

Trail of Tears Walk

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Choctaw Tribal Council would like to invite everyone to participate in the tribe’s annual Trail of Tears Walk.

The commemorative walk will be held Saturday, May 19, at the Tribal Capitol Grounds at Tuskahoma. As part of this year’s event a special ceremony dedicating the Veterans Ceremony will be held.

Everyone is asked to come early and park at the Capitol Grounds. Those who wish to join in the walk can ride a bus to the starting point. The walk will begin at 10 a.m. with opening remarks by Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Council Speaker Mike Amos and Chaplain Bertram Bobb. Winding back toward the Capitol, the walk will end at the new Veterans Cemetery. A free meal will be served to all who spend this special day with us.

Princess Pageants

DISTRICT 4

The District 4 Princess Pageant will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Choctaw Family Investment Center, Poteau. Applications are available at the center. Deadline for applications is May 4.

DISTRICT 9

The District 9 Princess Pageant will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 1, on the courthouse lawn during the Magnolia Festival in Durant.

Young ladies within the ages of 8 to 23, single with no dependents, and 1/16 Choctaw or more can call Kay Jackson or Martha Polk at 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2504 or 2325 for applications.

Application deadline is May 11.

Council meets

The Choctaw Tribal Council began addressing new business during its March 10 regular session with an approval of the Choctaw Nation Head Start policy and procedures and staff handbooks.

Councilmembers agreed to several grant applications – the National Endowment for Humanities Start-up Grant, a U.S. Department of Justice for Tribal Victim Assistance Grant, and continuation of a Counseling and Faith-Based Services for Crime Victims Grant.

The tribe, currently in the process of restoring historic elements on Wheelock Academy, has also applied for a Save America’s Treasures Grant, administered by the National Park Service.

A Council Bill to donate a tribal vehicle to Greenhill Baptist Church was also passed.

Tribe brings GED classes to rural areas

Distance learning technology available at six community centers

Distance Learning GED classes are now available to students in the Choctaw Nation. Using the Distance Learning Technology, an experienced GED teacher will be broadcast to six centers – Bethel, Smithville, Coalgate, Crowder, Atoka and Wright City. The students and teacher will be able to see and hear each other on large monitors, interacting as the students prepare to take the GED test.

“This will benefit many who live in remote rural areas and haven’t had the opportunity to at-

tend a GED class before this,” said Linda Tyler, Adult Education Director for the Choctaw Nation.

Classes will last approximately nine weeks. Students need to be at least 16 years old and are required to have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Approximately 100 students graduate from the Choctaw Nation GED program each year.

For more information please contact Linda Tyler at 800-522-6170, ext. 2319.



Calera Fire Department gets life-saving tool

Brian Norton, the Assistant Fire Chief from Calera, and Patrick Barkley, representing the EMS, show Chief Gregory E. Pyle the new portable thermal imaging camera that the Choctaw Nation helped the Calera Fire Department to purchase. The camera is an important but expensive of equipment that helps locate victims in a fire.



Choctaw Nation shown appreciation by OAPCG

Mike Smith is pictured presenting Chief Gregory E. Pyle with a painting as a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Oklahoma Association for Problem and Compulsive Gambling. The tribe was thanked for their participation in training to assist people who display traits of problem gambling. Also in the photo are Steve Miller, a Choctaw Nation Gaming Commission counselor who recently attended training with the OAPCG, and Gaming Commission employees Rick Clem, Shanda Spear, Paula Penz and Sandy Langston.

Choctaw Nation Idabel clinic pharmacy tops in three states

The pharmacy of the Choctaw Nation Clinic in Idabel has been named the Pharmacy of the Year for the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services.

The Oklahoma City area includes all Native American clinics the IHS and Indian tribes operate in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

The award is given annually to the pharmacy providing outstanding leadership and contribution in the area of pharmacy services for American Indian patients.

The clinic, built and operated by the Choctaw Nation, opened in Idabel in May 2005. It now has over 9,000 active patient charts.

The pharmacy was recognized for its innovative patient-focused team. Jill Mayes is the southern region administrator and clinic director, and is also a pharmacist. Renee Evans is chief pharmacist at the Idabel clinic. Kris-

ten Scoggin and Kyle Sheffer are pharmacists and Bertha Grace, Martha Noah and Marinda Anna are pharmacy technicians.

The four pharmacists are all commissioned corps officers with the U.S. Public Health Services.

They are trained to respond to disasters, and in the fall of 2005, two of the pharmacists were deployed to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

Technicians are trained on the pharmacy’s dispensing robot. Technicians and a receptionist are key factors in decreasing patient wait times.

The award states that the pharmacy team in Idabel is passionate and committed to positive patient outcomes and safety.

They are health professionals who serve their patients and the community.

Pharmacists at the local clinic offer anticoagulation services for patients requiring warfarin



Back row, Bertha Grace, technician; Jill Mayes, administrator and pharmacist; Kyle Sheffer, pharmacist; and Martha Noah, technician. In front, Renee Evans, chief pharmacist; Marinda Anna, technician; and Kristen Scoggin, pharmacist.

therapy.

They are certified to teach smoking cessation classes open to the public and participate

Beginning date: April 9, 2007
Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays

Choctaw Nation Community Center
Bethel, Smithville and Coalgate
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Choctaw Nation Community Center
Crowder, Atoka and Wright City
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ROSS Grant can assist with education

The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma/Family Investment Center is proud to announce the funding of the Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Grant. The ROSS Grant is a three-year grant for which active residents of the Choctaw Housing Authority’s Mutual Help Housing, Affordable Residents and Rental Assistance Programs may be eligible. Choctaw Home Finance recipients do not qualify.

