby, food, water and supplies on standby waiting if the power goes out and the community center is needed.”

Preparations in the spring season include tornado and thunderstorm awareness and making sure supplies are on standby. “It is kind of the same thing as with winter weather but we know we’re going to need a lot more manpower on the ground in the case of a tornado than we would if the power went out because of an ice storm,” said Holaday. “We would coordinate with construction and housing, historical preservation, because they have the equipment to go out and cut trees and repair houses.”

During the summer Emergency Management makes sure everyone is aware of the heat and informs tribal members of necessary precautions. “Really, winter and spring are our big times that we know we’re going to get hit with something,” said Holaday. “We’re in Oklahoma, it’s going to happen.”

When the department isn’t physically dealing with a current emergency, employees are busy preparing mitigation plans. “We’ve written our mitigation plans, which opens us up to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) money,” stated Holaday. The Emergency Management Department of the Choctaw Nation seeks funding for its projects from FEMA. “We work closely with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and FEMA,” added Holaday.

Holaday explained the process of gaining funds for the department’s plans, saying they can apply for FEMA grant money and receive up to 75 percent of cost. “Since we’re a tribe, we can send that request through the state and we get 12.5 percent from the state,” he continued. “So

we’re only out 12.5 percent of the cost on a project.”

A typical project for Emergency Management could be three to six months long, according to Holaday, and the department can complete two or three per year. “There are a lot of projects we’ve got in our plan going forward that help our response and the time it takes for somebody to get back to 100 percent livability,” said Holaday, “and some things that will help the citizens, like storm shelters and advanced warning systems.”

According to Holaday, a concern the department will always have is upholding the responsibility of a large landmass. “We don’t have the luxury of only being over one county,” said Holaday. “Just because it’s not storming in Durant doesn’t mean it’s not in Pocola. We’ve got to know what’s happening anywhere in the Choctaw Nation, all the time.”

Holaday is proud of the support that is behind his department. “I know that if we have to respond to something, we’re not going to be alone,” he said. “We’ve got probably 60-70 people standing behind us ready to go.”

Recently, the department had a meeting with tribal council members regarding its activities and future plans. “They were 100 percent supportive,” he said. “That support is enjoyable. It helps make you feel like what you’re doing is going to lead to something.”

Emergency Management provides support for tribal members and the surrounding community in times of crisis and is successful in supplying necessary resources and eager volunteers and manpower. It is a responsible department of the Choctaw Nation and maintains preparations for when it is needed. “My favorite part about it is the challenge,” said Holaday. “You never know what is going to happen; every day is something different.”

Reminiscences of Carrie Belle Bohanan

Carrie Belle Tonihka Bohanan began her life on Feb. 22, 1914, in Eagletown to parents, Betsy Hotubbi Tonihka and John Silas Tonihka Jr., both of which were full blood Choctaw.

Her father owned a grocery store by their house. During her time spent at this store, Carrie would always have to be watched closely by her parents because she had a tendency to issue out the candy for free. Her parents would always have to keep an eye on her until she learned better.

Carrie remembers that store having considerable business with railroad workers because the railroad ran close to the location. They worked and camped close by and would come to the store to do some trading.

Carrie remembers her mother, who only spoke Choctaw, being in charge of the store one day and a man trying to take advantage of her. Since she did not speak English he tried to convince her that he had already paid for his groceries, but Carrie's mother was a smart woman and was not easily tricked. Carrie also recalled that Betsy used to carry a pistol as well.

Silas was a notable man about the town. In one instance, he was working on the roof of the store and a man came by who need to collect a bill. Not wanting to leave the roof and pause his work, Silas wrote a check on a shingle, and because he was an honest man, the collector accepted it.

It went to a bank in DeQueen, "it was the only shingle that went through as a check," remembered Carrie.

Silas was also one of the first people in the area to own a car. He did not know how to drive, so the dealer taught him for a few hours in his new Ford. Soon after the dealer left however, he ran over a stump and damaged the bottom of the car. Fortunately he was able to buy another car quickly and Carrie's brothers were privileged with driving.

Betsy died in 1921 from a gall bladder complication. She was the one that took care of the business portion of the store and eventually it closed down. Silas continued to farm on his land and Carrie spent much time with him as he worked. He passed away at the age of 115, simply from old age.

When she was seven, Carrie began her education at Wheelock Academy. She only knew two bits of English. "Yes ma'am," and "no ma'am," were the only things her father taught her to say, so when she got to the school and they asked for her name, she told them "no ma'am."

Fortunately her cousin who knew a slight amount more of the language was attending and helped her with the problem.

While she continued to answer the various questions, her father had to leave. As she realized that his car was driving away, she ran after him, but he kept going knowing that she needed to learn. Out of sympathy, the woman who was superintendent of the school consoled her. From that a friendship formed and Carrie became one of the superintendent's favorites.

After six years at Wheelock she transferred to Seger Indian School in Colony, Okla. During her time at this school, Carrie made memories her grandchildren have greatly enjoyed hearing.

She tagged along with some other girls who decided to run away from the school. They hitched a ride with a few men who had a cotton truck. Once those men wised up to why the girls were traveling, they pulled over to a store and called the school.

The superintendent came in his car to get the girls. When he raised up the cover on the pickup that covered the cotton, there was Carrie and her friends. He commanded them to get in the car to head back.

Once back, he told them they were to go back in the way the came out. They had to climb back in the window, which proved to be a difficult task for some. There were spankings via the superintendent's belt to motivate them towards a quicker entry.

