



Youth Outreach Safety Camp

◆ Page 8



Choctaw Ranches, Buffalo Herd

◆ Page 11



Jones Boys Plan Reunion

◆ Page 12

BISKINIK
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHOCTAW NATION

BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

September 2010 Issue

Serving 202,888 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Sign up for the Biskinik E-News

The Biskinik has exciting news for anyone who prefers receiving their newspaper online. In September, the Choctaw Nation will launch the Biskinik E-News, an online newsletter with the latest news from the Biskinik. The newsletter will be updated and sent out every two weeks to anyone who wishes to receive it by e-mail. The E-News will also have links to the current "pdf" version of the Biskinik as well as links to past newspapers, obituaries and archived articles. The online newsletter is available to any tribal member or non-tribal member who wishes to receive it. It does not take the place of the mailed newspaper unless you wish it to.

Signing up for the Biskinik E-News is easy. Log on to www.choctawnation.com and fill out the form at the bottom of the Web page or call any Biskinik staff member at 800-522-6170.

Another step forward into this technological age is the Choctaw Nation Facebook page. Join the Facebook family and keep up with the latest news and discussions.

Coat Drive

The Youth Outreach Coat Drive begins during Labor Day weekend and will continue through mid-October. Outreach staff will be available at the Lost Child Station during the festival at Tushka Homma for any monetary or coat donations to help youth in the Choctaw Nation. A booth will also be set up during OU Tailgate Day at Durant's Travel Plaza #2 on the southbound side of Hwy. 69/75. The travel plaza annually hosts Tailgate Day for travelers to stop by and grab a free hot dog and join in fun activities on their way to the OU/Texas game. For more information on the coat drive, please call toll-free 877-285-6893.

◆ What's inside

Notes to the Nation.....	2
Columns	3
Nursery News	4
Food Distribution Calendar...	4
People You Know	6
VocRehab Calendar	7
Crossword Answer.....	13
Iti Fabvssa	13
Obituaries	16-17

The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

The BISKINIK is printed on recycled paper.

Echo Hawk, Tee Hee visit Sardis

By JUDY ALLEN
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk and Senior Advisor to the President on Indian Affairs Kim Tee Hee visited the Choctaw Nation Aug. 10 for a first-hand view of Sardis Lake. The Assistant Secretary said he felt very grateful to be in Southeast Oklahoma and have an opportunity to do a site visit of Sardis Lake, especially since there had been dialogue concerning the lake with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in the past few months.

Echo Hawk reiterated the request in a June 11 letter to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board that any final action of the proposed transfer of water be deferred pending consultations with appropriate federal officials as well as both tribes.

"I am very pleased to show Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk and Ms. Tee Hee the beauty of Sardis Lake and reaffirm the tribe's interests during this important visit," said Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

"It is the sincere commitment of the tribal nations to protect water of Oklahoma. This is a Tribal



Senior Advisor to the President on Indian Affairs Kim Tee Hee, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk visit Sardis Lake.

Trust issue and we appreciate the Assistant Secretary's help and involvement in this aspect. We have experienced a good relationship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Interior in the past and look forward to continued association."

Chief Pyle also commented on his appreciation of Ms. Tee Hee's visit. A member of the Cherokee Nation, Tee Hee serves in the White House under the appointment of President Obama as his Senior Advisor on Native Ameri-

can issues. "Kim Tee Hee's service in the White House has been a tremendous benefit to Indian Country. Tribes across the United States are appreciative of her efforts as a liaison, and the Council and I are thrilled to host her in our Nation. We feel confident that she will carry our message of commitment back to Washington, D.C. I know from working with her on past issues, she has been a great asset."

During the visit to Sardis Lake, Echo Hawk and Tee Hee learned of the proximity of Choctaw Capi-

tol at Tushka Homma (Choctaw for Red Warrior) to Sardis Lake. The historic seat of government for the Choctaw Nation is home to the Council House Museum, constructed in 1884, and is located only about a mile or so from the lake. This two-story red brick building has been in continuous ownership and use of the tribe since it was erected. Current uses for the Council House include the museum and a Tribal Court.

"Tribal Nations and the Federal Government enjoy a government-to-government relationship and being this close to the Choctaws' Capitol is a very appropriate closing to the afternoon's tour of this area," said Echo Hawk.

His first visit to this part of Oklahoma, Echo Hawk admired the beauty of the hills and the water around Sardis.

The Choctaw Tribal Council were on the shores of the lake to greet the team of people from Washington, D.C. As representatives for the 12 districts inside the boundaries, as well as Choctaws living across the globe, the Council presented a united front in their request for assistance from the federal officials in protecting Sardis Lake.

Council member Hap Ward passes away



Choctaw Nation's District 1 Council member Hap Ward, 76, passed away Aug. 3, 2010, at his home. He was born Dec. 1, 1933, at Idabel, the son of Robert and Ola Phillips Ward.

Hap was a 1952 graduate of Idabel Gray High School where he served as a co-captain on the district champion football team. He met his future wife, Marvidean Compton, during his high school years.

He worked at the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store for over 35 years and made many friends during his time there. Hap went to work for the Choctaw Nation in 1991 and in 2003 was elected District 1 Councilman, serving until his death. The Choctaw people were very important to Hap and during his time on the Tribal Council he was involved in several building projects and other advancements to help better serve the Choctaw people.

Hap was an avid coin collector and enjoyed hunting and collecting them. He was a talented artist and could paint and sketch. He also enjoyed playing the guitar and was a huge OU Sooner football fan. Hap had a big heart and was constantly trying to help someone. He cared deeply for his family and friends and he will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and brothers, Charles Ward, Bobby Ward and Kenneth Wade Ward.

Survivors include his daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie and Matt Schaer of Norman and Desiree and Robert Ray of Broken Bow; grandchildren, Simone Schaer, Syndey Schaer and Slater Schaer, all of Norman, and Keeli Peevy, Alicia Peevy and Adron Vaughn, all of Broken Bow; his special friend and partner, Pamela Bradshaw of Poteau; brother and sister-in-law, William and Eula Ward of Tulsa; sister and brother-in-law, Pat and Bruce Poteet of Idabel; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Pyle is 'Citizen of the Year'

The Heartland District of Civitan International presented Chief Gregory E. Pyle with its 2010 Citizen of the Year Award on July 30 during its annual convention.

A worldwide community service organization, Civitan International is comprised of member clubs across the United States and in 24 countries who work to assist those affected by mental challenges and developmental disabilities through direct financial support and hands-on projects. The Heartland District includes Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

"In our Heartland District we are solid as a rock," said Debbie Juhlke, governor of the district with over 1,300 members. "Chief Pyle was chosen because of the essence of leadership exemplified through citizenship," said Juhlke.

Chief Pyle shows a dedication to the Choctaw people. Under his positive leadership, families are put first. The tribe has con-



Civitan's Heartland District Gov. Debbie Juhlke presents Chief Gregory E. Pyle with the organization's 2010 Citizen of the Year Award.

structed a new hospital, Diabetes Wellness Center, several clinics, and a new hospitality house, recovery center and women's treatment center, as well as putting into motion several outreach and educational programs.

"We have a rich heritage and what we do today is very much like Civitan," said Chief Pyle. "Our motto is 'Growing with pride, hope and success.' We don't wait for things to happen. We try to make it happen."

Civitan officials discussed opening a chapter in Durant and invited Chief Pyle to be its first member.

Famous members of Civitan cover a wide spectrum. They include Thomas Edison, presidents John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Calvin Coolidge, World War I General John J. Pershing, NASCAR's Richard Petty, country singers, pro football and baseball players, and more.

Council holds August session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session on Aug. 14 at Tushka Homma. New business was kicked off with the presentation of a language teaching certificate to Roger Scott of Durant. Roger will be assisting Community Language Director Richard Adams.

Councilmembers also approved a letter appointing Sybel Cometti to the Choctaw Nation Election Board. Sybel's appointment fills the vacancy on the board left by the death of Edna Montgomery. Her term runs from Aug. 14, 2010, to Dec. 31, 2011. Students from Youth

Advisory Board chapters in Howe, Heavener, Hugo and Atoka were on hand to watch the proceedings. The YAB members are required to attend a Tribal Council meeting, a City Council meeting and a school board meeting every year. They watched as
See COUNCIL, Page 2

Loss of Councilman leads to reflection on importance of service to community



From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Choctaw Nation has been saddened by the loss of one of our beloved Council members, Hap Ward, of Idabel. A long history of public service managing the local Piggly Wiggly, then the Choctaw Nation Shopping Center made him a well-known figure in the town. Hap’s steadfast leadership to the Choctaw people as the District 1 Councilman has seen many visible signs of growth in South McCurtain County, including the construction of the super-clinic named after former Councilman Charley Jones, the beautiful Child Development Center and the huge new Community Center across from the Country Club.

With the death of Councilman Ward, the registered Choctaw voters of District 1 have the opportunity to choose their representative to fulfill the unexpired term of office. An election will be held Oct. 30 to place someone in this very important position to complete the legislative body of 12.

As a Native American, we have a dual dedication to our country and our tribe. We can be a patriotic citizen of the

United States as well as a proud enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation. It is important that we exercise our right to vote in national, state and tribal elections.

Since the founding of the United States, Choctaws have demonstrated their patriotism and love of country in extraordinary ways – many making the ultimate sacrifice for their country, as you can see by reading the names on the War Memorial at Tushka Homma. Choctaws were the first Code Talkers of World War I, and the U.S. Mint is currently in the process of working with the Department of Defense and our tribe to design a medal in honor of the Code Talkers.

As I reflected on my friend, our Councilman, Hap Ward, I also examined the true meaning of patriotism, which is not just on the battlefield in times of international crisis, but also in our daily lives, helping our neighbors, helping our community and participating in elections. Please be sure and participate in upcoming elections this year, whether they are national, state or tribal. It is more than a patriotic obligation – it is our right!

Honoring culture and heritage is worthy of admiration

From the desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

The history of our tribe is extremely important. Recent endeavors put a lot of focus on the cultural revival that Choctaw Nation programs give to the wonderful heritage we can pass down to our future generations. The statue in front of the museum at our tribal capitol honoring the heroes of our past pays homage to our history in several ways. The warrior depicts the face of Code Talker Joseph Oklahombi, dressed in the attire of our ancestors, armed with the bois d’ arc longbow of a hunter with his arrow drawn and pointed toward the future.

The Choctaw Language is in our public schools as an accredited curriculum. People who are fluent in the language are being certified as teachers and are sharing their knowledge with communities so that more of us can learn. Here at the administrative offices, many staff members are heard greeting visitors and other workers with “Halito” and using other Choctaw phrases because we are encouraged to learn at least one word a day from our School of Choctaw Language.

A more visible way our heritage has been shared this year is by reviving some of the “old ways” of craftsmanship. Classes in pottery making are taught at night and weekends, led by our tribal archeologist, Dr. Ian Thompson. Students dig the mud for their pots; shape



their pots by hand; then fire them in an open blaze. The results are awesome.

Cultural Immersion Youth Camps sponsored by the tribe this summer gave children an opportunity to experience the history, music and crafts of our heritage. This is an annual event that shows students how beautiful and exciting history can be. Youth are also learning the Choctaw Social Dances in the Head Start program.

The Choctaw Nation has a Historic Preservation Program that deals with the protection and preservation of historic, archaeological and burial sites. In addition to dealing with repatriation under the NAGPRA law, Historic Preservation has restored close to 100 historic cemeteries that are no longer used for burials. The Preservation Office has about 80 more cemeteries on the list for work to be completed. These cemetery projects are limited to the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation and must meet certain criteria, such as having Choctaws interred.

I have a great admiration for people who honor our heritage. Yakoke to all of our cultural warriors!

Choctaw Nation’s Children and Family Services Program launches Internet Web site

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Children and Family Services Program (CFS) has launched a new Internet Web site at www.choctawfamilyservices.com. The new CFS online presence will be a valuable information tool for tribal members who need quick information or immediate help, according to program Senior Director Billy Stephens.

“Often, because of isolation and the lack of available community resources in the CNO’s 10 ½-county service area of extreme southeastern Oklahoma, our clientele are unable to locate needed information or find ways to help themselves during a crisis situation,” says Stephens. “This Web site will let members quickly identify what action to take or which resource to contact from a network of CFS social workers who join with state workers and the courts to ensure safe and healthy homes for Choctaw children and families.”

The need for prompt information and/or help for Native Americans is high in the kinds of programs CFS offers: Indian Child Welfare, Foster Care and Adoption, Family Preservation, Family Violence and Legal Services. Alarming statistics posted on the new CFS Web site for just two areas – foster care and adoption and domestic violence against women – highlight the problems and needs facing Native Americans.

Foster care and adoption: American Indian and Alaskan Native children are overrepresented in the nation’s foster care system at more than 1.6 times the expected level, according to a 2007 report by the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). In Oklahoma throughout 2010, an average of 300 Choctaw children have been in the care and custody of the state waiting and hoping for adoption or foster care placement.

Violence against women: Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence, 3.5 times more likely to be victims of sexual assault, and twice as likely to be stalked as any other ethnic group according to the CFS Web site.

Children and Family Services is committed to the preservation of Choctaw families and tribal heritage, says Stephens. The program

constantly strives to develop preventative services which promote family strength and stability and enhance parental functioning to promote self-sufficient Choctaw families.

Choctawfamilyservices.com speeds visitors to important information needed for a wide range of family service problems. In addition to its news, calendar, staff and contact information, the new site provides well organized information in the following areas:

- Indian Child Welfare – The Indian Child Welfare Act is a federal law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families. Congress passed ICWA in 1978 in response to the alarmingly high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies. This section of the Web site describes the program, the law, what’s covered, eligibility criteria, frequently asked questions (FAQ’s), useful links and CFS contacts.
- Foster Care & Adoption – Topics include the need for foster care and adoptive homes, specific information on foster care and adoption programs, necessary forms, FAQ’s and CFS Foster Care and Adoption contacts.
- Family Preservation – This CFS program works to prevent family disruption and out-of-home placement by meeting the needs of a family in times of crisis. Visitors learn about referrals, assessment, services, FAQ’s and CFS contacts.
- Family Violence – Family violence occurs where one person in a relationship tries to gain power and control over his or her partner through fear or intimidation. In this section Web visitors will learn how to identify the problem and its warning signs, get answers to FAQ’s and find CFS contacts.
- Project SAFE – Striving for an Abuse Free Environment (Choctaw Project SAFE) is a prevention program that provides community awareness and services to Native American victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Legal Services – Web visitors can find who to contact within the CFS program when legal services are needed. Valuable information about the Tribal Court process is also provided.

Christians need to mature spiritually

We thank God for another year of abundant blessing for our Choctaw Nation. I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2010 Labor Day Festival in Tuskha Homma.

Why do Christians waiver and fail in the Christian life? This is a problem that happens so often among any Christian today. What is the answer? The answer is: Christians need to grow up, to grow to spiritual maturity.

In order to begin growing in your spiritual life, you first need to be born again into a new life.

Chaplain’s Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb Tribal Chaplain

This new birth is to be born into God’s family. You are born the first time in your physical body to your earthly father and mother. You can be born the second time by God the Holy Spirit into God’s spiritual heavenly family. Receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

We read in the third chapter of the Gospel of John this record of Nicodemus in John 3:3:

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The new birth is essential before you can start growing. Jesus emphasized the fact, unless a man is born again, he cannot even see or understand spiritual things much less enter into spiritual life.

Spiritual food for spiritual life is God’s Word, the Bible. Jesus is the Living Word, learn more about Him.

As you read and study God’s Word you will begin to see yourself as God sees you. The Bible is like a mirror. You know we can’t do without a mirror. This is the first thing we look into every morning so we can prepare ourselves to face the people during the day. How much more should we look into God’s Word so we can know and do His will, to live a life that is pleasing to him.

In order that we might see ourselves as a new born-again Christian, we look into the Book of Joshua. Here we learn how God wants us to walk in this new life.

A review of the background scriptures of the book of Joshua will help us to better understand these lessons in spiritual growth.

The Israelites were in bondage in Egypt. God sent Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt and to bring them into the Promised Land, the Land of Canaan.

The Land of Canaan is not a picture of Heaven. The Land of Canaan is a place of warfare. Canaan is not complete peace and rest as Heaven will be.

The nations of Canaan become types of the principalities and powers we read about in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:12:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

The Land of Canaan is a type of the Christian’s battle against sin. The Christian’s daily warfare against the

flesh, the world and the devil.

The reason for the Israelites’ 40 years of wandering was because of their unbelief. This is a terrible thing to do when you want to please God. The Israelites in the wilderness were always murmuring. They didn’t like the “manna” from Heaven. This manna was their daily food, but they craved the fish, garlic, onions of Egypt. They just wouldn’t be satisfied with what they really needed.

Today, there isn’t any difference. Many Christians neglect the Lord Jesus Christ who is the

“Bread of Life” and the “Water of Life” and fail to feed on this spiritual food, God’s Word, for spiritual life.

They do not grow and begin to murmur and complain over every little thing. Isn’t that just like spoiled children?

What do we need? Today we need a Joshua, a Joshua who will take a stand for God and say as Joshua did in Joshua 24:15: “... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Then we need to study God’s Word and do His will. This is the only way we learn His will for our life, but instead, today, people just resort to feeding the desires and lust of the flesh.

People are not in the will of God and are trying to fight sin in their own fleshly strength. When we do things to please ourselves and to please the people we are not growing up, we are not feeding on spiritual food. Then as soon as we run into a battle with the devil, we are defeated. We throw up our hands and say, “I quit!”

There is no substitute for the studying of God’s Word. As you study the Bible, you will learn God hates sin, and will not put up with it. You will become sensitive to sin and you will not put up with it either.

In Matthew chapter four, we read the record where Jesus went up into the wilderness and fasted 40 days and 40 nights and afterward was hungered. The devil, the tempter, said to Him in Matthew 4:3: “... If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”

Jesus replied in verse 4: “... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

How much do we need to feed on God’s Word during these evil days?

In closing, again I must remind you concerning salvation, the new birth, there is no waiting period. We read in II Corinthians 6:2: “... behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation.”

If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, will you do so today? Confess. That means agree with God that you are a sinner and trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior – by faith.

Pray for America, pray for our leaders and pray for our brave men and women in the service.

Eating right for a healthy weight

Achieving and maintaining a healthier weight will contribute to your overall health and wellbeing. The following tips are for adults who want to make changes in their lifestyle and move toward healthier weight. Pregnant women as well as women who have already had babies can be healthy and achieve a healthy weight by following some easy tips on healthy eating and physical activity.

Start with a plan.

WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Develop a plan for life-long health, not just short term weight loss. Don't lose sight of the big picture: achieving overall good health. By putting more emphasis on your health experts agree that you can raise your overall self-esteem, resulting in healthy eating, weight loss and im-

proved health.

Set healthy, realistic goals. When you make changes step-by-step and set realistic goals, you are more likely to succeed in reaching them. Start with two or three specific, small changes at a time. Track your progress by keeping a food and activity log. When you've turned a healthy change into a habit, reward yourself with a fun activity.

Get a personalized eating plan at www.mypyrimid.gov.

Your MyPyrimid plan will give you the amounts of each food group you need daily. If you have special dietary needs, consult your healthcare provider or nutritionist for a customized plan.

Healthy Eating Tips

Eat at least three meals a day and plan your meals ahead of time. Whether you're eating at home, packing a lunch or eating out, an overall eating plan for the day will help keep you on track.

Balance your plate with the right portions of a variety of foods. Half your plate should be filled with vegetables, one-fourth with lean meat, poultry or fish, and one-fourth with grains. To round out your meal add a glass of fat-free milk and a serving of fruit for dessert.

Try changing from a large dinner plate to a smaller one. It may help you feel satisfied with reduced portions. Start your meal with low calorie foods like fruits, vegetables, and salads. Then move on to the main course and side dishes.

Get plenty of fiber from fruits, vegetables, beans and whole grains. Fiber can help you feel full longer and lower your risk for heart disease and type-2 diabetes.

NURSERY NEWS


Brylee Ann Sam

Brylee Ann Sam was born at 2:07 a.m. on July 16, 2010. She weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and 20 inches. Her parents are Rachel Taylor and Matt Sam from Soper. Brylee's grandparents are Julie Heady, Dwayne and Brenda Taylor, Sue Sam and Robert Gann. She is the great-granddaughter of Virginia Sam, Clifford and Margaret Heady, Theda Lamb and the late Judy Heady. She also has many aunts and uncles and cousins.




Patrick Kyle Marshall Jr.


Lacy Suter and Patrick Marshall are proud to announce the birth of their son, Patrick Kyle Marshall Jr. Kyle was born at 6:14 p.m. on July 9, 2010, in Fort Smith, Ark. He was 8 pounds 1 ounce and 19-1/2 inches long. Proud grandparents are Doyle and Lisa Burdett of Van Buren, Ark., and Richard and Ann Marshall of Davidson. His great-grandmother is Becky Henley, also of Van Buren.



