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BISKINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

September 2011 Issue

Serving 208,672 Choctaws Worldwide

Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success

Tribal Council  
meets in regular  
August session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session Aug. 13 at Tushka Homma. Tribal members addressed new business, approving several applications including those for:

- Project EMPOWER,
- Water Resources, Management, Planning and Pre-development Program,
- FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Grant,
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention,
- FY 2012 budget for LI-HEAP funding, and
- FY 2012 budget for Community Services Block Grant funding.

Budgets were also passed for:

- Choctaw Nation Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Elder Advocacy,
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC),
- WIC Farmer’s Market,
- Food Distribution,
- Talent Search, and
- Native American Library Grant.

Other bills introduced and okayed included:

- Jones Academy’s Student/Parent and Employee Handbooks for the 2011-12 school year,
- a roads program agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs,
- Modification of the 20-year long-range transportation plan, and
- an amendment of the plan document for a deferred compensation plan, a supplemental retirement plan.

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

Notice to Biskinik  
E-News readers

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

Don’t forget to “like” the official Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Facebook page!  
[www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma](http://www.facebook.com/choctawnationofoklahoma).

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The Mission  
of the Choctaw  
Nation of Oklahoma

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

Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations  
file lawsuit to protect water rights

After several years of unsuccessful attempts to establish government-to-government negotiations with the state to resolve water issues, the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations filed legal action in U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City to protect the tribes’ water resources.

“Citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, like all Oklahomans, have a vital interest in maintaining the conditions necessary to ensure a strong economy and a thriving natural environment for our children and grandchildren,” said Bill Anoatubby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation. “Because sustainable management of our water resources is imperative for the progress and prosperity of all Oklahomans, we have worked diligently to establish a working relationship with the state on this issue. Unfortunately, our efforts have been unsuccessful, leaving us no realistic alternative to legal action.”

Tribal efforts to establish negotiations regarding management of water resources can be traced back several years. Three years ago the Chickasaw Nation sent a letter to then Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and Oklahoma Water Resources Board Executive Director Duane Smith. That letter, dated June 10, 2008, expressed support for Oklahoma’s effort to update the water plan but also communicated the critical concern that the effort had excluded government-to-government dialogue between the state and tribes. Without such dialogue, the Nation said, the state’s water planning would be inadequate and flawed.

Offering no meaningful response, the state never took steps to engage substantively with the Nations on the subject.

Stephen Greetham, counsel for the Chickasaw Nation, said the action was filed to protect tribal water rights against one-sided action by the State of Oklahoma.

“The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations hold treaties with the United States that secure prior and paramount rights to the ownership and management of water resources throughout their territory,” said Greetham. “This action seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to bar unilateral state action on water resource management issues. The Nations’ treaties secured them a permanent homeland, and without the sustainable and long-term management of its water resources, that homeland will be undermined.”

Recent formation of a state joint legislative water committee based on the presumption of the

supremacy of state law on this issue is yet another indication of disregard for tribal rights and demonstrates a commitment by the state to take unilateral action.

“A lack of any real progress on the initiation of meaningful government-to-government talks on these matters leads us to believe further inaction would simply mean the deepening of our present challenges,” said Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “Therefore, we have concluded that we must act now to protect the Nations’ rights by taking our case to the federal courthouse.

“The Choctaw Nation is committed to protecting and preserving the sustainability of water in Southeast Oklahoma and the rest of the state. We will continue to seek a resolution that works for all of us, and I have faith that through the court, we can reach a decision that is fair, meaningful, and serves the best interest of all Oklahomans.”

Michael Burrage, lead counsel for the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations on this action, said the suit is carefully structured to avoid disruption to the public.

“We haven’t gone out looking for a fight on all this. We’re using the courts to protect our

See WATER Page 2

Choctaw Nation makes annual donations to county drug courts

By **CHRISSY DILL**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

About eight years ago, Chief Gregory E. Pyle of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma made the decision to provide financial assistance for the drug court in Bryan County. The court wasn’t receiving the adequate amount of funding from the state to sustain its services for its participants or employees, so it sought the tribe’s assistance.

According to Choctaw Nation Tribal Management Executive Director Shannon McDaniel, who’s been employed by the tribe for 24 years, the tribe now makes yearly donations to aid in maintaining the drug court programs of Bryan, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Atoka and LeFlore counties.

“Drug courts are funded by the state,” said McDaniel, “but just not enough funding comes through, so that’s the reason we jumped in and started helping.”

The purpose of a drug court is to enlist a participant with non-violent drug offenses in an 18- to 24-month program and provides counseling, drug testing, jobs and assigns daily activities that require completion, all in efforts to keep them from entering a correctional system. Currently, there are roughly 90 participants in Bryan County’s drug court, and average 60-90 participants in the other counties where, with a large percentage of Native Americans, provides another motive for the Choctaw Nation to make their aid available.

See DRUG COURT Page 5



Choctaw Nation: CHRISSY DILL

Chief Gregory E. Pyle visits with Judge Farrell Hatch of Bryan County District Court. The Choctaw Nation provides financial assistance to help support Oklahoma’s drug courts.

New D.A.R.E. officer appointed

By **BRET MOSS**  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Newly appointed Choctaw Nation Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer Isaac James has begun his principal tasks for his new duty, which is to educate young minds on the dangers of drugs and alcohol, as well as teach them how to avoid situations that could produce encounters with such substances.

“I can not tell you how excited I am,” said James as he spoke about beginning his D.A.R.E. classes, which kicked off in August. He will be covering five schools over the 10-½ counties over a nine-week period. He will travel to a different school each day of the week; making a five-school circuit that he will repeat each week.

During the nine weeks, he will be in fifth grade classrooms for 45-minute sessions, beginning with an introductory course to D.A.R.E., telling of its beginnings, purpose and goals. Following this, each class will focus on various aspects of how to keep safe from drugs, alcohol, firearms and other dangerous matters.

D.A.R.E. is a program that began in 1983 Los Angeles, as a result of the efforts of the late LAPD Police



Choctaw Nation: BRET MOSS

DARE officer Isaac James educates children on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Chief Daryl Gates who wanted to prevent the youth from getting involved with drugs and other destructive habits.

Now D.A.R.E. is a functioning program in all 50 states of the United States as well as in 43 countries worldwide. In elementary schools, the fifth grade classes are privileged with partaking in the program and taught how to avoid substance abuse and the peer pressure that leads to it.

Upon accepting the call to become the D.A.R.E. officer, James was required to attend a two-week training located on the Natchez Trace Park

in Wilderessville, Tenn. James described the first week as being filled with classes and information. He would have to be in class until the late afternoon and then proceed to group activities and lesson planning in the evening, making for quite intensive training.

The second week of training was more hands-on. James and those participating were able to present and actually go to a school to do their inaugural D.A.R.E. lesson. Once he finished this week, he came back to Southeastern Oklahoma, very

See DARE Page 5

D.A.R.E.  
Fast Facts

The Numbers

- Millions of children will benefit this year from the D.A.R.E. program
- 75 percent of U.S. school districts and 43 countries teach D.A.R.E.
- 75,000+ D.A.R.E. officers trained/certified throughout USA

The Program

- Curriculum developed by educators, taught by trained officers
- Focuses on responsibility, resisting peer pressure
- Implementation is community decision
- Training mandatory for instructors before they enter the classroom
- New science-based curricula from top researchers

The Science

Study recently published in the Journal of the National Medical Association demonstrates that the curriculum is highly effective in prevention of smoking. Students that completed the D.A.R.E. program were five times less likely to start smoking compared to youngsters who did not participate in D.A.R.E.

[www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com)



# Self-governance of tribes defines ‘sovereignty’



From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Choctaw Nation has a tremendous heritage and I enjoy reading and hearing others talk about the moments and events of the past 500 years of recorded history that “paint a picture” for me of our tribe.

Reading of the great warrior Chief Tushka Lusa, who bravely fought against enslavement from the Spanish explorer DeSoto, made me realize that even then, protecting families and heritage was of supreme importance to our tribe.

I enjoy hearing the stories of the wise strategies of leaders of our past who knew education of young Choctaws and partnerships with neighbors were critical to success. Treaties and agreements began to be signed in the 1700s between tribal governments and the United States.

In order to remain a tribal government, the Choctaws signed a treaty to move to Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma. In spite of terrible loss of life, starvation, sickness and a great deal of misery, the Choctaws survived as a nation, and today we are stronger than ever!

Our Choctaw Nation government is strong because of the Choctaw people.

We are fortunate to have a distinct recognition of our self-

determination which was granted by Public Law 93-638, *The Tribal Self-Governance Act*.

The United States Constitution notes Indian tribes as distinct governments. Article I, Section 8 of the constitution authorizes Congress “*To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.*” Numerous Supreme Court cases have upheld tribal sovereignty in recent years. I also feel that each time a president of the United States has invited a tribal chief to the West Wing on official business, it is a recognition of the sovereignty of the Indian nation.

The Choctaw Nation is extremely blessed to be a nation-within-a-nation of the United States of America. The patriotism that we can feel for both the tribe and the great United States is awesome.

Our warriors have fought for both nations, consistently, bravely and decades before they were considered full citizens of the United States.

Today, the tribe has unique opportunities to help with the efforts of our warriors through Veterans Airlift Command, care packages, veterans advocacy and support efforts.

I am so proud that this tribal government acts in the best interests of our citizens and has the liberty to do so!

Yakoke!

## Tradition strengthens me as a person

From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Festival time is a huge celebration for my family! I enjoy the fellowship and activities – and the opportunities to learn new information about my heritage make the weekend remarkable.

It is humbling to constantly find more information about my ancestors and my tribal history that is consistent with the values that I hold dear. God, family, friendship, integrity, progress and development, healthy lifestyles – these values and many others were important to the Choctaws in Mississippi and after our tribe’s removal to Oklahoma. Churches and schools were established as soon as the Choctaw people arrived along the Trail of Tears, and families worked together to survive and progress.

Labor Day Weekend is always a reminder of the great history – the Princess Pageant is filled with culture. The young ladies’ performances of cultural talent are inspiring, and seeing so many people in tribal dress is extremely exciting. This year, the unveiling of the statue of Pushmataha, one of the great Choctaw Chiefs of our past, had a special meaning to me, as I had the privilege of seeing his signature (or more specifically, his X) on a document at the National Archives earlier this summer. Looking upon the strong facial features, I could just imagine the pride that he must have had in leading warriors in battle, and the sadness he must have had for the entire tribe when asked to give up lands in Mississippi.



Exhibition stickball is exciting to watch each year on Sunday afternoon, and the addition of a Friday and Saturday night stickball tournament to the agenda this year was awesome! The players are tough! They embody the spirit of warriors, and the pride on their faces rivals that of Chief Pushmataha!

Congratulations to Chief Pyle and the Tribal Council for another successful event. It was a pleasure to witness them taking the Oath of Office at the official ceremony at the amphitheater. It is hard to decide what my favorite event of the weekend is, but my favorite memory is my family and my friends, laughing and having a great visit, at the biggest “family reunion” I know of, the reunion of Choctaws from all across the globe!

## Chaplain’s Corner

### Making our own choices

We are thankful for another year of God’s blessing for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and friends.

Today, there are many people who seem to have no purpose for living, no motivating challenge.

Jesus Christ doesn’t call us to be bystanders. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, he or she becomes a member of the Body of Christ. It means that you have chosen Jesus Christ and you are following Him.



REV. BERTRAM BOBB  
Tribal Chaplain

“Are you a Christian?” I mean a true Christian, a born-again Christian. There are many people who have a wrong idea of what a Christian is. They say, “A Christian is a person who prays.” Christians do pray, but prayer doesn’t make a Christian. Or people say, “A Christian lives by the Golden Rule.” But living by the Golden Rule doesn’t make you a Christian.

A person may be sincere, but that doesn’t make him a Christian. Some people think a Christian is one who keeps the Ten Commandments. Everybody has broken the commandments. We read in the Book of James 2:10: “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

If we break one commandment, we have broken them all. That is called “SIN” in the Bible.

Some people say, “A Christian is a person who goes to church.” Yes, a Christian ought to go to church, but attending church doesn’t make one a Christian.

What is a Christian?

First, a Christian is a person who has made a choice.

Second, a change has taken place in his life. And third, he has accepted a challenge.

Now, I emphasize very briefly these three things.

First, a Christian is a person who has made a choice. All the way through the Bible we are asked to make choices. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden made the wrong choice. They rebelled against God. They chose to try to rebuild their world without God, and they made a terrible, tragic mistake. We read that record in Genesis 2 and 3. They broke God’s law and passed the results of their disobedience on to Cain and Able, their children, and they have passed the results on to you and to me.

We are all sinners, and we are capable of sin and we all sin.

We have to choose. Read what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter ye in at the strait gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

He said that only a few people are on the narrow road that leads to heaven. The majority are on a broad road that leads to judgment, destruction and hell. Which road are you on?

It is what you do about Jesus Christ, His cross and His resurrection that counts. If we enter that narrow gate at the cross and say, “Yes, Lord, I believe, I turn from my sins; I

am willing to change my ways of living,” we will walk on the narrow road which may be rocky and rough and tough. But at the end will be Heaven. As we walk on that narrow road, God will give us new power, a new love and new joy.

Second, a Christian is a person whose life has been changed. That is done by the Holy Spirit. The moment you receive Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God comes to live in your heart. We read in II Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are

passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Christ is One who does it. He transforms your life, He makes you a new person. Has a change taken place in your life?

Third, a Christian is a person who has accepted a challenge. Jesus said, “...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and broken up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24).

In other words, when we deny self, we deny selfish ambitions, we deny selfish, sinful pleasures. Then we turn and take up our cross. What did Jesus mean by that? He is saying that when you go and tell people that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior they may laugh at you. They may make fun of you. Maybe your friends will no longer have anything to do with you. You will have to pay a price.

Some people resist the idea of a choice of any sort. But Jesus taught that there are two roads and you have to choose which road you will take. We cannot travel both roads. Jesus does not allow us to be neutral about Him. Jesus demands that we decide about him.

The Bible teaches that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). He loves you. He is interested in you. He loves you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3). And He wants to forgive you. He wants to come into your life and into your home and into your work to help you.

What do you have to do? You have to be willing to say, “God, I am a sinner.” That is repentance. You have to be willing to turn from sin. Then by faith commit your life to Jesus Christ and put Him first from now on. You can pray a prayer something like this: “O God, I am a sinner, I trust Jesus as my Savior.”

God doesn’t make that choice for us. God gave his Son to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life, and He helps us to make the choices by sending His Holy Spirit to convict us. But we make our own choice. God doesn’t make the choice for us. God gave His Son to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life, and He helps us to make the choice by sending His Holy Spirit to convict us. But we make our own choice.

Will you continue to pray for America? Pray for our Chief, Assistant Chief and the Tribal Council members as they lead our Nation. Remember our service men and woman in our armed services.

## 4-H officers visit tribal complex

Chief Gregory E. Pyle is pictured with 4-H State Ambassadors and sisters Adrianna, left, and Callie Curnutt.



## WATER

*Tribes file lawsuit to protect resources*

Continued from Page 1

water, period. The Nations have been working for a solution for a long time now, but they can’t do that alone. Given that the state couldn’t figure out a way to the table, we had to make our way to the courthouse,” said Burrage.