At the age of 13, Carrie left Seger to live with her brother. After a dispute with him, she lived with her grandmother over the summer and began her time at Oklahoma Presbyterian College (OPC) in Durant.

While attending OPC, Carrie would take the bus to her home and back for Christmas. On her ride back there was a boy from Eagletown who was traveling to Bacone school in Muskogee.

He smiled at her on the bus. Carrie had seen him around town before, but did not know much about him. She got off the bus at OPC and about two weeks later, a letter came in the mail from John J. Bohanan, the boy on the bus.

Carrie did not answer his first letter, but gave it too her friend to write him. The friend wrote him, but he ignored the letter and wrote Carrie again.

When she came home for the summer, John would come and visit her often. They would walk to church together for a good portion of the summer and they came to know each other well.

When John finished at Bacone, the couple got married on October 31, 1932. They went to a McCurtain County Courthouse in Idabel and were wed by a Presbyterian minister. Carrie was 18 and John was 25.

John was a full blood Choctaw who could speak the native language. They later had a daughter in 1934 named Toka Lee Bohanan, a son in 1937 named Theodore Preston and another son named Lyndon Earl in 1945, who served in Vietnam.

When Toka was six, the family moved to Austin to attend seminary. They lived in houses near the seminary and because they did not have a vehicle yet, they attended the closest church, which was Hyde Park Church.

The family spent about three years in Austin. They experience hard times because of low income. It was hard to keep food in the home, but with help from the church and community, they made it through.

They were not the only ones who needed help; many others in the area were in the same situation. The Presbyterian Church began doing a good deal of outreach to aid the community.

After Austin, they came back to Eagletown because John took a job as the administrator of the local ministers. He preached in both Choctaw and English.

John had difficulty winning the favor of the locals because of his education, but the fact that he could speak Choctaw remedied their dislike of him.

There were 12 churches in the area and John would assign the minister to the various churches. He would travel around to different ones to preach at different times.

The children and Carrie would always go to the church at which John was preaching, so the children grew up in many different church locations.

In the 1960s Carrie spent about six months going to Idabel and the KBEL radio station. Jeanette Hudson and she had a show called "Smoke Talk" that aired in the afternoon on weekdays.

They would talk about issues that affected Native Americans all over the country. Jeanette would talk in English and Carrie in Choctaw.

Later, in 1974, Carrie wanted to buy a church van with S and H Green Stamps. John was skeptical at first, but Carrie encouraged him by saying, "Where is your patience and where is your faith?"

Once convinced, John won the approval of the church and they helped with the process. Carrie knew women leaders of Presbyterian churches across the country and they sent her green stamps as well.

Over the course of two years, and through the work of multitudes of people into the early morning hours at times, 2,000 books of stamps were collected for the van. Even Dick Clark from American Bandstand sent in 1,000 stamps.

Carrie had bigger plans for her church than just a van. She wanted to better it in many ways. Over the years, church members and she would sell food at the Tushkahoma cafeteria during the Labor Day Festival as well as the Beaver Bend Festival.

In 1983, as a result of all the work over many years, the church congregation dedicated a new facility, which was the third Mountain Fork Church. Carrie remembers the work that she did to build the church. She remembers it was long and hard, but worth it.

In her later years, Carrie has enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was selected as an Outstanding Choctaw Female Elder.



Carrie talking on the radio show "Smoke Talk" in the 1960s.

Ruby Choate followed her dream

Ruby Annette Jones Choate was born on May 17, 1940, to Helen McCurtain Jones Taylor and Crosby Wilson Jones in the town of Unger, Okla., which is between Soper and Boswell.

She never knew her biological father due to divorce, but was raised by Joseoh Taylor. She is the oldest of six children in her family.

Her great-uncle John Edward, an Indian doctor delivered her unto her mother. This man was one of the last Indian doctors to treat illness with herbs and roots. People would come all the way from New York and California to see this particular doctor.

Her stepfather was able to speak the Choctaw language, but he was in the service, so he did not get the chance to pass it on to his children.

Her mother, whose father was three quarters Choctaw, went to Goodland Boarding School and was not allowed to speak Choctaw, therefore never learning it.

Ruby attended school in Hodgen, a small community near Poteau, for her first grade year of school. She then went to Antlers from second to twelfth grade. She graduated from Antlers on May 23, 1958, and joined the Navy. She was sworn into service on the first of June that year.

She went to Bainbridge, Md., for boot camp and then on to Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Ill., for 12 weeks of training there. She was trained in many duties of a nurse and was then sent to work in a hospital in Newport, R.I.

She worked in intensive care and maternity for the hospital. After about three years with the service, she finished her service to the Navy and decided to move back to Antlers.

Her mother and family had moved to Oklahoma City after she graduated, so it was lonely in her hometown. She worked there for about a month before moving to Oklahoma City with her family.

When she got to Oklahoma City she began work at the Wesley Foundation Hospital. There, she worked as an aide until she was asked to work in surgery as an aide. For this job, she would sterilized medical instruments and cleaned the operating rooms thoroughly between operations.

When she was in the Navy, she was encouraged to attend

R.N. School, but she did not care to go because of the time she would have been required to stay after her training was done. She was dating her future husband at the time and did not want to make a long-term commitment to the Navy.

After spending two years with the hospital in Oklahoma City, she came back to Southern Oklahoma. She married Lyman Choate on June 9, 1962, at the Yashau Indian Methodist Church.