Jake Gunner Boston

Janice and Larry Boston of Atoka are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jake Gunner Boston. He was born at 10:05 a.m. on July 1, 2010, in Durant. He weighed 7 pounds 5.7 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins big sister Haley Boston. His proud grandparents are Janette and the late Joe Parsons of Hugo and Larry and Dena Boston of Atoka. His great-grandparents are Martha and the late Emerson Wade of Boswell, Bill and Quinta Sturdy of Coalgate, Lee and the late Irene Boston of Stringtown, and the late Joyce and Frank Parsons of Hugo.




Zayden Lucas and Riley Kyson Wright

Zayden Lucas Wright and Riley Kyson Wright were born premature at 34 weeks on June 8, 2010, at 11:22 a.m. and 11:25 a.m. Zayden weighed 5 pounds 3 ounces and Riley weighed 4 pounds 1 ounce. Both were 18 inches long. They were born and stayed in the NICU at Naval Medical Center San Diego for 10 and 14 days respectively. The proud parents are Cpl. Harlan and Brittni Wright and sisters are Sheradawn and Shaylynn Gibson of Wright City and Avy Wright of Oceanside, Calif. Their grandparents are the late Harold Wright and Geraldine Wright of Durant.

Takoda Thunder Whitewolf Wacoche


Takoda Thunder Whitewolf Wacoche was born at 3:04 a.m. on June 7, 2010, in Salem, Ore. He weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Wayne Wacoche and Amanda Lowells. Proud grandparents are Isaac and Brenda Wacoche of Tulsa and Bill and Judy Lowells of Salem. Takoda has five uncles, one aunt, and four cousins. He shares his birthday with his late great-grandfather, Johnson Wacoche and his great-aunt, Teresa Wagner.



Time-saving tips for tasty food

As the relaxing summer season draws to an end and we get back into the race of getting jobs, school and all the events that go with them done before the sun sets, we are left with one question. What's for dinner?! Sometimes there is just not enough time in the day to get everything done and prepare a beautiful, healthy dinner. Or is there? Instead of going to a fast food drive-through really quickly and spending way too much money on food that is not really good or good for us, try some of these time saving steps to give tasty food that won't break the bank and is actually healthy.

- Cook lean ground beef or turkey in a large batch. Divide cooked meat into 1/2 or 1 pound portions then freeze in freezer bags or containers. This way meat can be added to sauces, casseroles, etc., as needed without having to take the time to first brown meat.
- To have a fresh salad every night: wash lettuce, carrots, celery, broccoli and cauliflower. Pat dry and make into a large salad. Line a stone or glass bowl with plain white paper towels, place salad on top of paper towels then cover



Ground Meat and Bean Casserole

Serves 6

1/2 pound extra lean ground beef or turkey

1/2 cup chopped onion

2 cans (16 ounces) vegetarian baked beans

1/4 cup catsup

Brown the ground beef in a skillet. Add onion and cook until tender. Add beans and catsup, heat thoroughly.

Nutrition Information:

Calories: 185.9; Sodium: 446.1mg; Total Fat: 8.23g; Total Carbohydrate: 19.42g; Saturated Fat: 3.24 g; Dietary Fiber: 4.16g; Cholesterol: 28.41mg; Protein: 10.64g

with more white paper towels and cover with a fitted plastic lid. Keep the bowl in the refrigerator and the salad will stay good all week. Do not add high moisture vegetables – tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, etc. – until serving salad.

- Invest in a George Forman Grill. Prep two days of lean meats with seasonings or marinades: skinless, boneless chicken, lean pork, steak or fish. When you get home put the meats on the grill, set timer for appropriate amount of time to cook.
- Use frozen vegetables. Put the amount needed in a stone or glass dish, cover with a glass lid and microwave according to package directions. Brown rice is available this way as well.
- Chop and freeze onions in 1/2 and 1 cup portions to add to recipes as needed.
- Don't forget the fruit! Always go for what is in season. This way the fruit will have great taste and cost less. Most fruit is just wash and eat.

A easy, healthy meal to feed a crowd:

Food Distribution makes family health a top priority

By CHRISSY DILL
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Food Distribution Program has been a part of the Choctaw Nation since April of 1984. Food Distribution is a federal program that provides commodity foods to low-income American Indian households. It is a supplemental food program and a sister program to food stamps. Choctaw Nation Food Distribution has stores at four locations – Durant, McAlester, Antlers and Poteau.

Director Lisa Mullens has been an employee of Food Distribution for 20 years. It's her job to make sure Food Distribution stays organized and provides families with what they need. Lisa oversees 22 staff members who all are focused on making the people happy. She makes sure food orders go smoothly, the trucks are unloaded properly and everything is

To the Youth of the Nation

By Kacie Orzol, Youth Advisory Board 1st Place Scholarship Winner (CDIB)

I recently graduated Bokeshe High School on May 15. I am going to attend Carl Albert State College in Poteau for my first two years of college. I plan to major in Pre-Elementary Education to become a Kindergarten teacher. After completing my two years and receiving my associate's degree, I plan to transfer to either Northeastern State University in Tahlequah or University of Arkansas in Fort Smith. When I transfer to the school of my choice, I am going to complete my last two years majoring in Pre-Elementary Education. After receiving my bachelor's degree, I am going to intern with local teachers to get a better perspective of what my career is going to be like. My goal is to get the highest degree possible in my major of Pre-Elementary Education. I plan to teach once I have completed all the education needs and training that is required. I like to help others and I think it would be great to know I made a difference in someone else's life. I have a younger sister who has a learning disability and I love to help her whenever she needs it. I believe this would be a great opportunity to help others like my teachers did with me. My alternate goal is to become a special needs teacher. I believe I have the heart and patience to be the one to further their knowledge.

orderly. She also makes sure the certification clerks do their job correctly by asking the appropriate questions required by USDA.

Food Distribution takes family health very seriously, therefore all of its food is nutritional and healthy. All food items are provided by USDA. Each month participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participating families have their choice of over 70 nutritious products. "USDA's not going to do anything that's not nutritional," said Lisa.

Cooking with Carmen is a cooking program organized by Food Distribution. Carmen Robertson shows mothers how to use their commodities to cook healthy meals for their family. "Carmen gives them recipes and teaches them how to change recipes up," explains Lisa. "They will cook more in the household for nutritional purposes. We're just trying to teach them more because of the obesity problem we have today." Carmen has cooking classes, but she will also meet with the mother one-on-one and speak with her about her family and their needs. Carmen travels twice a month to each Food Distribution market.

There are several upcoming changes that will occur in Food Distribution. In October, there will be some new food products added to the list and made available to families. Some of these items include cream of mushroom soup, radishes and various fruits. One of the most popular items provided by Food Distribution is ultra-high-temp milk. It's been pasteurized and rid of bacteria. This milk is unrefrigerated until after you open it. It can be kept on a shelf for a long time and therefore can be bought in large quantities. "The participants really love it," said Lisa.

Everyone at the Food Distribution Center has their part in helping families. With today's economy, some families really need aid. Food Distribution provides an individual with up to 85 pounds of food per month. "Seeing the people is the best part," claimed Lisa. "Knowing that they're going to be able to fix a meal for their family and seeing the smiles on the kids' faces."

To be a member of the Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Program, you must hold a CDIB card of any federally recognized tribe and reside in the 10½ counties of the Choctaw Nation. If you are interested in participating in Food Distribution, call 580-924-7773 and someone will direct you to your nearest Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Center.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Oct. 4-26 , except for:
Oct.6 : Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)
Oct. 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)
Closed Oct. 27-29 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 8 &18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Oct. 4-26, except for:
Closed Oct. 27-29 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 11 & 20, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Oct. 4-26, except for:
Closed Oct. 27-29 for inventory
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 6 & 15, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Oct. 4-26, except for:
Closed Oct. 27-29 for inventory.
Cooking with Carmen: Oct. 4 & 13, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday. We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon
WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
Antlers: 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443
Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

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

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

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Miss Ruby

Pictured above is Ruby Beams Henderson Johnson’s basketball team taken in the spring of 1928. Ruby is the young woman standing next to the male coach.

Ruby attended school at Staley, southwest of Purcell in McClain County. She was born Nov. 24, 1910, in Kingston to James A. Beams and Jettie Smith Beams.

James was a deputy for the Marshall County Sheriff’s Department. He also served on the Council of Defense during World War I. They moved to McClain County when Ruby was about 9 years old.

Ruby now lives at Hillcrest NH in Tishomingo. She has six living children, 21 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren and many great-great-grandchildren.



Birthdays for the family

Pictured are Donnie Knight of Shawnee who celebrated his birthday on June 12; his mother, Linda Knight, who celebrated hers on June 18; Linda’s daughter, Christie Hood, on June 8 and son-in-law, Thomas Hood, on June 21. Gage Knight of Shawnee, pictured at right, celebrated his 11th birthday on July 29. Gage is the son of Donnie and Jacque Knight. He is the grandson of Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo and Ray and Pat Booze of Shawnee.



Bronell turns 86

Happy 86th birthday to Bronell Buck Jones on Aug. 17. Grandpa Jones was born on the family farm outside Allen in 1924. He started at Black Rock Indian School, then the family moved to Ada where he attended Apache High School in his last year. Happy birthday greetings are from wife Ruby, daughter Chrissy Jones Moore, son-in-law Colby and grandson Colton Moore (pictured), sons Pat and his wife Ruby and son Jerald Clark, Travis Clark and son Nathan and Barney Jones and wife Eugenia.



Happy birthday, Hannah!

Hannah Ela Storie celebrated her third birthday on June 16, both at her home in Dallas, Ga., and at the home of her maternal grandma, Betty Work of Farris. Her parents are Jeff and Darlene Storie.



Happy 90th birthday!

Happy 90th birthday to Caldonia “Callie” Choate. She was born in Bugtussle, near McAlester, on Sept. 20, 1920. She now lives in Watsonville, Calif., where she retired from JC Penney several years ago. Her late parents were Adam and Winnie Pope Gibson. Her mother was an original Choctaw enrollee. She will celebrate her birthday with her two sons, Edwin and Russell, and their families.



Happy anniversary

Happy anniversary wishes go to Daniel and Angela Eliott. The couple celebrated their anniversary on Sept. 4.



Happy birthday, Avan!

Happy fifth birthday on Sept. 29 to Avan Walker. Avan’s parents are Brenda Walker and John Cutliff of Oklahoma City.



Happy ninth birthday!

Melody Rayne Thorne celebrated her ninth birthday with family and friends on July 21. She is the granddaughter of Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers and the great-granddaughter of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Birthday girls

Happy 17th birthday to Marissa Mattes from Uncle Jeff and Aunt Jennifer and happy sweet sixteen to Makayla Heald from Mom and Dad.



Happy birthday, Jera

Jera JuliAnne Davis of Texarkana celebrated her 10th birthday on June 27. She is the daughter of Keith and Sharon Davis. Her grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. Her great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Dallas’ 50th anniversary

James M. and Kathryn M. Dallas celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 30. They were married July 30, 1960, in Midwest City at Soldier Creek Baptist Church and now attend Sooner Cowboy Church in Oklahoma City. They credit the success of their marriage to never giving up at the same time. James is the son of Mabel Taylor Dallas, an original enrollee.



Congrats, Dad!

Congratulations to husband and father, Jeff Heald. Jeff received the Fire-fighter of the Year award 2010.



Happy birthday to you

Dylan Michael Garcia, alias Binker, turned eight on July 7. Congratulations come from dad and mom, Kevin and Elizabeth; brother and sister, Trevor and Amber; grandparents, Stan and Nancy Spring Garcia; and Sam Ashenberner and Paula Brunk. Also, his Oakes and Spring families of Hugo send their wishes for a happy birthday.



His family wishes him the very best as he starts the third grade at Patterson Elementary in Hillsboro, Ore.

Oakes celebrate 50 years together

Paul and Julie Barber Oakes Sr. celebrated 50 years of marriage on March 10, 2010. The couple celebrated their anniversary at the Choctaw Cultural Center in Hugo. Their nephew, Charles Higgins of Shawnee, performed the renewal of their vows.



A host of family and friends attended the celebration. Their four children and families are Paul Oakes Jr. and wife Diane of Spencerville, Gail Allen and husband Shane of Sallisaw, Cindy Stewart of Harrah, and Michael Oakes of Quitman, Texas. Their grandchildren are Kent, Kurt and Candace Carter; Tyler, Trey and Kolton Oakes; Brant Allen and wife Brandi, Aubrey Allen Horton, and Shane Adam Taylor. Their two great-grandchildren are Bryer Kash Horton and Hayli Rhea Allen. The family would like to say thank you to all of who attended and made this day so special.

Happy birthday, Trista!

Lisa, Mary, Melissa, Carmen, Delphia and Cleta would like to wish Trista Winnett a very happy birthday on Sept. 6.

Happy 50th anniversary

Almon and Opal Williams Blake of Watson recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a host of family and friends. The couple was married July 16, 1960, in Heavener. Almon worked at various jobs and then retired as a machinist in 1998 after 30 years at U.S. Motors in Mena, Ark. Opal worked as a homemaker. They have six children, 19 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.



Papa Larry sends happy birthday wishes

Larry Bond sends birthday wishes to his son, Lonnie Bond, who turned 35 on July 8.

Larry’s grandchildren are Kylan Bond, who turned one on May 31; Kason Bond who turned two on July 11; Talise Baker turned two on July 18; and David Maytubbie turned 10 on July 30.



Happy birthday, Craig!

Craig Stephen Brown turned seven on July 23. His proud parents are Courtney and stepdad Jon of Oklahoma City. He has a brother, Dylan, and a sister, Lucia. His grandparents are Lucretia and Francis Brown of Oklahoma City and cousin is Elizabeth. They would all like to wish Craig a happy birthday.



Battles’ 50th anniversary

Kenneth and Mary Alice Battles celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26 at the First Baptist Church in Kiowa with a celebration of vows and a reception for family and friends. They were married June 24, 1960, in Savanna at the First Baptist Church.



They have two children, Michael and wife Donola of Kiowa, and Monica and husband Calvin of Vilonia, Ark. The couple has 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Kenneth and Mary Alice have resided in Kiowa for 46 years of their 50 years together, where Kenneth worked 20 years as Vo. Ag instructor for Kiowa Public Schools, then a conservationist for the Choctaw Nation, and most recently does part-time public relations for Tenaska Kiamichi Generating Plant in Kiowa. Mary Alice worked for the U.S. Postal Service in the Kiowa, Pittsburg, Wardville and Daisy post offices, retiring in 2002. They attend the Kiowa First Baptist Church where they have been members since 1966. Kenneth serves as a deacon and Sunday School director and Mary Alice as church clerk and treasurer.

Happy 31st, Kenny

Happy 31st birthday to Kenny Rickey on Sept. 25th. Sending birthday wishes are son Levi of Joplin, Mo., parents Joyce and Dave Anderson of Joplin, grandmother Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif.; sister Dezirai and brother-in-law Bill Witt of Talihina; nephews, Jack Daniels of Talihina, Matt, Brandon and Blake Witt of Joplin; niece Alisha Valentine of Joplin; brother Tim and sister-n-law Teresa Rickey; and nieces Ocean and Cheyanne Rickey of St Clair, Mo.



Lenis turns 82

Lenis Wesley turned 82 on June 4. He celebrated with a gospel singing, a brisket supper, birthday cake and ice cream with his family and friends. Lenis lives in the Sobol area. He has 10 children, 24 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren. He is a member of the Goodwater Church. He enjoys gospel singing and playing dominoes with his friends at the Rattan domino hall. His family wants to wish him a happy birthday!



Happy birthday, Akierra

Akierra Nelson celebrated her sixth birthday on June 24. Her brother, Caden, and her mother are very proud of her and hope she had a wonderful birthday!



Happy birthday, Caden

Caden Nelson celebrated his seventh birthday on June 26. His sister, Akierra, and his mother wish him a very happy birthday and are very proud of him.



Happy fifth birthday

Zxochitl Yuridia Silva Bustos of Oklahoma City turned five on July 25. Her parents, brothers, sisters and proud grandmother Janice K. Chower wish her the happiest birthday.



Birthday wishes

Birthday wishes go out to Kelsie Jean Walker who turned 12 in June. From their parent, aunt We-We, uncle Randy, Harley, Jordan, MaMom and PoPo Loftin. Happy birthday to Jeri Makala Walker who turned 13 on April 27. Kelsie and Makala are sending birthday wishes to their big sister Kirstin who turned 18 on April 25. The Adam Betsey reunion this year turned out well. It was held at the Atoka Field House. Half of the kids came, as well as nieces, sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Happy birthday, Alpha

Happy birthday to Alpha Uptegrove Cochnouer of Antioch, Calif., who turned 84 on Aug. 27. Alpha is the daughter of Henry and Sylvia Cochnouer.



Happy birthday, Avy!

Happy third birthday to Avy Sophia Wright. Avy was born on Sept. 9, 2007. This year she celebrated her birthday with a Yo Gabba Gabba theme. Her parents are Cpl. Harlan and Brittni Wright of Oceanside, Calif. She has two older sisters, Sheradawn and Shaylynn Gibson of Wright City, and younger twin brothers Riley and Zayden Wright of the home. Her grandparents are the late Harold Wright and Geraldine Wright of Durant. Her family would like to say happy birthday to Avy and hopes that all her wishes come true.

The family also sends happy birthday wishes to her sister, Sheradawn. She turns six on Oct. 3 this year.

Also happy birthday to their older cousin, Colton Wright, whose birthday is Oct. 2.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Alyssa’s first birthday

Alyssa Violet Wayment celebrates her first birthday. She was born on Sept. 15, 2009, on her grandmother’s birthday. Alyssa was born in San Luis Obispo, Calif., four months early, weighing 1 pound 2.5 ounces and only 11.5 inches long. After more than three months of wonderful medical care and the prayers of people all over the world, Alyssa came home to her family. And now at 1 year old, she is a beautiful, healthy little girl weighing 16 pounds and over 26 inches long. Happy birthday, Alyssa, from your family! Alyssa’s mom is Sharon Wayment; her siblings are Amanda and Andrew Thurman; grandparents are Di and John Wayment. Alyssa will get to meet her great-great-aunt Minnie Hamm from Poteau soon.



Congrats, Jennifer

Congratulations to Jennifer Branam for becoming a registered medical assistant. Jennifer was on the vocational development program and is mother to her 6-year-old son Alec. She resides in Wister and graduated from Kiamichi Technology Center in Poteau.



Proud Grandpa

Grandfather Alec Davis would like to congratulate his two granddaughters, Alexis and Shamia Martin, on their outstanding job at school this year. Alexis is 14 years old and she is active on the basketball team at school.



Shamia has been given many awards upon her graduation from eighth grade at Horace Mann School in Shawnee. Her grandpa Alec says “her eyes light up” when people tell her she’s done a good job. Shamia was nominated for the “Knight Vision Award” by her teacher, Ms. Keller; she received the Shawnee Rotary Club Certificate of Recognition for outstanding leadership, promoting goodwill and committed citizenship; an Award of Excellence for her 96 A.R. Points; an Award of Recognition and an award for Academic Achievement; an award for her attendance; a Shawnee Indian Education Academic Award for 2009-2010 medal and an award for her citizenship. She was also on the Teacher’s Honor Roll for her first semester at Horace Mann and the Principal’s Honor Roll her second semester. Way to go, Shamia and Alexis!



Congrats, Elijah

Elijah Shomo is an eighth grade graduate from Denison School District who received the Citizenship Award for the 2009-10 school year. Elijah is the son of Stanley Jr. and Shonda Shomo of Broken Bow and Schandi and Brett Stacey of Idabel and grandson of Stanley Sr. and Gay Shomo of Broken Bow, Bly and Tom Rodgers of Idabel, great-grandson of Eriss and late Silas McKinney of Idabel and the late Nellie and J.D. Shomo of Broken Bow. Elijah is also on the honor roll and an active baseball and football player. His family is very proud and would like to congratulate him on these achievements.



Aspiring nurse graduates

Audrey Elizabeth Ladner graduated in May from Murray State College. She is the daughter of Brian and Melissa Ladner and granddaughter of Ott and Laquitta Ladner, all of Jimtown, and a Turner High School graduate. Audrey hopes to receive her nursing degree. She is a descendant of original enrollee Sis Stout.



Thank you from Kari

To Chief Pyle, Higher Education and Career Development:

A big thank you goes out to all of you for helping me further my education! Each department has helped me every year and has done an outstanding job. A special thank you goes out to my Career Development Advisor Jamie Hamil and my grandmother Juanita Lance. Jamie has helped me in more ways than one. Thanks to my grandmother for helping me through college and finding our Indian heritage many years ago. I am proud to be a Choctaw! The Choctaw Nation has helped me graduate with an associate’s degree and a dental assisting certificate. Now I am furthering my education and have recently been accepted into a dental hygiene program. Thank you Choctaw Nation!