The ROSS Grant can assist housing residents in their education, the newly employed, and child care as well as ACT Fee Waivers. College or vocational training assistance can be granted for tuition and books to attend classes. Employment assistance can be granted for those starting a new job or who have been at their job for less than 60 days with transportation. We will reimburse for temporary child care expenses or out-of-pocket expenses for students while attending college or vocational training.

Eligibility for the ROSS Grant is:

- Must complete application and submit supporting documents requested.

- Must be making payments to the Choctaw Housing Authority either for your Mutual Help Housing, or must be a resident in one of the rental units owned and operated by the Choctaw Housing Authority or receive rental assistance from Choctaw Housing Authority.

Applications may be picked up at the front desk of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters in Durant, at the Choctaw Housing Authority, or at any of the Tribal Field Offices or Investment Centers.

Applications for education assistance can be picked up at the financial aid offices at your local Kiamichi Technology Center or college/university within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Anyone having questions should contact Liz Lee, Program Coordinator at the Broken Bow Family Investment Center, at 580-584-6372 or Carolyn Cagle, Case Manager at the Poteau Family Investment Center, at 918-647-9324.

Choctaw Storytelling Festival set for June

The 2007 Choctaw Storytelling Festival in McAlester is a two-day cultural event to be sure and mark on the calendars. The annual event is scheduled for June 29 and 30 at the Choctaw Community Center with a free breakfast kicking things off at 8 a.m. on Friday. Storytelling and cultural displays continue through the day with a traditional meal served at 6 p.m. and a Choctaw Ghost Story Concert beginning at 7 p.m.

Another day of storytelling and cultural displays begins with breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday. Gospel singing begins at 6 p.m. with a Storytelling Concert from 7 to 9 p.m.

A concession is available for lunch and Saturday dinner.

For more information, contact Dena Cantrell, 918-423-4086, or visit the website www.choctawstoryfest.com.

San Diego



Dorinda Faaborg and Linda Pennington show Chief Pyle a beautiful quilt piece that features the enrollee of their family, Myrtle Crain, with husband Frances Marion Crain, better known in the family as “Mama and Papa Crain.”



Lillie Roberts and sister Ruth Temper enjoy seeing each other at the San Diego meeting. Lillie is a teacher of the Choctaw Language.



Tanner Long, Nancy Long, Chief Pyle, Dee Paxton, and Feather Long are pictured at San Diego. Feather is the Head Princess of the Okla Chahta Clan.



June Lachenmyer with Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.



Julie Charles and her mom, Lola Basurto, enjoy visiting with Chief Pyle at San Diego.

Phoenix



Charles and Tiffany Harkins of Avondale, Arizona, are pictured with Chief Pyle. Mr. Harkins is taking Internet language classes.



Ellen Scott of Tucson poses for a photograph with Assistant Chief Bailey.



Kristy, Mike, Ryan and baby Bailey Thorne with Chief Pyle in Phoenix.



Minnie Martindale, pictured here with Assistant Chief Bailey, was born in Wilburton and now lives in Prescott, Arizona. Her maiden name is Oxford.



Vice Chair of the Pascua Yaqui tribe, Peter Yucupicio, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and tribal member Wendell Long.



Howard and Audrey Longoria-Hoover, pictured here with Chief Pyle, enjoyed the Phoenix meeting.

NOTES TO THE NATION

A special thank you

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, fellow employees, and clients of the Diabetes Wellness Center,

Thank you for all the support given to me and our family during the recent death of my husband, Dale Hammons, longtime CPA of Choctaw County. We deeply appreciate the food, flowers, cards, phone calls and visits you gave.

I especially wish to thank the Diabetes Wellness Center staff. They were there for me during Dale’s illness. It is an honor to work with you.

Dixie Hammons and family

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Mike Bailey
Assistant Chief

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

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BISHINIK® 2007

Searching for relatives

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for relatives that I’ve never seen or known since my father, Preston Gilbert “Sockey” Davis, passed away years ago. He had at least two brothers, Bill and Homer Sockey, and a sister, Levada Sockey. I am now 42 years old and am compelled to find out more about my heritage. I was born in 1964 in Tulsa and have two sons, both in the Army serving overseas. I also have three stepchildren, two more sons and a daughter.

Cheryl Davis Little

1619 Wortell Drive, Lincoln, CA 95648; phone 916-367-2890

Helping out

Dear Choctaw Nation and the
Emergency Assistance Department,

I would like to thank you so very much for the financial assistance during the recent snow and ice storm. My husband, David Anderson, and I had stayed in our house for two days with no heat and then the emergency assistance sent us enough to pay for a warm hotel and food for the next six nights until our electricity was turned back on. I can’t express how much that helped us out.

Joyce Tallant

Dawson receives master’s degree

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to say thank you to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Councilman Jack Austin and Higher Education Director Larry Wade for all the support given to me while I received my Master of Science in Human Resources degree this last December. The Chief has always supported individuals to further their education while working and not many employers would do so. I appreciate you, Chief. I would like to thank my husband, Butch, for his faith and support that I could achieve my goal in life, and also my friend, Scott.

Patricia Ann Dawson



Choctaw Nation tribe has a good health program for Indians in their area

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Idabel has a very good super clinic. They have good doctors and polite, capable nurses and employees. If the Idabel clinic thinks you need to go to the Talihina hospital, they’ll make a way.