When asked why the Nations had filed this complaint in the federal court system, Choctaw Nation attorney Bob Rabon responded, “For decades, the Tribal Nations have been in the wilderness waving their message that ‘State and Oklahoma City – you are making decisions about our property. We need to be considered.’ This message from the tribes has been ignored. The Nations have decided to come out of the wilderness and protect their rights.”

View the complaint as filed and other pertinent documents at: [www.waterfuture.tv](http://www.waterfuture.tv).

## STAR Program continues incentives for good grades

The Choctaw Nation STAR Program will continue to award for the spring semester of last school year until Oct. 1. To qualify for an incentive the student should have straight A’s, all A’s and B’s or perfect attendance. The student also needs to be in second through 12th grade and be a tribal member. An application needs to be submitted unless one is already on file. A grade verification form needs to be completed and a copy of the spring report card also should be submitted. All documents required and additional information can be found on the STAR website: [star.choctawnation.com](http://star.choctawnation.com) or call 800-522-6170, ext. 2194.



## Choctaw Nation to aid with loans

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

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10-1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.





# NOTES TO THE NATION



## Oklahoma Honor Flights gives veterans a great trip

On behalf of the Oklahoma Honor Flights organization, I want to personally thank the Choctaw Nation for its support in our recent flight of 104 World War II veterans from Tulsa to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II Memorial. Along with this memorial, these eastern Oklahoman World War II veterans were able to visit the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War

Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery to witness the changing of the honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Being a member of the Choctaw Nation, I am well aware of the support that the Choctaw Nation gives to the veteran population. The three coaches used to transport the veterans from Owasso to the Tulsa International Airport

and to return them to the hotel in Owasso was greatly appreciated. There were several appreciative comments about the nation's support from the veterans.

Unbeknownst to me, there was a Choctaw member sitting right in front of me. You could see him swell up with pride and tell his fellow veterans that his tribe supports veterans, saying "they always

have and always will."

Also, I wanted to let you know that the Choctaw Nation Color Guard participated in our exchange ceremony the night before. The exchange ceremony encompasses the honor of a veteran and the exchange to a young person a copy of the constitution. It also involves the young person giving the veteran a commemorative coin of their

flight to Washington, D.C. It was a great experience for both the young people and the veterans.

Thirty percent of our veterans on this trip were over 90 years of age. Time is running out for those veterans who are in their last chapters of life. We will continue to raise money and ask for support to continue this mission to see that all our Oklahoman World

War II veterans are able to make the trip and have a chance to see their respective memorial. I ask that if you are aware of any members of our tribe that are World War II veterans that would be interested in this program, you encourage them to fill out an application at [oklahomahonorflights.org](http://oklahomahonorflights.org).

D. Matt Wilkett DO

### Thank you for support

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for its generous support in sponsoring me and making it possible for me to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference. While on my trip, I learned many ways to use leadership traits in my daily life. I really enjoyed visiting the Choctaw Days Festival in Washington, D.C., and I learned about many things, such as making food and jewelry and heard many tales.

BeKa Leuschen

### Praise for Choctaw Days

Beginning with Chief Pyle's opening remarks, it was evident that Choctaw Days at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian on June 22-25 was going to be a resounding success. After learning that our tribe had been selected to launch a series of Indian festivals at the NMAI, I was thrilled to be there and witness another of our historical achievements. From my perspective, Choctaws everywhere can be extremely proud of everyone involved, young and mature, who had part in putting Choctaw culture, creativity, ability, talent, education and message on center stage in one of the world's most visible and influential arenas.

With apologies for failing unintentionally to mention some valuable contributors, I am compelled to recognize at least some of those whose names were printed in the brochure for Choctaw Days. Congratulations and high regard for these amazing Choctaw artists and ambassadors: Chief Pyle, Regina Green, Kristie McGuire, Nikki Amos, Mahala Battiest, Shirley Barboan, Vonna Shults, Gwen Coleman, Eveline Battiest-Steele, Marcus Amerman, Lillie Roberts, Presley Byington, Roger Amerman, Ian Thompson, Amy Thompson, Olin Williams, Tim Tingle, Greg Rodgers, Karl and Janis McKinney, Valerie Wolf, Heather Watson, Dayla Amos, Stephanie McKinney, Micah Frazier, Steven McKinney, Jonathan McKinney, Lyndon McKinney, Ron McKinney, Paul King, Les Williston, Sigus Johnson, Moses Johnson, Lena Scott and Brad Joe.

Choctaw Days at the NMAI was hugely successful, a result of hard work and dedication to our Nation's dignity and honor, by many, many others who prepared and sacrificed for this opportunity.

Jerry Blanche



### Congratulations, Lil Choctaws

The Lil Choctaws track team recently attended the Jr. Olympics held during the Creek Nation Festival on June 24. Although the weather was very warm, the kids did an excellent job. The team won a total of 19 medals during the Olympics. They received five first place medals, four second place medals and two third place medals for individual awards. The girls' 400-yard relay team won the first place medal and the girls' tug-of-war team won the third place medal. The team was coached by Cheryl Billy, Cindy Quintero and Melissa Impson.

The Lil Choctaws would like to extend their sincerest appreciation to those who gave generously with donations, which assisted the team with much-needed equipment, sustaining drinks, team shirts and other items. Those assisting with donations were the Choctaw Nation, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Councilman Bob Pate, Bell Finance, Kimball's Grocery of Tahihina and the Travel Plaza in Wilburton. Again, the team and coaches express a sincere thank you and may God bless.

Team Lil Choctaws and coaches

### Thankful for preservation of important place

I noticed in the Durant Daily Democrat that a joint agreement was reached to preserve the Boggy Depot state park, to be run by the Chickasaws and Choctaws. I am very happy to see this result and applaud Chief Pyle and others who made this happen. Under Pyle, the tribe continues its policy of acting to protect places of historic importance to the Choctaw Nation.

Boggy Depot is important to my family as well because it was the key settlement of several of my ancestors. My great-great-grandfather, the Rev. Israel Folsom (1802-70), and his wife, Louvisa (1807-76), are buried there. Folsom's grave and tombstone are among the most prominent and imposing stones there, though it is deteriorating with age and weather. Israel, an ordained Presbyterian minister, was one of the most prominent leaders of the tribe, often referred to as the religious leader of the tribe.

He translated the Lord's Prayer and other key Bible verses into the Choctaw language, and he was a delegate to Washington, along with his brother-in-law, Peter Pitchlynn, from 1853-70. He was also the most instrumental tribal leader to advocate for the establishment of Choctaw girls' schools in the nation, which led to Wheelock and other schools being established. Folsom was the minister of Boggy Depot Presbyterian congregation, and on his death was succeeded by his friend, Chief Allen Wright, who is also buried at the cemetery.

Boggy Depot also has a great deal of historical significance to the state of Oklahoma because it was one of the key stage coach lines linking the eastern U.S. to the west, and because it was one of the key places that Confederate and Union interests contended for in Indian Territory during the Civil War. Many of my ancestors, including Folsom, were in the middle of that struggle.

I am just very proud that my tribe, under its outstanding leadership, has taken a role in preserving this important place. It may sound parochial or self-serving, but I would also hope that the the tombstone of the Rev. Israel Folsom could be restored someday at the cemetery based on the historic and well-chronicled contributions to the Choctaw tribe from 1830-70. The history book compiled by the tribe a few years ago, "The Choctaw of Oklahoma," along with many other important books about the tribe by Angie Debo, Muriel Wright and others document his significance to the tribe in its early years in Oklahoma from the removal to 1870.

Once again, thank you to Chief Pyle and the Council for acting to help preserve this place.

R.D. Folsom

### Thank you from Belone family

The family of Farron "Raimi" R. Belone wishes to thank everyone who attended the service, the comforting words, phone calls, food, beautiful flowers, visits and most of all, your prayers. A special thank you to Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton for the beautiful flowers. A very special thank you to the Choctaw singers.

### Seeking daughters

Jack Sanders is trying to make contact with his daughters, Melody Ledean, Shelly Renea and Amanda Jean. He has recently been in Durant looking for them but has moved back to Arkansas. Jack has experienced medical problems the past year and would like to get in touch with his daughters, asking them to write him at PO Box 31 Van Buren, AR 72957.

### Events

#### OKC School of Choctaw Language

The Oklahoma City Community School of Choctaw Language will resume on Sept. 13, at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, located on 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. Oklahoma City OK, 73119.

Phases 1-2-3-4 Choctaw 1 grammar: common phrases and everyday language. History, culture, traditions, songs, reading and social dancing. For more info, call 405-672-5653 or 405-761-1347.

#### Dwight Mission School reunion

The Dwight Mission School of Sequoyah County reunion will be held Oct. 1. Attendees will greet and eat in the dining hall. Registration will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Coffee, juice and donuts will be served. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. with a free lunch served at noon. Everyone is invited to bring family and friends and share experiences they've had at Dwight Mission. For more information, contact chairperson Levada Wildcat at 918-773-3096.

#### Jones Male Academy reunion

With the help of many alumni, the Jones Male Academy reunion will be held Oct. 15. Brother Jim "Bugle Boy" Bruner will be missed very much in everyone's hearts, as he was a key factor in the Jones Male Academy reunion. The cooperation of all concerned with the reunion will be appreciated.

The gospel singing will be organized by Bobby Coley this year.

Jones Academy alumnus Tully Choate, class of 49, has heard a story about a Jones Academy reunion group of the 80s and 90s. Tully asks that if anyone knows of this group or its members to contact him at 1004 W. Delmar Broken Arrow, OK 74012, so he may be able to get some of them to come join them in Oklahoma City.

Tully looks forward to seeing everyone. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the gym, lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. at the mess hall and supper will be at 5:30 p.m. at the mess hall.



#### Help Wanted

Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Oklahoma is seeking:

**Hotel Housekeepers** for a 300+ room 4 star casino Hotel to ensure the overall cleanliness and professional appearance of the Hotel Rooms and Hotel facilities. Hotel Housekeeping is a part-time position making \$9.50 per hour, plus gratuities. As a Hotel Housekeeper you have the potential to promote to a full-time position as the positions come available.

**Casino EVS** - Environmental Services Staff is responsible for ensuring the overall cleanliness and professional appearance of the casino facilities. Casino EVS is a part-time position making \$9.00 per hour, plus gratuities.

**Valet Attendants** - The Valet Attendant is responsible for parking and delivering casino patron's vehicles to and from the casino or hotel entrance. Valet Attendants are responsible for the safety of guest's vehicles at all times. Valet Attendant is a part-time position making \$7.00 per hour plus gratuities. Valet Attendants must be at least 21 years of age with a clean driving record.

Choctaw Casino Resort operates 24 hours a day & days a week. Applicants must be able to work an adjustable schedule, including weekends.

**Part Time Associate Benefits include:** Free Membership to Choctaw Wellness Center for Associate and Spouse, Cigna Employee Assistance Program, Up to five paid holidays per year and meal discounts.

Additional Benefits for Part-Time Associates upon completion of 1 year of service are: Tuition Reimbursement, 401k, Life Insurance and Health Insurance (Medical, Dental, Vision, Prescription, Wellness and Dependant Benefits).

Choctaw Casinos is owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Position will give preference to Indians in accordance with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination Act. Please attach copy of CDIB Card if applicable.

Apply in person at Choctaw Casino Human Resource Office. 4216 Hwy 69/75, Durant, OK.

## Choctaw Asset Building

(866)933-2260  
[www.choctawcab.com](http://www.choctawcab.com)

### Learn how combining CAB with Section 184 Native American Loans can benefit you!

"By using Section 184 we save approx. \$200 a month on our mortgage by not having to pay the PMI that a regular FHA loan requires. That is a very beneficial savings for us and in turn allowed us to purchase more of a home. Also, the down payment needed is lower than with other loans. There are many benefits to using a section 184 loan, I just think for people to fully understand those benefits. They have to be educated on what other loans are out there and really do a chart comparison to actually allow those benefits to shine through!

I am so very thankful for everything that Choctaw Asset Building did for us! Truly, if it weren't for you we wouldn't be where we are today! You have been a true blessing in our lives and we are grateful for all that you've done! "


-Ashley, Ryan, and Gage Shriver



NURSERY NEWS


Mykenna Rogers

Mykenna Wynette Rogers was born at 1:57 a.m. on June 25, 2011, at the Chickasaw National Medical Center in Ada. She weighed 5 pounds 9 ounces and was 16.5 inches long. Mykenna was welcomed into the world by her proud parents, Brian and Jennifer Rogers of Moore; siblings, Trevor Rogers and Emilee Rogers of Moore; grandparents, Mark and Vicki Rogers of Oklahoma City; aunt Brandy Rogers and cousin Ashlyn Williams of Oklahoma City; plus many other family members and close friends.




Brinlee Green

Blake-Lee Jaxon Green is proud to announce the arrival of his baby sister, Brinlee Rose Green. Brinlee was born March 17, 2011, at 9:23 p.m. at Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris, Texas. She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Proud parents are Lee and Michelle Green of Valliant. Grandparents are Blake and Brenda Pittman and Charles and Dretha Little of Valliant. Great-grandparents are Kenneth and Jerry Fennell of Valliant, Catherine and the late R.C. Green of Wright City and Curtis and Nan Pittman of Kingston.




Karson Dills

Karson Don Dills was born July 28, 2011, to Kendra Dills and Thomas Seidel of Durant. He has a proud big sister, Katelynn Sullivan, and his grandparents are Gary and Janie Dills of Durant. Karson was 7 pounds 8 ounces and 19.5 inches long. He is the great-grandson of Bill and Corrine Dills of Durant and Maudean and the late Joe McClure of Durant.




Embery Ensey

Embery Faith Ensey was born July 13, 2011, to Hailey and Steven Ensey of Bokchito. She weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Ann Minyard of Bennington and Bonnie and the late Roy Ensey of Boswell. She is welcomed by uncles Corey, Wade, Jimmy Colt, John, Chuck and aunts Kimberly, Ashlee, Sammie Jo and Beth. Great-grandparents are Lap and Joyce Tran, Kathy and David Minyard, and Nanny Maw Gracie. Great-uncles are Lap Jr. and Mitch and great-aunts Cindy, Dena and Sondra.




Hunter Askew

Hunter James Askew was born at 6:10 p.m. on March 17, 2011, weighing 6 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. He was welcomed home by his parents, Andrew and Christina Askew of Santa Rosa, Calif. His great-grandfather is Christopher Askew and grandfather is James Askew. He has many family members and friends.



Gracelyn Cooper

Gracelyn Ann Cooper was born Jan. 24, 2011, at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Matt and Brooke Cooper of Durant. She enjoys playing peek-a-boo with her cousins Azure, Nicholas, Clair and Raiden. Her grandparents are David and Margaret Coxsey of Durant and Marcy Richmond of Pottsboro, Texas.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays Oct. 3-26 , except for:  
**Oct. 5 :** Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)  
**Oct. 12:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)  
**Closed** Oct. 27-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 10 & 21, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: Oct. 3-26, except for:  
**Closed** Oct. 27-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 12 & 17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays Oct. 3-26, except for:  
**Closed** Oct. 27-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 6 & 14, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays Oct. 3-26, except for:  
**Closed** Oct. 27-31 for inventory  
**Cooking with Carmen:** Oct. 4 & 19, 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.