The wedding was held in the parsonage of the church. Not many people were able to attend due to transpiration issues.

After their wedding, the couple lived in several places in the Broken Bow area. They moved around until the bought a home in Hochatown, which is 12 miles north of Broken Bow. Hochatown is

now at the bottom of Broken Bow Lake and all of its landmarks and building were moved north.

They moved into that house around the same time their fourth child. There children in order of birth are; Lymona Helen, Lydia Gayle, Lynda Beth, Randall Allen and Russell Lyman, who was born later.

During her many years of training to be a nurse, Ruby had cared for a multitude of children. She delivered children, baby sat them and raised them. She had always wanted big family because she loved children.

Once Russell was in kindergarten, Ruby went back to nursing school in Idabel. Classes were held at the hospital. By that time they had a car and she drove herself to her classes.

Ruby had always wanted to be a nurse. She remembers going into the Navy for just that reason; to get the training she needed to become what she had always wanted to be. She did not know the difference in a R.N. and a L.P.N., but always knew she should be a nurse.

Her mother used to tease her saying, "I don't know how you can want to be a nurse. You walk into a doctor's office and you

get dizzy just from the smell of alcohol." Regardless of her intolerance of alcohol smell, Ruby had been determined to be a nurse her whole life. She greatly appreciated her training she got in the Navy.

It took Ruby a year to get her L.P.N. Her sister was the one who encouraged her to apply for the program saying, "Ruby, with all the experience you have, why don't you apply." She got in very easily upon applying.

There were 18 students in her class and she graduated at the top. She had been an average student in high school, but when doing something she loved, she excelled.

She earned straight As in her classes, and her instructors told her, "We didn't give it to you, you earned it." She got Nurse of the Year for that class.

From there, she went to work in a job that was similar to that of home health work. She did this through the OSU Extension Center in Idabel. She would travel around McCurtain County to the home of people over 55 years old, monitoring their health and making sure they had everything they needed.

Ruby described what she did as sort of a pilot program for what home health agencies do today. She worked there for a year and kept in contact with the Broken Bow Clinic.

She got a job with the clinic in 1980 and stayed at the job until she retired in 2002. A few years into her time there, the Choctaw Nation took over the clinic and everyone had to reapply for their jobs with Choctaw Nation.

When many were afraid they would not get hired back to their jobs, Ruby did not have that fear. She knew she was well trained and could have a job at other places. She had no problem keeping her job under the new management.

Ruby remembers her time with the clinic with much fondness. She had a job and five children, but never missed a ballgame or school play. She did not have to work weekend and got off at a good time daily to get back home to her family.

Since her retirement, Ruby has spent much time with her grandchildren and at the Senior Center with her fellow Choctaw Seniors. Lyman does wood sculptures and the couple enjoy going to sculpting shows and museums.



Viola Durant McCurtain shares her experience as a Choctaw

Viola Mae Durant McCurtain was born on Jan 29, 1920, to Jonas Durant and Wesley-ann Washington Durant, both full blood Choctaws.

Born in the McCurtain area, she is the youngest of all her siblings. She attended a small school in the McCurtain area when she was a young girl. When she was 10-years-old, she began school at Wheelock, where she was not allowed to speak in her native Choctaw language.

Though the school administration strongly discouraged



her from using the language, Viola would not let her native tongue be taken. “I imagine the school teachers had a time with me,” said Viola.

She attended Wheelock for nine years. She missed one year in the middle because her parents did not get her back to the school after a break. She did not get many breaks in her time at the Academy other than that. From September to May she would attend with no breaks, not even Christmas.

While at Wheelock, Viola spends her time doing her duties. All of the students had different chores to do around the grounds. All over the campus, children of all ages would be sweeping and cleaning to keep the facilities looking nice.

Other than learning discipline and how to clean, Viola and her fellow students learned to weave baskets from a woman who came from Broken Bow and spoke Choctaw to Viola. She

learned beading as well.

She sang in the choir and even led the Choctaw hymns. Viola and the choir would travel to different churches and sing for them.

Viola made her dressed for her senior formal as well as her graduation. She learned those skills in her home economics class.

Her friend, Aline Swink Ward from McAlester, played basketball together. Aline would play guard while Viola played forward. The played Gavin, Hayworth and Valiant.

While she was in junior high, the school took in two twins who had been orphaned. The administration taught the older girls how to care for the children and by the time Viola was in high school, she was taking care of them as well.

Upon leaving Wheelock Academy, Viola was 19-years-old. She wished to attend McCurtain School, but due to some family and money issues she ended up at National Youth Association in Stigler. She would go for two weeks and go how for two weeks while she was paid to go to school there.

She attended that school for a few months before getting

married to Oscar Otis McCurtain on May 4, 1940 at a county church called Siloam Spring United Methodist Church just outside of Stigler.

There were only a handful of people to witness the then 20-year-old Viola be wed. Oscar had a child with a previous marriage that Viola wished to raise, but Oscar’s former wife was doing that duty.

Oscar was thirty when they married and he was working in McCurtain. The couple had two children together during their marriage.

Oscar joined the military in 1942 and went to Germany. He sustained an ankle injury and was a prisoner of war for around six months. While he was gone, his son Oscar Jr. was born.

When Oscar returned from the service the couple got a truck. Viola learned how to drive on a country road outside of McCurtain. Oscar did various jobs like farming and haying when he returned as well.