When you arrive at the hospital in Talihina, you are sent to a room – there will be three nurses to greet you when you come. The nurses there are to help you all through the night. They have very good doctors there and helpful employees, too, and will not send you home until you’re completely healed.

The Hospitality House is a very nice place to stay. It’s good when you have to make an 8 a.m. appointment and live 150 miles from Talihina.

I would like to thank Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Executive Director of Health Gary Batton and the Tribal Council for helping the Choctaws. The things mentioned in this article are true – I know because I’ve been there.

Bill Amos
Idabel, Oklahoma

Proud to be Choctaw

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to take the time to thank the Choctaw Nation Medical Center in McAlester and the dental office for all they have done for my father, Melvin R. Jones, and myself. The staff of Dr. Aaron Means and Dr. Field’s staff have been wonderful. I would also like to say my grandfather, a full-blood Choctaw born in Indian Territory, was a great man. My father who just celebrated his 79th birthday is a blessing to have as a father. We all met in Kingman, Arizona, for a family reunion. He celebrated his birthday this year with his great-grandson, Chadwick, who turned 1. We had family and friends from California, Arizona and Texas celebrating. We are proud to be Choctaw.

Sue Valk
Mesquite, Texas



Veterans cemetery to be dedicated



Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Special ceremony to follow Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk on May 19

The Tribal Capitol Grounds at Tushka Homma are among the most beautiful properties anywhere in Oklahoma and it is always a pleasure to be there. Hills, trees and water frame a core of history and significance for our tribe that we celebrate with ceremonies and festivals on site during special events such as the one coming up in a few weeks.

May 19 will mark the dedication of the Veterans Cemetery on the Capitol Grounds. The Choctaw Veterans Cemetery honors fallen warriors from all branches of the U.S. military who served in time of war and peace. This final resting place will allow their remains to be forever in Choctaw Country. In addition, allowances have been made for spouses to be interred at Tushka

Homma, and documented Code Talkers may also be relocated to this cemetery upon the wishes of their family.

The dedication ceremony will follow the Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk at Tuskha Homma on the 19th. We are asking that everyone arrive early so they may park on the main grounds and ride a shuttle to the beginning of the walk. The Color Guard will lead the walkers at 10 a.m., so allow plenty of time when planning your morning. A free lunch will be served at noon and gospel music will entertain us all.

I hope that you can join me, the Assistant Chief and the Tribal Council at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds on May 19. It will be a very special day.

Casino expansion adds jobs

Expansion of business is always exciting, especially when it creates jobs for Choctaw people. There are currently more than 8,000 tribal employees, many of them working in the gaming facilities. One of our newest casino buildings is in Broken Bow, where a 20,500-square-foot facility has been constructed to replace the much smaller one that has served that community several years. With the larger size, employees were added, bringing the total up to 216 in Broken Bow at this time.

A week of celebration will be held beginning April 16 with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at 2 p.m., followed with some exciting promotions and events. There are 380 slot machines at the casino, four blackjack



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

tables, four poker tables (Texas Hold'em) a stage area for entertainment and a Blue Moon Café that features Starbucks treats.

The parking lot is extremely well lighted with courtesy shut-

tles, and security is on hand 24 hours a day. Other tribal casinos include the recently expanded Pocolo Casino, and the ones in Durant, McAlester, Stringtown, Grant and Idabel.



TRAIL OF TEARS T-SHIRT

– ORDER FORM –

For more information, call the Tribal Events office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2192.

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

All T-shirts are \$10 each
Caps – \$10 each

Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-shirt – \$10	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Cap (red) – \$10	_____	_____	_____

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and XXX-Large sizes.

To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:
Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt
P.O. Box 1210 • Durant, OK 74702-1210



Investing in Hugo community

Councilman Perry Thompson and Chief Gregory E. Pyle present John Drake and Chuck Partin with a check for \$5,000 from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, an investment in the community for the Hugo Chamber of Commerce.

How do we find Christ?

The Choctaw Nation is in a season of various traditional celebrations. We are thankful for the leadership, for the growth of our Nation, making our participation in these events possible.

We recall the rich Christian heritage of our Choctaw people, praying, preaching and singing Native hymns in their homeland and on the “Trail of Tears” to Oklahoma.

Today we hear a lot about what Jesus has done for us, and the value of personal salvation. But how do we find Christ? This is a serious challenge.

Millions of Americans take for granted the basic truths of the Christian faith. And there are millions of other Americans who are just as ignorant of the way of salvation as taught in the New Testament as are the untouched tribes in North America, South America or Africa.

The Bible teaches that God has made the plan of salvation so plain that anyone may be saved. (Read John 3:16). However, knowing about Christ, the Cross, and the way of salvation is one thing, and appropriating it to yourself is quite another. You may have an intellectual knowledge of the Christian faith, but have never let Christ into your life.

Our topic is “How to find Christ and have assurance.”

First: Recognize your need. You will never come to Christ unless you know that you need Him.

If you feel that you are good enough to meet life head-on under your own power, then you will probably never find Him. Jesus did not impose Himself upon those who felt self-sufficient, righteous, and self-confident.

But He went out of His way to open the eyes of blind Bartimaeus who cried, “Jesus, have mercy on me.” (Mark 10:47). He was quick to give the water of life to the Samaritan woman who said, “... give me this water, that I thirst not.” (John 4:15). He immediately stretched forth His hand to the sinking Peter when he prayed, “Lord, save me.” (Matthew 14:30).