Healthy habits for a busy lifestyle

Once again the summer has gone by in the blink of an eye. The lazy days of grilling and cool fruit parfaits have been replaced with getting home from work in time for homework and sports practice. All of this leaves little time for preparing a four course meal let alone a balanced meal that everyone will enjoy. Last year some suggestions were listed to help get a healthy dinner on the table a little easier. So, to add to those suggestions here are a few more time saving steps so the family dinner is wholesome, balanced and most importantly enjoyable.

On Sunday afternoon take an hour to prep ingredients for the dinners for the following week.

- Make 6 cups brown or wild rice according to package instructions. Store half of the rice in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Freeze the remaining rice in a freezer-safe bag.
- For fresh fish and boneless chicken breast, freeze on parchment paper for 1 hour, or until firm, then place in a single layer in an airtight freezer container.
- For uncooked hamburger patties, layer the uncooked patties between sheets of parchment paper in an airtight freezer container. Place a note on the freezer to move the patties to the refrigerator to thaw the night before you plan to serve for dinner.
- Make marinades and glazes. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator.
- Cut, chop and mince vegetables and spices needed for recipes such as ginger, scallions, garlic, broccoli, peppers, onions, carrots, etc. Store each item in a separate zip-top bag in the produce drawer. Making sure to push out all air prior to sealing the bag.

This quick and easy recipe from parents.com is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

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

Be a healthy role model for children: 10 tips for setting good examples

You are the most important influence on your child. You can do many things to help your children develop healthy eating habits for life. Offering a variety of foods helps children get the nutrients they need from every food group. They will also be more likely to try new foods and to like more foods.

When children develop a taste for many types of foods, it’s easier to plan family meals. Cook together, eat together, talk together and make mealtime a family time!

1. Show by example. Eat vegetables, fruits and whole grains with meals or as snacks. Let your child see that you like to munch on raw vegetables.

2. Go food shopping together. Grocery shopping can teach your child about food and nutrition. Discuss

where vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy and protein foods come from. Let your children make healthy choices.

3. Get creative in the kitchen. Cut food into fun and easy shapes with cookie cutters. Name a food your child helps make. Serve “Janie’s Salad” or “Jackie’s Sweet Potatoes” for dinner. Encourage your child to invent new snacks. Make your own trail mixes from dry whole-grain, low-sugar cereal and dried fruit.

4. Offer the same foods for everyone. Stop being a “short-order cook” by making different dishes to please children. It’s easier to plan family meals when everyone eats the same foods.

5. Reward with attention, not food. Show your love with hugs and kisses. Comfort

with hugs and talks. Choose not to offer sweets as rewards. It lets your child think sweets or dessert foods are better than other foods. When meals are not eaten, kids do not need “extras,” such as candy or cookies, as replacement foods.

6. Focus on each other at the table. Talk about fun and happy things at mealtime. Turn off the television. Take phone calls later. Try to make eating meals a stress-free time.

7. Listen to your child. If your child says he or she is hungry, offer a small, healthy snack, even if it is not a scheduled time to eat. Offer choices. Ask “Which would you like for dinner: broccoli or cauliflower?” instead of “Do you want broccoli for

dinner?”

8. Limit screen time. Allow no more than two hours a day of screen time like TV and computer games. Get up and move during commercials to get some physical activity.

9. Encourage physical activity. Make physical activity fun for the whole family. Involve your children in the planning. Walk, run and play with your child instead of sitting on the sidelines. Set an example by being physically active and using safety gear, like bike helmets.

10. Be a good food role model. Try new foods yourself. Describe its taste, texture and smell. Offer one new food at a time. Serve something your child likes along with the new food. Offer new foods at the beginning of a meal, when your child is very hungry. Avoid lecturing or forcing your child to eat.

Recipe of the month: Honey-hoisin chicken with rice

Makes: 4 servings

**Ingredients**

- 3 Tbs. hoisin sauce
- 1 Tbs. honey
- 1 Tbs. freshly squeezed lime juice
- 2 Tbs. canola oil
- 1 lb. chicken breast cutlets
- Hot cooked brown or wild rice

**Directions**

1. In a small bowl whisk together the hoisin sauce, honey, lime juice, and 1 tablespoon of the oil. Remove ¼ cup of the mixture to another small bowl; set aside. Lightly

brush both sides of chicken cutlets with the remaining hoisin mixture.

2. Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Place the chicken cutlets in the pan. They should not be touching. (if there is not enough room in the pan to cook the cutlets all at once, sauté them in batches.) Cook the cutlets for 2-3 minutes per side, depending on the thickness. The cutlets should be glossy brown and cooked through.

3. Transfer to a cutting

board. Slice the chicken cutlets and serve over rice drizzled with reserved hoisin mixture.

**Nutrition Information:**

Calories: 336, Total Carbohydrate: 32g, Dietary Fiber: 2g, Total Fat: 9g, Saturated Fat: 1 g, Cholesterol: 66mg, Monounsaturated fat: 5g, Polyunsaturated fat 3g, Protein: 29g

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

Bigfoot 5K Run

Saturday, October 1, 2011

NO REGISTRATION FEE!

2011 Bigfoot Festival will be held at the Kiamichi Mountain Mission Camp Grounds at the intersection of the Indian Trail Highway and State Highway 144, Honobia, Oklahoma on Saturday, October 2nd. Enjoy Bigfoot stories, live music, arts & crafts, pony rides, 4 wheeler runs, and so much more!

5 k run/walk or 1 mile fun run/walk

Race day registration begins at 8:00 am at intersection of the Indian Trail Highway & State Highway 144 Race Begins at 9:00 am.

Pre-registered 5k participants will receive a T-shirt.

On-site 5k participants will receive a T-shirt based on availability.

Awards for 5 k participants only – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place male & female

in each age category (5 year age groups). Also, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place medals for overall male & female.

Register by mail no later than September 22, 2011

**After Sept. 22nd you MUST register on site! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Contact: Choctaw Nation (800) 349 7026 ext 6044 or 6958.

5k course will consist of a one mile on dirt, challenging course!


1 hr. Time limit on 5k Course!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Race day age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

 **T-shirts for 5k participants only---1 hr. time limit on 5k course.**

**T-Shirt Adult :** Sm. Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X **Youth:** XSM. (2-4) SM. (6-8) Med. (10-12) Lg. (14-16) XLg. (18-20)

**Circle One:** 5k Run 1 mile fun run/walk


Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in the Bishnik or other Choctaw Nation promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.


Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian if under 18yrs.

Entry Form# \_\_\_\_\_ (official use only)

Mail registration form to:  
Choctaw Nation Wellness Dept.  
One Choctaw Way  
Tahihina, Ok. 74571





Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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



# DRUG COURT

Continued from Page 1

At the time the individual receives a drug court sentence, they are also given a state sentence to a penal institution, which they do not have to abide by unless they are not able to maintain their position in the drug court, according to McDaniel.

“If they don’t meet drug court rules, they immediately go into a correctional facility,” he explained.

The Tribal Management Department’s main responsibility is helping families of the Choctaw Nation in as many ways possible, which explains its involvement with the drug court assistance program.

“Our thought on it is if we can keep these people out of the prison system, it not only saves money for the state, but it gives them the help and assistance they need to change their life so drugs and alcohol will no longer be a part of their life,” McDaniel explained. “We want to help these people become more productive in society and not make them a burden of the state.”

Each drug court is overseen by a number of board members.

“Each board is made up of people in the community who deal with issues relating to drugs, alcohol, mental health and law enforcement,” said McDaniel.

The drug court board and district attorneys make decisions relating to the individual’s acceptance into the drug court program and their graduation from the program. “This program encompasses everyone in the community to make it work,” McDaniel added. “It goes in full circle.”

According to McDaniel, without the financial support of the Choctaw Nation these drug courts probably would not be able to function and would have to scale down the number of participants to which they attend. “The tribe gives them the subsidy to take care of their employees,” he said.

Not only has the Choctaw Nation provided assistance for the area’s drug courts in times when the state could not meet its payment schedules to the county they have given funds in the interim period. “We’ve done that for almost all counties,” said McDaniel.

“The Choctaw Nation has made a tremendous impact,” said drug court judge Farrell Hatch. “Any assistance we’ve asked for, they’ve helped us with.”

# SPPT provides services and holds retreat for pregnant and parenting teens

Choctaw Nation Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens (SPPT) Project, a service available through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services, is a relatively new program that was established in October 2010 and is funded through a federal grant.

The program provides services to pregnant and parenting teen mothers, their infants, male partners and families. Comprehensive and integrated services are provided to improve healthy outcomes for the mother and infant, to increase healthy parenting skills, and improve healthy parent and child interaction skills.

Program services also include having home visits by support specialists one to two times a month to provide parenting education materials and resources. The visits give support specialists an opportunity to assess each client’s individual needs.

In addition to one-on-one support, the program provides group sessions such as the retreat it recently hosted at the Choctaw Casino Resort. Approximately 60 teenage clients, infants and toddlers attended the three-day SPPT retreat from July 20-22.

The retreat featured educational parenting, career, money management and substance abuse workshops. The



Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

Staff from the Choctaw Nation CAB program give a workshop on financial planning and money management to the young adults in the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens (SPPT) Project.

SPPT staff and caseworkers provided childcare while the teen parents attended the informative meetings.

One of the highlights of the retreat was the culminating cultural presentation by 92-year-old Emeline Bohanon of Smithville, who addressed the teen parents in the only language she knows, Choctaw. Her daughter, Leona Samuel of Smithville, translated her tales of hardships and of happy times, along with advice to the teen parents to keep a positive attitude no matter what their situation. Bohanon’s great-

granddaughter, Shauna Humphreys, is one of the directors of the program.

To be eligible for the STTP, clients must be 21 years of age or younger, be expecting a Native American child, or have a Native American child one year old or younger. Participants must also live within the Choctaw Nation’s 10-½ county service area and they must be actively pursuing a high school education (GED or high school diploma).

Anyone with questions about the STTP can contact Senior Director Angela Dancer at 877-285-6893 ext. 6055.



Choctaw Nation: LARISSA COPELAND

Emeline Bohanon tells her life story in Choctaw while daughter Leona Samuel translates.

# Choctaw language teachers attend immersion camp

Members of the Choctaw Nation Language Department spent three days this summer surrounded by Choctaw culture. Twenty language teaching staff attended an Immersion Camp June 7-9 on the grounds of the Native American Bible Ministry in Ringold where the fluent Choctaw speakers spent valuable hours helping the new instructors become more confident.

The three-day period in a natural environment allowed them all to become involved in everyday situations where they could use more words and phrases than provided in the curriculum. They peeled potatoes and cut up meat, washed dishes and cleaned the house. They also went on a scavenger hunt and learned to make baskets and pottery.



Submitted photo

The potato-peeling activity required using such words as loffi (peel), tushuli (slice), bashpo (knife) and aiimpa (table). They discussed dicing and which bowls to use. All tenses were associated with their tasks, such as how to fry the potatoes.

Natural materials were used in the scavenger hunt. They were given Choctaw words and sent to find certain rocks, flowers, leaves from the trees and nuts.

Berdie Williams talked to the group about what growing up was like for her. She described how laundry was done, using Choctaw words to explain going to the well and heating the water.

They took turns cutting up pork and were involved in the process of cooking it outside in a black pot on a wood fire. Everyone had a chance to watch the fire and stir the pot.

The younger instructors were not only learning to speak, they were also learning to read in the Choctaw language. In Choctaw, there’s inflection, flow and proper intonation on certain syllables. During one activity, Eleanor



Submitted photo

Above, the men sing Choctaw songs – Brenner Billy, Josh Riley, Bryan Billy, Caleb Taylor, Bernie Gibson, Ryan Spring, Mike Davis, Junior Myers, Nicholas Charleston and Curtis Billy.

Caldwell asked questions in Choctaw and the others were required to respond in Choctaw.

Eleanor, an artist, also talked about the subjects she uses such as church life, wild onion picking and ice cream socials. She shared memories of her mother’s craving for knowledge, remembering watching her mother pour over newspapers and magazines, reading

every word and sometimes asking her family to explain different things to her.

Mike Davis talked about life experiences. He brought pictures of his family and of him playing ball. He described how it felt when he didn’t quite understand English or the correct usage of verbs.

The days were busy, filled with fun activities, laughter

and sometimes tears as emotional stories were told.

Evenings were a time for relaxing. They would gather outside to play stickball, dance or sing Choctaw hymns.

The Immersion Camp provided the individuals a process and time to understand themselves better so they can relay the culture that’s within each of them.

# D.A.R.E.

James takes on duties as D.A.R.E. officer

Continued from Page 1

excited to begin his new job. “It’s quite an accomplishment,” mentioned James.

He went on to say that the training gave a greater spark to the interest he already had in the program. Speaking of how the training gave light to how what he will be doing in the next years can have a real effect on the lives of the youth. He made mention of how just a little education can detour a child from making a negative decision.

James is excited about that fact, and has an overarching goal for his work in D.A.R.E. to make it happen. “I would like to see more kids get involved,” said James as he described how he will make it a point to reach as many youth as possible.

Reminiscing on his time in elementary school, he tells that he was not presented with this kind of education, and did not know the severity of the misuse of certain substances and the effects of peer pressure. In his position, he hopes to lend this knowledge to the widest audience

possible so they will be able to know how to avoid dangerous situations early.

James spent his elementary years in Hartshorne School, and later moved on to Wilburton for high school, where he played football and baseball. He graduated in 2003 and went to work outside of law enforcement for a couple of years. In October of 2005 he became a reserve officer in Wilburton while he worked for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. In July of 2006 he earned his status as a full time police officer for the Latimer County Sheriff’s Department.

His decision to enter law enforcement came about due to his family’s close association with the profession. Two of James’s older brothers were officers, placing him around law enforcement since a young age. Spending time around it all, “I knew its what I wanted,” described James.

In February of 2009, James joined the rank of the Choctaw Nation Public Safety Department where he patrolled the areas of Wilburton, Tallihina and Tushkahoma for the Choctaw Nation. He was notified of the opening for this position via his connection with tribal officer, John Hobbs. “I have always heard good things about the tribe, so I decided to apply,” said James.

With the tribe, aside from

doing his usual patrol duties, he was assigned to serve as tribal sentinel at the monthly tribal council meetings. Upon his move to D.A.R.E. officer, he has been helping with outreach activities, such as speaking at the annual event, Outreach at the Beach. He will continue to do various presentations in addition to his usual classes.

Along with his new title, James has also received another considerable change in his work environment. He is now the driver of the award-winning tribal police Camaro, a car the demands attention wherever it goes. “You are the center of attention wherever you go... everybody wants a picture,” mentioned James. This particular car won an award for being the most outstanding car at the Oklahoma D.A.R.E. Officer Association Car Show.

Being a police officer is highly important to James, but being a father is a duty that he claims above his profession. James is the proud husband of Jaclynne James, whom he met while in high school, and is the father of four children; three girls and a boy.

James holds much anticipation for the upcoming school year and his duties therein. James hopes to spread much knowledge and detour many away from negative situations in his time as the Choctaw Nation D.A.R.E. Officer.



## Choctaw Nation Diabetes 5k Run/Walk

**No Registration Fee!!!**

**Saturday October 29, 2011**

Diabetes is one of the most common and serious chronic diseases in the United States. Even if you don't have diabetes, chances are you know someone who does. Almost 24 million Americans have diabetes, and 1 million more are diagnosed every year. Together let's battle diabetes and win!