Viola and Oscar share a laugh with each other.

The couple used to go dancing at country-dances in people’s homes. They enjoyed square dancing, round dancing and the waltz. Viola had been taught to dance in her younger days and dancing had been in her life from an early age.

She used to know the Choctaw dances as well as other native ways of dancing.

Oscar went to school on a G.I. Bill in Okmulgee. The couple rented a place and stayed for about a year before moving back to McAlester for Oscar to work in the ammunition depot located in the

area.

They later moved to Talihina in 1956 to work for the hospital and worked there in housekeeping until his retirement in the early 1970s.

Viola stayed in the home while Oscar worked. She did small jobs such as a school aid and nutrition for low-income families.

Oscar passed away in 2000 from a heart attack. Since then Viola has attended the events at the Choctaw Community Center. She has taken part in many crafts such as crochet, basketry and beading while with the center.

SEPTEMBER BOW SHOOT



9 and under bow shoot winners
1st: Shyla Hatcher, 2nd: Lorna Breshears, 3rd: T.J. Collins



9-13 girl bow shoot winners
1st: Madi McDonald, 2nd: Memree Hatcher, 3rd Jaycie Collins



9-13 boys bow shoot winners
1st: Jager Sokolosky, 2nd: Jeffrey Montgomery, 3rd: Dakota Montgomery



13-15 boys bow shoot winners
1st: Dalton Helms, 2nd: William Breshears, 3rd: Robert Breshears.



20 and over women’s bow shoot winners
1st: Pam Waugh, 2nd: Cyndi Houser 2nd and Christina Breshears 3rd.



20 and over men’s bow shoot winners
1st: Justin Jackson, 2nd: Tim Taylor, 3rd: Joey Vaughn with son Riggan.

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes



Martha Childs gets ready to conduct Adult Education Classes over One-Net Distance Learning. Monitors have been set up in Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Bethel, Coalgate, Smithville, Talihina and Wright City so students in these rural areas will have an opportunity to take the classes and earn a GED.

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the above locations to students in the Choctaw Nation. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using the One-Net Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows students and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she helps you prepare to take the GED test. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. The class will meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. A CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) is required. For more information please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield, Choctaw Nation Adult Education, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319 or 2122.

**Beginning
October 17, 2011**

**Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
at the
Choctaw Nation
Community Centers
in Bethel,
Smithville
and Wright City**

**Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
at the
Choctaw Nation
Community Centers
in Atoka,
Coalgate
and Talihina**



Ruth Frazier McMillan recognized by Navajo youth

Ruth Frazier McMillan of Des Moines, Wash., is dedicated to sharing information about her heritage wherever she goes. The daughter of World War I Code Talker Tobias Frazier, Ruth participates in veterans ceremonies around the country. She was invited to accept a “thank you” this year in honor of the Choctaw Code Talkers by a first-grade class on the Navajo Reservation.

“I am very honored to have been the recipient of the award on behalf of the Code Talkers,” Ruth said.

They were guests of the Hill Top Christian School between Window Rock, Az., and Yahtahey, N.M. Ruth spoke to first-through fifth-graders, telling them about the Choctaw Code Talkers.

“They are the smartest, most loving children you’d ever meet,” Ruth shared with a smile. “The girls really fussed over me, telling me ‘You’re mine’ and ‘You are Navajo,’ the highest compliment they can give their teacher said.”

It was a great experience, she says, and one that led to being invited to dance with the Black Creek Gourd Dancers at the Ride to the Wall Dance in Gallup, N.M. The group of gourd dancers travels to Washington, D.C, every year to dance at the Vietnam Wall on Memorial Day.

Ruth and husband Jim also attended a Gourd Dancer meeting during which the Medicine Man included them in his ceremony. One of the mothers baked a ceremonial “cake” which is buried in the ground, covered with corn husks and cooked overnight.

“I met four Navajo Code Talkers and a Medal of Honor winner,” she said. “It was a trip I will never forget.”

Choctaw Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb

Bertram Edward Bobb, Tribal Chaplain for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, was born on March 30, 1924, in a small house near Smithville to Johnson Wilson Bobb and Mae Estell Edwards Bobb, who were full-blood Choctaws.

Bertram’s parents were well-versed in the Choctaw and English language. Mae translated the Choctaw Nation Constitution into the Choctaw language and Johnson would translate speeches of government officials on the Choctaw Capitol grounds on occasion.

Bertram’s father had a Model A car, which had the gas tank on top of the engine. On the hills between Smithville and Broken Bow, the gas would not be able to reach the engine, so he would have to back the car up the hill.

Bertram began school at the age of 9 at Shultz Public School, which was east of Idabel. After a year there, he attended Jones Academy. Following Jones, he went on to Goodland School in Hugo.

When Bertram was 18 years old, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended boot camp in San Diego. During boot camp, he took aptitude tests and it was discovered that he was strong in visual communication.

He went to Illinois for communications training at the University of Illinois in Urbana. From there he went to Bremerton, Wash., where he was supposed to board an oil tanker, but it was sunk before he came aboard.

He then went to Miami for submarine training and then on to Pearl Harbor. There, he was assigned to an aircraft rescue boat. He was near battle areas in that boat, but not in direct combat because the boat was not armed.

In 1943, Bertram’s father passed away. The body was held for three weeks while the Navy located Bertram, who was on an 11-day trip from Washington State to Miami. Once notified in Miami, he had to take a train back to Oklahoma.