Kari Whitfield

Ag teacher says thanks

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all its support throughout my college experience. I am very fortunate to have the Choctaw Nation Higher Education and the Choctaw Nation Career Development available to help me with my funding for college. If it weren’t for their support, myself as well as many other students would never be able to obtain a college degree. Thank you for helping me in pursuing my dream of being an agriculture education teacher.



Colby Moffatt

Silver anniversary

Happy silver anniversary to Anthony and Melvis Wilson of Calera. Anthony and Melvis were married on June 22, 1985, at First Individual Baptist Church in South Gate, Calif. They celebrated their 25 years together by renewing their vows on June 19 at Grace Indian Baptist Church in Calera. Pastor Jonathan W. Wilson officiated.



Anthony is the son of Calvin C. Wilson of Idabel and Bertha Jane Austin of Valliant. He has three brothers, Jonathan, Calvin and Maxx, and two sisters, Gloria and Linda. Melvis is the daughter of Albert Simon of Achille and Rosie Jim of Bentley. She has four brothers, Dale, Marvin, Gary and Mike, and three sisters, Jeannie, Alberta and Lena. Anthony and Melvis are pictured with their son, Alexander T. Wilson.

Happy 21st, Jack

Happy 21st birthday to Jack Daniels from his great-grandmother, Ann Tallant, of Bakersfield, Calif.; great-grandparents Carl and Janis Walker of Joplin, Mo.; grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson of Joplin; grandmother Betty Witt Joplin; parents Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina; sister and brother-in-law Shawn and Alisha Valentine of Joplin; brother Matt Witt of Joplin; brothers, Brandon and Blake Witt of Joplin; nephews and nieces, Madison and Tyson Witt, Jayden Smith, Natalie Witt and Alysann Valentine, all from Joplin; uncle Tim and aunt Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo.; cousins Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair; uncle Kenny Rickey of Talihina; cousins Levi and Zack Rupe of Joplin; uncle Terry Witt of Joplin, and all his friends and family.



Jeffery completes training course

Jeffery Roberson recently completed the four-month training course entitled “Leadership Traning for Entrepreneurial / Small Business / Economic Development” conducted by CIMC from March to June. During the training period, he developed a plan for his business, JWR Animal Solutions.

This comprehensive course was presented in four multi-day training sessions in Coarsegold, Calif.; Pala, Calif.; Laughlin, Nev.; and Oroville, Calif. Recipients of this unique training opportunity were selected through a competitive application process. Trainees received extensive training from a select group of individuals chosen for their outstanding skills (e.g., feasibility/market analysis; financial projections) and persuasive writing and presentation skills. Students learned how to develop a business plan and received information on resources to start and grow businesses. In addition, the group benefited from the experiences of other successful Native entrepreneurs.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma needs Choctaw Foster Families

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is currently needing foster families within the Choctaw Nation 10.5 county area. As a Choctaw Nation foster family you will serve as a temporary parent to a Choctaw child or children placed in your home. Not only will you provide for their basic needs, food shelter, clothing, and safety but also help to preserve the child’s Choctaw culture and heritage.

The need for Choctaw Foster Parents

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma currently needs stable homes for approximately 100 Choctaw children. It is for these children that we need you to become a foster parent and help preserve our Choctaw heritage and culture. Our children are the future of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Please help our children grow by teaching and providing stable homes for them. For more information about the requirements to become a Choctaw foster family, please contact our office at:

Children and Family Services
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Larry Behrens or Lari Ann Brister
800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280
lbehrens@choctawnation.com

Happy birthday

Happy belated birthday to Richard Lee Schutt on Aug. 11 and Rikki Leigh Linn on Aug. 22. Happy birthday to Heather Carol Linn on Sept. 17 and Cory Lee Price on Sept. 8 from your sister, Nanny and Mom.

Happy birthday, Alisha

Happy 23rd birthday to Alisha Valentine from her great-grandmother, Ann Tallant, of Bakersfield, Calif.; great-grandparents Carl and Janis Walker of Joplin, Mo.; grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson of Joplin; grandmother Betty Witt Joplin; grandmother Donna of Joplin; parents, Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina, and Rob Lanford and Suzette Wilson and husband Shawn Valentine of Joplin; brother Matt Witt of Joplin; brother Jack Daniels of Talihina; brothers Brandon and Blake Witt of Joplin; nephews and nieces Madison and Tyson Witt; son and daughters Jayden Smith and Natalie Witt and Alysann Valentine, all of Joplin; uncle Tim and aunt Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo.; cousins Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair; uncle Kenny Rickey of Talihina; cousins Levi and Zack Rupe of Joplin; Uncle Terry Witt of Joplin, and all her friends and family.



Congrats, Donald

Congratulations to Donald Freeman who graduated on Feb. 28 from the University of Phoenix. While living in Gilbert, Ariz., he earned his bachelor’s degree in business management and has started his master’s at Western International University. His grandparents are Ada and John Freeman of Hartshorne.



Choctaw Nation GED Classes

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning
Sept. 13, 2010
Mondays and Wednesdays
1:30-4:30 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
408 N. “M” St., Hugo

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning
Sept. 13, 2010
Mondays and Wednesdays
1-4 p.m.
EOSC, McAlester Campus
1802 E. College Ave., McAlester

McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning
Sept. 14, 2010
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Broken Bow

HASKELL COUNTY

Beginning
Sept. 14, 2010
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Hwy. 82, Stigler

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, ext. 2319 or 2122. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

OCTOBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Durant 8:00-4:30	5 Antlers By Appt.	6 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	7	8 Idabel 9:00-12:00 Broken Bow 1:30-3:00	9
10	11 Durant 8:00-4:30	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Durant 8:00-4:30	19 Poteau 11:30-1:00	20 Talihina 10:00-2:00	21	22 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	23
24	25 Durant 8:00-4:30 Crowder By Appt.	26	27 Atoka 9:30-11:30 Coalgate 12:30-2:30	28	29 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	30
31	Phone: 1-877-285-6893 • Fax: 580-326-2410 Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com					

Youth Outreach Safety Camp 2010



On Aug. 3 and 4, the Third Annual Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach Safety Camp was held on the grounds of Wheelock Academy in Millerton. Youth Outreach Assistant Director Joey Tom, Executive Director Randy Hammons, advisors Brandi Clay and Michael James, along with many other Youth Outreach employees, were responsible for the organization of the camp.

There were 88 excited kids participating at this year's Youth Outreach Safety Camp. There are usually an average of 80 to 100 kids each year. This camp was conducted

in memory of past Youth Outreach employee, the late Christina Willis, who is responsible for a lot of the organization, ideas and thought behind the safety camps. "Everything is dedicated to her," declared Tom.

There were 15 different Choctaw Nation programs that volunteered to interact with the kids and have informative stations. The Choctaw Nation Safety Department had an obstacle course filled with smoke as a challenge for the kids and taught them the basics of fire safety and stop, drop and roll. Nathan Callaway of the Choctaw Nation Police had the DARE Camaro available for the kids to see the features of the car and some even got the chance to talk through the walkie talkie.

The Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife Department held a fishing class that showed kids the proper caution to take when on a fishing trip. On the first day of camp, the kids practiced their cast on the shore, but they got to fish in a small pond stocked with catfish on day two. The Beavers Bend Native Center came prepared with a live night owl to teach the kids about animal safety.

Les Williston of Choctaw Nation Cultural Events provided bows and arrows along with plenty of bow-shooting pointers for the kids as they shot at targets. Game Warden Drew Polk brought his skeet-shooting supplies and instructed the kids on gun safety. The older children were allowed to shoot some clay disks themselves.

Jason Campbell and Seth Fairchild of the Choctaw

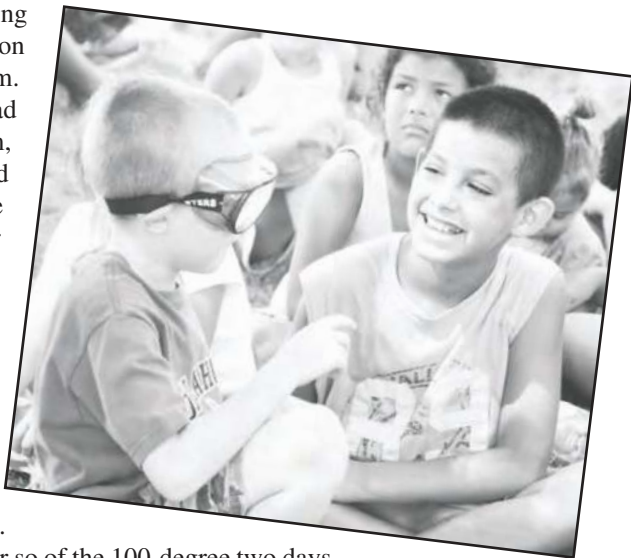
STARs Program came equipped with their physical fitness challenge tools including hurtles, a weighted sled and plyometric boxes for jumping and leg strength. The Hugo Police Department was present and instructed a CSI class. They came prepared with plenty of tools used by the police department including several firearms, devices used for fingerprinting, a ghillie suit and some defensive clothing used by the SWAT team. The kids had a blast learning about the work of a policeman.

Choctaw Electric Company instructed a class on electrical safety and Deann Ply came from the Choctaw Power to Dream organization through the Outreach Program to teach a basic first aid class. Vocational rehab provided impaired driving goggles for the kids to experience. These goggles produce the feeling of being drunk for the person who's wearing them. The youngest kids had a ball bounced at them, which they had a hard time catching. The older kids rode in or drove a golf cart with the goggles on, giving the sensation of drunk driving. Each child was taught about the dangers of driving drunk and received a drunk driving prevention pin.

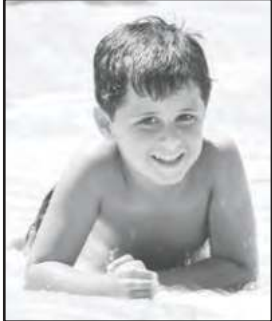
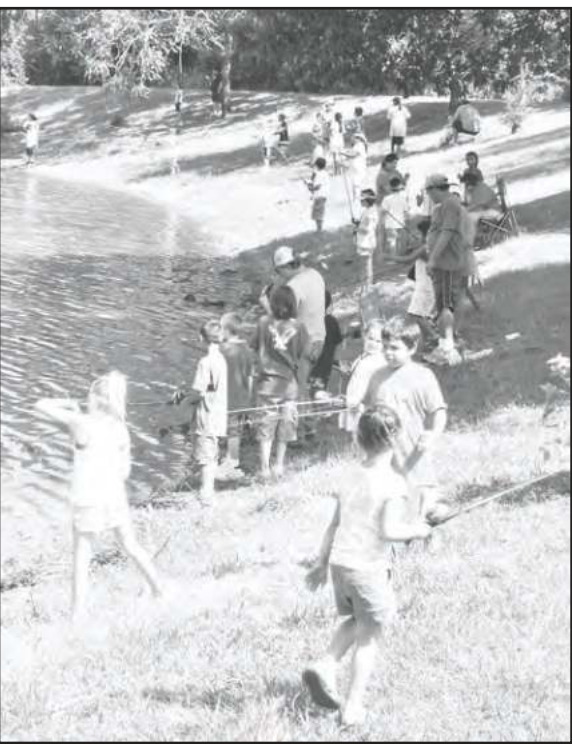
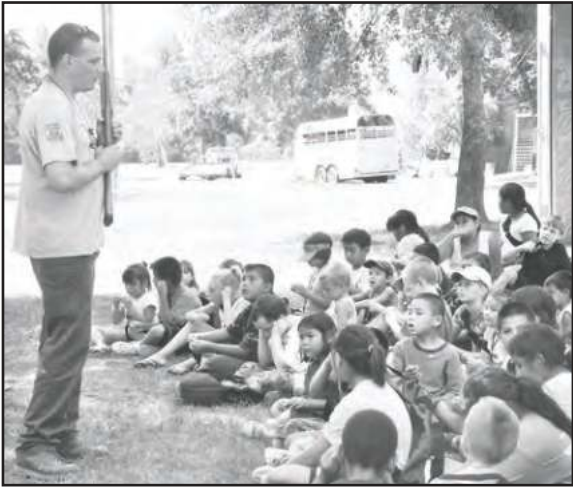
The last two hours or so of the 100-degree two days of camp, the kids got to enjoy a 70-by-40 foot slip-n-slide, which the staff courteously covered in soap to make it extra slippery. The squeals and sounds of laughter could be heard all around the Wheelock grounds. It was the perfect close to a great safety camp.

Though the safety camp was held at Wheelock this year, the Youth Outreach staff "tries to alternate between the northern and southern areas," so there is a strong possibility the camp will be at Tuskahoma next year. The staff is already coming up with ideas regarding next year's activities. An ATV safety class is being considered along with swimming lessons.

If you would like to know if your child is a candidate for the Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach Program, contact Joey Tom or Brandi Clay of the Youth Outreach staff, toll-free at 877-285-6893.



Story and photos by Chrissy Dill



The mission of Goodland Academy

By **CHRISSY DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

In 1848, full-time minister John Lanthrop and his wife took up residency on the grounds of present-day Yakni Achukma, or Good Land. They built the first manse and ministered for two years to the Choctaw people. As they returned home in 1850, the Rev. Oliver Porter Stark and his wife Margaret were assigned to Good Land. Margaret began teaching four young Choctaw boys in her home with the Bible as her only textbook. Two years later, her school had grown to 42 students meeting in the church on the Goodland campus.

Silas Bacon was the first Superintendent of Goodland Academy. He housed and educated over 200 children during his tenure from 1901 until his death in 1921. His mission, stated very simply and clearly, was to provide the children the best education. He made education the highest priority.

Silas's mission is still followed today at Goodland Academy in Hugo. "Goodland Academy has a proud tradition of providing an outstanding education for its students," stated Goodland Academy President David Dearing. Dearing has been employed by Goodland for 22 years.

Currently Goodland is school to about 24 children 1/3 of them being Choctaw, and about 14 staff members. There are residence halls available only to boys as of now, but Goodland has big plans for the future. "We'll be able to hold 128 kids," said Dearing. "Currently we don't have the facilities to hold any more." Goodland plans to expand its campus from a 10-acre campus to a 90-acre campus. The entire school will be able to hold 200 kids like it did in the past.

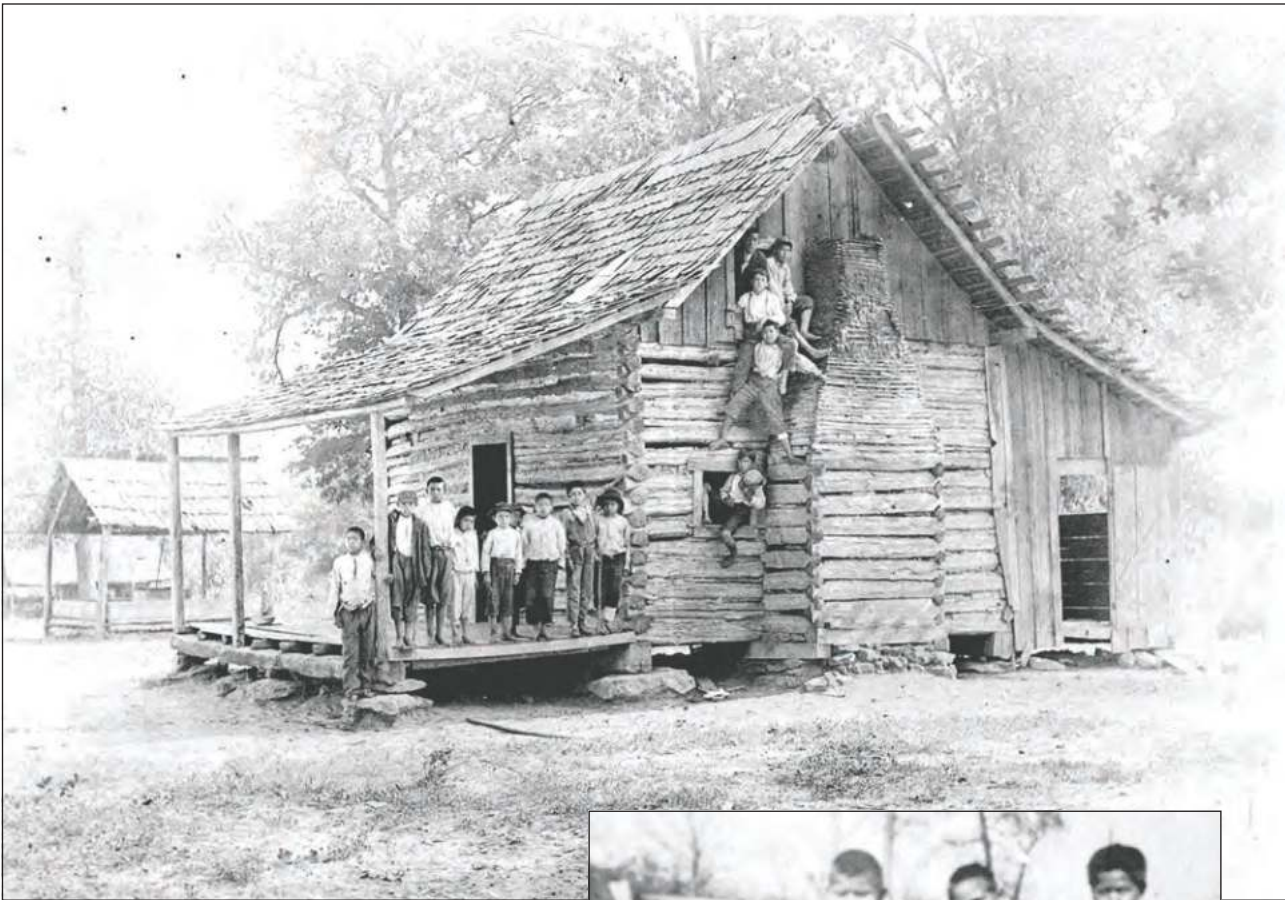
Goodland Academy is completely funded by individual donations without any federal or state funding. Goodland receives donations from a variety of generous donors including individuals from Tulsa, Oklahoma City and two owners of the Oklahoma City Thunder professional basketball team. They also receive donations from numerous churches and organizations, including the Choctaw Nation. "A lot of individuals have been giving for 30 or 40 years," said Dearing. "Generous donations keep us alive."

Most of the buildings on Goodland's campus were built in the 1920's. In 1945, there was a devastating tornado that destroyed the campus. The rock buildings survived, but the frame buildings had to be repaired and were used until around 1960, when the dormitories being used now were constructed. Today there are several historical buildings that still serve the students. A rock building that was built as a hospital in 1935 is now used for the Boy Scout meeting place and a residence for a staff member. The Goodland gymnasium was built in 1936 and is "utilized all the time," according to Dearing. It has been renovated with glass backboards and new bleachers. The schoolroom across the way from the gym, built in 1935, contains five rooms and is hoped to be renovated to be used for classrooms. The Goodland Chapel, built in 1854, still stands on Goodland campus today. It contains the original pews and pulpit. "When the alumni come, they sit in the same spots they sat in when they were kids," said a smiling Dearing. "The girls sat on one side, the boys on the other." You can also find a "courting circle" on Goodland's campus that dates back to the 1950's. This concrete circle was the only place boys and girls could sit and talk to each other.

Goodland's educational system is the same subjects taught in public schools. It holds students from grades Kindergarten to 12th and is free of charge to attend. There are no requirements to enroll in Goodland. Unlike public schools, Goodland provides children with a "self-paced" educational system. There's no competition in class and there's no failure. If a child doesn't do well on an assignment, they continue to work on it until they learn it and have a passing grade. "Eighty and above is a passing grade," explained Dearing. "Anything below that they need to work on it a little bit more." All the kids in one grade are in one room and have booklets they work through. When they finish one with a passing grade, they move on to the next one.

The most important thing to Goodland is putting the child's learning above anything else. Goodland makes provisions for kids with special needs so they can learn to the best of their ability. "A lot of these kids have ADD and ADHD," explained Dearing, "so they get distracted very easily." In this case, the child can have his or her own "cubical" to work in so they can successfully get their work finished.

Goodland's self-paced learning system proved to be successful looking at its alumni. "A lot of our kids that graduate have either finished college or going to school for their



Goodland students Christian, Hunter and Clinton take a break and smile for the camera.



Pictured above is the first dormitory built on Goodland's campus. The photo below was taken on the same day around 1887.

master's degree," said Dearing. One student is getting his degree in international business and has spent a year in Germany. "Our students do very well. Throughout my 22 years here I've seen kids graduate and become attorneys." Some Goodland alumni include the late Charlie Jones, who served as a councilman for the Choctaw Nation and some of the Choctaw Code Talkers. Choctaw Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb is also a Goodland graduate. Dearing recalled Choctaw Nation councilman the late Randle Durant, saying "I am where I am today because of Goodland." "He used to say that with tears in his eyes," remembered Dearing.