The 5k event will be held during the Tallihina Chamber of Commerce Fall Foliage Festival in Tallihina, Okla. The course is USATF certified. Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age group for the 5k event. In addition, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall male and female finishers will receive a trophy. **Registration begins at 9:00 am** at the Victory Baptist Church parking lot on 5<sup>th</sup> and Isherwood. Pre-registered participants will receive a t-shirt, onsite registration t-shirts will be based on availability. **Race starts at 10:00 am.** We will also have door prizes after the awards are given.

Name: _____	Race day age _____	Date of birth _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____
Zip: _____	Phone: _____	Male _____ Female _____
Email (optional) _____		

<b>T-Shirt Adult :</b> Sm. Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X	<b>T-Shirt Youth:</b> Sm. Med. Lg. XL
<b>Circle One :</b> 5K Run/Walk	1 mile fun run/walk

**Deadline date: October 21, 2011**  
After deadline date please register on site  
Register by mail before Deadline Date:  
Mail to:  
Choctaw Nation Wellness Education  
One Choctaw Way  
Tallihina, Ok. 74571

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information call Choctaw Nation Wellness Education at 800-349-7026 X-6044 or 6958  
SPONSORED BY:  
Choctaw Nation Wellness Education & Diabetes Wellness Center

Entry Form # \_\_\_\_\_ (official use only)





# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Congrats to the Heitts

Ramona Kay Hale and Briton Heitt, both of Norman, exchanged wedding vows on June 12 on the tranquil shores of Destin, Fla. Pastor Mike Krulcik of St. Augustine, Fla., officiated the 6:30 sunset ceremony.

Parents of the bride are Robert Hale and Ramona Hale of Norman, and parents of the groom are Martin Heitt of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Paige Martin of Norman.

Kay and Briton are both 2006 graduates of Norman North High School. The bride is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma in elementary education and is currently working on her master's in education administration and curriculum studies at OU. She is employed as a Pre-K teacher in Norman. The groom is pursuing his bachelor's in English Education at the University of Central Oklahoma. He is employed at Starbucks in Norman.



## Seneca turns 1 year old

Happy birthday to Seneca Sage Clark, who turned 1 year old on Sept. 7. She is the daughter of Bryan and Kogee Clark of McAlester, the paternal granddaughter of Ron and Becky Hallford of McAlester, the great-great-granddaughter of Walter and Sarah Amos of McAlester, the maternal granddaughter of Joyce Noon of Wetumka and the late Lewis Morgan of Okmulgee and the maternal great-great-granddaughter of Lee-Anna Barnett Noon and Nathan Noon of Wetumka. Seneca is of Creek and Choctaw heritage, belongs to the bird clan and is a member of Tallahassee Ceremonial Ground. The family celebrated together with a pool party hosted by Rachel and David Harrison, where Seneca was joined by several cousins and friends who helped her celebrate her first birthday.



## Ward proves to be outstanding student-athlete

With his young age and his background, it's no surprise that Drew Ward of Leedey, Okla., may have departed this year's Area Code Games with as much of a puffed out chest as anyone.

First, the Chicago White Sox infielder was the only player from the class of 2014 to make any of the eight 2011 Area Code Games teams' rosters this summer.

With his team entering the Aug. 10 game against the Oakland Athletics with a 0-2-2 record, the 6-foot-4, 195-pound Ward finally got some good wood on the ball.

The Sox trailed 3-0 entering the bottom of the fourth inning, but by the time Ward came to bat they had closed to 3-2. After the lefty stroked a two-run single to center field, the boys from the Midwest had a 4-3 lead they would never relinquish.

Combined with a single in the third inning, Ward finished 2 for 2 with two RBIs, a run scored and a stolen base.

The second thing this young man is proud of is his Native American heritage.

"For sure, I'm proud to be Native American," said Ward, whose half-Choctaw mother, Susan Ward, was an All-American track star at Oklahoma, and whose part-Pottawomie father, Gregg Ward, played baseball at Oklahoma and in the minor leagues.

The fact that scouts found this incoming sophomore from a small town that is a two-and-a-half hour drive west of Oklahoma City and a place that gets its share of tornadoes is interesting in itself.

Ward's baseball stats show he hit .570 with 12 home runs and 52 RBIs. In basketball, Ward averaged 23 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Ward is a 3.5 GPA student and considers Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Miami as universities in which he is interested.

Ward is the grandson of John McCurtain Sr. and Susan McCurtain Ward.



## Birthday wishes for Kynadi

Kynadi Clayre Wesley turned 9 years old on Aug. 4. She is the daughter of Tim and Beth Walker of Broken Bow. She has one brother, Xavier, and is the granddaughter of Solomon and Jackie Anna and Benny and Lisa Wesley. Kynadi is the great-granddaughter of Clara Jefferson and the late Leo W. Jefferson and Willis Wesley and the late Delia Wesley.



## Sisters celebrate birthdays

Pat Campbell Johnson of Azle, Texas, and Betty Campbell of Fort Worth celebrate September birthdays together. Betty turned 81 years old on Sept. 12 and Pat turned 76 on Sept. 16. Their grandfather, William Walter Campbell, and their great-grandfather, Ephraim F. Campbell, were original enrollees. These two sisters grew up in Bryan County.



## Mary and Joyce attend art show

Mary Ann Allen and Joyce Robison were recently invited to attend a reception at the Red Earth Museum and Gallery in Oklahoma City. They are pictured with Erin Merryweather, Director of Programs, and Neil Chapman, author of the book, "Santa Clara Portraits," which he presented to all who attended the art show.

## Braxton is welcomed to the family

Roaring with excitement and fun, Walter and Cynthia Hopper, along with their family and children, celebrate Braxton Creed Daylen Hopper, born on May 3, 2000, and adopted on July 22, 2011. The Lord has blessed the Hoppers with another boy; the only thing better than two sons is three.



## Happy birthday, Jera

Jera JuliAnn Davis of Texarkana celebrated her 11th birthday on June 27. She is the daughter of Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana and her grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. Her great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



## Jade crowned Miss Arkansas Beef 2011

Congratulations to Hamburg High School senior Jade Halliburton for being crowned Miss Arkansas Beef 2011 and walking away with the crown and sash, a custom belt buckle and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Arkansas Cattleman's Association. The pageant, sponsored by the Arkansas Beef Council and Arkansas Cattleman's Association, was held in Fort Smith and Jade represented Ashley County.

Jade listed as one of her future ambitions the ownership of her own cattle operation.

"It's more than just a beauty contest," said Jade. Contestants delivered a seven-minute speech and were given an agricultural IQ test.

Jade has been involved with animals for much of her life and has been a member of the 4-H program since she was 7 years old. This school year will mark her third as president of the Hamburg High Future Farmers of America program. She is also a member of the local cattleman's association and has shown her own cattle for about six years.

Jade plans to attend Southern Arkansas University after high school and major in agriculture education and communications. She is the granddaughter of Bill and Mary Bryant Ray Jr. of Johnsville, Ark., the great-granddaughter of Bill and Norma Plummer Ray of Minden, La., and the great-great-granddaughter of Edd and Olive Thomas Plummer of Oklahoma City.



## Happy birthday, Lyric

The family and friends of Lyric Tvlof-Fusvw Mitchell would like to wish her a happy first birthday on Sept. 17. Lyric is the daughter of Jakie and Lisa Taylor Mitchell of Norman, the granddaughter of Norris and the late Brenda Samuels of Oklahoma City and Johnny and Teri Mitchell, great-granddaughter of the late Howard W. Taylor, the late Joann M. Jim and the late Anthony Mitchell. Lyric is Choctaw, Seminole and Creek and of the Ocese band. She will celebrate with her parents, sisters Shoshana and Faith and friends with a lady bug theme at Chuck-E-Cheese.



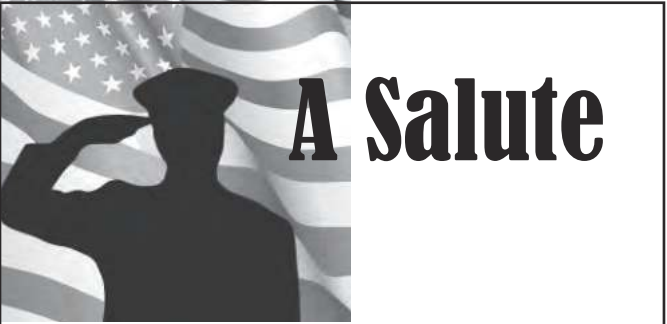
## Happy birthday, Tracy

Some of Tracy Ann's family members would like to wish her a very happy birthday. Tracy was born Sept. 30, 1968. She is God's blessing to them, from Mom, Bob and Cody.



## Happy first birthday!

Cruz Matthew Renteria turned 1 year old on Sept. 6. He is the son of Jerald and Rocky Renteria, the nephew of Annie and Jessica, the grandson of Jamie and Guadalupe Renteria, the great-grandson of Mt. Greenwood and the late Mildred Cole Greenwood. Happy birthday, Cruzisto!



## Trueblood promoted

Travis W. Trueblood was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Navy. Trueblood resides in Glades County, Fla., and serves as a reservist at U.S. Southern Command in Miami.



## Santrach attends Coast Guard Academy

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy recognized Betty-Rose Santrach of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., for her superior academic achievement and leadership potential. Betty-Rose graduated Cum Laude from Rancho Cucamonga High School in the top 4 percent of 810 seniors. Cadet Santrach also participated in the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Scholar Program at Marion Military Institute in Alabama prior to accepting an appointment to attend the Coast Guard Academy as a member of the class of 2015. She will study electrical engineering during her four years at the academy.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., is an accredited college educating future Coast Guard Officers. The smallest of our nation's five military service academies, the Coast Guard Academy's Corps of Cadets represents the nation's best and brightest students, ready to serve and lead their country. Admission to the Coast Guard Academy is highly competitive and less than 300 appointments are offered annually from a pool of over 4,000 applicants. Cadets receive a full tuition scholarship and monthly stipend for a five-year service commitment to the Coast Guard upon graduation. All graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are guaranteed a position of leadership as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Betty-Rose is the daughter of Rayda and Jon Paul Santrach and the granddaughter of Betty and the late Dr. Ray Stout of Ada and Peter and the late Dolly Santrach of Escondido, Calif.



## Fall birthdays for Parksion family

Three generations of the Parksion family celebrate birthdays in the coming months. Nancy Parksion, grandmother and mother, will be 68 on Oct. 9; Dawnette Parksion Brewer, Nancy's daughter and mother of Salem, will be 41 on Sept. 26; Kirsten Parksion, granddaughter, turned 23 on Aug. 14, and Salem Rae Brewer will be 8 on Sept. 29.

Salem is the daughter of Vincent and Dawnette Brewer of Fresno, Calif. Kirsten is the daughter of JR Parksion of Pismo Beach, Calif., and Beth Parksion of Madera, Calif. Nancy lives with her husband of 52 years, Willard, in Raymond, Calif.

Nancy's grandmother, Ethel Viola Hoover, was an original enrollee. The family is proud of its Indian heritage.



## Happy birthday, Stella

Margaret Scott Gipson would like to wish her younger sister, Stella D. Scott of Atoka, a happy birthday on Aug. 15. Stella is the daughter of the late Rev. Jasper and Savannah Scott.

Also a very happy birthday to their older brother, Preston Scott of Hugo, on Aug. 12.



## Happy birthday, Anijha

The family of Anijha Noah of Idabel would like to wish her a happy eighth birthday. Anijha is the daughter of Vicky Noah Gonzalez of Oklahoma City and Daniel Rocha of Mount Pleasant, Texas, and the great-granddaughter of the late Kelsey and Vivian Noah of Wright City.





EDUCATION

Scholarship Advisement Program announces Ivy League & Friends 2011

The Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP), established in 2006, exists to help Choctaw tribal members get in to the colleges of their choice, with smart, comprehensive preparation, and then later get out successfully with a degree and strong prospects for the future.

Shortly after the organization’s formation, staff realized that students (and sometimes their parents, too) need encouragement to think big about their educational options. SAP staff wanted to help their students forge connections with some of the most elite colleges in the nation.

To that end, the SAP developed a relationship with Harvard University, which has since quickly blossomed into the annual recruitment event, Ivy League & Friends. What started as a simple information session with one school has become one of the country’s largest annual college recruitment fairs for Native Americans.

In 2008, the SAP invited Harvard representatives to meet with Choctaw scholars in Durant. The informal session drew over 100 participants from all over Oklahoma and surrounding states. Im-



Friday & Saturday, Nov. 4-5  
at Choctaw Casino Resort

mediately, SAP staff recognized the powerful potential of the session. The following year, they organized a more formal event and invited eight elite schools to participate. Over 300 Choctaw members from 10 states attended.

By 2010, the event became a full-day seminar. Topics included planning and financial advice, college prep advice and presentations from university representatives. Over 500 guests from 14 states attended, responding enthusiastically to both the sessions and the opportunity to meet with delegates from 20 undergraduate and 17 graduate programs located throughout the United States.

The 2011 event – scheduled for Nov. 4-5 at the Choctaw Nation Resort in Durant – will be a two-day affair with guest speakers, special sessions and more than 40 uni-

versities expected to attend.

SAP believes that you can never start too early when it comes to planning for college and especially encourages the families of high school freshmen and sophomores to attend Ivy League & Friends. Of course, the advice provided on admissions, financial planning and scholarships is valid for students at any point in their secondary education, but the earlier students learn their options and start setting goals, the better prepared they and their parents will be when the time comes to send out applications, make a few tough decisions and do some serious planning.

Why attend a college recruitment fair? Speaking directly with admissions officers from a variety of different universities can provide:

- an inside track on whether a school is a good fit for the

- student’s goals and gifts,
- a clear picture of what the different schools look for in an application, and
  - a sense of what funding opportunities might be available and how to take advantage of them.

Numerous higher education institutions and organizations are willing (and even eager) to partner with them in helping students make informed choices about their college educations. College representatives at the SAP’s events come prepared to speak with Choctaw students and tailor their advice and comments to members of the Choctaw community, something students will often miss in their guidance counselor’s office and on a standard campus tour.

Every journey may begin with one step, but when your planned destination is a college degree, good advice and careful preparation can get you a lot further down the road. The SAP’s mission is to walk with their students every step of the way.

For more information about the event or the SAP, please visit choctawnation-sap.com, contact 800-522-6170 ext. 2523 or email ScholarshipAdvisement@ChoctawNation.com.

*To the Youth of the Nation*

By: Alexis Ethridge  
Youth Advisory Board, Hugo Chapter  
“The lack of things to do in small towns”

I live in the small town of Hugo. This town has a population of about 5,400 people. We can only guess how many of the 5,400 people are teenagers or younger with not much to do to socialize or interact with other kids their age outside of school. Hugo just recently got a new swimming pool, which has been wonderful, but the only negative is that it is only open three months out of the year. Our town used to have a movie theater and a skating rink. Unfortunately, they both closed before my time.

Without things to do, kids seem to find ways to get into trouble. I would think having more positive things to do would cut back on a lot of the negative things kids are doing. I am also sure that it would bring more money to the community and cut back on money spent on traveling out of town just to do something. Hugo and many similar towns need to think about putting more activities into the community.