Bertram’s mother later remarried in 1948 and moved to Antlers with her new husband. They bought 10 acres near Antlers and built Bobb-Myers Memorial Methodist Church.

Bertram left the Navy on Nov. 18, 1945. He was given \$300 and he rode a bus to Antlers.

He was glad to be out of the Navy to pursue other things. For his time of service, he was to receive 48 months of education. He could go to school and the Veterans’ Administration would



Bertram Bobb is pictured above with an old phone that was used by code talkers. He is the nephew of World War I Choctaw Code Code Talkers Mitchell Bobb and James Edwards.



pay him to go.

He began his higher education at Murray College in Tishomingo. While he was there, he boxed and played football. His team played against other colleges such as Eastern, East Central, Southeastern and Bacone.

He then attended Chillicothe Business College in Missouri and later received a B.S. degree from Northeastern State in Tahlequah with a major in business administration and a minor in business education.

At the age of 21, Bertram met the woman that would become his wife, Mary Ann Greenwood. They were married on Sept. 8,

1950, and lived in Antlers until 1951 when they moved to Tahlequah for Bertram to attend school.

He graduated in 1952 and the couple moved to Tulsa where he became an accountant for American Smelting and Refining Company in Sand Springs. While living in the area, Bertram had three sons; Johnson, Wesley and Frederick.

The Lord called Bertram to attend seminary and so he went to Dallas while his family went back to Antlers. After a year of learning and traveling back and forth, he became a Methodist pastor for the Oklahoma Indian Methodist Church of the Indian Missionary Conference.

He worked for the Methodist Church for three years and then left to found the Interdenominational Christian Indian Ministries (CIM). He conducted Bible studies with Native Americans around Dallas.

While Bertram was doing his work in the Dallas area, his two older sons graduated from high school in Dallas and Frederick lived with Bertram’s mother in Antlers.

CIM began an Indian Youth Camp in 1966 at Cedar Hill Bible Camp in Dallas. They conducted Christian camping for a year. After this year, Bertram went to the Jan Kay Ranch in Detroit, Texas, which is located near Paris. He longed to be back in Oklahoma.

Bertram leased land in Oklahoma and built a camp there. Eventually it expanded and began charging for camping on the property. Students now come to the camp for training in ministry. Youth camps are also held annually at Bertram Bobb Bible Camp near Ringgold.

Bertram was an original District Council member for the Choctaw Nation. While fulfilling that duty, he was also Chaplain for the Choctaw Tribal Council. He left the council, but remained chaplain until 1997, when Chief Gregory E. Pyle appointed him as Chaplain for the Choctaw Nation, a position he currently fills.

In more recent years, Bertram has been conducting visitations, visiting Indian churches, filling pulpits at various churches, helping with camps in the summer and doing his Tribal Chaplain duties.

He tries to attend the Wednesday lunches at the community center when his schedule permits.

Choctaw Nation and the American Civil War

In 1861 the Civil War broke out in the United States between the Federal Government and 11 southern states of the Confederacy. Caught in the middle of this war was the Choctaw Nation as well as several other tribes who had just been removed to Indian Territory not 30 years earlier. With the outbreak of the war, the Choctaw Nation was forced to make a decision for its own survival. This decision would alter the history of the Choctaw people forever.

Early in the war, Confederate forces coordinated attacks on Fort Cobb, Fort Arbuckle and Fort Washita, all forts created by the federal government to protect Indian Territory through treaties made with the tribes. Once the forts were occupied, the Federal troops retreated to Kansas, allowing the Confederacy to advance and take Fort Smith. With Fort Smith taken by the Confederacy, Federal protection had been removed from Indian Territory. With Arkansas to the east, Texas to the south, and tribes loyal to the Confederacy to the north the Choctaw Nation, the Choctaw Nation was all but surrounded by the Confederacy.

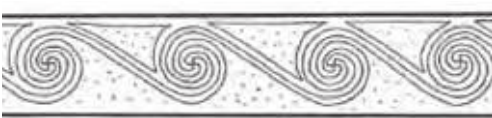
Several influential Anglo neighbors urged the Choctaw Nation to join with the Confederacy, including Douglas H. Cooper, the U.S. Indian agent assigned to the Choctaw before the war, and Albert B. Pike, an attorney that represented the tribes in civil cases in Arkansas. Both men had a good history with the Choctaw Nation and the people trusted their advice.

The Choctaw Nation also had extensive trade with New Orleans. Most tribes in Indian Territory were associated with the cattle business; however the Choctaw Nation was chiefly involved in the cotton trade with Arkansas and Texas. (Cottrell 19) (Kidwell 57-58) (Milligan 102-103). With the cotton trade came one very influential Choctaw man, Robert M. Jones. Jones was a very successful cotton plantation owner and had a lot of political power within the Choctaw Nation. Jones often argued for the southern cause.

On May 7, 1861, the Choctaw Nation signed a treaty with the Confederacy officially joining the war against the United States. This was a difficult decision for the Choctaw Nation and relinquishing ties with the Federal government meant that all the past treaties would be null and void. As severe as the consequences would be, siding with the south was required for the preservation of the Choctaw Nation. With the retreat of the Federal Military from Indian Territory and the vast economic and political ties to the south the Choctaw Nation could not stay allied to the United States if it was to survive the war.