Pairing up with its education system, Goodland provides several extra-curricular activities to its students. Goodland has a 390-acre ranch with over 100 head of black Brangus cattle, 22 horses, llamas and goats that the kids work with. There is also a 10-acre lake where the kids can go fishing in the afternoons for their P.E. time. Goodland acquired its horses because the Choctaw Nation donated five horses in the past, and the number increased over the years. Though these horses aren't broken so they aren't available to ride, the kids learn how to groom, walk and train them with the help of the ranch manager.

The students who are interested in agriculture can talk with the agriculture instructor. Students are able to participate in various livestock shows as well. Goodland has a basketball and flag-football team. "Our basketball team is very good," said a proud Dearing. "We won a trophy last year in a tournament." Goodland's sports teams compete with mainly private schools.

Along with its several extra-curricular activities, Good-



Goodland Academy President David Dearing displays the upcoming architectural changes for Goodland Academy.

land also gives their boys the opportunity to participate in its Boy Scout unit that has been in operation since 1931. "We're real proud of our scout program," exclaimed Dearing. "We've kept it going over the years and we got two eagle scouts two months ago and we've got two more coming up." Goodland Academy gets visited by many youth groups every year. There's as many as 24 to 26 groups that come from as far as West Virginia and South Dakota. They range from junior high groups to college groups. These youth groups spend time with the kids and get to know them. "I think it's an important thing to our kids," explained Dearing. "They connect with them and stay in touch." In one year's time, Goodland sees about 300 to 350 people come visit and work with the children.

Goodland Academy is the oldest agency in the state of Oklahoma who continues operation. It has been educating students for 162 years. "We get phone calls every day from people interested in enrolling their child in Goodland," said Dearing. "We have to turn kids away because we don't have enough room." Because of Goodland's limited space for students and funding, the school has been at full occupancy for the past several years, therefore isn't able to admit as many kids as apply. "We're hoping to break ground when we get the first bit of money coming in," said Dearing. "We're in the process."

If you are interested in making a donation to Goodland Academy, you can visit their website at goodland.org and click on "Donation" at the top of the page. You can also call Goodland at 580-326-7568. Proceeds will go to improving the campus of Goodland Academy and making a better learning environment for the children.

Choctaw Head Start students receive special gift

Sisters honor mother by continuing hat project

By **CHRISSY DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

A couple of years ago, Elizabeth Adams and her sister, Esther Paris, were a part of a nation-wide group of individuals who made and sent winter hats to underprivileged children across the nation. The few hats that Elizabeth and Esther made were sent to the Choctaw Nation Head Start. Brenda Ivie and Rebecca Hawkins of the Choctaw Nation Head Start sent Elizabeth their appreciation with a thank-you letter and pictures of the Choctaw children enjoying their new hats. Although the organization Elizabeth and her sister were a part of was no longer making hats, she asked Rebecca and Brenda if they could still send them. Rebecca and Brenda excit-

ingly accepted the kind offer, and the 310 Hats Project began.

"Throughout our conversations, I mentioned that we have 310 kids that we're funded to serve here at the Choctaw Nation," said Brenda. "She took it upon herself to start this project to make hats for all of our children." When Elizabeth asked Brenda if she could make the 310 hats for all of the Head Start, she was concerned. "She'll be knitting her fingers to the bone!" said Brenda. "It's a big project."

Though the feat of hand-making 310 hats sounds tiring, Elizabeth had the motivation she needed to accomplish it. During her first year of making hats for children, she had the help of her mother. When her mother passed away, Elizabeth con-



Brenda Ivie receives a shipment of hats for students.

tinued her contribution. "She said it was a good memory of her mother and she just wanted to keep doing it because her mother was the instigator of her participation in the project," said Brenda. "It's a way for her to honor her mother."

With the combination of the inspiration of her mother, the help of many people who were more than happy to contribute and her own determination, Elizabeth met her goal of 310 hats in less

than a year. "We kept count of how many hats were coming in with each shipment," said Brenda. "Our last shipment came in about three weeks ago, and that gave us hats for all of our kids this year."

The shipments of hats came from Elizabeth who resides in Massachusetts, but the hats came to her from across the nation. Esther sent hats to Elizabeth from Rhode Island. There were shipments of hats

made by the 8- to 10-year-old children at her church to Elizabeth from her friend in California. Elizabeth returned home from running errands one morning and found a bag of hats on her doorstep. The shipment of hats that brought Elizabeth to her goal of 310 came from Kalamazoo, Mich., straight to Durant.

The shipments arrived at the Head Start "really fast," said Brenda. "Probably less than a month between shipments." When all of the courteous individuals participating started working and getting together it didn't take them long to make 310 hats. "From the time she decided she wanted to make hats for all of our kids, it was less than a year until she completed it." The least amount of hats that came to the Head Start was about 85; usually there were about 100 hats in one shipment. "They came in really quickly," Brenda said.

Brenda and Rebecca will give the kids of the Choctaw Nation Head Start their hats in "late November or early December. Definitely before Christmas," said Brenda. "It's going to be a big surprise to the kids when they get them."

Elizabeth Adams and Esther Paris have shown how big their hearts are by providing the kids of the Choctaw Nation with their winter hats. All of these individuals have made a huge effort to show they care and their participation and hard work is greatly appreciated by the children. "We appreciate so much their willingness to get involved in a project like this for children who aren't even from their part of the country," said Brenda. "It's just a kindness that you don't see very often in this day and time."

A blog of the 310 Hats Project's progress can be found at 310-Hats.blogspot.com.

Membership department seeking correct addresses for District 1

The Choctaw Nation CDIB/Tribal Membership is updating its records for the upcoming special election of a Councilperson in District 1 on Oct. 30. The list on this page includes names of persons whose records need to be brought up to date and/or address corrected. If you are listed, please contact the CDIB/Membership department at 800-522-6170 or complete the Tribal Membership/Voter Registration form below and mail as soon as possible. If a relative has passed away and you see their name, please send Tribal Membership a copy of their death certificate. A death certificate is required before a file can be closed. This is a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulation. Please do not delay in responding to this request. Thank you.

Abbott, Katherine Jean
Adams, Hellen
Amos, Clifford Wayne
Amos, George Wesley
Anderson, Jennifer Lorine
Anderson, Linda Lauae
Anna, Shannon Gail
Applegate, Robert William
Applegate, Ashly Deanne
Archie, Troy Don
Austin, Irvine Dwight
Bacon, Lee Roy
Bagley, Molly Catherine
Bailey, Destiny Diane
Bailey, Telsee Chyanne
Baird, Chesley Lynn
Baker, Amelia Marie
Baker, Silas Duane
Baker, Chadwick Shane
Baker, Laura Mae
Baker, Joel Ray
Barnes, Joseph Wayne
Barnes, Timothy Gene
Barton, Kendal Jay
Bastible, Melanie Fay
Battiest, Abbie L.
Battiest, Joe Freeman
Battiest, Naomi
Battiest, Arnold Dominic
Battiest, Sandra Kathleen
Beam, Wesley Curtis
Beaudoin, Sara Ann
Beckham, B.W.
Beckham, Wayne Corson
Bedeau, Brandon Joel
Beene, Tammy Michelle
Beene, Rusty Bob
Bell, Amanda Anice
Bell, Walton E.
Belvin, Kaoda Lynn
Belvin, Bradley Gene
Belvin, Melissa Marie
Belvin, Anthony Lamos
Benefield, Bradley Lynn
Bennett, Michael Ray
Berry, Gary Don
Bias, Amy Marie
Billy, Shelly Dale
Billy, Winston
Bitsouie, Amber Lucy
Bivins, Alex Bert
Bivins, Jennifer Lynn
Blalock, Leslie Roxanne
Blalock, Roy Alvin
Blanche, Alton
Blevins, Gilbert Houston
Blue, Timmy Wayne
Bly, Tina Marie
Bohanan, Daisy Marie
Bowers, Jerry Michael
Bracy, Tony Ray
Brandt, Alesha Marie
Brandy, Raymond Smith
Brandy, Andrea Kay
Brandy, Jana Renee’
Bridges, Clark Allen
Brockway, Larry Stephen
Brown, Steven Gregory
Brown, Isiah Jamal
Brown, Cheryl Ann
Bruce, Jaime Nicole
Bryant, Kevin Dewayne
Bryant, Albert Dewayne
Buckholts, Elbert Jennings
Bugg, Ora Lee
Burke, Helen Louise
Burnett, Malisa Jolee
Burris, Helen Bernice
Cain, James Brandon
Cain, Brandy Yolanda
Michelle
Caldwell, Teresa Kaye
Caldwell, Cynthia Lea
Caldwell, David Andrew
Caldwell, Clayton Dean
Cameron, Rodney Chriss
Cantrell, Shelly Jo
Cantwell, Susan Denise
Capps, Mickey Shawn
Carney, Calvin
Carney, Dennis Bryant
Carney, Nolan Dewayne
Carrey, Julian Phillip
Carter, Timothy Neal
Carter, Kristi Kay
Carter, Zachary Jon
Cavender, Jerry Wayne
Chappell, Brett Alan
Chappell, Terri Loraine
Clampet, Anthony Brian
Clampet, Matthew Alex
Clark, Justin Dain
Clover, Opal Irmead
Magdalene
Cobb, Patrick Wade
Coffey, Veronica Nicole
Coffey, Michael Wayne
Coffey, Patricia Lee
Coffman, Lindsey Gayle
Coleman, Alan Louis
Collins, Maud Ruth
Collins, Josephine
Columbus, Carol Sue


Cooper, Mandy
Coplen, Kimberly Denise
Cox, Ted Ryan
Cox, Chassidy Cyanne
Cox, Richard Paul
Cox, Romona Jean
Coy, Judy Sue
Crosby, Lorenza Ada
Crosby, Estabel
Crosby, Chalamette
Crow, Lyndon Eugene
Curtis, William Clyde
Dailey, Randy Wayne
David, Mary Marie
Davis, Teresa Ann
Davis, Jay Brian
Davis, Kyle Edward
Davis, Ernestine Mae
Denison, Juanita Louise
Denison, John Rowland
Denison, Doris Anita
Denison, Roger Edward
Dinger, Ida Michelle
Dixon, Elizabeth Sue
Dodson, Thomas Alan
Donaldson, Vivian Graie
Donaldson, Nellie Mae
Dosh, Darla Marie
Dozier, William Duford
Durant, Louisa
Dyer, Geneva
Edmondson, Tracy Lynn
Effinger, Joshua Alvin
Eidson, Jennifer Michelle
Elliott, Darrell Anthony
Ellison, Lisa Gale
Estabrook, Brandon James
Everidge, Robbie
Fischer, Jeremy Nathaniel
Fleming, Brandi Lynn
Fobb, Lillie Fay
Fobb, Evalina
Fowler, Nelson Bradley
Fowler, Tonya Michelle
Fox, Anthony Curtis
Francis, Cynthia Louise
Franklin, Wahneeta Fae
Franklin, Benamine
Frazier, Brenda Gail
Frazier, Sean Arthur
Frazier, Mary Beth
Frazier, Gilbert David
Frazier, Eli
Frazier, Jonah
Freeman, Layla Arron
Tonubbee
French, Ryan,Joel
Frunk, Robert Matthew
Fuller, Philip Paul
Fulsom, Vernon G.
Gardner, Charles Wright
Gardner, Marion Ambers
Gardner, Nathan
Alexsander
Gibbs, Elva June
Gibson, Rayson
Gilbert, Priscilla
Gilliam, Judy Edith
Godwin, Frances Lenora
Goodner, George David
Gotes, Ricky Don
Gragg, Stephanie Gail
Graham, Dewayne Allen
Gray, Edward
Green, Joyce Marie
Gregg, Nancy Marie
Gregg, Michael Collins
Guest, Margie Lee
Haddock, Malena Renee
Haiakanubbi, Robin Shaune
Hall II, Michael Alan
Harley, Everett Eric
Harley, Charlene
Harris, Woodrow Churchill
Harris, Elmer Max
Harris, Franklin Jerome
Harris, Newton Rudolph
Harwood, Melissa Ann
Hass, Daniel Wayne
Hatcher, Krissy Lynn
Haynie, Rogers Kent
Hazlin, Charlie Chenille
Helm, Victor Ewing
Helms, Joshua Daniel
Henderson, Marlo Marie
Henning, Darby Laine
Henning, Joshua Daniel
Henry, Trista Lea
Henry, Roger Anthony
Henson, Michael Wayne
Hernandez, Emanuel
Lorenzo
Herron, Richard Quintus
Hess, James Kevin
Hicks, Michael Bryan
Hilliard, Jesse Parks
Hinkley, Rachel Nicole
Hinton, Kirk Allen
Hodge, Danna Carol
Holland, Brenda Lois
Holman, Vada Louise
Hoover, Tammy Lynn
House, Kelli Denise

Houston, Cheryl Lane
Howard, Clinton Duane
Hudson, Gary Max
Hudson, David Lawrence
Hudson, Rayburn
Hudson, Daniel Junior
Hudspeth, Debra Sue
Impson, Sherri Faith
Ingram, Timothy Leon
Ishcomer, Jenny Wynell
Ishcomer, Diane Loverne
Ishcomer, Gregory Allen
James, Joyce Lavern
James, Charlie
James, Michael Alan
Jefferson, Samantha Viola
Jefferson, Thora Sue
Jessie, Mary Leona
Jessie, Ronald Allen
Jessie, Douglas Kevin
Jessie, Lois Jean
Jimenez, Daniel Lynn
Joel, Daniel
John, Marilyn Ellen
John, Amanda Lynn
John, Mathew
John, Nancy Gale
John, Edna Marie
John, Betsy Nicole
Johns, Gilbert Ray
Johnson, Kelly Denean
Johnson, Brittany Christa
Johnson, Miranda Leigh
Johnson, Lisa Dawn
Johnson, Paul Vester
Johnson, Beth Cherie
Johnson, Tina Marie
Johnson, Cynthia Ann
Johnson, Gary Wayne
Johnson, Myesha Shaneen
Jones, Helen Loraine
Jones, Austin
Jones, Joanna Erle
Jones, Alan Leeroy
Kaniatobe, Jason Ray
Kaniatobe, Tali Oshan
Kauyedauly, Chandrah
Keeling, Kody Sean
Kelley, Mindee Lee
Kemp, Dustin Lee
Klutinis, Tamlin Denise
Klutinis, Jennifer
Knighten, Melissia Marie
Lambert, Wanda Lou
Lambert, Deborah Lyn
Lambert, Mark Allen
Lambeth, Percy Leo
Langstaff, Kevin Dyer
Langstaff, Dale Anthony
Langstaff, Jayson Lee
LaSarge, Alan Dale
Lawrence, Angela Gail
Lee, Michael Wayne
Lemons, Tammie Leann
Lesley, Michael Eugene
Lewallen, Martha Sue
Lewis, Amanda Michelle
Lewis, Lettie Carol
Loma, Rhonda Marie
Loucks, Alvin Wayne
Loucks, Melissa Ann
Lovewell, Michael James
Lovewell, Jennifer Pauline
Lucksted, Anthea Renee
Mabe, Martha Ann
Mahoney, Candy d’Anger
Martin, Misty Michele
Martin, Alman Frazier
Martin, Shane Harris
Matlock, Amy Michele
Mayo, Billie Ray
Mayo, Chad Heath
McBrayer, Mya Dawn
McBride, Ian Matthew
McCalla, Stephen Richard
McClish, Melba Susan
McClure, Evelyn Sue
McClure, Paulette
McClure, Pamela LaNette
McCoy, Vonita Lucille
McDaniel, Racheal Brana
McDaniel, Renae Beth
Mcdaniel, Daniel
McDonald, Herschel
Matthew
McGee, Morgan Kincaid
McKee, Curtis Dewayne
McKendrick, Bettina
Mozell
McKinney, RaeTasha Lynn
McKinney, Carla Diane
McKinney, Lawrence
Samuel
Mckinney, Silas
McKinney, Robert Lee
McKinney, Russell Mike
McKinney, Rochelle Lynae
McKinney, Cyrus Silas
McKinney, Robert Samuel
McKinney, Timothy
Dewayne
McKinney, Esther Belle
McMillan, Janell Marie

McMillan, Larry Crowder
Mcneil, Richard
McNeil, Ramona Louise
Miles, Sara Ann Louise
Miraval, Fred Allen
Mitchell, Dale Wayne
Mitchell, Steven Paul
Mombi, Bennett Dale
Murphy, Mary Rose
Montgomery, Charlotte
Rethelia
Mooney, Donald Wayne
Morris, Richard Delorraine
Murphy, Richard Lee
Murphy, Tyler Lee
Murphy, Merry Ann
Mussett, Jeremy Shane
Nash, Natasha Nicole
Navarro, Christina Ann
Nehka, Georgian
Nehka, Dewayne Ray
Newsom, Dusty Lynn
Noah, Moses Ray
Noah, Stacy Galvin
Noah, Virginia Mae
Noah, Levicie
Noah, Karen Sue
Noah, Stephanie Lanette
Noley, Miko Warren
Nubby, Elaine Grace
Obe, Laurence Jim
Olive, Rachel Evelyn Kaye
Onco, Mitchell Gary
Osborn, Amanda Jo
Otis, Cody
Padron, Galena Cecilia Jean
Page, Helen Grace
Palmer, Michael Dan
Palmer, Tonya Joy
Park, Rachel Danyel
Parks, Maghan Lanae
Parks, Joey Lynn
Payne, Blake Allen
Pennington, Clifton James
Perkins, Robert Eugene
Perkins, Joel
Petty, Billy Duane
Pettyjohn, Cadye Jai
Phillips, Richard Caleb
Pierce, Mary Lissa
Pierce, Jack Daniel
Pitts, Rose Ann
Pohl, Julia
Pond, James Dudley
Pond, Amanda Rose
Poteet, Kimberly Deanne
Potts, Judy
Powell, Donnie Wayne
Power, Andrew Thomas
Pruitt, Jessica Ann
Pugh, Crystal Marie
Pugh, Jamie Lynn
Pugh, Shaina Linette
Ragle, Rebekah Jean
Randolph, Harmey H.
Randolph, Zona E.
Raymond, Stephanie Elaine
Reich, Kelly Ray
Reid, Brandon Wayne
Reinhart, Eric Alan
Rice, Melba Jo
Richison, D.C.
Riehl, Terri Renae
Rios, Andres Lopez
Roberts, Earl Lee
Routh, Leanne Rochelle
Russell, Lowell Amos
Russell, Michele
Russell, John Paul

Rutledge, Roy Harrison
Rygiel, Justin Emery
Rygiel, Chester Brian
Salinas, Felix Solis
Sam, Edna Carol
Sampson, Mecedes Shalyn
Samuels, Janice Rose
Sanders, Shana Christine
Sargent, Douglas Wayne
Schrock, Ronald Charles
Seals, Markita De’Shawn
Seeley, Donald Roger
Sexton, Norma Jean
Shannon, Johnnie Lee
Shelton, Steven Bart
Shoemaker, Heather Marie
Shomo, Jennifer Dawn
Shomo, Sherrill
Shomo, Clarissa Dawn
Simmons, Jannifer Carlene
Slack, Stephen Shane
Smith, Theodore Anthony
Smith, Ronald Glen
Smith, Laura Ann
Smith, Korrina Rochelle
Smithson, Kelley Sue
Snead, Arthur Brisbin
Songer, Jerry Glynn
Spillman, Glenn William
Spooner, Jeramie Jackson
Spradlin, Matilda Suzanne
Spradlin, Don Jay
Stand, Leona Ruth
Staples, Steven Shane
Stewart, Ed
Stewart, William Matthew
Storey, Sarah Betina
Storey, Stacy Bene’
Storey, Janna Leigh
Storey, Diana Gayle
Strait, Kathy Diann
Strider, Andrew Lee
Strider, William Jason
Sumter, Lynda Ruth
Swartz, Natosha Nicole
Tapley, Jimmy Earl
Tarkington, Jarred Zane
Tausch, Shon Cody
Taylor, Laurie Dawn
Teel, James Robert
Terry, Michael Lee
Thiele, Tanner Nicholas
Thomas, Jerry Neil
Thomas, Catherine
Thompson, Angie Mae
Thompson, Hoffman
Thompson, Barbara Sue
Thompson, Faris Zell
Thompson, Larriassa Lashun
Tidwell, Brettta Marie
Tom, Joe Clark
Tom, Clara Mae
Tonihka, Larry Gene
Tonihka, Ashley Evon
Townsend, Judy Ann
Turnage, Shannon Wayne
Tyler, Elwin Everett
Umphress, Winona Gay
Umphress, Sharon Marie
Ures, Zachary Aaron
Wade, Richard Allen
Walker, Tessa Ann
Walker, Leslie Jan
Walker, Joni Rena
Wallace, Larry Lee
Wallace, Ruth Hazel
Walters, Terri Lee
Ward, Justin Wade
Ward, Clyde Edward