Son, grandson graduate

Nathan Williams was included in commencement exercises at Rose State College in May and Preston Williams graduated from Putnam North High School in Oklahoma City. Nathan, son of Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and father of Sierra, earned his associate degree and is presently attending the University of Central Oklahoma pursuing his bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership. In the future, he will apply to law school. Currently he is employed at the law firm of Jennings, Cook and Teague in Oklahoma City.

Preston is the grandson of Olin and Bernice and son of Joe and Carmin Williams of Okmulgee and Tammy Williams of Oklahoma City. He will be attending UCO in the fall. Preston’s sister and aunts and uncles are all proud of his accomplishments and support his future endeavors.



Keith receives distinguished faculty award

Congratulations to Dr. Susan Keith, who received a distinguished faculty achievement award from Arizona State University. Keith has been a member of the ASU Kinesiology Department since 1997 and has more than 20 years in higher education. She teaches a variety of kinesiology courses and serves as the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TEXES) coordinator for the College of Education.

Keith holds bachelor’s degrees from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Central Oklahoma, a master’s degree from Baylor and a Ph.D. from Texas Woman’s University. She also serves as a reviewer for the “American Journal of Health Education, Applied Research in Coaching and Athletics Annual and American Indian Culture and Research Journal.”

Keith is the daughter of Carlton and Lucille Keith and the granddaughter of original enrollee Sam Postoak.



Melissa graduates

Melissa Kay-Ann Powell graduated from Indianola High School in May.

She was fourth in her class and a member of the Beta Club and the National Honor Society. She has been accepted at Oklahoma State University, where she will be majoring in Animal Science and Agriculture Business.

Melissa would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for all its help and support through high school and her future at OSU.



LaTosha earns white coat

LaTosha Zugelder, the daughter of David and Dee Hayter, was presented her white coat at The White Coat ceremony held by University of Oklahoma Pharmacy program on Aug. 20. LaTosha was accepted to University of Oklahoma last spring while finishing up her undergrad at Rogers State University.

LaTosha is a 2008 graduate of University of Oklahoma High School program with honors, after attending Claremore public schools since kindergarten.

LaTosha has accomplished all of the academic goals she



had set for herself while being a wife to Adam Zugelder for nine years and a mother to Malaki Zugelder who is 8 years old.

We are so proud of you! We will always be there to help you and your family – Mom, Dad, Richie and Kirstin

Riley recognized for academic achievements

Riley Moynihan was recognized at the state level this past May for his achievements in the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP). Riley, then a seventh-grader at Dripping Springs Middle School outside of Austin, took the ACT in February and scored better than half of the college-bound seniors who took the same test. He also finished in the top 15 percent nationally among seventh-graders participating in the program, earning him the right to attend the Duke TIP Center for Summer Studies. For three weeks in July, he studied The Physics of Propulsion at Trinity University in San Antonio, designing solar cars, exploring various types of jet engines and building and launching rockets. Riley, who is working on his pilot’s license and plans to study aeronautical engineering, is the son of Steve and Andrea Moynihan, grandson of Billy Wayne and Sandy Frost and great-grandson of William H. Frost.



Brianna graduates

Brianna Fleming recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Oklahoma City University with a degree in early childhood education and elementary education. She will be teaching first grade in Moore starting this fall.

Brianna is the great-granddaughter of the late Delos and Lucy Wade of Talihina, granddaughter of Johnny and Betty Eastep of Norman and daughter of Jimi and Becky Fleming of Oklahoma City. She was honored to receive the American Indian Scholarship, awarded by Oklahoma City University, as well as scholarship money from the Choctaw Nation. It was due in large part to these two scholarships that Brianna was able to attend and graduate from such a prestigious university. She would like to thank her family, OCU and the Choctaw Nation for providing the financial support that allowed her to achieve her goal of becoming a teacher.

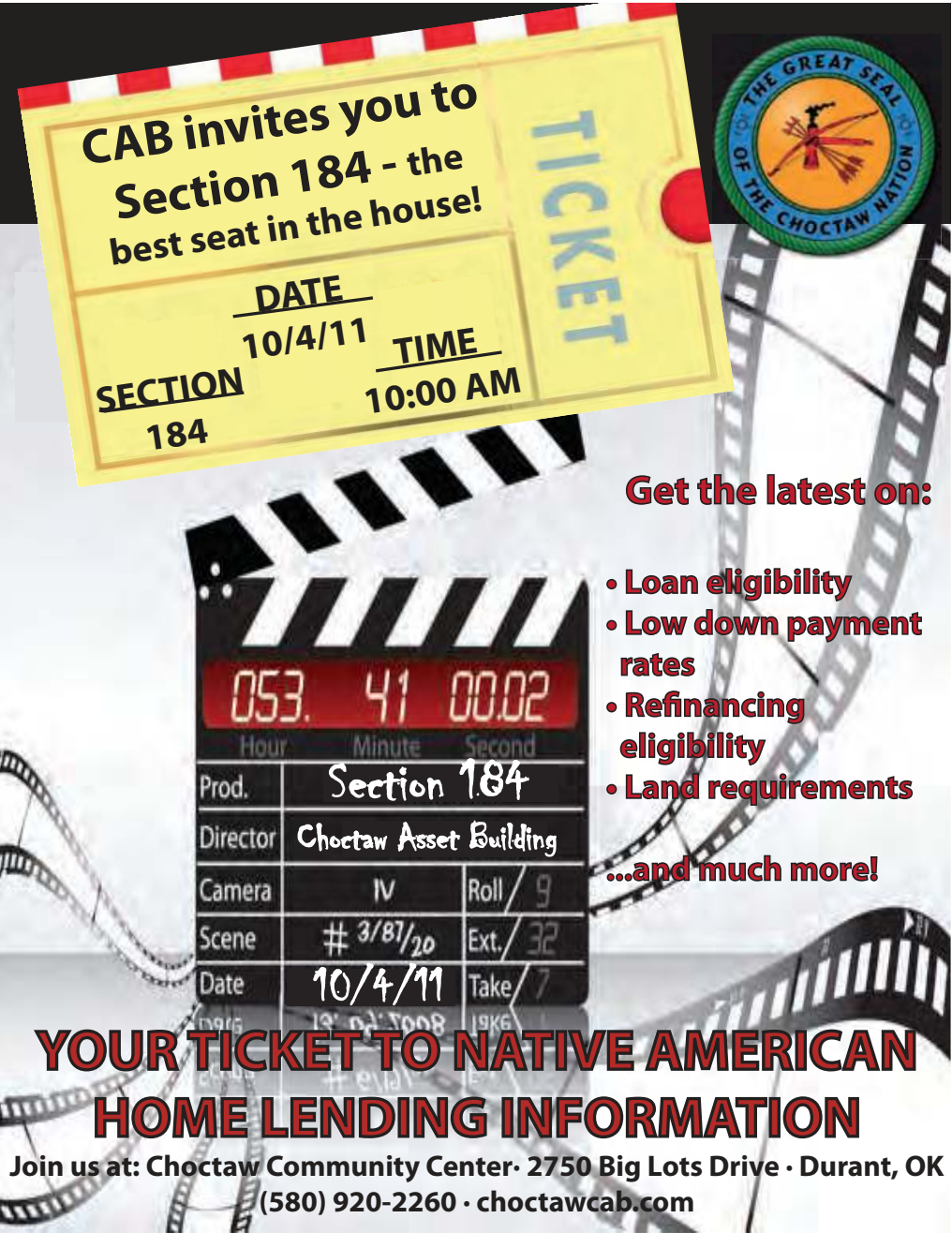


Good job, Bailey!

Congratulations to Bailey Reid Thorne, who graduated pre-school in May. He is the son of Mike and Kristy Thorne of Tucson. His grandparents are Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. He is also the great-grandson of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.

Bailey will attend Butterfield Elementary School as a kindergartner. Congrats, Bailey, from your family!





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**Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Calendar**

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OCTOBER							1
	2	Durant 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Antlers by appt.	Wilburton 10:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.	6	Broken Bow 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idabel by appt.	8
	9	Durant 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. <small>Columbus Day observed Thanksgiving Day Cancelled</small>	Atoka 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Coalgate 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Talihina 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	13	14 Crowder by appt.	15
	16	Durant 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Poteau 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	McAlester 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stigler by appt.	20	21	22
	23 30	24 31 <small>Halloween</small>	25	26	27	28 Wright City by appt.	29

Durant • Mondays • Broken Bow • Mon., Wed. and Fri. • Idabel • By appointment

Phone: 580-326-8304; Fax: 580-326-2410  
Email: ddavenport@choctawnation.com



# OBITUARIES

## Marie Baxter

Marie Baxter, 85, of McAlester passed away on July 11, 2011, in McAlester. She was born Nov. 18, 1925, in Atoka County to Preston Betsey and Frances Willis. She married Floyd Jackson Baxter Sr. on Dec. 9, 1949, in Crawford County, Ark.

She grew up in Bentley and attended secondary boarding school in Antlers before graduating from Chillico High School. She was fluent in English and the Choctaw language. She later went on to nursing school and graduated as an LPN. She worked for 30 years at the Talihina Hospital for the Choctaw Nation.

She liked to watch her boys play basketball throughout their high school days. She liked to sew, crochet, do home canning and much more. She and her husband had a special place in their heart for their only daughter and the boys knew it. They also loved to travel across the county to visit their grandchildren.

Later on in life she would love to sit in her rocker and hold her grandbabies for hours at a time. She loved three o'clock in the afternoon because she knew it was time for the kids to come home from school and the commotion would begin. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends but has lived an honorable life and has left a wonderful legacy to carry on her outstanding traits of compassion, integrity, trust, faith and endurance.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd; two grandsons, Jordan Baxter and Steve Baxter; brother, Adam Betsey; and sister, Alice Ward.

She is survived by eight children, Floyd J. Baxter Jr. (Melody) of Cardston, Alberta, Virginia M. Jones (John) of McAlester, Don Baxter (Becky) of Topeka, Kan., Algernon D. Baxter (Shirley) of Spanish Fork, Utah, Gerald W. Baxter (Audrey) of Fayetteville, Ark., Robert F. Baxter (Diane) of Harlan, Iowa, Kenneth Baxter of Longview, Va., and Steve W. Baxter (Grace) of Chandler, Okla.; two sisters, Christine Benge of Tahlequah and Charlene Johnson of Oklahoma City. She left behind a wonderful posterity of 28 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.



## Sue Helms

Sue Helms, 59, of Idabel passed away Feb. 14, 2011, in Idabel.

The daughter of Pickens and Juanita McAfee Thomas, Sue was born Sept. 29, 1951, in Talihina. She was a homemaker and enjoyed going to church, going to the library to read, picking up cans and pecans, watching television and spending time with her family.

Sue was preceded in death by her grandfather, Moses Thomas; parents, Pickens and Juanita Thomas; one grandson, Steven Helms; four sisters, two brothers and one nephew.

She leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Fred Helms of Idabel; two sons, Joshua Helms with wife Samantha of DeQueen, Ark., and Jacob Helms of Lawton; one granddaughter, Ansley Helms; four sisters, Wauleah Wagstaff of Idabel, Christine Peniton of Idabel, Wanda Francis with husband Anthony of Wheeler, Texas, and Loretta Snyder of Broken Bow; one sister-in-law, Jean Monroe of Idabel; and many nieces, nephews and friends.



## Lorene Warren

Lorene B. Choate Warren, 90, of Atascadero, Calif., passed away on June 20, 2011, in Atascadero.

She was born in Haywood and married her husband, Bob, and they were together 69 years. They moved to San Louis Obispo, Calif., in 1948, where Bob worked for the railroad and she raised their two children.

Lorene was raised in the Haywood area, a community west of McAlester, and she was a graduate of Haywood High School in the late 1930s. She was a long-time member of the Atascadera Bible Church in California.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter, who was an original enrollee, and Ada Choate; and four brothers, John, Jim, George and Gordon Choate.

Survivors include her husband; two children, Bobby and Betty; three grandsons; one granddaughter; special friend, Alma Henderson Bryant of McAlester; five great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; nephews, nieces and many friends.



## Joan Lambert

Joan Toy Lambert passed away on March 7, 2011, surrounded by her beloved family. Joan was born near Minco, on Dec. 27, 1920, to original enrollees Jesse Edward and Mary (Roberts) Jones, and was the eldest of 11 children. She attended East Central State College in Ada and worked for many years at Perkins Timberlake and later at Shirlene's in Burk. Joan was married on July 4, 1941, to Woodrow A. Lambert, who preceded her in death in 1982. Joan was a long-time member of First Baptist Church, Burkburnett, had taught the Rebekah class and was active in the senior adult ministry. She had lived in Arlington since 2000. She was an energetic worker, an avid card and domino player, liked to travel, and had many loyal friends, but she was most proud of her large family. Undoubtedly her greatest legacy to her family and to all those who knew her was her undying love for and faith in her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The family would like to thank the loving kind staff of Community Hospice of Texas for the wonderful care they provided. They afforded her the ability to maintain her dignity in her final days. We would also like to thank Dr. Anwar Khurshid, for his wonderful care and compassionate support of our mother.

Survivors include sons, Jesse (Butch) with wife Charlotte, Thom with wife Judy; daughters Joene Cook with husband Sidney and Joyce Johnson; four sisters; one brother; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and one great-great granddaughter.



## Bena Garrett

Bena Vee Garrett, 90, of Shawnee and formerly of Liberty Baptist Church Retirement Center, passed away on Feb. 9, 2011, at a local hospital. Bena was born Aug. 4, 1920, in Lindsey to Harry Edwin and Selena Elizabeth Betts Lawrence. She graduated from Lindsey High School in 1940.

On June 6, 1940, she married Aubrey Garrett in Oklahoma City. He preceded her in death on Feb. 27, 1992. Bena was a homemaker and a member of Liberty Baptist Church and the Sweet Adelines.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; and her siblings, Joe Lawrence, Azelle Watkins, Maxie Clymer and Olan Martin.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Jud Webster of El Reno; daughter, Judith Kay Beeson of Shawnee; grandchildren and their spouses, Christy and Judon Ritchie of Deer Creek, Darin and Jessica Webster of Cedar Park, Texas, Robin and Ben Gibson of Choctaw, Guenita Kay and Terry Giacomo of Wilburton, Edwin and Patti Edwards of Arpelar; great-grandchildren, Selena Bedard, Ricky Giacomo with wife, Brittani, Terra Giacomo, Morgan Ritchie, Jake Webster and Luke Webster; great-great-grandchildren, Aubree Giacomo, Jazmin Bedard and Avree Giacomo.

## Doris Pettyjohn

Doris Helen Pettyjohn, 74, of Whitesboro passed away on July 6, 2011, at her residence. Mrs. Pettyjohn was born in Talihina on April 24, 1937, the daughter of the late Tobias and Ancey (Hampton) Frazier. She married Boyd Pettyjohn on Oct. 11, 1961.

She worked as an LPN since 1958. She retired from the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center – Med/Surg in 2002. Doris was a family oriented person, always loving and encouraging each one to do their best. This characteristic carried over into her church and the community as she served and encouraged others.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Boyd Pettyjohn.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah and Waylon Wilson; grandsons, Cole and Evan Wilson; sisters, Velma Angel, Helen Hatton, Sue Daney and Betty Novak; brother Toby Frazier; sisters-in-law, Lorene Pettyjohn, Annie Marie and Rheanotte LeBarbour.