With the Choctaw Nation involved in the war it was time to defend Indian Territory. Pike recruited men from the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole Nations to defend Indian Territory. The First Choctaw and Chickasaw Mounted Rifles organized and elected Douglas Cooper and Tandy Walker as their Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel and began training in the summer and fall of 1861. Troop estimates in the middle part of the war showed as many as at 1,024 Choctaw warriors plus an additional 200 militia.

These warriors were well trained in combat, however there were concerns over their weaponry. They were poorly armed with old rifles and muskets, hunting shotguns, pistols or revolvers, and rarely bows and arrows. Some men had new rifles, but most brought what they could. There were reports that Choctaw and Chickasaw men carried up to three weapons on their person, mostly suited to close-range fighting. For dress, some of the warriors wore Euro-American garb such as hats or bandanas



Iti Fabussa



Choctaw warriors carried flags similar to this into battle. The Choctaw Nation was the first tribe to adopt a national flag (Milligan 105).

on their head, hunting jackets and vests, trousers and spurred boots. Others wore traditional dress consisting of turbans, feathers or skinned animal heads, leggings with breech clout, moccasins, a beaded sash, and a bandoleer bag. They did well with training, taking well to drills and kept their weapons in fine order. Despite being poorly armed and mismatched in uniform, the Choctaw warriors were recognized as fierce fighters and were commended for their efforts by their officers. (Milligan 106)(Osprey 42-58).

The Choctaws saw their first action in the 1861 campaign against the Union loyalist forces under Creek Chief Opothleyahola. With Confederate Texas troops from Fort Smith, Albert Pike’s Indian Brigade, in the Battles of Round Mountain and Chusto-Talasa (Bird Creek), helped to defeat and push up into Kansas the loyalist forces in November and December of 1861 (Cottrell 23-31)(Milligan 107-109).

By 1862 several more regiments and battalions were formed by the Choctaws. These units would engage in skirmishes and battles around eastern Indian Territory as well as Missouri and Arkansas. They were included within Albert Pike’s Indian Brigade in 1861, which was later commanded by Cooper in 1862.

1862 saw the Choctaws just miss the Pea Ridge Campaign in northwest Arkansas in March. Pike resigned his command of the Indian Brigade and by mid-summer Douglas Cooper was in charge. In September and October they were in the thick of things. Southern forces had invaded Missouri in September. Cooper’s brigade was asked to join them and helped win the Battle of Newtonia in Missouri. The Confederate forces were later forced out of the state by Union General James Blunt and Cooper led his brigade back into Indian Territory. Cooper was organizing a force to invade Kansas when he was surprised and routed in the Battle of Old Fort Wayne in October and retreated back to Skullyville where he remained through the rest of 1862 (Cottrell 37-62)(Milligan 109-113).

In 1863, minor skirmishing with Union forces out of Kansas preceded the most important engagement of the war in Indian Territory. Union forces under Blunt occupied Fort Gibson and then advanced on Cooper’s Texas and Native American troops. They met in July at the Battle of Honey Springs (also called Elk Creek), the largest battle in Indian Territory. With superior Union artillery and poor Confederate powder imported from Mexico, the Federal troops defeated Cooper and forced him back into the



A drawing by Ruby Bolding of how a Confederate Choctaw soldier may have looked.

Choctaw Nation. Cooper commented in his after-action report that the retreating Confederate units were saved from capture by the aggressive rearguard action of the Choctaw and Chickasaw regiment. He said at the end of his report “... [The] Choctaws behaved bravely, as they always do” (Cooper). Union forces now occupied all of Indian Territory north of the Canadian River and soon captured Fort Smith. At the Battle of Perryville in August, Cooper was again defeated and with the loss of his supply depot at Perryville was forced to retreat down to the Red River. Little Rock in Arkansas was occupied in September. The northern part of the Choctaw Nation had now become a no-man’s land open to raids by lawless raiders as well as organized troops from both sides (Cottrell 77-84) (Milligan 113-114).

By 1864, all the Choctaw units were banded together with the Chickasaw units into the Second Indian Brigade commanded by Tandy Walker. This brigade would serve to the end of the war. One skirmish occurred in February when 350 Union cavalry surprised and defeated a 90 man detachment of Choctaw and Texas troops at Middle Boggy Depot near Atoka (Warren). In April, Tandy Walker’s Second Indian Brigade was asked help to save southern Arkansas from being over-run by Federal troops. Walker’s Choctaw troops help to defeat Federal troops in the Battle of Poison Spring near Camden, Arkansas. Then in July, they were again in Arkansas raiding the area around Fort Smith. Small raids continued through the rest of 1864 and into the spring of 1865 (Cottrell 90-93) (Milligan 115-116).

The families back on the home front in the Choctaw Nation suffered during the war. By war’s end, almost one in three families was considered destitute due to lack of food. Most of the men were out fighting while the fields lay dormant. Theft compounded the food shortage. During the war, up to 300,000 head of cattle were stolen, taken to Texas, and resold at inflated prices to the Confederacy. Next to Texas, Indian Territory was a big producer of beef for the Confederacy.

As the northern part of Indian Territory became a site of increasing conflict, many Creeks and Cherokees lost their homes and took refuge in the Choctaw Nation. Law enforcement broke down. Raiders from both the north and the south took advantage and preyed upon the Choctaw Nation and its refugees. Many homesteads were raided and towns burned. Nvnih Waiya, the first

capitol of the Choctaw Nation near current day Tvshka Homma, was burned to the ground and the inhabitants were forced to flee to Fort Towson for protection (Kidwell 70-71).