We find no record of Christ refusing to help anyone who saw in Him the answer to their deepest needs. His promise is “... ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13).

Before you can be saved, you must realize that you are lost. Before you can be converted, you must be convinced you are going the wrong way.

Many divine promises hinge on a human condition. “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (John 1:12). “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).

We have the promise if we meet God’s conditions. We must receive Christ before we can become children of God, and we must confess our sins before we can be forgiven.

Paul the Apostle writes that “... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). Perhaps you have never felt that you were a sinner, because you have never committed a gross, immoral act.

In that case, receive by faith the teaching of God’s Word that you have come short of His requirements. I am sure that you don’t think you are perfect. By faith accept the fact that you are a sinner.

Isaiah, the prophet, seeing the purity and holiness of God, cried, “... Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips ...” (Isaiah 6:5).

Job, seeing the holiness of God said, “... I abhor myself ...” (Job 42:6).

Peter, the Apostle, who was willing to be crucified upside down for his Savior, confessed, “... I am a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8).

All of us are sinners in the sight of God. We must recognize our sins and be willing to confess them.

When we have a physical need, we go to a doctor. When we recognize that we have a moral and spiritual disease, we must go to the Great Physi-



Chaplain's Corner

The Rev. Bertram Bobb

cian, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one in heaven or earth qualified to deal with the problems of the human heart.

The basic problem lies within your own soul. You have offended God by your sin and have found that there is no strength to live the kind of life you know you should live.

When you recognize this need and are willing to turn to God by faith, you have taken the first step toward salvation.

Second: Only when we understand that Christ was dying in the place of sinners, for sin, by a miracle the meaning of the Cross will be given you by the Holy Spirit.

God the Father was satisfied with Christ’s sacrificial death. He sent the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, to raise up Christ from the dead. (Romans 8:11). Jesus is alive! He conquered death! He is victorious over Satan and hell!

Peter by a divine revelation said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:16).

How vivid, how alive the Cross becomes when Paul says, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20).

Will you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior today? You can pray, “God, have mercy on me, I am a sinner, I receive Jesus as my Savior.” When you do, find a Bible believing church, tell the pastor you have trusted Christ as your Savior.

May God bless you and your loved ones. Pray for our brave men and women in our armed services. Pray for America.

Attention Choctaw Artists

Are you interested in participating in a Juried and Judged Choctaw Indian Art Show? LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please fill out the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the show which will be in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, during the Labor Day festivities September 1, 2007. Included will be the following categories: painting, graphics, textiles, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, and basketry. Please fill out the form and return it to the address below. Art information packets will be mailed to you.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

E-mail address _____

Artistic category _____

You must be at least 17 years old and have a membership card issued by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Return to: Beverly Nelson
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74701

For more information, please call Beverly Nelson, 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2485.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

More fast food meals mean more excess weight

A new study provides the best evidence to date that eating fast food makes you fat. Among nearly 3,400 young adults participating in a long-term study, every additional fast food meal they consumed each week correlated with a substantial increase in body mass index (BMI), Dr. Barry M. Popkin of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and colleagues found. “It’s a large effect,” Popkin told Reuters Health in an inter-



view. “That’s enough of an effect to take you from being non-diabetic to diabetic.” Food eaten away from home now accounts for up to 42 percent of Americans’ calorie intake, Popkin and his team note in their report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. While the increase in restaurant and fast food consumption has occurred at the same time as the rise in obesity, they add, it’s not clear if it’s a contributing factor. To separate the effects of fast food meals and meals eaten in traditional restaurants, the researchers looked at 3,394 young adults participating in a heart disease study.

The investigators compared the study participants’ consumption of fast foods and restaurant foods during year 7 and year 10 of the study with their BMIs at both time points. BMI is a ratio of weight to height commonly used to determine if a person is underweight, normal weight, overweight, obese or morbidly obese. The more fast food the subjects ate, the higher was their BMI, Popkin and colleagues found. For each additional fast

food meal eaten per week during year 7, BMI increased by 0.13 points, while each additional fast food meal per week at year 10 was tied to a 0.24 rise in BMI. This translates to 0.9 pounds and 1.7 pounds, respectively, for a person 5 foot 10 inches tall. People whose fast food intake rose between year 7 and year 10 showed a 0.20 increase in BMI. However, the researchers found no association between meals eaten at traditional restau-

rants and increases in BMI; in fact, some analyses linked eating more often in restaurants to a slightly lower BMI. The study confirms, Popkin said, that people who eat more fast food pack on more pounds. “People have been trying to say that, but they didn’t have the kind of evidence that we have now.” For more information call Wellness Education / REACH 2010 at 800-349-7026 or 918-567-7000, ext. 6044 or 6958.

Participants needed for memory research

If you are over 65 years of age and have memory problems, or have an elderly friend or loved one with memory problems, help may be available. You may be helped by a medical evaluation at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina or other Choctaw Nation Health Care Clinic, where specialists in memory disorders/memory research see patients on a regular basis. If concerned, call Carey Fuller toll-free at 1-866-800-6514. If you are found to have a memory problem, you may also qualify for a \$25 gift card (Wal-Mart) for answering a few questions about your medical history, telling your waist size, and donating less than an ounce of blood for analysis. You must live within the 10 ½ counties of the Choctaw Nation or be willing to drive to Talihina or another Choctaw Nation Health Care Clinic to participate.

Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project

“When we value those around us, we increase their value”

I love this story taken from the book “Winning in the Land of Giants.” Many years ago, I read a charming story about a young man named Johnny Lingo. In the primitive culture in which Johnny Lingo lived, a young man who desired to marry a particular maiden had to bargain with her father for her. The fathers of the village demanded payment for their daughters generally in the form of cows. Two or three cows could buy an above-average wife, and four or five a very beautiful wife! Johnny Lingo was the brightest, strongest, and most handsome young man in the village. He was fond of a young maiden named Sarita, and he set out to ask her father to give her to him as a wife. Sarita most generously could have been described as being plain. She was not truly

ugly, but she was not very attractive, either. She was very shy, afraid to speak up or laugh in public. And to further deflate her value in the eyes of most of the villagers, she was a little older than most maidens at the time of marriage. Still Johnny Lingo loved her. The villagers’ favorite topic of conversation at such a time was to gossip about the bargaining price of a young maiden. Some whispered that Jonny Lingo might offer two cows, three at the most. Others whispered that they thought Sarita’s father might even settle for one cow since nobody else seemed interested in Sarita and Johnny Lingo was a shrewd trader. When the time came for Johnny to meet with Sarita’s father, Johnny walked boldly into the presence of Sarita’s father, grasped his hand, and said, “Father of Sarita, I offer eight cows for your daughter.” Word spread through the village like wildfire. Everyone was astonished. That was the high-

Watch for events planned the week before the Trail of Tears, in support of “National Women’s Week.”

May 14th – Health Booths and kick-off sessions
May 15th – Challenge Course
May 16th – PREP Retreat
May 17th – Health Education
May 18th – Foods workshop and Awards
May 19th – Women walk together at the” Trail of Tears”

Call 918-567-3386 and register to get involved.

We will also have a Men’s Week, June 18-22.

Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project
918-567-3386

est price ever paid for a bride in their village! The word began to be passed from house to house, “Surely, a mistake has been made. Perhaps Johnny Lingo was exaggerating. Could it be that he will actually pay eight cows?” Johnny Lingo was as good as his word, and shortly thereafter, he herded eight cows to his future father-in-law. The wedding was held the same evening.

As weeks and months passed, Sarita underwent a startling transformation. Her bearing became that of a queen. The sparkle in her eyes was dazzling, and she moved and spoke with striking grace and poise. People who came to the village and had never seen Sarita before began to remark that she was the most beautiful woman in the region. Much later, someone asked Johnny Lingo why he paid

such a high price for Sarita. Why offer eight cows when he could have had her as his wife for three? Did he make such a high offer just to make Sarita happy? “Happy?” he asked. “Yes, I wanted her to be happy, but I wanted more than that. Many things can change a woman. Things that happen inside, and things that happen outside. But the most important thing that changes a woman is how she thinks about herself. Before, Sarita believed she was worth nothing. Now she knows she is worth more than any other woman in the village.” After a brief pause, Johnny Lingo concluded, “I loved Sarita and no other woman. And I wanted to marry her. But I also wanted an eight-cow wife.” When we value those around us, we increase their value. When we value those around us, they value themselves more. When we value those around us, our perspective about them changes.

Alcohol screening can help get more drunk drivers off our roadways

In 2004, nearly 15,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .01 or higher. Of those, nearly 13,000 (85 percent) were in crashes where the BAC was .08 or higher. The median BAC among drivers involved in fatal crashes was an astonishing .16 – twice the legal limit in all states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. That is why organizations throughout the country are sounding the alarm on a major root cause of impaired driving: high-risk drinking habits and alcohol abuse. There are just too many impaired drivers on our

roadways – and one of the biggest reasons is high-risk drinking habits. All adult drinkers, as well as those they care about, are encouraged to take a few minutes to go online to do a risk assessment of their drinking habits and to seek professional help and support for any hint of abuse issues. By assessing hazardous drinking habits and getting help to those who need it, we know we can go a long way in reducing the number of impaired drivers on our roadways. Studies show that brief intervention is an effective way to change drinking and driving behaviors among problem drinkers.

We encourage all adults over 21 years of age to go online at www.alcoholscreening.org to quickly self-screen and assess their own drinking behavior. The website offers an anonymous testing tool which can help determine high risk drinking behavior. According to NIAAA, about three in 10 of American adults drink at levels that elevate their risk for physical, mental health, and social problems. However, of these heavy drinkers, about one in four has alcohol abuse or alcohol dependency problems – meaning, even if you do not have an alcohol addiction your drinking habits may still put your life and the lives of others

at risk. Because risky drivers often believe that their drinking is normal, we are trying to educate the public about the differences between low- and high-risk drinking patterns to help individuals assess if their drinking is risky. Once a risky drinking pattern is identified, that individual is better equipped to seek help from a primary care physician, support group, or other professionals about their dangerous drinking behavior. Our bottom line is saving lives. If we can prevent even one risky drinker from getting behind the wheel while impaired, then we may have not only helped save

that person’s life, but the lives of our very own friends, family, and neighbors as they travel our highways. For more information about risky drinking behaviors or to assess your drinking patterns, please visit www.alcoholscreening.org, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at www.nhtsa.gov.

This article is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, injury prevention tips, or need your child’s car seat inspected, please call 877-285-6893 and speak with Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator, or e-mail Beckie at RMorris@choctawnation.com.