## James Patterson

James Thomas "Tom" Patterson, 84, of Muskogee passed away on March 31, 2011, at the Claremore Veterans Center. He was born April 15, 1926, in Durant to John Stephen Patterson and Exie Wall Patterson.

During World War II, Tom served in the U.S. Air Force from June 1, 1944, until Nov. 6, 1945. Tom furthered his education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant where he received his bachelor's degree in 1952. He earned a master's degree at Lawrence, Kan., in 1958 and in 1975 received a Ph.D. equivalent at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

Tom was employed 40 years at the U.S. Department of Interior as an educator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and very active in his Sunday School class.

Tom was preceded in death by his first wife, Billie Jean Patterson, after 43 wonderful years of marriage. He married his second wife, Ruthie Bass, in August of 1991, and God gave them 18 wonderful years together. Also preceding him in death were his son, Pat Patterson; daughter Cindy Patterson; and mother Myrtle Patterson.

Survivors include his daughter-in-law, Brenda Patterson of Polacca, Ariz.; two grandchildren, Jamie Patterson of Tahlequah and Johnny Patterson of Polacca; and one sister, Roberta Guenzel of Reydon.



## Dannette Beaty

Dannette Raulston Beaty, 49, passed away at home in Linden, Texas, on May 18, 2011. Dannette was born Aug. 8, 1961, in Clarksville, Texas, to Jack and Willie Dean Raulston. She lived in Diana, Texas, before settling in Linden, and she worked in the medical field for several years before becoming a wife and mother.

Dannette was a 1979 graduate of Clarksville High School. She was a member of the New Haven Missionary Baptist Church, and her favorite pastime was fishing with her grandson.

Survivors include her husband, Mark Beaty; son Joshua Beaty of Linden; daughter Nicole Beaty Owens with husband Daniel of Longview; father and stepmother, Jack and Joyce Raulston of Clarksville; mother, Willie Dean Boarden of McAlester; sisters, Debbie Haynes with husband Dudley of Linwood, Kan., Donna Dotson with husband John Charlie of Bagwell, Texas, and Sandy Wood with husband Lawrence of Wilburton; five grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and great-nieces.

## John W. Wood

John W. Wood, 91, passed away on July 10, 2011. John was born June 5, 1920, to Willie Mae and Thomas L. Wood in Woodtown. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He graduated from Paris Junior College, attended Southern Methodist University, and served in the U.S. Air Force. John devoted his entire professional life to the paint business. He and his wife, Shirley, were co-founders and owners of Walnut Hill Paint Company in Dallas. He enjoyed travelling with the Garland Sams Travel Club, playing cards and games with friends, being an extra on the TV series "Dallas," and visiting with his many friends and family.

John was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Shirley Wood; and brother, Jerry H. Wood.

He is survived by daughters, Marsha Godfrey with husband Eddie, and Lauren Charlton with husband Don; grandson, Patrick Godfrey; great-granddaughter Madison Godfrey; and caretaker, Lolita Mora.



## Beatrice Walker

Beatrice Walker, 59, of McAlester, passed away on June 27, 2001, at McAlester Regional Health Center. Beatrice was born Aug. 19, 1951, in Weleetka. She was the daughter of Jesse and Lucille West Byington. She graduated from McAlester High School with the class of 1969.

She worked as a licensed practical nurse in nursing homes in Tulsa and Tulsa County Jail. She also worked as a corrections officer for the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. In 2000, Beatrice moved back to McAlester and became heavily involved with the community. She was a volunteer and member of the Red Hat Society, Oklahomans for Independent Living serving on the Board and SILC Board appointed by the governor, D.A.R., Hospital Auxiliary, Choctaw Nation Senior Citizens, Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Post No. 1098, the Oklahoma State University Extension Home Community Education Organization, Pittsburg County HCE Group (Twin Community) since 2007 and served as president and secretary, Pittsburg County Fair and the Annual Baby Fair, Make a Difference Day, coached at the Boys and Girls Club and attended Choctaw language class. She was also a member of the First Baptist Church of McAlester and was active in the clothing room, angel tree and missions.

Beatrice was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Isaac Byington and Lumpsey Byington; maternal grandparents, William and Martha West; paternal grandparents, Henry and Louena Byington; and brother-in-law, Sauce July.

Survivors include her sons, Robbie Zerbe of McAlester and Gus Allen Zerbe of Madill; grandchildren, Destiny Brewer, Cierra Brewer, Rylee Zerbe and Elizabeth Wardip; brothers, Joseph Byington with wife Shirley of Cushing, and Jeff Byington with wife Marilyn of Daisy; sister Sharon July of McAlester; sister-in-law Cathy Byington of Krebs; special niece Tabitha July; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family and friends.



## Donald Olsen

Donald Lee Olsen, 69, of Bokchito, passed away on Aug. 1, 2011, in Oklahoma City. Donald was born on Nov. 22, 1941, in Lindsey, Calif., to Benjamin Arvel and Ruth Elizabeth (Wortham) Olsen. He has lived in the Bryan County area most of his life and he graduated from Boswell High School. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy until his honorable discharge.

He retired from Oscar Mayer after many years of service. Donald is a member of the Kemp First Baptist Church. He loved collecting junk to work on, going to auctions and gardening.

He is preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Donald is survived by his daughter, Darla Dian Gensen with husband Carl of Cabot, Ark.; two sons, David Dwain Olsen of Denton, Texas, and James Don Olsen of Bokchito, with fiancé LaDon Smith of Boswell; three sisters, Glenda Moore with husband Floyd of Boswell, Zelda Brady of Colbert and Dalphine Kelley with husband Billy of Sherman, Texas; one brother, Benny Wayne Olsen with wife Jeannie of Achille; and the mother of his children, Janice Gay Olsen of Sherman.



## Parker Glenn

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

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

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

## Herbert Alexander

Herbert Eldon Alexander, 75, passed away July 2, 2011. He was born Sept. 3, 1935, to Ethan and Amy Alexander in Talihina. He was the loving husband of Nancy McGahan Alexander.

Herbert attended Haskell Academy and graduated from Talihina High School. After high school he joined the Air Force and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, where he was trained as a radio operator. After his military service, he went on to work as a radio operator for Aeronautical Radio Inc. and was with the company for 30 years.

Although he enjoyed traveling to foreign countries, he loved living in Hawaii, where he enjoyed the weather and the food.

In Hawaii, Herbert attended Kapiolani Community College, where he majored in cooking, bartending, Asian art and gemology, all of which he really enjoyed.

Surviving Herbert are his wife, Nancy; cousins, Wanda Brinkley of Sawyer, Ann Pisachubbe and family of Tulsa, Bobby Bacon and family of Tahlequah, and Ron Bacon and family of Wilburton.

Herbert was a wonderful husband and a good friend and will be missed by all who knew him.





# OBITUARIES

## Debra Marker

Debra Lynn Marker passed away on July 15, 2011, at her home in Bakersfield, Calif.

Debra was born in Jacksboro, Texas, on Jan. 29, 1957, to Bill Leon Marker and Fern Louise Sanner. Shortly after Debra's birth, the family moved to Rio Vista, Calif., where Debra grew up along with her sister and brother. Debra graduated Rio Vista High School in 1975. In 1976, she moved to Bakersfield, Calif., with her parents, where she attended California State University Bakersfield. Debra earned a master's degree in school counseling and a master's degree in education administration. She worked tirelessly in various educational field positions for over 30 years, including a P.E. teacher, assistant principal and principal. She was a natural with children of all ages as well as their families. She could calm down any dispute with her terrific sense of humor and intelligence. Debra truly loved all her students and wanted nothing but success for each one. She loved sports and was always involved with various team activities in and out of school. Everyone loved her gift of laughter and good-natured pranks.

Debra was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Charles "Chuck" Sanner and Louise Cunningham; paternal grandparents, Leon Edwin Marker and Jewell Roberta Walker; her brother, Ricky Lee, and her mother, Fern. Debra is the great-great-granddaughter of William A. Sanner and Margaret "Maggie" Frances Tucker, one of the original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation.

Debra is survived by her father, Bill, of Bakersfield; her sister and brother-in-law, Vicki and Bob Withers of Grand Junction, Colo.; her brother, Bill, of South Tahoe, Calif.; and three nieces, Sherrie Withers Cruz of Salt Lake City, Tiffany Marker of Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Courtney Marker of Sacramento, Calif.

## Josephine Mitchell

Josephine Wesley Mitchell of Midwest City, passed away on Aug. 8, 2011, in Midwest City at the age of 89. Josephine was born to Henry and Plenna Ward Wesley on April 9, 1922, in Blanco, She married Louis Mitchell.

Josephine worked for Star Spencer Schools in the cafeteria. She was a faithful and active member of Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Josephine was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Plenna; grandson Charles Smith; brothers, Henry Wesley Jr., Taft Wesley, Johnny Wesley and sister-in-law, Dorothy Mitchell.

Josephine is survived by her husband, Louis, of the home; son Ronnie L. Mitchell of Midwest City; daughter Shirley Jo Salazar of Eufaula; grandchildren, Kevin Wesley Smith with wife Diane, Andrea Smith, Kailona, Lindsey Smith, Madison Smith, Jacob Smith and Bryan Mitchell; sisters, Mamie Billy of McAlester, Ruby Maynor of McAlester and Edith Billy of Blanco; brother-in-law Billy Mitchell of McAlester; great-grandchildren, Kaidrian, Astin, Broc and Ryan; along with numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.



## Walter Smith

Walter Raymond (Ray) Smith Jr. of Valley Center, Kan., passed away on July 17, 2011, in Wichita, Kan. He was born Aug. 19, 1940, in Madill to Walter (Sr.) and Grace (Williams) Smith. He is the grandson of Nancy Lily Neal Smith, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

Raymond attended public schools in Oklahoma City and Moore, graduating from Moore High School in 1958. He graduated from Oklahoma University in 1964 with a degree in Aero-Space Engineering. He then moved to Wichita where he was employed by Boeing Aircraft and Beech Aircraft. He retired from Boeing in 2003. Raymond was a member of the Valley Center Lions Club and the Sunflower Woodworking Guild. He enjoyed gardening and beekeeping.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Lorrie Smith of Valley Center, and sister Beverly Morris of Fischer, Texas.



## Margaret Burgess

Margaret Ann Burgess passed away on July 27, 2011, in Las Vegas. She was born Sept. 13, 1930, in Alamosa, Colo., and her family moved to California when she was about 13, at the break of World War II. Margaret started her career in food service working as a waitress in the famous Chicken Dining Room at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif. She later went to college and became a certified Gourmet Chef, owning her own catering business before retiring. She was a member of several culinary organizations and served on the Board of Directors as a chairman or officer.

Margaret was one of the members of the culinary team from the USA that attended the Culinary Olympics held in 1984 in Frankfurt, Germany. She won a Silver Medal for her individual presentation and the team won several gold medals that year for their collaborative efforts.

Her grandmother, Elizabeth Juanita Rozell, was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Margaret and her sister, Shirley, were heavily involved in family research, taking one of their family lines, Stanton/Brashears, back to Chief Pushmataha. She loved birds and was an accomplished tole painter, especially on glass. Her sense of humor and loving heart will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Journey Lee Burgess and Ruth Ann Dunagan Burgess; a brother, Edward Ledale Burgess; and one sister, Elizabeth Louise Burgess.

Margaret is survived by one maternal uncle, Carroll Edward Dunagan of Pueblo, Colo.; one sister, Shirley Burgess Vanderbeck of La Verne, Calif.; a son, Allen Lee Johnson of Bullhead City, Ariz.; and three daughters, Neena Johnson Woosley, Leslie Ann Stein, both of Happy Jack, Ariz., and Lisa Gaylene Sargent of Pueblo, Colo.; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two nieces; one nephew; one great-nephew; and one great-niece.



## Linda Battice

Linda Sue Battice, 64, passed away on July 26, 2011, in Ada. Linda was born Feb. 8, 1947, in Talihina to Clifford Thomas and Julia (Parker) Thomas. She attended the Chilocco Indian School and the Byng Nursing School. She worked as a licensed practical nurse and she worked in Oklahoma City and Ardmore at Memorial Hospital. She also worked at the Chickasaw Clinic in Ardmore. She enjoyed cooking and sewing blankets for her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. She also loved listening to the music of Elvis, especially his gospel music, and walking.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two infant siblings; and two brothers, Wayne Thomas and Gary Thomas.

Linda is survived by one daughter, Deborah Battice of Ada; four sons, David Battice with wife Gloria of Ardmore, William Marcus Battice of Shawnee, Stephen Battice with wife Stephanie of Cameron, and Rev. Scott Battice with wife Mandy of Ardmore; 16 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; one half-brother, Wilson Parker of Madill; and close companion Chet Underwood.



## Richard Parks Jr.

Richard "Ritchie" L. Parks Jr. passed away on July 10, 2011, in Anchorage, Alaska, of heart failure. He was born on Aug. 21, 1965, in Fort Lewis, Wash.

He graduated from Olympia High School in 1984, moved to California and became an extreme sports instructor. He found his way home and became a well-known plumber in Olympia working for his close friend and brother, Kevin Boyd, at Boyd's Plumbing. Ritchie loved to hunt and had a sense for adventure. He had a wonderful smile and laugh and knew how to lighten up a room. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Parks Sr.; sister Teresa Parks-Queen; great-grandparents, John Sumpter, who was Choctaw, and Amanda Lomer-Sumpter, who was Chickasaw; grandparents, Charles Wilson and Mamie Sumpter-Wilson and Elmore and Delma Parks.

Ritchie is survived by his mom, Cheryl Wilson, of Anchorage; his brother, Charles E., and Lisa Parks and their children of Yuba City; his sister, Julie Palm and family of Olympia; aunts, Bara Brian Wyatt of Shelton, Wash., and Shelia Wildman of Terra Haute, Ind.; and uncles, Richard Wilson and Tommy Wilson of Olympia.



## Fern Marker

Fern Louise Sanner Marker passed away on Dec. 31, 2010, of a heart attack at her home in Bakersfield, Calif.

Fern was born in Duncan on Jan. 16, 1932, to Charles "Chuck" Franklin Sanner and Louise Cunningham. Fern married Billy Leon Marker, son of Leon Edwin Marker and Jewell Roberta Walker of Duncan, on Dec. 21, 1949. While living in Duncan, Fern gave birth to their first child, Vicki Louise, on Nov. 22, 1950, and later a son, Billy Leon Jr. on Dec. 15, 1951.

Fern's husband, Bill, worked in the oil field industry, which required moving his family around the country for a few years. While they lived in Jacksboro, Texas, Fern gave birth to their third child, Debra Lynn, on Jan. 29, 1957. Later that year, Bill began working for Halliburton in Rio Vista, Calif., where they settled for 18 years. While living in Rio Vista, Fern gave birth to their fourth child, Ricky Lee, on Sept. 5, 1960. Ricky died on Nov. 29, 1960.

Fern worked several years for Amerada, then Standard Oil, while living in Rio Vista. In 1976, Bill transferred to Bakersfield where he continued to work for Halliburton and Fern worked for Occidental. Fern and Bill retired in Bakersfield. She enjoyed waterskiing, golf, bowling, knitting, reading and spoiling the heck out of her grandchildren.

Fern was preceded in death by her parents, Chuck and Louise, and her son, Ricky. Fern is the great-granddaughter of William A. Sanner and Margaret "Maggie" Frances Tucker, one of the original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation.