The Civil War ended for the Choctaw Nation on June 19, 1865, with surrender to U.S. troops. In fact, on June 23, 1865, the last Confederate general to surrender, Stand Watie (a Cherokee), did so at Fort Towson, within the Choctaw Nation. In 1866, the five tribes of Indian Territory signed a new treaty with the Federal Government in the knowledge that repercussions for joining their neighbors in the Confederacy would be severe. The Treaty of 1866, signed on April 28, stipulated that the Choctaw Nation would give one-third of its western land to the United States. This land would be used by the Federal Government to remove more tribes into Indian Territory. The Treaty also allowed for a north-south and an east-west railroad to be constructed through Choctaw country. This allowed for more white settlers to enter into Indian Territory and Choctaw lands. At these meeting, Allen Wright, a prominent Choctaw man asked that the tribes be allowed to form their own United States territory and call it Okla Humma, “okla” meaning people and “humma” meaning red. The proposal was declined; however this is where the name of today’s state of Oklahoma originated.

In many ways, the American Civil War was a trying and difficult time for the Choctaw Nation, in which leaders made hard decisions that they felt were best for the survival of the Tribe. The Choctaw Nation had “... allied themselves with a foreign government to preserve what they saw as their interests in a war between competing nations.” It should be noted that the Oklahoma tribes did not surrender to the United States as part of the Confederacy, but as independent nations who were fighting for their home and their identity as a native people (Debo 80) (Kidwell 80-85) (Milligan122).

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CODE TALKER
by J. Dylan Cavin
2010

About the artist...

Jeremy Dylan Cavin was born in July of 1978 in Chickasha. He has been drawing ever since he can remember; however, it wasn't until middle school, when he developed his interest of comic books, that he really ever considered art as a career.

Dylan attended the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma on an Art Talent scholarship and aid from the Choctaw Nation. It was here that he found his passion for painting and figure drawing. In his last year of college, he decided to emphasize in graphic design as a more stable way to support himself. Dylan graduated with a BFA in 2000 and has been in the graphic design field for 10 years.

Dylan enlisted in the army in July of 2006 in which he served nine months. He was honorably discharged after breaking his leg. It was during this time, after dabbling in other aspects of art such as photography, tattooing (a majority of his tattoos are done by himself), and comic art, that he started doing portraits of friends and pets and he finally felt that he established an outlet for his artistic expression.

"After years of being in the design field, it really felt good making something with my hands that others could relate to," he says.

In the summer of 2008, he did two different shows, including one for the Standing Buffalo Indian Art Gallery. At this show, he was offered a 12-piece commission for the University of Oklahoma Law department, which is currently still in progress.

Dylan, a proud member of the Choctaw tribe, recently won "Best in Show" and the "Heritage Award" in the seventh annual Choctaw Art Show. His work is primarily in Native American portraits, pets, and a variety of commissions.

"Design is a major influence in my painting," he says. "I want to make sure there is movement in all my work. The most important thing in my art is that the viewer establishes a connection with my subject. I want to evoke a feeling from the viewer that says, 'I can feel what you're feeling.' To me, art is a connection that the viewer gets from looking at a piece of art."

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.

Retired Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco and retired Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon are the keynote speakers.

Sisco is currently retired after a 42-year career with the military. His 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.

Aragon, who retired from the Air Force in 2006, currently serves as Oklahoma's Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the first female to hold the position.

During her 28-year military career, Aragon has served as the commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard and as the Air National Guard assistant to the deputy chief of staff of Staff Manpower and Personnel at the Pentagon, where she was the senior Air National Guard officer responsible for military and civilian personnel management, education, training and resource allocation. She was the first female in the United States to command a state's Air National Guard. Additionally, she was the first female of Native American Ancestry to become a general officer.

Also scheduled is the presentation of the Tvshka Chunkash (Heart of a Warrior) scholarship to this year's recipient. It will be presented by the daughters of Capt. Teri Scroggins on her behalf.

Scroggins is a highly decorated military officer who has served in the Oklahoma National Guard and Arkansas National Guard, with two combat tours in Iraq as a Legal NCO with the Judge Advocate General Corp, as well as on a peacekeeping tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina; multiple U.S. assignments, including assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and in IKD-M (Intelligence Knowledge Development and Directorate-Moleworth, United Kingdom) as part of the United States Africa Command, first as an analyst, then Officer-in-Charge and Dynamic Targeting Officer.

She has a Masters of Education degree with a concentration in Early Childhood Development and an Endorsement for American Indian Leadership, from Oklahoma City University, and a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology from East Central University, as well as multiple courses and trainings in military education and criminal and operation legal issues.

The Tvshka Chunkash Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship offered through the Choctaw Nation SAP. 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. Scroggins is responsible for starting this scholarship and a major contributor for the award.

Justin Yearby, an engineering senior at Oklahoma State University from Overbrook, Okla., 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 to all in attendance following the ceremony.