Tourism group meets at Tushka Homma

A group of tourism specialists and economic developers from three counties met March 14 at one of the area’s premiere attractions to discuss efforts to turn U.S. 271 into the Kiamichi Trace Scenic Byway. Members of the District 19 Tourism and Economic Development Authority – from Choctaw, Pushmataha and LeFlore counties – got some tips on their scenic byway proposal from Pam Lewis and Richard Andrews of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s Scenic Byways Program. The meeting was held at The Choctaw Nation Museum at the Tushka Homma Capitol just north of Tuskahoma. The building is more than 100 years old, but the museum is undergoing major renovations and includes new displays on the Trail of Tears, stickball and other facets of Choctaw history and culture. The proposed Kiamichi Trace would follow U.S. 271 from its start in Fort Smith to the Red River, where it links with Texas’ “Green Carpet Route” from Paris to Tyler. Tourism officials are hoping to lure travelers into the Kiamichi Mountains along U.S. 271, which has long been one of Oklahoma’s most scenic highways.

CHOCTAW PROJECT SAFE

Written by:
Brandi Erwin and Sandra Smith

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is excited to announce the development of a new rural grant-funded program – Project SAFE. The program consists of four separate sections which include: Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Children Witnesses of Domestic Violence and Healthy Relationships. Each quadrant of Project SAFE’s dream catcher logo represents a section of the program.

The program is set up to provide treatment, counseling, shelter stay and assistance to Native American victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Children Witnesses of Domestic Violence.

The goals of the program are to work in cooperation with the community to develop education and prevention strategies by implementing and establishing cooperative efforts and projects between law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victims and advocacy groups, including faith-based and/or community-based organizations.

If you are interested in more information regarding Project SAFE please contact us at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2551.

STRIVING FOR AN ABUSE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Kimberly Baca - Atoka
Brandi Erwin - Atoka
Davania Rowell - Broken Bow
Sandra Smith - Durant
Sandra Twaddle - Talihina
Charisse Ladd - Durant

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS
May 1: Poteau (A-L) 9-2 (warehouse closed for site).
May 3: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).
May 8: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).
May 10: Poteau (M-Z) 9-2; (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open May 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Closed for Tribal Holiday May 28
Closed for Inventory May 29-31.

DURANT
Warehouse open weekdays May 1-25.
Closed for Tribal Holiday May 28.
Closed for Inventory May 29-31.

McALESTER
May 2 Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open weekdays May1-25.
Closed for Tribal Holiday May 28.
Closed for Inventory May 29-31.

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
Antlers: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

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

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NURSERY NEWS

Caleb Max Tlapak Simmons

Max and Valerie Simmons are proud to announce the birth of their first little precious, Caleb Max Tlapak Simmons. Caleb was born at 3:20 a.m. on November 3, 2001, weighing 6 pounds 8 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Caleb was welcomed home by his yellow lab, Zinger. Caleb is the grandson of Tom and Kathy Tlapak and Joe and Janis Simmons, all of Oklahoma City. He is the great-grandson of the late James Thomas Davenport and Arthur and Merle Davenport Henry. He is the great-nephew of Hershel and Kitty Davenport Roark of Shreveport, Louisiana. Caleb is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Thomas Ashford.



Halle Jennings Thomas

Dustin and Lindsey Thomas proudly announce the arrival of their daughter, Halle Jennings Thomas. She was born at 3:12 p.m. on December 5, 2006, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihiina. Halle weighed 7 pounds 12.5 ounces and was 19.5 inches in length. Grandparents are Judge and Mrs. James R. Wolfe of Hugo and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Thomas of Moyers. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Willa Fountain, also of Hugo.



Kaci Lachelle Hilton

Little angel Kaci Lachelle Hilton was born to Joseph Hilton and Malissa Burgan at 5:15 p.m. on December 22, 2006, weighing 7 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 19.6 inches long. Kaci's grandparents are Charles and Ava Hilton of Tuskahoma, Melvin Burgan of Clayton, and Stephanie Burgan of Binger. Also welcoming little Kaci are Great-great-grandma Ida Taylor of Sobol, Papa Wilson Taylor of Sobol and Granny Frieda Hilton of Broken Bow.



Jailey Dahnel Garcia

Jailey Dahnel Garcia arrived at Southwest Medical on February 26. She is the daughter of Shauna and Jarren David Garcia. Her grandparents are the late Tracey Garcia, Joe and Mickey Garcia and Jamie and Sherrie Echols of Moore. Great-grandparents include Tina and Dick Stubbs of Oklahoma City, Joe and Charlene Garcia of Yukon and Karen and Jim McConnell of Blanchard. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Bill and Betty McConnell of Blanchard. Jennifer Echols and Jennifer Garcia are her aunts. Congratulations!



Ella Haden Erwin

Denise and Brad Erwin of Kyle, Texas, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Haden Erwin. She was born February 8, 2007, at Seton Medical Center, Austin, Texas, weighing 6 pounds 1 ounce and was 18.5 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Helen Bernice Burris Willis of Temple, Texas, and Emerson Willis of Tulsa, Marlen and Johnny Erwin of New Orleans.



WIC Pregnancy versus fats, sugars, and junk foods

When selecting food to eat during pregnancy remember to stay away from too much fat, sugar, AND caffeine. Avoid foods such as candy, cookies, donuts, chips, soda pop, tea, French fries, bologna, bacon, sausage, fried meats, whole milk, and higher fat dairy foods. Almost every common complaint about pregnancy can be resolved through a good diet and proper exercise. Many complaints disappear suddenly as soon as the diet is improved.

To help prevent nausea, heartburn, and gestational diabetes during pregnancy, stay away from extremely spicy, greasy (fried) and fatty foods. Keep sweets to a minimum.