Ward, Brandon Michael
Ward, Bobby Gene
Ward, Melissa Anne
Ward, Dalton James
Ward, Dakota Marrior Lee
Wayne
Washington, Benny H.
Washington, George Billy
Washington, Melvyna
Janette
Watkins, Brandon Lee
Watson, Jesse Amon
Watson, Pamela Lynne
Watson, Jon David
Watson, Victoria Annette
Weaver, Susan Alice
Webster, Gladys Regina
Welch, Claude Edward
Wells, Jessica
Wells, William Jefferson
Wesley, Michael Todd
Wesley, Bowie,J.
Wesley, Larry Mitchell
Wesley, Nathan
Wesley, Lee Marlon
West, Daniel Alan
Westbrook, Cynthia Ann
Westbrook, Augustus
Wayne
Westbrook, Janice Kay
White, Jason Kyle
Whiteman, Janice Lynn
Whiteman, Richard
Douglas
Whitney, Nathan Adam
Williams, Pamela Louise
Williams, Theodore Parker
Williams, Hampton
Williams, Jean Ellen
Williams, Donette Renee
Williams, Lecreata Kathlyn
Williamson, Sandra Renee
Willie, Manulita Elizabeth
Willie, Edwin Amos
Willis, Jeremy Ray
Willis, Lena Rochelle
Willis, Nathan Gearld
Williston, Thomas Rhea
Williston, Wanda Kay
Williston, Gloria Elaine
Williston, Justin Lee
Williston, Donald Ray
Williston, Doyle Roger
Williston, Dyan Nicole
Williston, Lenard Emerson
Williston, Leonard Emerson
Williston, Richard Glenn
Williston, Bruce Paul
Williston, Darrell Patrick
Williston, Jeremy Justin
Wilson, Karla Jill
Wilson, Iva
Wilson, James Foston
Wilson, Tina Mae
Wilson, Jennifer Elaine
Wilson, David Milton
Wilson, Perry
Wilson, Leona Faye
Wilson, Richard Vernett
Winegeart, McKin Lee
Winship, Diana Lynne
Winship, Donna Sue
Woodman, Timothy Lowell
Yancey, Jessie Adam
Yanez, Silvestre
Yellowfish, Jacqueline Irene
Yockey, Sandra Sue
Young, Kristi Jane
Younts, Robert Dillon



Application for:
Tribal Membership/Voters Registration
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
Phone: (580) 924-8280 or (800) 522-6170 **Fax:** (580) 924-4529

Name (please print)	First	Middle	Last	Maiden
Address	Street		P.O. Box	City
State	ZIP Code		County	Phone Number
Birthday	Sex		Social Security Number (Must be provided)	
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE. I AM NOT A MEMBER OF ANOTHER TRIBE NOR AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE WITH ANOTHER TRIBE.				
Signature		Date		
Please complete one for ALL minors. Under 16 years of age, parent will need to sign. 16 years and older need to sign for themselves. Once you reach the age of 18 years you can vote.				
IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, YOU MAY AFFILIATE WITH ONE OF THE DISTRICTS BELOW. ONCE YOU AFFILIATE, YOU MUST REMAIN IN THE DISTRICT YOU HAVE CHOSEN.				
Residents: Residents of the Choctaw Nation (ten and one-half counties) will be registered in the precinct in the county in which they reside. Absentee voting will be allowed by written request to the Election Board Chairman prior to an election or referendum.				
Non-Residents: Applicants residing outside the Choctaw Nation will be registered to vote by mail.				
Do you want your name and address released to the general public?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PLEASE CHECK THE PROPER DISTRICT AND PRECINCT				
District 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Idabel <input type="checkbox"/> Vainiant	District 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Poteau <input type="checkbox"/> Spiro <input type="checkbox"/> Summerfield <input type="checkbox"/> Heavener	District 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Antlers <input type="checkbox"/> Choctaw Council House <input type="checkbox"/> Rattan <input type="checkbox"/> Wright City	District 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Atoka <input type="checkbox"/> Kiowa <input type="checkbox"/> Stringtown <input type="checkbox"/> Cinklo <input type="checkbox"/> Lame	
District 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Bow <input type="checkbox"/> Bethel	District 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Stigler <input type="checkbox"/> Kinta <input type="checkbox"/> Keota <input type="checkbox"/> Spiro	District 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo <input type="checkbox"/> Boswell <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Towson	District 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Hartsborne <input type="checkbox"/> McAlister <input type="checkbox"/> Kiowa	
District 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Burkhardt <input type="checkbox"/> Smithville <input type="checkbox"/> Talihina <input type="checkbox"/> Heavener	District 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo <input type="checkbox"/> Red Oak <input type="checkbox"/> Wilburton <input type="checkbox"/> Quinton	District 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Bennington <input type="checkbox"/> Durant <input type="checkbox"/> Calera	District 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Coalgate <input type="checkbox"/> Canadian <input type="checkbox"/> Arwood <input type="checkbox"/> Tupelo <input type="checkbox"/> Arpelar	
<div>For Office Use Only - Date Approved or Disapproved: _____ Reason for disapproval: _____</div>				

Ranches are major players in beef market

By **BRET MOSS**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Raising and selling beef cattle is a huge industry in Oklahoma, and for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) it is no different. CNO has four different ranch operations within its boundaries that run nationally recognized beef cattle, via video marketing, making the CNO a major player in today’s beef market.

The four ranches of CNO are located in Tom, Sawyer, Idabel, and Tushka Homma and raise beef cattle primarily. These sizable ranches range in size from 2,930 acres at the Tushka Homma Ranch, to 1,460 acres at the Sawyer Ranch, previously called “Hughes Ranch.” Also, the Tom Ranch is 3,000 acres and Lick Skillet Ranch in Idabel is 2,640 acres.

“There are about a thousand beef cows that comprise a commercial herd of mainly Angus-influenced cattle,” explained Jack Hicks, the Director of Agriculture and Ranch Operations. This number is the total for all four ranches.

The thousand cows referred to are just the mother cows because they are the permanent cattle. The calves are sold and leave within a year, therefore are never counted in the total number.

Spring is typically the calving season and at about five to six months the calves are weaned then usually contracted by video sale auctions to the highest bidder. Calves to be marketed are videoed and sold under contract at a future weight. Once sold they remain on the ranch and are grazed to the desired weight and then shipped on the contracted delivery date.

“We contract them after weaning at about 500 pounds average weight and normally have a contract weight of 700 to 800 pounds. The contract weight is influenced by factors such as weather and present market conditions,” explained Hicks.



After the contracted cattle reach their desired weight, they are shipped to the ranch at Lick Skillet to be weighed on certified scales, and then off to the purchaser.

Hicks went on to include that the ranchers can gauge how much weight the calves will gain between the time they are videoed and the time they are shipped. This allows CNO to track the market for highs in prices to make the maximum profit on the cattle.

This type of forward thinking business strategy has earned this ranching operation a well-deserved recognition. “New Mexico State University visited the ranch operations for a personal look at the CNO management practices,” commented Jack Pate, executive director of Special Programs.

“The ranch operations have been averaging about \$350,000 to \$400,000 annually in cattle sales,” said Pate. “That figure is just the cattle. It did not account for the pecan crop sales totaling about \$65,000 last year,” added Hicks.

“We are one of the self-sufficient programs in the Choctaw Nation,” said Pate. “We pay for our salaries, insurance, feed, equipment, improvements, and other operating expenses from cattle sale profits,” he continued.

The Choctaw ranches do not purchase any breeding cows.

Instead they select and raise replacement heifers from the existing herd. Selecting choice heifers keeps the herd plentiful and self-sufficient. Quality bulls are purchased on a regular basis to keep the bloodlines fresh.

To keep a ranch like this running smoothly, it takes thoughtful and intelligent management practices. When Pate and Hicks began their work in 1997, the ranching operations were unsuccessful, but with good business and managerial practices CNO ranches have developed into a profitable and productive business.

“We keep a good count on the cows and maintain high accountability,” stated Pate. Well-kept records and files track the productivity of each cow, which enables the most appropriate management decisions to be made. Pate went on to mention, “We are really happy with our operation and employees.”

There are 14 employees working the ranches in a cooperative effort with other programs such as the Agriculture Department and the Wildlife and Parks Program. The ranchers are constantly busy maintaining the land and keeping the cows healthy and in-check. From feeding and herding the cattle for sale, to brush hogging the land and stacking the hay, the ranch hands play a vital role in this booming business.

Pate also attributes his success to the support of the tribe, Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton, and he and his associates feel it is important to recognize their role in the tremendous success of the operation as a whole.

CNO is exceptionally proud of its ranching program and its success throughout the years. The Agriculture and Ranch Program offers aid to other Choctaw farmers and ranchers throughout the Choctaw Nation in the form of consulting and technical assistance. Contact Jack Hicks at 580-326-3201 or at jdicks57@yahoo.com for more information on assistance.

Tribe preserving Choctaw heritage through buffalo herd

By **BRET MOSS**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) has been building a reputation for its efforts to preserve its native heritage. An exemplar form is raising massive wild beasts. That’s right, buffalo.

These staples of Choctaw history can be found roaming the meadows and pastureland at the CNO ranch located in Tushka Homma, one of the tribe’s four working ranches.

The Tushka Homma ranch is 2,930 acres of native pastureland and natural landscape with a pond about every quarter of a mile, divulged Jack Pate, the executive director of Special Programs, as he explained the landscape. These conditions provide the buffalo with ample room and resources to thrive.

“We have 37 mother cows, three bulls and 21 calves in our buffalo herd,” stated Pate. “They are primarily for heritage reasons,” he continued. The herd is kept to a manageable number due to expenses. At one time the CNO had in excess of 150 head of bison/buffalo.

The CNO ranching operation is an exceptional business endeavor and is completely self-sufficient, with almost all of its revenue coming from the beef cattle operations. The cattle make enough profit to sustain the buffalo herd.

Besides heritage reasons, the buffalo are also used for breeding purposes. Other

breeders may utilize the Choctaw herd to aid their own herd production by the purchase of bulls and heifers. As of now, CNO is the only tribe of the five major tribes to have a buffalo herd.

“These are true North American Bison, typically called Bison Bison,” mentioned Pate. They are tested annually for brucellosis/tuberculosis and certified disease free by the Federal Veterinarian Services.

Recently, these massive mammals have gained international attention. On Aug. 17, a film crew from the popular television channel, Animal Planet, took a trip to Tushka Homma to video the buffalo in their natural state for a documentary.

The film crew, based out of England, caught wind of these buffalo when they were documenting a buffalo that belonged to a man named R.C. Bridges. Bridges mentioned to the folks from Animal Planet that the Choctaw Nation had a herd, and they became immediately interested.

When they came, the Animal Planet crew was interested in filming the buffalo with no form of human interaction. “They got everything out of the shot, no fences, no people and no trucks,” mentioned Pate. They filmed footage of the creatures running, grazing and even fighting.

“They were pleased with the buffalo,” said Pate. “I think it will come out real good... it is an honor,” he continued as he described the experience.



The footage will be used as part of a documentary. It is set to be aired in England in October and shortly after in the United States.

There is a small piece of land being fenced off in respect to the Labor Day festivities, which are approaching. There will be buffalo tours set up on Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon and on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. during the festival.

There will be a bus taken out into the pasture to where the buffalo have been moved and visitors will be able to observe the buffalo in a natural state as they go about their daily activities. The herd will be put into the tour area the night before the tours begin and will remain there for the two-day period.

While the tours are completely safe for the public, there are precautions to be taken while visiting the buffalo. Visitors are prohibited from trying to touch (pet) the buffalo, get close to the fences where buffalo are be-

ing kept, or participating in any activity that would make the buffalo feel threatened.

The buffalo aren’t intentionally mean, but “people have to remember they are wild animals,” stated Pate. He continued by saying it is mandated that people stay on the bus during the tours. Patrons will not be allowed to get close or walk among the animals.

In addition to the buffalo, the Tushka Homma ranch is home for three Longhorn show steers, 20 beef cattle, and four Paint colts. The ranch sported over 330 mustangs at one point, but due to economic reasons has decided to narrow its horse population and focus on the beef cattle.

CNO has been running a very successful ranching operation that is being used as a model for other ranching operations. Due to this success, they will be able to maintain the valuable history that lies within the buffalo herd.



Are you fire-wise?

Choctaw Nation Forestry provides information to the public on being fire-wise in the “Home Ignition Zone.” Please utilize this information so that you will not be caught by surprise due to

the drought situations that have occurred and that are occurring as we speak. If you do so, we can help prevent any future losses. We have some good information to provide the public that will help in days to come.

“Due to the high temperatures we have had for the last month, fire danger is high,” said Josh Bates of the Choctaw Nation Forestry Department. “Our fire season here in Oklahoma has the potential to be year-round given the right weather conditions.”

Designing and landscaping your home with wildfire safety in mind can be accomplished by selecting materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it. Use fire-resistant or noncombustible materials on the roof and exterior structure of the dwelling or treat wood or combustible material used in roofs, siding or decking; trim with UL-listed fire-retardant chemicals.

Plant fire-resistant shrubs and trees such as hardwood trees that are less flammable than pine, evergreen, eucalyptus or fir trees.

The best resource for proper planning is www.firewise.org which has outstanding information used daily by residents, property owners, fire departments, community planners, builders, public policy officials, water authorities, architects, and others to assure safety from fire. It really works. Firewise workshops are offered for free all across the nation in communities large and small, and free Firewise materials can be obtained eas-

ily by anyone interested.

Firewise recommends creating a 30- to 100-foot safety zone around your home. Within this area, steps can be taken to reduce potential exposure to flames and radiant heat. Homes built in pine forests should have a minimum safety zone of 100 feet. If a home sits on a steep slope, standard protective measures may not suffice. Contact the local fire department or forestry office for additional information.

Many tips are available to save lives and property from wildfire:

- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear all flammable vegetation.
- Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures.
- Thin a 15-foot space between tree crowns, and remove limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
- Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Clear a 10-foot area around propane tanks and the barbecue. Place a screen over the grill – usually nonflammable material with mesh no coarser than one-quarter inch.
- Regularly dispose of newspapers and rubbish at an approved site. Follow local burning regulations.
- Place stove, fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket, soak in water for two days, then bury the cold ashes in mineral soil.
- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and

uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet. Use only UL-listed wood-burning devices.

- Review your homeowner’s insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home’s contents.

If you are warned that a wildfire is threatening your area, listen to your battery-operated radio for reports and evacuation information. Follow the instructions of local officials.

It is a good idea to back cars into the garage or park in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition. Close garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.

Protect your home

- Clean roof and gutters regularly.
- Inspect chimneys at least twice a year. Clean them at least once a year. Keep the dampers in good working order. Equip chimneys and stovepipes with a spark arrester that meets the requirements of National Fire Protection Association Standard 211. (Contact the local fire department for exact specifications.)
- Use 1/8-inch mesh screen beneath porches, decks, floor areas, and the home itself. Also, screen openings to floors, roof and attic.
- Install a smoke alarm on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms; test monthly and change the batteries at least once each year.
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it’s kept.
- Keep handy household items that can be used as fire tools: a rake, axe, handsaw or chain saw, bucket, and shovel.
- Keep a ladder that will reach the roof.

- Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.

Emergency supplies

When wildfire threatens you won’t have time to shop or search for supplies. Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need if advised to evacuate. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags, or trash containers. Include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won’t spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first-aid kit that includes the family’s prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash, or traveler’s checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of eyeglasses.

Plan your water needs

- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool, or hydrant.
- Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
- Install freeze-proof exterior water outlets on at least two sides of the home and near other structures on the property. Install additional outlets at least 50 feet from the home.
- Consider obtaining a portable gasoline-powered pump in case electrical power is cut off.

OK Choctaws list September activities

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance (OCTA) in Oklahoma City will have their taco trailer at Tushka Homma this year, selling their Indian Tacos from Sept. 2-6. This will be followed by their monthly Taco Sale on Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Those in attendance on the 11th will be entertained by storytelling with Greg Rodgers. The Taco Sales are held the second Saturday each month.

The General Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13 right after the pot luck dinner at 6. In addition to the regular items of discussion, they are scheduled to have a speaker from the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center Diabetes Program who will give an overview of diabetes, the different types, who is at risk, how to manage it either by diet or medication, etc.

The Choctaw Language class will be starting up again on Sept. 14, after a summer break. The classes start at 7 p.m. and last about an hour or so each night. For information on the blocks to be taught and enrollment information, contact Norris Samuels at 405-672-5653.

The Alliance also has on-going classes in beading with Debra Belt, 405-365-9576, every Thursday evening from 6 to 8. For a list of items needed for the bead class, contact meatloafbob@yahoo.com for a copy or contact Debra for other information. They also conduct their Senior Outing each Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. that provides a good lunch, served at 12 noon, and entertainment along with items of clothing that are looking for new wearers. For information on the outing, contact Della Eisel at 405-265-1963.

The Alliance is located at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., in Oklahoma City, about five blocks north of Southwest 59th Street between May and Pennsylvania Avenues. For information about membership, contact Phyllis Been at 405-535-8418, or Judith Bryant at 405-755-6983.

Harley reunion

The Harley family reunion will be held at Raymond Gary Lake Park on Oct. 9 and 10.

All relatives of the Harley family and descendants are invited to attend. Contact Leola Harley Stehle at 817-847-0528 or e-mail at l.stehle@sbeglobal.net or Karen Wesley at 580-212-9134 and leave your name and phone number and we will get back with you.

Bell reunion

The family of John Bell of Hugo will have a family reunion at the La Quinta Inn in Paris, Texas, on Sept. 25. Call 580-482-2566 for more information.

Jones reunion

Descendants of Cephus Jones, Betty Jones Thompson, Reba Jones Meashintubby, and Wilburn Jones will hold the annual Jones Family Reunion at the city park in Talihina on Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For information or directions, call Kathy Leach, 972-272-9356, Joyce Purser, 972-424-7477 or Mary Lou Meashintubby, 918-567-4392.

‘Old Jones Boys’ rich in memories



2009 Jones Academy All Male Reunion group picture: first row, Brad Spears, Laverne Jones, Tom Anderson, Ted LeFlore, Cleno Jefferson; middle row, Tully Choate, Osborne York, Jimmy Bruner, and Victor “Buster” Jefferson; top row: Howard Sumner, Olen Durant, Bertram Bobb, Howard “Scorchy” Bryant, Cassel Lawrence and Billy Hill. William Frye and Randy Jacob are not pictured.



The boys’ dormitory for grades 1 through 12 was taken down in 1962.

By KATHY CARPENTER

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The history of the Choctaw Nation is a fascinating one. Every October, a group who experienced an important part of that history meets to share stories, laughter and fellowship. The “Old Jones Boys” as they call themselves reminisce about the days when they lived and studied at Jones Male Academy before it became co-ed in 1955.

Stories and memories abound and the sport of teasing each other has not lessened over the decades. They share stories about getting caught by the superintendent in some behavior that was less than desirable – fighting was their favorite. Some of those superintendents included Mr. King, Mr. Sprague and Red Fox McLemore (a Cherokee who was a former colonel in the army).

The current gym sits on a spot that used to be the old apple orchard. This was a favorite place for the boys to gather (translation – fight). As you might guess, the boxing team at Jones Academy always had plenty of willing participants and there was a team until about 1949. At the 2002 reunion, photos were taken of various groups. A photo was taken of the boxing team from over 50 years before (and their coach, Robert Wood). Football was played until about 1949. Interestingly enough, several members of the boxing team were also in the photo of former Jones students who became ministers.

Students who lived at Jones Male Academy helped with the work done there. Every six weeks they would switch jobs, but if a student liked a particular spot, they would try to keep him there so he could learn a trade. They raised corn, potatoes and beets and canned in tin cans (sometime before 1943 according to one recollection).

The dorm had one bathroom (located on the third floor). The bathhouse was in a separate building beside the dorm. Cooking and dining also took place in a separate building. Students who worked at the dairy got up much earlier than everyone else, so they lived on the third floor where all the older boys lived, which was called long hall. The main second floor, where all the younger boys lived, was called the blue dorm.

The bottom floor held living quarters called the C & D. Also on the bottom floor was canning equipment, laundry collection, a sewing room, a pressing room and a smoking room, used by students.

About 75 percent of the young men who attended Jones went into the military (all that fighting experience evidently paid off). Many did not go past eighth grade. Those who furthered their education usually went to Haskell or Chilocco.

The Old Jones Boys would like to invite all former students of Jones Academy (spouses are welcome) to attend this year’s reunion on Oct. 16, beginning at 10 a.m. in the school gymnasium. For further information, please contact Jimmy Bruner at 580-298-3136.