A life of honor and commitment

By LARISSA COPELAND
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

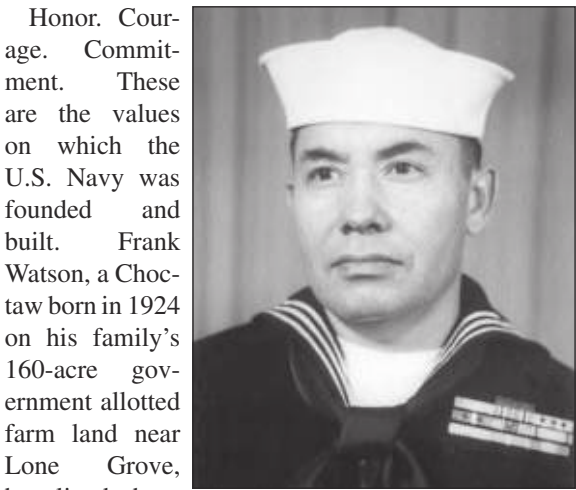


Photo provided
FRANK WATSON

Honor. Courage. Commitment. These are the values on which the U.S. Navy was founded and built. Frank Watson, a Choctaw born in 1924 on his family's 160-acre government allotted farm land near Lone Grove, has lived these values from day one, so it seems fitting, almost destined, that he would someday become a sailor. Through his actions, Watson has built an honorable life – a life spent in service to his family, his community, his country and his tribe.

He came from a large family, the fifth of six children, and was raised on very modest means, the entire family working the farm to get by. This meant hard work but everyone pitched in.

"It was a lot of fun," says Watson, "but it was also a lot of hard work. But we did what we had to survive."

Unlike his siblings, Watson chose not to attend an Indian school when given the option by his father. Instead he attended a local public school, walking two miles daily to the two-room school. A "good choice" he was told by his father.

It was during his school days that he developed a love for baseball, which he played often. It was this love of playing the sport that indirectly led to his joining of the Navy in 1943.

"I was a good baseball player," he says proudly.

In the early 1940s, a minor baseball league was established in Oklahoma and Texas, one team forming in Ardmore. Watson, with confidence and high hopes, tried out for the team, along with many other men his age. He made it past the first day of try-outs and was one of only three players asked to return for a second go-round. At the end of the day though, he was told he didn't make it, which he took hard.

"They said I was good but not good enough," he says. "That made me angry because I knew I was a good player. After that, I joined the Navy to prove to myself I was just as good as someone else."

Watson enlisted and was sent to San Diego for boot camp. During his training and for six years of his time in service, he played on the Navy's baseball team.

"We had some great professional baseball players on our team and I played right beside them. I knew then I was a good enough player."

Baseball aside, over the next 20 years the Navy provided Watson, and later his family, with many worldwide adventures, beginning with his first assignment during World War II along the coastal waters around Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea. There, he worked on an auxiliary repair ship, the USS Dobbin.

"My job," he explains, "was to work on ships that could be repaired and send them back to war, or if not, send them back home. During the war years, I was on various ships all over the Pacific waters."

When the war ended, Watson returned to the United States and was assigned to the Naval Training Center in San Diego for the next three years.

Following the Korean conflict, Watson was as-

signed to numerous bases and ships around the world. He served on nine different ships during his tenure with the Navy and spent time in Texas, Oklahoma, California, Washington, and many other states, along with a stint at the Iwakuni, Japan, Marine Air Base.

"The Navy was good to me," he says. And Watson did his best to serve the Navy as well, giving back by volunteering in each of the communities he and his family, which included three sons, were assigned. They were very involved with community activities at each base, stressing his pride in his Choctaw heritage in particular. This earned him numerous awards, recognition and commendations for his actions.

After 20 years of service to his country, Watson decided it was time to come home. He and his family relocated to Dallas, Texas.

His transition from military to civilian included many changes but one thing that remained consistent was his desire to stay involved in his community. He began volunteering with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, helping to welcome Native Americans being brought into the city during the BIA's Native American urban relocation initiative.

He felt the program was a good idea in theory, but in practice, saw many flaws. One flaw was the lack of preparation for those being relocated.

"I saw a need so I recruited some people to help me," he says. "We'd take those new to the area around to get acquainted with things...shopping, doctors, schools, bus stops, places to go in an emergency. Things like that."

This group of volunteers became known as the American Indian Center (A.I.C.) of Dallas and Watson was elected chairman. The group lacked funds to operate effectively so Watson journeyed to Washington, D.C., to request funds from the BIA, thus setting in motion the major growth of the A.I.C. in Dallas. Eventually, the group would start up a Head Start program, JOM social services, programs for adult education, and numerous other services for the Indians in the area.

The group also traveled to Livingston, Texas, by request, to establish an intertribal pow wow, one that is still put on today and has grown to one of the largest pow wows in the country.

Pow wow dancing was another passion for Watson, one he also passed on to his sons, Glen, David and John.

In 1977, Watson and his family moved from Dallas to Durant, where he still resides today, and he went to work for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in the industrial development department.

Along with repeating the role he had with the A.I.C. by going to Washington, D.C., to request funds for programs for the tribe, which he did many times successfully, Watson was also appointed to be a part of the Choctaw Nation Constitution of 1983 Commission. The task of the commission was to revise and establish a constitution that meets the current needs of the entire tribe. A group of six spent close to three weeks drafting the document.

"It's a good feeling to have been asked to be on the commission," he says. "It's a piece of history and I'm deeply grateful and proud to have been a part of it."

Watson, also a grandfather of five, has impacted and affected changed for the better in so many ways during his life. Whether through his family by instilling values and a deep appreciation of their heritage, or his community through his volunteering, or his country through his two decades of honorable service, or his tribe through programs he helped to get funded or, most of all, helping to establish a constitution. His actions – his commitment – has created a lasting impact. This impact, made through his long life of honorable deeds and selfless service, will continue to shape and guide the tribe for years to come.

NOVEMBER 26, 2011

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