To help prevent fluid retention, avoid salty foods such as French fries, potato chips and processed meats.

You should never drink alcohol during pregnancy!


A good diet during pregnancy can help ensure:

- A normal, healthy strong baby
- An easier, more comfortable pregnancy
- An easier labor and delivery
- A healthier, happier mother

The special needs of the growing baby make it important that the mother's diet be as healthy as possible. Physical activity such as walking is also important to make the pregnancy go smoother. Always check with your healthcare provider before exercising.

Good nutrition will help boost your energy level. Keep lots of healthy snacks on hand.

Reference: Parent's Magazine



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 15 sites

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

A reminder – Don’t delay your child’s immunizations

By Brandi Smallwood
AFL Project Outreach Worker

Childhood immunizations play an important role in a parent's ability to provide their child with the healthiest life possible. Remember, vaccination is just one very important part of your child's total health care.

Why should you get your child vaccinated? Getting our children immunized on time helps parents to protect their child from contracting diseases that cause everything from breathing problems, fevers, rashes, coughing, choking, brain damage, heart problems,

crippling, deafness, blindness, paralysis and even death.

Do vaccinations work? Yes, if your child gets the right vaccinations at the right times, you can greatly reduce the chances of getting these diseases.

Where should you go to get your child vaccinated? You should get your child vaccinated at your doctor's office, at your community health center, or at your local public or children's health clinic. It's very important for you to have one doctor or clinic where you can go to take care of your child's health needs. If you don't know where to go, call your lo-

cal health department or clinic.

How much does it cost for vaccinations? Many states require employers and insurance companies to pay for vaccinations. Check with your employer about this. You can get your child vaccinated even if you don't have insurance or the money to pay for it. At community health centers, children's clinics and public health clinics, you can get your child vaccinated for free.

Are vaccinations safe? Reactions to the vaccines occur, but they are rarely serious. Remember, the risk in not vaccinating your child is far greater

than the risk of a serious reaction. Do talk to your health care provider about side effects of each type of vaccination when being treated.

Remember, vaccination is an important part of your child's total health care. Vaccinate your child on time. Keep your child's vaccination record up to date. Make sure you have a doctor or a healthy clinic where they know your child well and can notice any changes in the normal child's behavior. Get regular checkups even when your child is healthy.

Vaccinate: Before it's too late.

10 ways to help prevent child abuse

1. Be a nurturing parent. – Children need to know that they are special, loved and capable of following their dreams.

2. Help a friend, neighbor or relative. – Being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand, take care of the children, so the parent(s) can rest or spend time together.

3. Help yourself. – When the big and little problems of your everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed and out of control, take time out. Don't take it out on your kid.

4. If your baby cries – It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry. Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying. Never shake a baby. Shaking a child may result in severe injury or death.

5. Get involved. – Ask community leaders, clergy, library and school to develop services to meet needs of healthy children and families.

6. Help to develop parenting resources at your local library.

7. Promote programs in school. – Teaching children, parents and teachers prevention strategies can help to keep children safe.



8. Monitor your child's television and video viewing. – Watching violent films and TV programs can harm young children.

9. Volunteer at a local child abuse prevention program. – For information about volunteer opportunities, call 1-800-CHILDREN.

10. Report suspected abuse or neglect. – If you have reason to believe a child has been or may be harmed, call your local department of children and family services or you local police department.

For more information on child abuse prevention go to www.preventchildabuse.org

This article is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, other injury prevention tips, or the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program please call 580-326-8304 and ask for Beckie Morris, IP Coordinator, or e-mail Beckie at RMorris@choctawnation.com



District 3 seniors stay busy

The Talihiina senior citizens aren't ones to sit still for long. Site Manager Ruthie Samuel, Field Officer Supervisor Laura Durant and Cook Martha Watson help to organize events for the seniors that are educational, cultural and fun.

By 9 a.m. each morning the coffee and tea are already made. By 10 a.m. the game room is starting to fill with folks wanting to win at a game of checkers or dominoes, or piece a puzzle together. By 11 a.m., seniors are gathered for Arline Wilson's daily exercise class.

Weekly activities include an oil painting class conducted by Doris Kitterman each Monday right after lunch. On Tuesdays, Wanda Ward teaches beading classes. Wednesdays include quilting classes taught by Monty Olsen. On Thursdays, C.J. Perera teaches dancing to the seniors. Monthly activities include a Fun Night every third Tuesday of the month. This event consists of dancing, dominoes and other games. Also held monthly is the domino tournament at the Talihiina Veterans Center on the first Tuesday. The veterans enjoy the interaction and friendly competition with the Choctaw seniors.

The Choctaw seniors would like to thank Councilman Kenny Bryant and the workers at the center for their jobs well done.



Tamaka the Magician levitates Tyler Hedge.

Tamaka visits Jones Academy

Tamaka the Magician brought his unique, close-up style magic show to the elementary school students at Jones Academy on February 14. The magician thrilled his audience with his sleight of hand tricks, making birds appear out of nowhere while creating the illusion of making other objects disappear. He even levitated one student. During his presentation, Tamaka spoke to the students about the importance of values and principles to live by, hard work, and making good choices in life. His performance was woven with magic arts demonstrations along with traditional story telling and positive self-esteem lessons. The assembly of staff and students was impressed with Tamaka's magic and his message.