Fern is survived by her husband of Bakersfield; her daughter, Debra, of Bakersfield; her daughter and son-in-law, Vicki and Bob Withers of Grand Junction, Colo.; her son, Bill Jr., of South Tahoe, Calif.; her brother, Charles Dale Sanner of Pleasanton, Calif.; and three granddaughters, Sherrie Withers Cruz of Salt Lake City, Tiffany Marker of Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Courtney Marker of Sacramento.

## Mary Heck

Mary Lee Harris Heck passed away on July 9, 2011. She was born Dec. 14, 1928, in Coal County. She was half Choctaw and half Chickasaw.

Mary was a homemaker and nurse aide. She was a wonderful cook and her home was always full of children. She donated her quilts to many organizations for fundraising.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Nancy Roberts Harris and Osborne Reason Harris; her husband, R.L. Dutch Heck; brother David Harris; sister Jessie Mae Lynch; and grandparents, Elsie Walton and Wilson Roberts and Reason and Blannie Willis Harris.

She is survived by her brother, James Harris of Tupelo; daughters, Shirley with Tommy Morgan of Centrahoma; Ricky with Dan Loudermilk of Coalgate, Marilyn K. with Doyle Morgan of Ada; sons, Tom with Donna Heck and Randy Heck of Coalgate; grandchildren, Allen with Karla Chapman of Coalgate, Renay with Juan Foreman of Coalgate, Mendy with Chris Watkins of Ada, Terie with Laramie Adams of Tupelo, Matthew Morgan of Ada, Christy with Jerry Davis of Coalgate, Keyvin Heck of Coalgate, Misty with Fred Goodwin of Coppell, Texas, Kellan Heck of Colegate, Kyler Heck of Coppell, Jennifer with Ray Gurley of Ada, Stevie Heck of Midland, Texas, Leandra Morgan of Centrahoma, Lynsey Loudermilk of Coalgate and Reece Heck of Coalgate; and great-grandchildren, Alyson and Kallie Chapman, Joseph, Seth and Luke Foreman, Zayne, Zachary and Morgan Davis, Cayman and Kai Watkins, Jolie, Kelsey and Lawson Morgan, Rhyann and Skylar Pogue and Gabriel Gurley.

Mary will be missed by all her friends and family.



## Melba Tonubbee

Melba Ruth Tonubbee passed away on May 29, 2011, at her residence in Dallas. The daughter of Lewis Tonubbee and Bettie Mae Riddle, she was born Dec. 6, 1929, in Soper. She married James Troy Sells on July 22, 1961, in Durant. He preceded her in death in 2003. Melba was of the Baptist faith.

Melba was preceded in death by grandson Kristopher Lynn Jenkins; five brothers, Oscar, Bob, Empson, Jim, Dan and Don; and five sisters, Annie Stoliby, Rosie Shelton, Josie Messick, Mattie Ellis and Mary Simmons.

Survivors include her sons, Danny Palmer with wife Beverly of Apache, James Don Sells with wife Melissa of Mesquite; daughter Linda Stovall with husband Johnny of Bagwell; sister Marie Kidd of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Danny Wayne Palmer, Jenifer Lynn Curry with husband Jaron, Michael Lee Jenkins with wife Tiffany, Ryan Allen Palmer; seven great-grandchildren, Hunter and Lauren Jenkins, Austin and Trenton Palmer, Kaylee and Baylee Palmer, Lyla Stovall; six step-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.



## Claud Battles Jr.

Claud Wayne Battles Jr., 41, of Oktaha passed away on July 29, 2011, in Tulsa. He was born to Claud Wayne Battles Sr. and Earleine (Wilburn) Battles April 19, 1970, in Houston. He graduated from Hartshorne High School in 1988. Claud married Cheryl McCutcheon on Jan. 16, 2004, in Miami. He worked as a trackhoe operator. Claud was an "all around cowboy" and enjoyed working as a ranch hand. He enjoyed wagon riding and hog hunting. He especially enjoyed spending time with his daughter.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Earl and Lora Wilburn; paternal grandparents, Les and Mandy Battles; and second mom, "Momma" Debbie Sharp.

He is survived by his father, Claud Battles Sr. of Hartshorne; mother Earleine Battles of Hartshorne; wife Cheryl Battles of the home; daughters, Lora Battles of the home, Amber Mitchell of Texas, Samantha Hye of Tulsa, Ashley Mitchell of Muskogee; brothers, Will Battles with wife Mindi of Checotah, Keith Battles with wife Lauren of Gowen; sisters, Crystal Sharp with husband Johnnie of Lenapah, Gail Camp with husband Brad of Hartshorne; uncle Bill Battles of Hartshorne; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.



## Bertha Taylor

Bertha Cleo (York) Taylor, 70, passed away on Aug. 13, 2011, in Ardmore. Bertha was born on March 1, 1941, to Gassler York and Mable (John) York in Philadelphia, Miss. She graduated from Chilocco Indian School in Chilocco and attended Okmulgee Tech. She spent much of her youth with her family in Claremore and was baptized there at Memorial Heights Baptist Church. Bertha married Robert Leo Clifton Taylor in Oklahoma City. The couple lived in Oklahoma City where Bertha worked as a presser in dry cleaning establishments. After moving to Ardmore, she attended Northeast Baptist Church. Bertha worked at and later retired from Ardmore Cleaners. She loved attending gospel singings and pow-wows. Bertha enjoyed her family most of all.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifton Taylor; her parents; two brothers, Glenn York and Fred York; and a sister, Beverly York.

Bertha is survived by her daughter, Pauline Underwood of Ardmore; two stepchildren, Brenda Jeney of Midwest City, and Josh Taylor of Bennington; six grandchildren, David Taylor of Norman, Heather Taylor and Tanner Underwood, both of Ardmore, Danielle Jeney and Cheree Jeney, both of Midwest City, and Mikayla Taylor of Bennington; three great-grandchildren, Kadence Taylor and Kyson Lampkin, both of Ardmore, and Mason Barnett of Moore; one brother, Aaron Gassler York of Choctaw, Miss.; and two sisters, Vicky Carol Atkinson of Medford, Ore., and Doris Bell of Carthage, Miss.; goddaughters, Carolina Sims, Trudy Schultz, and Darlene Vanderloos; and best friend Faye Taylor.



## Charles Hudson

Charles Eugene Hudson, 89, of McAlester, formerly of Talihina, passed away on Aug. 18, 2011, at OSU Medical Center in Tulsa.

He was born on June 3, 1922, in Haworth to George and Betty (Fitzpatrick) Hudson. He was a World War II veteran in the U.S. Army Air Corps and proud to be a Choctaw veteran serving his country. He worked 10 years for Boeing in Wichita on the flight line until they shut down. He worked for the City of Ada in the street department, retiring after 10 years. Charles was of the Assembly of God faith. He cherished all of his family very much. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage and proud to be a Talihina Tiger where he was a member of the football team. He enjoyed playing music with his son. Charles played guitar and harmonica and sat in at many clubs where his son, Jimmy, played professionally. They also liked to fish and hunt together.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Hudson and Betty Hudson; stepmother Berta Hudson; son Charles Denver Hudson; daughter Donna LeFlore; grandson Eddie LeFlore; granddaughter Kristina Sojo; and great-granddaughter Angel Martin.

He is survived by his son, James Eugene Hudson with wife Diane of McAlester; daughters, Frances Martin with husband Alfred of Stuart, and Janice Carlton with husband Bill of Ada; sister Bernice Fields of Halstead, Kan.; 13 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members and friends.





# A glimpse of John Hooser’s Choctaw life experiences

John A. Hooser was born Aug. 22, 1924, in Tuskahoma. He is the youngest child of Newt and Helen Hudson Hooser and was delivered by Dr. Huckabee.

James and Ahobotema Hudson are John’s maternal great-grandparents. They experienced the Trail of Tears, traveling up the Mississippi River and through Little Rock.

James was first married to Ahobotema’s sister, Peshatima, who died on the trip from Mississippi and was buried on the bank of the Mississippi or Arkansas River.

James and Ahobotema had a son, Peter James Hudson, a full-blood Choctaw and John’s maternal grandfather. Choctaws gave him the opportunity to further his education and he attended Drury College, graduating in 1887.

After graduation, Peter attended the Hartford Theological Seminary and became a preacher in 1880. He began preaching at Battiest and Smithville.

Peter was offered a job as superintendent at the new school for Choctaw girls at Tuskahoma, but he had to be married first. He then met and married Amanda Jane Bohanan.

Peter served as the superintendent of the Tuskahoma Female Institute until June of 1898.

John’s paternal grandfather was Redman David Hooser, whose family was settled close to Crowder.

Peter and Amanda’s first child was Helen Hudson, John’s mother, who is three-quarters Choctaw. The place where John was born and now resides is her allotment. Peter’s allotment was in the Tuskahoma area in the Potato Hills.

John’s father, Newt Hooser, was in the horse business and active in the community. He and Helen made their home on Helen’s allotment in 1918.

When John was born, his brother, Hickman, was 10 years old, Eugenia was 8, the twins Ernest and Ernestine were 6 and R.D. was 4. All of the kids called their father by his first name, Newt, because that was what he wanted.

John enrolled at school when he was 5 years old.

John always had a dog at his side. He would take the dog with him to pick up the mail and the dog would carry it back to the house for him. John’s dog named Spike, a German Shepherd, was one of his favorites. He trained him to get the mail from the mailman and carry it to the house. John now trains bird-dogs, sometimes six at a time.

John attended school in Tuskahoma. There he got a nickname, Sam, which not very many people know about. Only a few people called him Sam, and only a few people know what it means. A circus-type event was being held at John’s school when his Uncle Nathan said a monkey named Sam reminded him of John because he was always doing things.

John would often gather on the weekends, usually Sunday afternoons, with his friends and community members to play various games. They’d play hide-and-seek and have a meal with 10 or 15 people, all having a good time.

John had many teachers throughout his years at grade school. His second-grade teacher was Mrs. Davidson, and John remembers her being the sweetest teacher he met in elementary school. If any student had a problem, she would stay in at recess and help. John will never forget her interest in her students.

The students had soup every day for lunch. Some days they took their lunch to school with them.

John was an active participant in sports when he was growing up, basketball being his favorite, but he also



played softball, baseball and track. John helped earn all the trophies in the display at Tuskahoma school from 1938 to 1942.

John and his team played against Albion, Antlers and Moyers. Clayton and Rattan were their greatest rivals. They also played at Panola, Red Oak, Wister, Savannah, Talihina and Whitesboro. They traveled by school bus to their games.

To help out the team, John’s father and brothers constructed a basketball court out of a barn loft. This attracted more kids from the community. Tuskahoma Schools funded the basketballs because they were helping out the teams.

The superintendent of the school was B.B. Altom. He was strong on discipline and according to John, probably the best math teacher he had as a student.

There was a large number of children enrolled in the shop class at school, so John helped the teacher, Mr. C.R. Moon, one hour of shop every day.

John graduated high school in 1942, and he loved riding and racing horses although it got him into trouble at times. He was once in a matched race with a fellow that wanted to whip him off the track, hitting him with a lead-loaded quirt and breaking his nose. They fought on horseback for a quarter of a mile, and although John had his nose broken, his class ring cut the fellow under his eye. After the race, John had to get his nose set and his friend had to get stitches. They both participated in a rodeo in Wilburton that same night and didn’t win. John said they might have won if he hadn’t been so obnoxious that day racing.

They raised quarter horses and found the fastest short-race horses were their thoroughbreds and half-quarters. The horses that didn’t run fast enough for races were put on a track and worked for roping horses. They did calf roping, not team roping. John was only about 150 pounds, so he wasn’t able to flank the calves, but he could leg them. When he was on his horse and got near the running calf, he’d reach and catch it by the front leg, and as his horse pulled back he’d step over the calf and bring him down. By the time he had it on the ground, he had the pigging string ready and wrapped him up.

At one time, the Hoosers had 30 or 40 brood mares and a thoroughbred stallion.

When John was growing up, no one but the Hooser family fenced their land. For years, their farm was the only one in that area that was fenced. The cattle all ran on an open range.

To keep the brush down, John’s father bought some goats. It was one of John’s chores to keep tabs on the goats and cattle and know where they were every day.

When John got home, he would take his saddle of his horse and let him loose in the yard to graze. They didn’t need a lawn mower.

His father raised horses, and 10-year-old John was his jockey and trainer. He suffered a broken nose on one experience west of Wilburton.

His older brothers and sisters attended Prairie View Elementary School, which would hold a picnic every Fourth of July. At the picnic

were events like horse racing, calf roping and wild cow milking. John won the calf-roping contest when he was 13 and earned some money. His father said that it was probably too much money for him to carry around, and he better divide it with him.

John’s father, Newt, suffered a heart attack on Sept. 13, 1956, and passed away. John’s mother Helen finished his term as commissioner. Newt was a giving person and probably gave to people when he hardly had anything to give. He and Helen would always help the sick and could be gone two or three days and nights sitting up with them. On Newt’s headstone it reads: “He never refused anyone in need.”

The skills John learned helping with the shop class stayed with him and making things in his shop at his home is one of his hobbies today, and if you look around his house, you’ll see several tables, lamps and other things he’s made. He also uses his skill in the shop to make decorations for others. He always tries to be of help if someone asks for it.

John has helped constructing a life center at his church and was one of the individuals who designed the internal structure. He also designed the kitchen.

Other hobbies John has are sewing and cooking, which he contributes to his mother. John cooks Indian dishes for people when requested, like banaha and tanchi labona.

When John graduated high school in Tuskahoma in 1942, he was 17 years old. He then enlisted in the Navy but suffered a back injury at boot camp and was sent home. He enrolled at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton where he met his wife, Lucille. They also shared a bus, which ran from Clayton to Talihina on to Wilburton, when going to school. John and Lucille had some classes together as well.

There was a time that Lucille and John weren’t able to see each other quite as often. Lucille was teaching at Stanley, about eight miles from Clayton, and John was working at the Naval Ammunition Depot’s railroad department in McAlester. He stayed there about three years.

John courted Lucille in a 1940 Ford convertible. They were married on Dec. 28, 1944, both 20 years old. They traveled to Antlers to get their marriage license, and John’s good friend as well as brother, Ernest, served as their witness at the courthouse.

Lucille’s father had a lumber business in Plainview, Ark., and John began working for him. He bought his father-in-law’s brother’s part of the business. Soon after an encounter that resulted in a lot of money lost, John decided to go back to school at Eastern.

John got together several good basketball players and they beat the Eastern team in a game. He was offered a basketball scholarship by Eastern’s coach that paid his full tuition. He declined but helped the team by giving the team rides to games, the college paying his expenses.

John met one of the finest teachers at Eastern that he’s tried to pattern his teaching after. According to John, most teaching is factual information. This man didn’t teach the memorization of factual information and dates, but end results of those happenings to history.

Every day he taught, John refreshed his mind with this principle. Regardless of what happens in the classes, if the kids are working to their full capacity, don’t downgrade them. One of his former students told him he had more influence on him than any other person, including his father and mother.

John says you never know

when you’re going to touch someone, so you need to always be positive. Life has been pleasurable for him, and he looks back and can name several jobs that were offered to him. He’s often wondered what would have happened if he had done something different. He never dreamed a little Indian boy from Jackfork Creek would someday handle the science education of the state of Missouri.