James/Thompson reunion

The James/Thompson reunion was recently held July 31 at Wilson Point on Hugo Lake. It was hot but everyone had a good time. We had a big dinner, a horseshoe tournament, volleyball games and the kids had a good time at the swimming beach. All are descendants of the late Hampton Thompson, late Narcissa James Thompson, late Anderson James and the late Francis Thompson James. They are all original enrollees.



Ward family reunion

On July 17 the Casey and Joe Ward reunion was held at the Spiro Choctaw building. Those who were present included John Casey of Spiro, who planned the reunion; Tom Swafford of Spiro; Anna and Bob Denny of Edmond; Bob and Vickie Bennett of Cameron; Sue Collins Grampietro of Spiro; Johnnie Bourne of Spiro; Geneva Neal of Fort Smith; Brenda and Ron McClelland of Fort Smith; Kenneth and Sue Conrad of Broken Arrow; Terry Riggs of Poteau; Sumler and Joyce Conrad of Greenwood, Ark.; and several others. Those who are interested in attending next year, please contact John Casey, 18903 Casey Lane, Spiro, OK 74959 or 918-774-4940.

Whiteside’s first novel published

Brenda Whiteside’s debut novel, “Sleeping with the Lights On,” was released on May 21. RT Books Reviews gives her three stars and says, “Cheers to Whiteside for writing a heroine who exists outside of conventional romance novels in terms of age and marital status ... novel is written pleasantly with a light sense of humor ...”

Ana Morgan in the June 2010 edition of the Muse calls Whiteside’s book a “page-turner” and says “characters come instantly alive ... a fast-paced romance.”

Brenda is from Robbinsdale, Minn., and a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Savage Precision Fabrication wins numerous awards

Savage Precision Fabrication Inc. of Wylie, Texas, was awarded the Region VI Small Business Subcontractor of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration on May 25 as part of the National Small Business Week Conference held in Washington, D.C. Savage, nominated by Raytheon for this award, also received the SBA National Subcontractor of the Year 2010.

Savage manufactures precision machine and sheet metal fabrication parts for the aerospace, military, defense and high-tech industries. W.T. Gardner, along with his wife, Jo Ann, founded the veteran and Native American-owned Company in 1975 after starting the work in his garage. The company now has 44 employees and occupies a 60,000-sq.ft. state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.



Raytheon executives John Harris, president of Raytheon Technical Services; David Wilkins, vice president, Contracts and Supply Chain; and Vice Presidents Janet Duffey and Vivek Kamath participated with Savage in the award ceremonies. Also in attendance were representatives of the Wylie Economic Development Corporation which has assisted Savage with several facilities and equipment expansions. W.T. Gardner along with other honorees were invited to the White House to receive personal congratulations from

President Barack Obama.

May 29, 2010, Savage was notified that U.S. Commerce Association (USCA) selected Savage Precision Fabrication, Inc. the 2010 Best of Wylie Award in the sheet metal work category. The USCA “Best of Local Business” Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USCA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. Winners are determined based on information gathered both internally by USCA, which focuses on quality, not quantity, and data provided by third parties.

Farm Service Agency reminds producers of deadline to apply for payments under the 2008 SURE Program

Kevin Dale Bryan County FSA Director and the Choctaw Nation FSA contact reminds agriculture producers that they have until Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, to submit an application for payment under the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. SURE provides financial assistance for crop production and or quality losses due to a natural disaster.

“It is important for producers to meet this deadline for the 2008 SURE program sign-up because the authority for the payment benefits expires at the end of the current fiscal year and the Department of Agriculture will start the 2009 SURE sign-up application process in the near future,” emphasized Mr. Dale. “We want to get these benefits to the producers to help offset the losses they endured during the 2008 production year.”

The SURE program is new to the 2008 Farm Bill and is a successor to prior ad hoc crop disaster programs. Because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), there are increased benefits and expanded eligibility for producers during the 2008 sign up. The Recovery Act may increase payments by increasing the guarantee calculation for both insurable crops and crops eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Pro-

gram (NAP) coverage.

FSA offices nationwide began accepting and processing 2008 SURE program applications in January 2010, and the Recovery Act allowed for a one-time increase in the calculation of 2008 SURE payments that are filed by Sept. 30, 2010. Producers who do not file a 2008 SURE program payment application by Sept. 30, 2010, will not be considered eligible for 2008 SURE program payments.

Agriculture producers should contact the FSA office serving the county in which the loss occurred. FSA offices located across the Choctaw Nation are shown below.

Atoka FSA (580) 889-2554 – serving Atoka and Coal Counties

Bryan FSA (580) 924-4131 – serving Bryan County and serves as the Choctaw Nation Outreach contact

Choctaw FSA (580) 326-3655 – serving Choctaw and Pushmataha Counties

Leflore FSA (918) 647-2047 – serving Haskell and Leflore Counties

McCurtain FSA (580) 286-2574 – serving McCurtain County

Pittsburg FSA (918) 423-4073 – serving Latimer, McIntosh & Pittsburg Counties

USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Choctaw place names in ‘Oklahumma’

Dear Iti Fabvssa,

I’ve got a question about Choctaw towns and places in south-eastern Oklahoma and what their names might translate to in English. If possible I’d also like to know a little bit about their history. Thank you.

Ryan

The connection that Choctaws, as indigenous people, have with our land has always been a very close one. The form of agriculture that our ancestors developed, their methods of hunting and gathering, and their practices of walking on footpaths and traveling by streams in canoes, all made them intimately familiar with every feature on the landscape of their Homeland. They gave names to many of its places. The names that they chose often literally describe a notable characteristic of a particular spot, convey the type of natural resources to be found there, give the specific use to which the land was put, or refer to a historical event that took place there. Still today, ancient Choctaw names dot the map in Mississippi, western Alabama, northern Florida, and eastern Louisiana, even in spots that have had no Choctaw settlements now for 200 years. These names, many of them woven in to Choctaw oral traditions, continue to give us some idea of the significance that these particular spots had to our ancestors.

Beginning in the early 1830s, the Trail of Tears forcibly separated many of our Choctaw ancestors from their sacred Homeland and brought them to what is now southeastern Oklahoma. Accounts written at the time period describe weeping Choctaws touching the trees and telling them goodbye as they set out on the Trail. Once in their new land, they immediately began establishing connections with the landscape and naming its features, just as they had done in Mississippi.

Many of these Oklahoma Choctaw place names are still the official names used today. Those of us living here say some of these names all the time, whether or not we even realize that when we do we are speaking little bits of the Choctaw language that connect us with a deep heritage on the land. What follows is a list of a few of these places, with literal English translations of their Choctaw names and when possible, brief histories of how they came to be so named.

The State

The first Choctaw name that we must mention is “Oklahoma” itself. Following the Civil War, delegates from the Five Civilized Tribes traveled to Washington, D.C., to resume formal relationships with the U.S. government. During the meeting, federal officials proposed the creation of an Indian Territory. Choctaw delegate Rev. Allen Wright suggested naming it “Oklahumma” (Meserve 1941:319). In the Choctaw language “okla” means “people” and “humma” means “red.” Thus, the area would be named Oklahoma Territory, or literally “Territory of the Red People.” Today “The State of Oklahoma” literally means “The state belonging to Red People.”

Choctaw County

This county derives its name from the Choctaw or “Chahta” people. However, some disagreement exists about how we came to be called “Chahta” in the first place. According to some Choctaw oral traditions, “Chahta” was



Iti Fabussa



A pier stone foundation and bits of broken porcelain are all that remain of this 1880’s log structure that stood at the old town of Tuskahoma.

the name of the man who led the Choctaw people to the Mississippi Homeland and subsequently gave his name to the tribe. Conversely, Henry Halbert, an early scholar and fluent Choctaw speaker suggested that the name may have come from the Choctaw term “hvcha hattak,” meaning “river people.” He felt this referred to ancient Choctaw towns located on the Tombigbee River in western Alabama. Some anthropologists believe the name “Chahta” comes from the Spanish word, “chato,” meaning “flat.” Early Choctaws are known to have sometimes slightly flattened the top of their children’s heads for aesthetic and probably spiritual reasons. In reality, the origin of the word “Choctaw” is an important question for which a consensus may never be reached.

Atoka County

The name of Atoka County itself is Choctaw in origin. The county was named after Capt. Atoka, a Choctaw warrior who signed the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek and was well known for his prowess in stickball. His name probably came from the word “Hitoka,” or “Stickball-Playing Field” (Wright 1930:330). The Atoka Agreement was signed near to town of Atoka on April 23, 1897. This agreement set up the dissolution of the Choctaw Tribal government and the allotment of lands to Choctaw families under the Dawes Commission.

South of the town of Atoka on Hwy 69, is the town of Tushka. Its name comes from the Choctaw word “tvshka” or “warrior.” Tushka is an old railroad town that was originally called “Peck Switch.” This name was shortened to “Peck,” and then changed to “Lewis.” Later, the railroad wanted to change the town’s name to “Dayton,” but the Post Office Department argued that there were already too many towns named Dayton, and so in 1909 a more unique Choctaw name “Tushka” was chosen (Fugate and Fugate 1991:59).

Bryan County

In Bryan County, east of Durant, is the town of Bokchito. This town’s name, which can be translated as “large stream,” comes from the Choctaw words “bok,” meaning “river” or “stream,” and “chito” meaning “big.” The stream flowing immediately east of the town has the same name. Armstrong Academy, located a couple miles from the present town of

Bokchito, was opened in 1845. Its campus, renamed “Chahta Tamaha” (meaning “Choctaw Town”), served as the capital of the Choctaw Nation from 1863-1883 (Fugate and Fugate 1991:195-106).

Pushmataha County

Pushmataha County is named after one of the most influential Choctaw chiefs of all time. Coming from Oklahannali, the southernmost of the three Choctaw Districts in Mississippi, Pushmataha (1764? -1824) served as a district chief from 1800-1824. He helped the Choctaw tribe becoming a strong ally of the United States, while opposing Removal. Pushmataha’s name probably comes from the Choctaw phrase “apushi mvt taha,” meaning literally “early childhood is gone.” This name may have been given because when asked of his ancestry, Pushmataha said he had no parents, but simply came forth from a tree in a cloud of smoke when lightning struck it.

Tuskahoma is a small town whose name comes from the compounding of the Choctaw words “tvshka” meaning “warrior” and “humma” meaning “red.” Its name literally means “red warrior.” The town site has moved several times. One of its earlier locations was around the Choctaw Council house built in 1884. Today this building serves as the tribal museum and the focal point of the annual Choctaw Labor Day Festival.

Nanah Waiya Lake is located just west of Tuskahoma on Hwy. 271. In the Choctaw language “Nvnihi Waiya” means “bending / leaning hill.” The lake is named after the old town of Nanah Waiya, which was located nearby. Nanah Waiya served as the Capitol of the Choctaw Nation from 1834-1850. This town itself was named after Nvnihi Waiya, Miss., described as the birthplace of the Choctaw people in oral history.

About nine miles south of the Tushka Homma Council House is the town of Nashoba. Its name means, “wolf” in the Choctaw language. The town derives its name from a no-longer existent county that was a part of Choctaw Nation before statehood. This county was itself named after Neshoba County, Miss., where many of the area’s inhabitants had lived before the Trail of Tears (Wright 1930:321).

The town of Kosoma is located about seven miles north of Antlers. Its name means “acid-smelling” in the Choctaw language.

Some hypothesize that this name may have been given as the result of the town being located near a swamp, or because it was located in goat-ranching country.

McCurtain County

Bokhoma is located in the southeastern part of the county. Its name translates as “red river,” coming from a combination of the Choctaw words “bok” or “stream” and “humma,” or red. The town of Idabel originally had the same name.

The community of Lukfata is located just west of Broken Bow. Its name is created from a combination of the Choctaw words “luk-fi” or “dirt” and “hvta” meaning “light-colored.” Some local residents translate its name as “white clay.” A stream located nearby has the same name.

Panki Bok is an old Choctaw town located southeast of Eagle Town. Its name, meaning “grape stream,” probably suggests one of the types of food that could be gathered on its banks.

Three miles south of Smithville is the town of Nani-chito. Its name may come from the Choctaw phrase “nvnihi chito,” meaning “big hill.”

Alikchi is located northwest of Wright City. The town’s name is the Choctaw word for “doctor.” It was so named due to its close proximity to a sulfur spring that was used for medicine by Choctaw people (Shirk 1987: 7).

Kullituklo is located southeast of Idabel. Its name may be translated as “two springs,” deriving from the Choctaw words “kulli” meaning “spring” and “tuklo” meaning “two.”

Several streams in McCurtain County have Choctaw names. The Yalobasha River gets its name from the Choctaw words “yalubba,” meaning “tadpoles” and “asha” meaning “reside.” Its name, translated into English as “tadpoles are in it,” strongly suggests a type of wildlife that was/is common in its waters. The name of Bok Tuklo Creek may be translated as “two streams creek.” The name for Yanabi Creek may derive from “iyanabi” the Choctaw name for the ironwood tree, or it may be a compound of the Choctaw words “yvnnvsh” and “vbi,” meaning “buffalo kill.”

Leflore County

Talihina was founded as a railroad town, and it derives its name from the Choctaw words “tvli” meaning rock or metal and “hina” meaning road. When combined, these words are translated as “railroad.” The first Talihina Indian Hospital was built by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations in 1917.

Skullyville is located north of Poteau and was one of the first Choctaw towns established in Oklahoma. Its cemetery is the resting place for a number of Choctaw Trail of Tears survivors. The Choctaw Agency was located in Skullyville. “Skully” comes from the Choctaw word “iskulli” meaning “money” (This was itself borrowed from a Spanish word for a type of coin “scallion”). The town’s name literally means “Moneyville.” This was given because it was here that Choctaw residents of the Moshulatubbee District received annuities from the Agency (Wright 1930:318).

Pocola is located north of Poteau. Its name is a corruption of the Choctaw word “pokoli” meaning ten. It was thus named because the town is roughly 10 miles southwest from the old part of Fort Smith.

Bokoshe is located in the west-

ern part of the county. Its name comes from the Choctaw words “bok” meaning “stream” and “ushi” meaning “little.” It may be translated as “creek” or “little creek.”

Haskell County

Tamaha, located northeast of Stigler and immediately south of the Canadian River, was a site of a Choctaw settlement in the 1830s. Originally called “Pleasant Bluff,” it was re-named Tamaha in 1884, after the Choctaw word “tvmaha,” meaning town. Interestingly, the adjacent section of the Canadian River is the site of the furthest inland naval battle of the Civil War. Here on June 15, 1864, Cherokee Confederate General Stand Watie captured the union Boat J.R. Williams (Fugate and Fugate 1991:71).

Kinta, is a railroad town located in the southern part of the county, founded during the era of Chief Green McCurtain. Its name translates as “beaver.”

Latimer County

Yanush is located approximately five miles northwest of Tushka Homma Council House. Its name comes from the Choctaw word “yvnnvsh,” meaning buffalo. It is likely that buffalo could be found in the area when Choctaw settlers first arrived.

Panola, located east of Wilburton, derives its name from the Choctaw word “pinola,” meaning cotton.

The Choctaw-named places we’ve just described are only a few of many in southeastern Oklahoma. In traditional Choctaw thought, a certain amount of power exists in being able to name someone or something. These Choctaw names have the power of permanently tying the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to the landscape of Oklahoma. If we think of the literal meaning of their Choctaw names the next time we speak of these places or visit them, the names will also help connect us with our ancestors and the special relationship that they had with the very land that we walk on.

References Cited:

- Fugate, Francis L., and Roberta B. Fugate
1991 Roadside History of Oklahoma. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula.
- Meserve, John Bartlett
1941 Chief Allen Wright Chronicles of Oklahoma 19(4):314-32.
- Shirk, George
1987 Oklahoma Place Names. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Wright, Muriel
1930 Organization of Counties in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations Chronicles of Oklahoma 8(3):315-334.

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

ANSWER TO AUGUST CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1O	2A				3D	4O	T		5F	6I	7F	T	E	E	8N	9D		
10N	11I	N	E	12T	E	N		13W	I	N	O				14O	D	E	
15E	N	D	W		E		16S	I	X		U				17S	O	C	
	K		18F	O	19U	R		S			R			20S	I	N	G	E
21H		I		S				22T	H	I	R	T	E	E	N			I
	I		V				23S	W				E		V			V	
24S	25E	V	E	26N		27I	R	E		28L	I	E		29E	A	30R	E	
	I		I		X					N		N			A			
32A	G	E		N	T	V				33M				34T	H	R	E	35E
	H			36E	L	E	V	E	N		37E	A	S	E		E	A	
	38T	E	N			E				A			E				R	
	E				39K	N	40I	F	E		41T	42W	E	N	43T	Y		T
44Y	E	45S			I		N			46M		E			W			H
	47N	I	48N	E	T	Y	F	I	V	E		49A	R	R	I	V	E	
		50T	J		H		O			51T	J	A	R			N		

Choctaw Traditional Pottery Class

DURANT

Sept 12, Oct 10 • 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the Cultural Events Building, 4451 Choctaw Rd.

POTEAU

Sept 13, Sept 27, Oct 11 • 5-9:30 p.m. at the Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

IDABEL

Sept 14, Sept 28, Oct 12 • 12:30-4:30 p.m. at the Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

ATOKA

Sept 9, Sept 23, Oct 7 • 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Rd.

OKLAHOMA CITY (firing)

Sept 18 • 4-10 p.m. at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5230 S. Youngs. Blvd.

Choctaws travel to Tacoma for community gathering



Chief Gregory E. Pyle is pictured with the Holland family, Curtis, Kyle and Kevin, during the Choctaw Nation's visit to Tacoma, Wash., on Aug. 6.



Tribal employee Faye Self bags free T-shirts to give John and Linda Wilkinson of Shelton, Wash. Approximately 300 tribal members attended the meeting.



Josh White helps Chief Pyle with door prizes at Tacoma.



Wayne Campbell, along with Jake, Judy and Jamie Root, attended the Tacoma meeting. They were glad to see Chief Pyle and the staff who traveled to Tacoma.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton enjoys visiting with Louise and Ron Thompson, formerly of Daisy, not far from where Batton grew up at Clayville.



Chief Pyle greets Ruth Frazier McMillan of Des Moines, Wash. Ruth is the daughter of Code Talker Tobias Frazier.



Elaisa Cole and Keara Webb are hoping to win a door prize at Tacoma.



Cynthia Burnside was raised by her great-grandmother. She made this drum of elk hide and red cedar and presented it to Chief Pyle at the Tacoma gathering.

Oregon-area Choctaws come together in Salem



Assistant Chief Batton with Conner Moore, 10, and Kyle, who turns 1 on Sept. 8. One hundred more people than the expected 300 attended the Salem gathering.



Bobby Willis, pictured with Chief Pyle, wears his T-shirt with the Choctaw seal to the community gathering in Salem, Ore. on Aug. 8.



Teresa Dinsmore, Barbara Alcaraz and Mike Alcaraz ask Ken and Lauren English of the Choctaw Career Development Program about good career choices.



Chief Pyle, Rich Woolsey and Ruth Stonger.



Chief Pyle visits with T.J. Burris.

Sole Mates gets kids off and running

The Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach Program does many projects to help children in need. One of these projects, called "Sole Mates," provides the children of the Youth Outreach Program with a brand-new pair of shoes to start the school year. These new shoes give children the confidence they need to start the school year off right and make them excited to start learning.

The Youth Outreach staff commits their time and effort to make sure this project is successful. A Youth Outreach employee who played a huge part in organizing Project Sole Mates and other Youth Outreach projects is the late Christina "Tina" Willis. Tina passed away July 12 in an automobile accident. This year's Sole Mates is dedicated to her and is named "Tina's Sole Mates 2010."

On Aug. 13, a "Tina's Sole Mates 2010" kick-off event was held at the travel plazas in Durant, Broken Bow, McAlester, Grant and Poteau. Anyone making a donation of a pair of shoes received a free fountain drink and bracelet.

Last year, they noticed that some kids needed new shoes to start school. "We visit the homes so we know who we need to distribute the shoes to," explained Joey Tom, Youth Outreach advisor. "We just want to help the kids and give them a jump-start to their school year." After receiving shoes, the staff hand-deliver them to the children of the Youth Outreach Program.

Joey, along with a few fellow Outreach staff members,



Michael James, Brandy Clay and Randy Hammons, see Sole Mates as a "confidence-builder." Every kid needs a pair of shoes to start school with, and the Youth Outreach staff strives to accomplish that through the use of Sole Mates. Because of the donations of many generous individuals, Project Sole Mates provides shoes for children who would otherwise not be able to purchase a new pair of shoes to start the school year.

Project Sole Mates is solely funded by donations from the public. The contributors to this project helped put smiles on many faces as the school year started. The project continues through Labor Day weekend. They will be located at the Lost Child Station receiving donations. The Youth Outreach Office can be reached at 580-326-8304 with questions about Sole Mates or for those wishing to get a shoe size for a specific boy or girl. Any cash donation will be used to provide for a child in need. Donations can be sent to Choctaw Nation Outreach, P.O. Box 88, Hugo, OK 74743, or dropped off at 219 N. Broadway in Hugo.