The first job John took teaching was in John’s Valley. He considered getting his Ph.D in deer food habits, and he thought John’s Valley would be a good place for research. The school only had six children. While John was fishing there one day, two school board members found him and offered him a job teaching.

John accepted, and they gave him a house and offered him all the salary of the school. He taught all six children, which included two first-graders, two fourth-graders and two sixth-graders.

When school let out after seven months, the first-graders went to Soper to school. Soper told John that the kids had learned so much, and they offered him a job. John had the time and patience to work with them, and they learned from each other. With time and few students, you can devote more time to the kids, said John.

After his time in John’s Valley, he went to Stanley and helped Lucille teach for a couple of years. While living at Stanley, their first child, Hoitema, was born at the McAlester hospital. Hoitema was named after John’s grandfather’s mother, Abohotema.

When John was in high school, his grandfather, Pe-

ter Hudson, gave a speech to his Oklahoma History class. John told him if he ever had a daughter, he would name her after Abohotema. That same day Peter entered the hospital and passed away two days later.

John, Lucille, Hoitema and their second child, Paul, went to live in Nowata County at Lenapah. John took the high school science job and coached.

They were at Lenapah for five years and then John went back to OSU to finish graduate school. When going from Lenapah to Stillwater, Lucille planned to attain her master’s degree, but instead another member of the family was added: Philip, who was born in Stillwater.

John received a full scholarship to go to OSU. He was paid more to go to school than he could make teaching.

John began teaching chemistry at Stillwater High School. He was also offered a job in the botany department at OSU but chose the higher pay the high school offered.

Many students John taught at Stillwater had parents who were professors at OSU. They would ask their children what John had taught them in class. OSU then offered John a full professorship in chemistry, but Missouri had also offered him a job. He chose the Missouri position and stayed there for 28 years.

While at Missouri, John served as the Science Supervisor for the state of Missouri. He was also selected as president of all 50 states for the Council of State Science Supervisors.

Hoitema attended Missouri University for one year then Drury College, the same school Peter Hudson attended, and graduated from there.

According to John, Hoitema is a lot like her father. She would go quail hunting with him when she was young. He’d carry her and she’d put her feet in the back pockets of his overalls. She still goes hunting with him today.

Paul is like Lucille, and Phillip is a combination of both Lucille and John. Paul received a golf scholarship at Missouri University, and he still holds the record of the university. Phillip is a playwright for the Smithsonian Institute.

After their many years in Missouri, John and Lucille moved back to their home in Clayton where John was born.

Eleven years ago, John was diagnosed with kidney cancer, and the doctors said he only had three to six months to live. Hoitema is a nurse at Baylor University in Dallas, and she knew of a program sponsored by four American hospitals: UCLA, Houston, Atlanta and Baylor. In this program, 166 people were treated with Interlouken 2, which alters DNA and works on the immune system 40 times harder than other drugs.

John went to Dallas and was treated by Dr. Orr. He had four two-week treatments with a double port. Every day, he would log how he felt. Usually, 20 percent of the people who take this treatment don’t survive.

Dr. Orr asks John to send him a Christmas card every year so he’ll know he’s still doing well. If John hears of someone who has kidney cancer, he immediately suggests Dr. Orr to them.

In 2006, John was selected as an Outstanding Elder of the Choctaw Nation. “I’ve been fortunate,” he said. “Life has been good to me.”

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# The Choctaw sweat lodge

Hello,  
My name is Ronnie. I would like to know if Choctaws ever participated in hot rock sweat lodge ceremonies; also any information you have on this.  
Dear Ronnie,

Thank you for your interest and your great question. Over the last month, several people have written in to ask about the Choctaw sweat lodge, so this seems like a very appropriate time for us to write about it.

As you know, sweat lodges are small structures that are designed to trap steam and heat inside of them, in order to make the people occupying the lodges sweat. Like a sauna, the purpose of the sweat is to make a person's body release impurities and ease pain and other conditions. Often, in a Native American sweat lodge, the physical process of sweating is accompanied with prayers and spiritual supplication, sometimes combined with herbal and other forms of traditional medicine.

Sweat lodges and healing sweats are common elements in the traditional lifeways of many Native American tribes located in the Artic region of Alaska, all the way down to central America, and many places in between. This includes the Choctaw. Today, pan-Indian ceremonialism incorporates the Plains Indian sweat lodge, bringing it to Native communities located in urban and other areas from coast to coast.

The sweat lodge has been a part of Choctaw traditional culture for a very long time. Archaeologists working at the Bellefonte site in northeastern Alabama, not too far from Choctaw county, uncovered the remains of a sweat lodge that dates back almost 1,000 years (Futato 1977). In all likelihood, the use of the sweat lodges in the region dates back quite a bit



## Iti Fabussa

earlier than that.

From oral history and written descriptions, we know that Choctaws in the past conducted sweats for several specific reasons. It was common for fatigued hunters and warriors, upon returning home, to do a sweat in order to relax their bodies and regain their strength. Choctaw doctors also used sweats to relieve patients with colds and a wide variety of aches and pains.

From the best information we have, it appears that the forms of sweat lodges differed in different Choctaw communities, likely as a result of the available materials and personal preferences. It is probably no coincidence that the sweat lodge has been known by several different Choctaw names including "anuka," meaning "the inside," and "alaksha," meaning "a place of sweating" (Cushman 1899, Byington 1915). The process of using heat on the body itself is sometimes referred to as "shila," "to bake."

One form of traditional Choctaw sweat lodge is the hot rock type that you mentioned in your question. As described by an early French writer (anonymous 1755) the sweat lodge, which would accommodate seven people at a time, resembled a little cabin, four feet high, and eight feet in diameter, covered with buffalo hides or blankets. These sweat lodges were located near the center of a village and supervised by a Choctaw doctor. "Balls" were heated in a fire outside of the lodge until glowing red, and

then brought in. Water was dipped on them to create the steam. Sometimes, herbs were also boiled, with the steam carrying the medicine to the patient's pores and lungs (Bossu 1768). After about 45 minutes, the participants would go quickly out of the lodge and dip in the coldest water available, to seal their pores and invigorate them.

A second type of traditional Choctaw sweat appears to have used no steam at all (Cushman 1899). The sweat lodge was made of logs, plastered with mud, and nearly airtight. The sweat lodge had one small door. For use, a fire would be built inside the lodge until it was sufficiently heated. Then, the coals would be racked outside. The patient would go inside the lodge, and the small doorway would be sealed. The heat would cause the patient to sweat profusely. Afterwards, the patient would plunge in cold water.

A third and probably later version of Choctaw sweat lodge was in common use in some places into the late 1800s, and probably after (Halbert n.d., Simpson Tubby in Swanton 2001:236). For this type of sweat, a hole would be dug in the ground large enough to hold one or several pot(s). Medicines would be put in the pot, which would be heated on an above-ground fire. After being heated, the pot would be removed from the fire and set down in the hole. A framework of slats would be placed over the pot. Sometimes, the patient would lay down over the slats and a blanket draped over him to hold in the steam. Other times, only the effected part of the body would be held over the steaming pots and sealed in with the blanket.

Today, many Choctaws continue the practice of the sweat lodge. In a few places, it is done fairly traditionally. In others, the lodges are

fairly pan-Indian in the way that they are run. The practice at such a lodge may resemble the following: before the ceremony takes place the patient will make up to 10 tobacco ties. The colors of the ties may be black, white, yellow, red, and sometimes blue. The colors used are determined by the ailment the patient suffers from. Usually it is appropriate to offer strong tobacco to the supervising Choctaw doctor. Today, some sweat lodges are made to face the west (although this probably wasn't often the case in the past). The patients will enter in from the single door and file in to the left. The sweat itself consists of four sessions, which usually take up to an hour and a half. The first session is about five minutes long with low steam intensity. The next session will also be five minutes but the intensity will be increase. The third session will last for 25-30 minutes with high steam intensity. The final session is 30 minutes long with very high steam intensity. If the patient gets too hot, he may lie down on the floor. Prior to entering the sweat lodge, the Choctaw doctor may give a panic code that the individual may use if they need to leave the sweat.

Today, as in the past, many Choctaws participate in the sweat lodge for the perceived health and spiritual benefits that they derive from it. An ancient but developing practice, it connects Choctaws with our ancestors as well as the other Tribes around us. Thank you again for your question, Ronnie.

*Note: A bibliography of references cited in this article is available at the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Dept.*

If anyone has questions concerning Choctaw history or culture, please mail to Iti Fabussa c/o BISKINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to biskinik@choctawnation.com with "Iti Fabussa" in the subject line.

# Choctaw member displays expertise at international conference

By BRET MOSS

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation member and Ph.D. hopeful Rick Brumback recently attended the 2011 International Conference on Patristics Studies, held in Oxford, United Kingdom, where he was able to deliver a presentation on Christian scholar Tertullian.

The conference is a week-long international affair that is held every four years in Oxford with attendance reaching upwards of 1,000 people, 920 of them being registered speakers and delegates. All presenters are grouped according to presentation topics and given 15 to 18 minutes to share their findings and views to professors, colleagues, peers and experts from around the world.

Beginning Monday morning on Aug. 8, 2011, Brumback was privileged with the opportunity to hear many views covering a multitude of topics pertaining to early Christian church history. He spent the week listening, learning and preparing to give his presentation on that Friday, the final day of the event.

Tertullian, a North African Christian writer from ca. A.D. 200-220, was the subject of Brumback's presentation. Tertullian was a man who "wrote on topics that left a permanent impression on the early church and his successors," describes Brumback.

Among Tertullian's most famous works is a text titled "Against Praxeas," which focuses on the nature of the Christian Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and was Brumback's main focus when looking into Tertullian. "His definitions and thoughts have been used ever since," said Brumback as he spoke of Tertullian's influence on the early church.

Brumback became acquainted with the topic of Tertullian and his works through an assignment for a class named "Orthodoxy and Heresy" in the Early Church at Baylor University. "I was fortunate enough to be assigned the title of this text and this author," mentioned Brumback as he described the assignment that led him to the "Olympics of early church history," as he called it.

The road to this international conference began with this assignment and continued when he dove deeper into the topic and took his work fur-



Photo provided

Rick Brumback in London.

ther than what was required.

"I was intrigued so much by this topic, I continued my own studies and investigations, so I had a spin-off investigation. That is what I presented at Oxford," stated Brumback.

Once he had developed a work that was ready to be presented, he first took it to a few conferences in the United States, including the North American Patristics Society (NAPS) Conference, the largest in North America. This gathering is held annually in Chicago, except on years when the Oxford edition is held.

To attend the NAPS, he was required to submit an abstract of his work about six months in advance. A panel of experts and professors evaluated his and hundreds of others to decide who would be able to speak. Brumback was asked to present at NAPS, where he met many graduate students who he shared ideas with and networked.

This road led him to the Oxford Conference, where he was able to network, not only with experts in the United States, but from all over the world. "You can go to any session and hear an enormous variety of topics discussed," declared Brumback as he spoke of the academic benefits he received from the conference.

"The really special aspect

was to be around a thousand people, many of whom I had met at the NAPS conferences or other places. It is a very valuable time to renew acquaintances and to network," said Brumback. "When you meet with figures that are studying the same things, this interchange of ideas and professional interaction is incredibly valuable and very rewarding," he continued.

Brumback noticed that the graduate students interacted very well because they were all working toward the same goal and this common goal brought them closer together, especially those who had similar topics. Each would take in ideas from the other, constantly revisiting and reconsidering theories and ideas. They were able to question and proof each other, a fact with which Brumback was very pleased.

When it came time for Brumback to give his presentation on Friday, he was very excited to deliver his thoughts on Tertullian after hearing other views on the same topic. When he spoke, to his pleasure, there were Tertullian scholars in the room.

Immediately following his presentation, he and a professor from the University of Strasbourg, who had presented on Tertullian the night before, had a lengthy conversation outside of the room

where Brumback spoke. The professor had been asked to work on a well-known French publication named Sources Chrétiennes, meaning "Christian Sources," a series that has over 600 volumes which presents the original work, a French translation, introduction, analysis and commentary of Christian texts.

He mentioned that Brumback's views were different from anyone else's he had seen before and that it would cause him to re-evaluate his outlook on his upcoming work. If he finds that Brumback's ideas hold true, it could change how he writes the upcoming publication, at least on a structural level. "That is exciting, to think you made a contribution for understanding an ancient document," exclaimed Brumback.

A professor from Australia also paid Brumback a short compliment on his work following his presentation. The positive feedback has encouraged Brumback to seek publication of his work, and upon further exploration on that endeavor, he might see his own work in a church history journal sometime in the near future.

Besides being surrounded by a mass amount of experts in his field of study, Brumback was also delighted to be in such a historical environment. "I knew that it would be an amazing environment, and it was better that I expected," said Brumback.

He and his wife, Nathalie, both enjoyed the "magical" environment. They were both very impressed by the architecture of Christ Church College, a part of the university that has roots all the way back to the 1524 A.D. Now that he has presented his works in the Oxford area, he feels that he has now become a small piece of its extensive history.

He also mentioned that the dining hall of this college and other settings were the set of the popular Harry Potter movies, which brought delight to Brumback and his wife.

Though Brumback has done extensive academic studies to get to this point where he was able to present his knowledge on church history to experts from around the globe, he has not always studied this subject.

He was born and raised in Miami, Okla., and graduated high school there. He went on to University of Tulsa and graduated with a bachelor's

degree in Physics. He was then hired by the Department of Defense and U.S. Air Force to continue studies in physics after graduating and to work as research physicist at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

He then went on to earn a master's degree in Applied and Engineering Physics at Cornell University and later went on to Washington St. University with the aim of attaining a Ph.D. in Physics. While there, he found his interest in ministry increasing and eventually knew it was what he wanted and resigned with Air Force and Washington St.

“That is exciting, to think you made a contribution to understand an ancient document.”

– Rick Brumback

He and his family moved to Austin and he began preaching school in 1994 at the Southwest School of Bible Studies. In 2007, he became director of that same institution after teaching there for some years.

"All the academic interest and curiosity that I had expended in physics and engineering just shifted and now I poured all of the same interest and curiosity in Early Christian Studies," said Brumback as he explained his extensive work in two differing fields of study. He went on to explain that he enjoys learning and studying the way most people enjoy sports, traveling or other hobbies, a fact he acknowl-

edges as a true blessing.

In 2005 he enrolled in the Baylor University Ph.D. Program for Religious Studies, where his is currently working on his dissertation with hopes of graduating in two years.

He is working to graduate at the same time his 16-year-old daughter graduates high school. He has two other children, ages 13 and 8.

Though it took some work, he is proud to have established a connection to his Choctaw heritage. "That has been wonderful for me and my family, culturally. It has been a real source of pride, good pride, in one's own heritage," said Brumback.

As a Choctaw, Brumback has received financial assistance to attain his Ph.D. from the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department, assistance that he considers invaluable. He has reached considerable heights in his education as a Choctaw member, one that others can look up to for motivation to continue their own education. He encourages other tribal members, not just youth, to continue education or pursue goals that motivate and interest them.

Brumback has become an advocate for pursuing education and personal goals. He makes note of what was said to him when he was younger - the years will pass, and it is a personal choice that one has to make, to either stay where they are, or pursue what they want and be where they desire once those years have passed. As the years have passed, Brumback has been reaching his goal, and he encourages everyone else to do the same.

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