"Last year we did really well," said Joey. Youth Outreach received at least 150 pairs of shoes in 2009. "We even had donations come from Australia and Ireland." Randy Hammons, the executive director over the Outreach Program, was handed a \$200 check when he was attending a meeting in Colorado.



Amaya Dayal helps Assistant Chief Batton and Chief Pyle with door prizes at Salem.



Chief Pyle and Carol and Ronnie Roberts.

Garden provides food, knowledge for a community

By **BRET MOSS**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

The Choctaw tribe, along with many other Native American tribes, has been known throughout history as people of the land. They possess the knowledge of how to grow produce and cultivate the land. In the spirit of keeping that knowledge alive, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) began an annual community garden in 2009.

The garden, which recently underwent its second harvest, is located in Lane on the location of the USDA ARS South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory, which is a cooperative effort between Oklahoma State University (OSU) and the USDA. In cooperation with the facility, the garden serves as a tool for learning and a reminder of a former Choctaw way of life.

The garden is about two acres in size and grows various vegetables such as okra, corn, tomatoes and squash. Community volunteers harvest it once a year. This year it produced 4,075 pounds of various produce, which is “divided equally between INCA Community Services and the Choctaw Nation District 10 Senior Center,” mentioned the Tribal Councilman for District 10, Anthony Dillard.

Dillard, who worked with the research facility for 20 years prior to becoming a councilman, was the individual responsible for the origin of the garden. The facility had tried various times in the past to start a garden, but was unsuccessful until Dillard was able to organize the operation.

The idea came to Dillard as a way to educate younger Americans about the process that is needed to get food from the ground to the grocery store. He elaborated by saying, “My initial intention of it was that I was afraid a lot of our youth don’t know where a lot of their vegetables come from.” He



continued with, “They just assume it comes from the supermarkets.”

Vincent Russo, the research leader for the faculty, supports Dillard’s thoughts by saying, “There is a lack of education about agriculture in the United States.” He went on to mention that approximately 2 percent of the population grows the food that the whole county consumes.

With this small of a portion of the population producing what is consumed, the other 98 percent have an increased risk of not obtaining the knowledge about how the food they eat even gets to their tables. Dillard, along with Russo and numerous others have come together to remedy this problem in their area. “If they can learn to self-sustain, they can better themselves for the future,” said Dillard.

This idea of educating people on how to produce their own food is not just of local concern. In a fortunate coincidence, soon after Dillard proposed his idea of a community garden, the White House had the same thought grace its halls.

Michelle Obama is recognized as an active first lady, and one of her activities is having a “people’s garden” in Washington, D.C. This

The community garden located at the USDA ARS Research Center in Lane flourished during the growing season. It is now being prepared for winterization. Cover crops will be placed on the garden until the next growing season begins.

garden was created in the same hopes as the similar Choctaw garden.

When President Obama was elected, he appointed Tom Vilsack the Secretary of Agriculture who initiated the People’s Garden process. In response to this initiative, the Lane Research Center prepared to aid in a people’s garden. When Dillard approached the Research Center with his idea for a community garden, it fit perfectly with their new initiative.

There are two field days a year where people are invited to tour the

facility, one of which draws about a thousand people. During these tours, Russo and the other staff members make it a point to mention the garden. It’s important that it just not be used to produce food, but “to deliver knowledge to people who may not know the workings of developing a garden and growing food,” elaborated Russo.

In order to grow these fresh veggies and educate the public on the working of the garden, it takes strategic gardening practices. Russo divulged that the Research Center staff uses a conventional gardening

method. This means that they use fertilizer and pesticides.

Russo went on to say that the fertilizers and pesticides that are used, are implemented in the garden as little as possible. All the materials are “deemed safe by any regulatory agency,” said Russo.

In an effort to use as little material as possible, the garden undergoes a process called integrated pest management (IPM). This is a process in which natural means are used to fight insects such as planting crops at the appropriate time of year.

Along with IPM, other implemented cultivating methods involve the use of plastic mulch, which holds down weeds, retains water and keeps the soil moist. Drip irrigation is used to keep the garden watered and the beds are on 12-foot centers so tractors can get down the rows to aid the gardeners.

The tractors that are used are property of the facility. The use of these tractors, along with other materials and labor are donated to the garden in an effort to give back to the community.

CNO has a hired worker, Cheryl Butler, to exclusively work the garden. The rest of the work is a product of volunteered time and resources form CNO, USDA and OSU.

This cooperation toward cultivation education was made possible because “Choctaw Nation supported a person to work,” said Russo. When Dillard had the vision of the garden, CNO, the Federal Government and OSU made it possible for the operation to take off.

Because of these efforts from the various supporters, thousands of pounds of food are donated to those who need it and education is delivered to those who seek it. The garden is truly an embodiment of initiative and cooperation.



First place Girls Hawk Division winner Maggie McBrayer pictured with Jayson Ray and Jude Suina.



Second place Girls Hawk Division winner Kiersten Prater pictured with Jayson Ray and Jude Suina



Third place Girls Hawk Division winner Rachel Wain-scott pictured with Jayson Ray and Jude Suina

Choctaw Nation Golf Team comes home with winners

By **CHRISSY DILL**

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

On July 29 and 30 the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was represented at the 2010 National Native Youth Golf Open Championships by five talented young golfers. Ty Capps of Idabel High School competed in the Hawk Division for boys ages 13 to 15; Katy Williams of Pauls Valley High School and Rachel Wainscott of Byng High School competed in the Eagle Division for girls ages 16 to 18; and Maggie McBrayer of Tishomingo High School and Kiersten Prater of Byng High School competed in the Hawk Division for girls ages 13 to 15. After two days of hard work teeing off at 8 a.m. and ending at around 2 p.m., Maggie, Rachel and Keirsten earned first, second and third place titles.

These golfers were discovered at the annual Choctaw Summer Youth Golf Camp by assistant youth camp coordinator Cyndi Houser and her fellow staff. Each year, the summer youth camp staff members keep an eye out for talented young golfers to represent them in the national competition.

“Through our golf camps we have tried to find kids in the past that we thought would be good enough to compete at the national open,” explained Houser. “We’ve seen these kids in the past when they were younger and we keep up with them so we know who we can select.” Most of these golfers play



for their school and have competed in state competitions. “The state tournament is a big deal, but they were really excited about nationals,” claimed Houser.

This year, the tournament was held at the Pueblo de Cochiti Golf Course at Cochiti Lake, N.M., which is a PGA golf course. “It was a gorgeous course,” said Houser. “I was just in awe of the whole thing.”

There were 30 kids, ranging from the ages of 8 to 18, who golfed and 10 different Native American tribes were represented. The golfers representing Choctaw Nation this year had never been to nationals before. “When I first talked to them about it they were very excited,” said Houser. “It was fun for them. I think they had as much fun as I did!” While in the past the golfers competed through teams, this year the tournament was played individually.

After a golfer competes in the national competition, they are able to come back again until they are over the age of 18, so it’s possible for them to earn numerous titles while representing the Choctaw Nation. The Choctaw Nation Summer Youth Camp staff keeps an eye out for talented golfers who are of Choctaw heritage who are willing to represent the Choctaw Nation at the National Native Youth Open.

The Summer Youth Camp staff try to get as many kids as they can to represent them and would prefer if they attended the golf camp so they can have a chance to watch them perform. Throughout the course of the summer golf camp, they watch the kids golf and keep up with who they think can bring home a national title. They have a game and have the kids keep score-cards which they compare afterwards, determining who is the better candidate for the national open.

This year at the national open, two more Choctaw golfers were discovered and asked to represent the Choctaw Nation next year. Ashton Gores of Plainview and Lyndsey Moore of Edmond received first and second place in the Eagle division. “I talked to their parents and I’m going to keep an eye on them throughout the school year to see how they’re doing,” said Houser. “They’re really good golfers.” Ashton and Lyndsey played partners with Rachel and Katy of the Choctaw Nation team.

While the winners representing Choctaw Nation were in the older age group this year, Houser explains the talent of the younger golfers at the competition. She was asked to keep an official score card for the 8 to 10 year age group. “I had a couple of kids that were really, really good at that age,” she explained. “I had a dad tell me he’s had him out on the golf course

Rachel Wain-scott, Kiersten Prater, coach Dean Hill, Katy Williams, Cyndi Houser, Ty Capps and Maggie McBrayer enjoying the beautiful PGA golf course at Cochiti Lake in New Mexico.

since he was 3 years old and you could tell it. He was good!”

“We had four girls this year and it’s been a while since we’ve had a girl’s team,” said Houser. “We’ve always had a boy’s team.” Obviously, this year has proved that a girl’s team can be very successful with Maggie McBrayer winning first place, Kiersten Prater taking home second and Rachel Wainscott placing third.

In the time spent before the national open, the kids were on their own preparing themselves for the competition. Cyndi took the four girls to a golf tournament in Oklahoma City two weeks prior to the national open. “I told them we’ve got two weeks before we leave to go to Santa Fe,” said Houser. “I want you out on the golf course every day, every minute you can, and these four girls did. I was really proud of them.”

Cyndi Houser and her fellow Summer Youth Camp staff members would like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the tribal council for providing funding for this awesome opportunity for young athletes. Cyndi thanked Sue Folsom for allowing her to be a part of this experience. Golf coach Dean Hill also accompanied the five Choctaw golfers along the way. “Dean helped us out a lot.” She thanked Jimmy Parrish of the language department for providing transportation for the Choctaw Nation golfers. “Without them this trip wouldn’t have been possible,” said Houser.

OBITUARIES

Nannie Bell Frahm

Nannie Bell Frahm was born Dec. 8, 1927, in Shawnee to Bes-sie Inez (Mills) and Austin Taylor Secor. She was the granddaughter of original enrollee, William Henry Secor Sr. She passed away Feb. 19, 2010, at Valley View Medical Center in Fort Mojave, Ariz., after a courageous battle against breast cancer.



Nannie Bell moved to Needles, Calif., with her family in 1940 where her father was employed by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. She attended school in Needles, graduating with the class of 1945. She married twice and raised her family which would eventually number nine children before also raising three orphaned granddaughters. She was a business woman working in the banking industry and owning a dry cleaning business with her second husband in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. She was a 60+ year member of the Trainmen Ladies, a member of the Eastern Star and Rebecca's lodges, and an active volunteer at the Needles Senior Center. She most enjoyed reading, her flower gardens and traveling. She made two trips to the Choctaw Nation Pow Wow in Oklahoma. On her last trip in September 2009, she met with Chief Gregory E. Pyle, which was one of her proudest moments.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Colin Currie; second husband, Ralph Frahm; sisters, Betty Durand and Rose Pickens; and a stepdaughter.

She is survived by five children, Nannette and Dennis McCorkle, Lillian and Rick Mejia, Katherine MacDowell, John Frahm and Valerie Frahm; three stepchildren; 13 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; brother William H. and Mildred Secor; brother-in-law William Pickens; and many nieces and nephews.

Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer

Original enrollee Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, 104, passed away July 13, 2010, in Marlow. She was born Feb. 7, 1906, in Bailey, to Thomas Jefferson Trammell and Lillie B. (Burks) Trammell.



She married Ulysses Grant Brewer on Dec. 22, 1925, in Chickasha. She spent most of her life in the Rush Springs area. She attended Pearidge, Slayton and Lindsay schools. Ruby was a member of the Grady County Extension Home Demonstration, Slayton Club for over 80 years. She loved her family and friends. Ruby enjoyed visiting, traveling, gardening, canning and taking care of flowers. Ruby loved people. She was a member of the Viny Ridge Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Ulysses; two grandchildren, Jeffry Morgan and Linda Thorstenberg; five brothers, Johnny, Clyde, Autie, Pete and Ned; and six sisters, Stella, Birdie, Aubrey, Betty, Finley and Joyce.

Survivors include, two daughters, Wanda Johnson and husband Milton of Rush Springs and Betty Jean Morgan of San Antonio, Texas; eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren; sister Hazel Cannon of Dubelo, Colo.; several nieces and nephews; and a host of friends and other family.

Jenell H. Hendrix Pearson

Jenell H. Hendrix Pearson was born to Joseph and Nellie Richards Hendrix on Dec. 8, 1939, in Story. She passed away on June 4, 2010, in Norman.

Jenell lived in Clovis, N.M. as a child then moved to the Maysville area. She married Jackie Pearson in the Maysville Church of Christ. They later moved to Alex where they lived most of their lives. Jenell worked at Canadian Valley Vo-Tech as a receptionist for several years. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Jenell was a great-granddaughter of Mary Jane Bell Askew Hendrix and granddaughter of Joseph Brit Hendrix, original enrollees.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Nellie Hendrix; brother Jerry Hendrix; husband Jackie Lee Pearson; and daughter Angela Brewer.

She is survived by son and daughter-in-law; Jackie and Nancy Pearson of Alex; grandchildren, Joshua Oaks of Minco, Crystal Guevara of El Reno, Joseph Pearson of Green River, Wyo. Lauren Cavitt of Amarillo, Texas, Jake Pearson and Samuel Pearson of Alex; nine great-grandchildren; sisters Gail Frizell of Maysville, Carolyn McCurtain of Alex; and brother Joe Hendrix of Pauls Valley.

Vivian Lee (Williams) Marris

Vivian Lee (Williams) Marris, 63, lifelong Atoka area resident, passed away July 19, 2010, in Denison, Texas. She was born Aug. 13, 1946, in Atoka, to Reed and Isabel (LeFlore) Williams. She was a member of Cane Hill Methodist and was an active member of the Hot Chocolate Softball team. She had been a CMA and CAN at the Colonial Manor for many years.



She married Timothy Wesley, who preceded her in death. She later married Woodrow Marris on June 19, 1976.

Also preceding her in death were her mother, Isabel Williams; three grandchildren, Jimmy Dee Womack, Shelby Lynn Snow Wesley and Tanner Wesley; two sisters, Vera Meshaya Frazier and Joyce Williams.

She is survived by her husband, Woodrow Marris, of the home in Atoka; four children, Vera Wesley of Coalgate, Maria Head and husband Kevin of Poteau, Tim Wesley and wife Heather of Atoka, and Shirley White of Lane; eight grandchildren, Kaylin Womack, Kyra Womack, Payton Womack, and Derina Head, all of Poteau, Daniel White and wife Nikki of Lane, Samantha Rushin and husband Adam, and Melissa White, all of Atoka, and Earnest White of Oklahoma City; five great-grandchildren, Adam Jr., Jaci, Nathan, Arron and Kiara; her father, Reed Williams of Atoka; siblings, Jerry Williams and wife Wanda of Antlers and Johnny Reed Williams of Atoka; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.

Hardy Ray Labor

Hardy Ray Labor, 60, of McCurtain passed away July 17, 2010, in Keota. He was born Jan. 22, 1950, in McCurtain to John and Nettie Luvena Burnett Labor. Hardy was a retired coal miner and a member of Keota Masonic Lodge.



He was preceded in death by his mother.

Hardy is survived by wife Tammie Labor of the home; sons, Hardy Labor, Jr. and wife Becky, B.J. Labor, Tyler Labor, all of McCurtain; father John Labor of McCurtain; four sisters, Janice Petty and husband Robert of McCurtain, Judy Tucker and husband Bill of Poteau, Glenda Treadway and husband Clifford of McCurtain, Lois Jewell Welch and husband Bill of Wilburton; brother John Labor Jr. and wife Marcia of Stigler; two foster daughters, Amanda Rowland and Rebecca Rowland of McCurtain; and one foster son Gary Rowland of Watts.

Georgia O. Williamson

Georgia O. Williamson, 91, passed away July 24, 2010. She was born April 26, 1919, in Durant to George and Ibra Williams. She was very proud of her heritage. She loved to crochet. She did crafts all her life and taught Sunday School for 30 years.



She attended school at Goodland Indian orphanage in Hugo and went to the Christian Baptist Church. She was married to Gary Williamson.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by daughter Wanda Weber and Joe; sister Mary Whitley and Bill; grandsons Gary Snider and Terri and Darren Snider; two great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and nephew Tom Arnold and Suzanne.

Connie Lee (Perry) Tarpey

Connie Lee (Perry) Tarpey, 69, passed away on Aug. 10, 2010, in El Reno. She was born in Stillwell on March 22, 1941. She grew up in Oklahoma City. She was a great person to everyone and always made friends wherever she went. She never met a stranger. She enjoyed the simple things in life. She loved being around her friends and family. She loved animals and enjoyed reading.



Connie is survived by her six children, Cheryl Lynn (Ball) McCaulla, Carla Ann (Ball) Weaver, Charles David Ball, Kimberly Dawn Spiva, Sandra Jean (Spiva) Martindale and Jonas David Browning Tarpey; 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and extended family.

Selah Rose (Lewis) Schulze

Selah Schulze was born Jan. 24, 1927, in McAlester to Mosey and Hattie (Beams) Lewis. She passed away May 27, 2010, in Oklahoma City at the age of 83. She was educated at St. John's in McAlester and St. Scholastica Academy in Ft. Smith, Ark. She then attended Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater, where she was a Kappa Delta and met husband, Gordon Schulze, a Lambda Chi Delta. They were married at St. Francis Xavier Church in Stillwater. The young couple made their home in Watonga, Muskogee, Durant and Pawnee as Gordon was an Oklahoma Highway Patrolman. They finally settled down in Durant in 1969.



Selah enjoyed many activities at St. Williams Catholic Church in Durant where she was a member and belonged to the Altar Society. She was also active with the Choctaw Seniors in Durant. She was past president of the Altar Society of Assumption Church in Muskogee, past district president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and a past president of the VFW Women's Auxiliary in Durant. She was an avid reader and lover of the ocean and Lake Texoma. She enjoyed watching Jay Leno and Nancy Grace, working the daily crossword puzzle, playing Canasta and spending time with her family. She also owned Schulze's Fabric Shop for several years in Durant, but her main focus was serving as her family's loving homemaker and matriarch.

Selah was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Bruce Schulze; her parents; and a grandson, Michael Nicholas Bryan.

She is survived by Gordon Bruce Schulze Jr. and wife Rhonda of Kingston, Jan Kristin (Schulze) Bryan and husband Stephen of Wister, and Stephen Lewis Schulze of Durant; grandsons, Jeffery Stephen Bryan and wife Jane of Des Moines, Iowa, Justin Schulze and wife Sheri of Durant, Christopher Schulze and wife of Lindsay of Durant, Micah Schulze of Durant, Garrett Schulze of Kingston; step-grandson Aaron Means of Kingston; granddaughters, Angela Langley and husband T.D. of Boyd, Texas, Victoria Middleton and husband Larry of Midwest City and Lindsay Bryan of Little Rock, Ark.; great-grandchildren, Sara Lynn and Sydney Langley of Boyd, Texas, Hayden and Madison, Schulze of Durant, soon-to-be-born, Katie Ann Rose Middleton; sister Kay Calzone and husband Frank of Houston, Texas; sister-in-law, Eileen Schulze, of Portland, Ore.; aunt Mary Aufderheide of San Angelo, Texas; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends.

Tracy Allen Phillips

Tracy Allen Phillips 42, beloved son and brother, passed away July 21, 2010, in Ada. He was born May 10, 1968, in Idabel, the son of Billy Dewayne Phillips and Velma Jean Allen.

He was preceded in death by his father. Survivors include his mother, Velma Allen, and brother Chris Allen, both of Broken Bow; sister Corina Rouse of St. Cloud, Fla.; two nieces, Jenny Sutton and Crystal Rouse, both of St. Cloud; and number of uncles and cousins in Oklahoma.

Nelson Louis

Nelson Louis, 71, of Wright City passed away July 16, 2010, at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. He was born Sept. 29, 1938, in Glover to William J. and Pearley Mae (Franklin) Louis.



Nelson had lived in this area all his life. He began working for Weyerhaeuser Company in 1971 and retired in 1996 as a sawmill edger operator. He was a member of the Yasho United Methodist Church in Broken Bow. He was a dedicated OU Sooner football fan but also enjoyed other sports such as baseball and softball. He liked singing and fishing when he wasn't watching sports.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, B.C. Louis.

Nelson is survived by his siblings, William Aaron Louis of Duncanville, Texas, Jesse L. Louis of Durant, Horton Ray Louis of Durant, Dorothy Beller of Broken Bow, Marie Davis and husband Willis of Balch Springs, Texas, Lillian Louis of Dallas, Texas; half-brother Ben Franklin and wife Virginia of Idabel; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and friends.

Mary Jane (Wilson) McClure

Mary Jane (Wilson) McClure, 73, of Coalgate passed away July 15, 2010, at Mercy Hospital in Ardmore. She was born March 12, 1937, to Joseph and Vina (Shields) Wilson, in Coalgate. She attended school at the Wheelock Academy in Millerton.



Mary married Benjamin Eugene McClure on Sept 3, 1954, in Coalgate. She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Gospel Lighthouse in Coalgate. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, and quilting.

She is survived by children, Eugene McClure and wife Kathie of Tupelo, Zoanna Stockwell and husband Robert of Lehigh, Lisa Taylor and husband John of Magazine, Ark., Reuben McClure of Eufaula, Ferlin McClure of Coalgate, Marlana Dee McClure of Kiowa, Gena Willis and husband Steve of Coalgate; sister Paula Carney of Coalgate; 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; along with many friends and other relatives.

She was preceded in death by husband Benjamin E. McClure; parents Joseph Wilson and Vina (Shields) Carpenter; daughters, Maria Kernell and Debbie McClure; and grandson John Anthony Kernell.

Roe Dale Dennis Sr.

Roe Dale Dennis Sr. passed away April, 22, 2010, in Soper at the age of 74. He was born May 27, 1935, in Soper to Gatha Herman and Willie Inez (Page) Dennis. He lived in that area all of his life.



He married Sherry Slaughter on June 28, 1980, in Pine Bluff, Ark. He worked for many companies over 50 years including 35 years for Brown and Root. Roe Dale enjoyed doing yard work, gardening, bird hunting, fishing and watching sports.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one nephew, Jared Dennis; and close friend, O. T. Willingham.

Roe Dale is survived by his wife, Sherry Dennis, of the home; 10 children, Penny Lee and Bud Dennis of Pampa, Texas, Harvey Dennis of Benton, Ark., Paula Brady of Bryant, Ark., Pam Neffendorf of Pampa, Patricia Reese of Tyler, Texas, Stephanie Moya of Ashdown, Ark., Terri Cobb of McLain, Miss., Danielle Dowling of Ashdown, Ark., Dottie Saucier of Texarkana, Texas; two brothers, Jerry Dennis and Joe Bill Dennis, both of Soper; 38 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; close friend Sonny Justice; and his construction friends and family.

Sandy D. White

Sandy D. White, 61, of Wister, passed away July 16, 2010, in Fort Smith, Ark. He was born Sept. 3, 1948, in Poteau. He was a retired pipe fitter.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Rubin Louis and Mary Alice "Polly" (Hines) White and a brother, Neal White.

He is survived by brothers, Robert C. White of San Marcos, Texas and Ronald L. White of Greenbrier, Ark.; sister Mary Judith Ann Logan of Pocola; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, loved ones and many beloved friends.

Robert V. Hardage Sr.

Robert V. Hardage Sr., 60, of Poteau passed away May 25, 2010, in Greensboro, N.C. He was born Jan. 25, 1950. He was a Vietnam War veteran and a former P.O.W. He was buried with full military honors.

He loved music and baseball, especially the Atlanta Braves and Boston Red Sox. He loved his children and grandchildren most of all.

He is survived by two daughters, Suzanne Hardage of Henryetta and Christine Smoker and husband Tony of Hugo; son Robert Hardage Jr. and wife Tiffanie of Poteau; sister Sherry Best of Greensboro; nephew Joel Best and wife Kim of Greensboro; grandchildren, Karissa Smoker, Keri Hardage, Jacob Hardage, Caitlyn Hardage, Tyler Smoker and John Hardage; great-nephew Jordan Best; great-niece Amanda Best; and former wife Norma Hardage of Durant.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; brother Johnnie; and daughter Patricia.

Marguerite 'Peg' C. Smith

Marguerite "Peg" C. Cosby Smith, 90, passed away May 31, 2010, in Barstow, Calif. She was born Sept. 9, 1919, in Hugo to Susan and E. B. Cosby.

She had been a resident of Barstow for almost 30 years. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

OBITUARIES

Janie Flowers

Janie Flowers, 95, passed away Aug. 11, 2010, in Coalgate. She was born Aug. 23, 1914, in Centrahoma to Frank Annkweatobi and Ella (Tindell) Williams.

Janie loved to dance, can, sew and quilt afghans. “Dollies” are what her family calls the afghans she made. She was a real home-maker. She was also a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Janie is survived by her children, Cecil C. Flowers, Jr. of Broken Arrow, Rodney Gale Flowers and wife Leslie of Garfield, Ark., Joy “Jody” Flowers and companion Vada “Petie” Smith of Durant, Ronald D. Flowers and wife Shirley of Surprise, Ariz., Jerry Flowers Jr. and wife Karen of Coalgate, Roxie Flowers and companion Kelly Cantrell of Durant; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank Annkweatobi and Ella Mary Williams; husband Cecil Calvin Flowers; infant daughter Ella Mae Williams; grandson Rodney D. Hubbard; great-grandson Brandon Flowers; daughter-in-law Norma Flowers; three brothers and three sisters.



Inez Lizzy Duncan

Inez Lizzy Duncan was born Dec. 14, 1919, in Boswell to John and Sibby Hunt. She passed away Aug. 9, 2010, in Bakersfield, Calif. She was 90 years old. She was the mother of nine children.

Inez was proud of her Choctaw heritage. She went to California at the beginning of World War II to work in the shipyards as a welder at Merle Island. In 1946, she and her family moved to the Lamont and Arvin area. In her younger years, she loved making homemade bread and chicken and dumplings. She loved to play Farkle and Dominos. Farkle was her favorite. She loved to be with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

When her health began to deteriorate and she needed assistance, she moved in with her son, Chuck, and his wife, Sheila, where she resided until the time of her death.

Inez was preceded in death by daughter Shannon Harris and son Pete Duncan; three sisters, Lorritta, Beatrice and Nelly; and two brothers, J.W. and Rocky.

She is survived by seven children, Janice and husband Carl Walker of Missouri, Carroll Griggs of Portland, Ore., Kay and husband Bob Darling of Bishop, Calif., Chuck and wife Sheila Duncan of Bakersfield, David Duncan of Bakersfield, and Michelle Hatfield of Bakersfield; 25 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and 26 great-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Waynoka Lahoma Wade Ricord

Waynoka Lahoma Wade Ricord of Southlake, Texas, passed away Feb. 28, 2010. She was born Nov. 28, 1932, in Wilburton to Ellis Wade and Lillie Rose Taylor Wade. She was the youngest of seven children. Waynoka's brothers were Buster Wade, Elmer Wade and Jimmie Wade. Her sisters were Myrtle Nowabbi, Agnes Ardese and Alta Phillips. She married Charles Lawrence Ricord Sept. 11, 1953.

Waynoka started her career in Dallas at Southwestern Bell. She did some modeling for Neiman Marcus. Later, she was director of Dallas Inter-Tribal Center. The last 26 years she worked at Hyatt Regency at the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport as PBX supervisor.

Waynoka was a member of Watauga Presbyterian Church. She an avid reader who enjoyed cooking, gardening and doing crafts. She enjoyed watching the hummingbirds arriving every April. She liked taking road trips, going to casinos, listening to the music of Elvis, Willie Nelson and big band swing. She enjoyed making big batches of peanut brittle at Christmas for family and friends. She was always willing to help others without expecting anything in return. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her husband and son Douglas Martin Ricord.

She is survived by sons, Brent Wade Ricord and wife Debbie and Rick Ricord; daughter Mimi Ricord; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Donald Ray Dyke

Donald Ray Dyke, 48, of Bakersfield, Calif., passed away June 1, 2001, at Choctaw Nation Health Center in Tahihina.

Donnie “Bubba” was born Jan. 12, 1953, in Osaka, Japan, just before the Korean War. He was the sixth child born to Lois Alene Goatcher Dyke and Master Sergeant James E. Dyke.

He was preceeded in death by his father in 1982; sister Phyllis Kay Dyke in 1965; brother Richard Dale Dyke in 1990; and an infant brother.

He is survived by daughters, Biannca Blossom Dyke of Bakersfield, Calif., and Krystal Kane Upchurch of Eufaula; two grandchildren, Kirstie Ann and Gage McKay Helton of Bakersfield; mother Lois Alene Dyke of Bakersfield; three brothers, Rickey of Bakersfield, James Jr. of Texas, and Gary of Seattle, Wa.; three sisters, Carole Clarke and Belinda King of Bakersfield, Connie Hudson of McAlester; several nieces and nephews; and his companion, Toni Adams of Wilburton.

Delois Peters Vechnak

Delois Peters Vechnak of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away April 22, 2010, at Baylor Hospital in Fort Worth. She was born Jan. 21, 1935, in Lehigh to Beatrice (Calvert) and Tom Peters, an original Choctaw enrollee. She enjoyed being with her family and fussing over her dog Baja.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Becky Cogburn and Anna Iker; and son Faron Vechnak.

She is survived by her brother, Ray Peters; daughters, Kathy Addison, Debra Wilson, Theresa Vechnak and Donna Golightly; son James Vechnak; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and extended family.

Christina ‘Tina’ Ann Willis

Christina “Tina” Ann Willis, 29, of Wright City passed away on July 12, 2010, in Moyer. The daughter of Mark Pond and Gwen Wesley, Tina was born Feb. 17, 1981, in Paris, Texas, and had lived in this county all of her life.

She was affiliated with the Bethel Hill United Methodist and the St. Matthews Indian Presbyterian churches.

Tina graduated from Broken Bow High School in 1999 and on May 29 of that same year she married her sweetheart, Kerry Allen Willis, in a ceremony at St. Matthews Indian Presbyterian Church in Broken Bow. She was employed with the Choctaw Nation as a social worker and was pursuing a degree in criminal justice from Eastern Oklahoma State University. Tina was a very loving daughter, wife and mother. Her activities were centered on her children as she enjoyed coaching them in summer league ball and Choctaw Princess Pageants. Tina also enjoyed bead work, playing coed softball and playing stickball.

Tina was preceded in death by her grandma and grandpa, Williamson and Lydia Wesley; grandfather, James Walter Pond; grandmother-in-law, Francis Willis; and one aunt, Cleta Wesley.

She is survived by her parents, Mark Pond and Gwen Wesley, of Broken Bow; her beloved husband, Kerry Willis, of the home; four precious children, Alyssa LaShea Willis, Ashton Zachary Willis, Akeiley Francis Willis and Ashur Allen Willis; grandmother, Mary Laverne Pond, of Broken Bow; mother-in-law, Earlene Willis, of Wright City; father-in-law, Roy Willis, of Tecumseh, OK; two brothers, Mark Alan Wesley, William “J.P.” Pond; brother-in-law, Gerald Willis and his wife, Narissa; sisters-in-law, Kristy Willis, Racquel Willis; great-aunt, Lucille Willie; co-workers and friends at the Choctaw Nation Outreach Program; special niece and nephew, Latisha McGee and Jade Wesley; numerous other aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



Lois Ruth (Baker) Thompson

Lois Ruth (Baker) Thompson, 62, passed away June 9, 2010. She was born Aug. 5, 1947, to Aaron Baker Sr. and Juanita Baker in Broken Bow. Growing up, Lois was a member of the Bethel Hill United Methodist church at Battiest, where she was active in MYF and other church activities. She attended Battiest School, graduating in 1965. After graduation, she moved to Long Beach, Calif., where she attended Long Beach City College, majoring in Office Administration. She lived and worked in the Los Angeles area for five years before she returned to Oklahoma and married Newman Thompson Jr. in December 1971. They settled at Henryetta and raised their two children. She worked at Anchor Glass Co. for 32 years as a Quality Inspector until she retired in 2008.

Lois was preceded in death by her mother, Juanita (Billy) Baker; two brothers, Harold and Darrel Baker; father and mother-in-law; two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law.

Lois is survived by her husband, Newman Thompson Jr. of the home; daughter Deidra Michelle Soap and husband Kevin of Coweta; son Steven Thompson of the home; father Aaron Baker Sr. of Battiest; three grandsons, Aaron Soap of the home, Emery Soap of Coweta, and Jarred White of Tulsa; two granddaughters, Laurissa Soap of Coweta and Ashley Pigeon of Weleetka; one great-grandchild; three brothers, Aaron Baker Jr. and wife Linda of Dearborn Mich., Robert Baker and wife Dinh of La Verne, Calif., and Cecil Ray Baker of Battiest; two sisters, Joyce Baker of Battiest, and Nita Harrison and husband Kenneth of Tulsa; two sisters-in-law, Etta Dickinson and Sarah Thompson, both of Tulsa; two brothers-in-law, Marshall Thompson and wife Nancy of Yuma, Ariz.; and Emmanuel Thompson of Eufaula; two uncles, Ed Billy of Broken Bow and Daniel Billy of Oklahoma City; two aunts, Rose Billy of Midwest City, and Agnes Baker of El Paso, Texas; and many relatives and friends within the Choctaw and Creek Nation.



Mary Jane DeZeeuw

Mary Jane Whistler DeZeeuw (Peputhi-puthiqua) passed away at age 76. She was born in Norman, the only daughter of Don Whistler (Kesh-ke-Kosh), Chief of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma, and Mary Alice Choate York Whistler (Kitinisi) of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Mary Jane is survived by her only child, Donna A. Williams; brothers, Donn and Alice Whistler, William and Orcella Whistler, Joseph Y. and Mary Whistler, and David J. and Terry Whistler; a host of friends made during her successive studies at St. Mary-of-the-Woods boarding school, the University of Chicago while studying ballet, the University of Oklahoma where she was in Phi Beta Kappa while pursuing her Ph.D., and during her academic teaching career at the Universities of Kentucky and Wyoming and the University of Texas at El Paso.



Murle Eugene Ervin

Murle Eugene Ervin, 82, passed away July 20, 2010, in Plain Dealing, La. He was born Feb. 23, 1928, in Mira, La., to Alphonzo Lee and Ollie Susie Crowley Ervin. He was a life long resident of this area, a member of the Methodist faith, and retired from the Louisiana Highway Department. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corp and U.S. Air Force.

Murle was preceded in death by his parents; great granddaughter Amber; two sisters, Alene Grubbs and Noble Evan; and brother, W.C. Ervin.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Harriett Loring Ervin of Plain Dealing; daughters, Connie Lewis and husband, Ruban of Haynesville, La., Sharon Hodges and husband Lynn of Vivian, La.; sons, Michael Ervin and wife Carla of Plain Dealing, and Donald Ervin and wife Alice of Vivian, Texas; 10 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters, Jenette Tibbals of Stone Mount, Ga., Sue Parlier of Atlanta, Texas; brothers, Charles Ervin of Mullens, W.V., Elvin Ervin of Plain Dealing, Melvin Ervin of Plain Dealing; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Paul Soliz Gomez

Paul Soliz Gomez, passed away April 29, 2010, in Henryetta. He was born Oct. 19, 1966, to Mary Francis (Kemp) Pendergrass in Oklahoma City.

He is survived by his mother and step-father, Wayne Pendergass; three children, Maria Dawn Gomez, Appolonia Rae Gomez and Austin Paul Gomez; one grandson; two brothers, Christopher Delano Gomez and Antonio Soliz Gomez; nieces and nephews, Christen Denise Gomez, Frances Anita Gomez, Jordan Christopher Gomez and Pete Williams Gomez; four aunts and many cousins.



Truman Mack Boyd

Truman Mack Boyd, 79, of Krebs, passed away June 1, 2010, at his home. He was born Jan. 7, 1931, in Wewoka, to Arthur and Emma (Hischa) Boyd.

He enjoyed riding horses and listening to Bob Wills, Ray Price and Merle Haggard. He was a member of the Pathway To Truth Church in Krebs.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia “Pat” Boyd, of the home; children, Helen Humphrey of Krebs, Hope and David Hendrix of Hartshorne, and Texie DeLana, of McAlester; grandchildren, Tiffany Taylor, Cheyanne Lovett, Dakota Stark and Candace Hendrix; great-grandchild Braylee Beshear; and brothers, Garner and Betty Boyd of McAlester and Larry Sparks, Winter Garden, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Kenneth Turner and Jim Sparks; sister Wanda Hatton; grandfather Dan Copelen; and grandmothers, Sissy Copelen and Callie Hischa.

Edwin Russell ‘Ed’ Coffee

Edwin Russell “Ed” Coffee, 93, of Bakersfield, Calif., passed away Jan. 19, 2009. He was born Dec. 9, 1915, in Hugo, to James Carrol and Lelia Jane Kendrick Coffee. He was the fifth of their six children. His mother was an original enrollee. Ed lived in Hugo and began attending school there in 1921. The family moved to various towns in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico as he was growing up. His last year of school was the 10th grade at Mansker High School in Clayton, N.M. He left school to work on the family farm.

Ed served in the U.S. Army from October 1940 to September 1945. He was a cook and a medical technician. He served in the China, Burma, and India theater of operations. He was honorably discharged with rank of Staff Sergeant.

Ed married Wanda Marguerite “Peggy” Dodds on Dec. 1, 1946, in Yuma, Ariz. They lived in Albuquerque, N.M., where their son and daughter were born. He worked for Navajo Freight Lines in Albuquerque. The family moved to Bakersfield in 1957, where Ed worked at various jobs. In the late 1960s he began working for Allied Van Line, where he worked until retirement.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; son James Russell Coffee; three brothers, Jefferson Davis, James Haskell and Virgil Oren Coffee; and two sisters, Margaret and Nadine Coffee.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Joyce, and husband Mike Harris.

Scott Charles ‘Scottie’ Hamann

Scott Charles “Scottie” Hamann, 33, of Dickinson, N.D., passed away May 8, 2010. He was born April 17, 1977, to Kenneth Lynn and Vonna Sue (Ely) Hamann in Pocatello, Ida. He grew up in American Falls, Ida., where he attended school until the family moved to Billings, Mont., at the age of 13. In Billings, he attended Skyview High School and graduated in 1995. He moved to Dickinson in 1999 to attend Dickinson State University.

In 2006, Scott met Rebekah Bronson. They were married July 25, 2008, at the Evangelical Bible Church. They made their home in Dickinson with their dog, Copper, while Scottie worked as an IT coordinator for Remco Software.

During his time at DSU, Scottie became very involved with Campus Crusade, as well as Evangelical Bible Church. He loved the Lord and was eager to help in ministry wherever he was needed.

Scottie was an avid outdoors man, camping and hunting whenever he had the opportunity. He was fond of goose hunting with his dad during Thanksgiving trips home. He also enjoyed playing sports such as volleyball, basketball and softball. He was also an accomplished woodworker and avid Steelers fan. Spending time with his family and friends was one of his greatest joys in life.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Louis Hamann and Steve Ely Jr.; mother-in-law, Ruth Bronson; and brother-in-law, Alvin Bronson III.

He is survived by his wife, Becky; parents, Kenneth and Vonna Hamann of Billings; sisters Nancy and David Hamann-Yost and Jennifer Hamann; grandmothers, Sally Hamann and Floy Ely; father-in-law, Alvin and mother-in-law, Rebecca Bronson II; sisters-in-law Beth and Eric Simonson, Debbie and Todd Foulk, Danny and Mandy Bronson, and Andy and Shana Bronson; nieces and nephews, Gavin, Paige, Grace, Anthony, Ashley, Kari, Toby, David, Zeke and Hannah; long friend, Mark and Tara Loyd and their family, Jeremiah, Naomi, Benjamin and Jael; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Margaret Grace Durant

Margaret Grace Hoopes Durant, 75, passed away Aug. 8, 2010. A previous resident of Mesa, Ariz., she settled with husband Randle Durant in Tahihina. Randle sat on the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council and served on many committees. Wherever he went Margaret was serving right by his side.

When she was not serving the Choctaw people she served in many callings in the LDS church. Loyalty to her family and hard work was very important to her and her family will be forever amazed at how she had the strength and time to do so much. Her grandchildren were convinced she never left the kitchen. No matter how life looked, she was the first to tell you of her blessings.

She was preceded in death by husband Randle Durant; daughter Jani Hamilton; parents Scott Willie and Edna Hoopes.

She is survived by daughters, Linda, Randa, Lora; sons, Randle, Kenneth, Brian; 20 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; 14 nieces and 10 nephews.

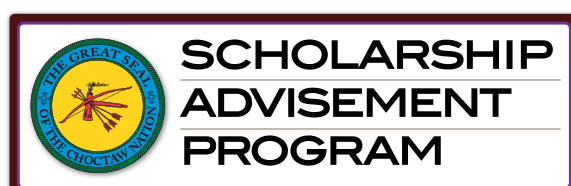
Meet Undergraduate & Graduate Recruiters from America's Top Colleges!



**Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, UPenn,
Brown, Columbia, UCal Berkeley,
Williams, Johns Hopkins,
Purdue, Duke, Northwestern,
Rhode Island School of Design**

See website for complete list and more info.

**Saturday, November 6th
Choctaw Casino Resort, Durant OK
Pre-Registration Is Recommended
www.choctawnation-sap.com/ivy.shtml
1-800-522-6170 Ext. 2523
email: scholarshipadvisement@choctawnation.com**



www.ChoctawNation-SAP.com