A Choctaw, Tamaka lives in California and entertains in schools and community theaters throughout the United States and other parts of the world. He has connections in Southeast Oklahoma through extended family. His mother also attended Wheelock boarding school as a young girl.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Heald graduates from Ripon Fire Academy

His proud children, Makayla, Makenzie and Dyllan Heald, would like to congratulate Jeff Heald on graduating the Ripon Fire Academy.

Aire Thorne turns 12

Happy birthday to Aire Thorne who turned 12 years old on April 14. Her parents, John and Marie, and sisters, Melody and Trinity, wish her a happy 12th as well as her grandparents, Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers, and other relatives. Aire is the great-granddaughter of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Congratulations

Janisha McIntosh Davis, “Pepper,” celebrated her 31st birthday on March 22. She is the daughter of Jeannie McIntosh and James Horne of Omaha, Nebraska. She is the granddaughter of Herb and Thelma McIntosh of Omaha and the great-granddaughter of the late Rosa Guess. She is also celebrating her college graduation. Pepper graduated on February 26, completing her associate’s in Human Services at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. She plans to attend College of St. Mary’s in Omaha in the fall of 2007 to get her bachelor’s in Applied Psychology and Human Services. Pepper has been on the dean’s list for the last three quarters. Her family wish her the best – Andre, A’Lonte, Kalecia and J’Nylah.



Look who’s 1

Mommy and Daddy want to wish Brady Gerrit Lahpor, our “Brady Bear,” the happiest first birthday ever!



Wishes for a happy 87th birthday

The family of Frances Minnie Allen Jones would like to wish her a happy 87th birthday on April 25. She was born in Sardis, Oklahoma, and now lives in Tulsa. She is the daughter of Joe and Magdolene Frazier Allen. Her mother and grandfather, Dixon Frazier, were full-blood original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation.

He’s a teenager!

McKinley Garrett Jones of Bowlegs, Oklahoma, turned 13 on March 1. Happy birthday, Mac, from Mom, Mike, Braxton, Papa and Granner.



Happy first birthday

Great-aunt Kathy Jackson would like to wish Jackson Kutter Hancock a belated happy birthday. Jackson turned 1 on March 14. He also won third place in the Tulsa baby pageant on February 18 and was crowned County Supreme Dude. He is the son of Tisha Howard and David Hancock.



Happy birthday Dezirai

On April 18, Dezirai Witt of Joplin, Missouri, will turn 36, but she doesn’t look a day over 21! Your husband and children want to thank you for being such a wonderful wife and mother and wouldn’t want anyone else but you. Hope this birthday is the best ever because you make every day very special to everyone you touch. – Bill, Jack, Alisha, Matt, Brandon, Blake.



40th anniversary

Jerry and Maxine Snead were married on May 12, 1967, in Burley, Idaho. They will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Jerry was born in Fort Towson on June 2, 1942, and Maxine was born July 3, 1948, in Rock Springs, Wyoming. The couple now resides in Lathrop, California. They have lived in California since 1972. Jerry is now retired and Maxine works as a payroll clerk for Dirksen Transportation in Lathrop. The couple have no children of their own but have many nieces and nephews. Congratulations!



Summer Youth Camp applications are ready

All summer youth camp applications are ready and can be picked up at all Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Field Offices or the Special Projects Office in Durant. All of our applications have been put in one brochure this year with individual applications for each camp inside complete with bus schedules and contact numbers for questions.

Valentine King and Queen

On February 14, Oklahoma Healthcare Solution held a King and Queen contest at the Smithville Choctaw Nation Community Center. The senior citizens chose Marvin Goings and Laura Carney. Prizes were awarded and everyone had a great time. OHCS would like to thank everyone at the center for participating.



Birthday wishes for Wanda Lou Burns Witt

Wanda Lou Burris Witt will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 27. Her family wishes her many happy returns. Wanda lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Virgil.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Doris Kennington, pictured here with her mom, Sheila. Doris was 9 years old on March 31st!



56th anniversary

F.T. and Anna Dewitt of Durant spent their 56th wedding anniversary taking in Cozumel, Mexico. The highlight for Anna was riding in the glass bottom boat. F.T.’s most memorable part of the trip was buying a pair of cowboy boots. Congratulations, F.T. and Anna!



Happy birthday

Lettie Moore would like to wish her granddaughter, Paula Hamilton, a happy 17th birthday on March 25.



Stigler graduate of 2007

Chad Brown of Stigler will graduate in May 2007. He is the son of Charlie and Debra Brown and has one sister, Cassie. His parents are very proud of him. Congratulations, Chad.



Happy 20th birthday

Cassandra Lee Brown, “Cassie,” will turn 20 years old on April 9. She lives in Stigler with her parents, Charlie and Debra Brown. Cassie works for Kibois Community Action. Her parents are very proud of her.



Proud of our soldier

The Berry family would like to congratulate Jason C. Berry on his graduation from boot camp on February 2. Berry chose to enlist in the U.S. Army in November. We are very proud of our soldier – Hope, David and Sky.

Humphrey completes studies

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Rowena Spring Humphrey on earning her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation and Management from the University of Arizona.



Birthday wishes

Happy birthday to Mary Carterby from her family, Bertha Going, Melinda Simpson, Martha Carterby, John Ray Carterby and Newton Wesley. Mary turned 74 on March 17.



Christopher celebrates 24th

Happy birthday to Christopher Ray Carterby who turned 24 on March 4 from Bertha Going and Gabriel, Issiac, John and Kevin, all of Golden. He is the son of John Ray Carterby of Wicks, Arkansas.



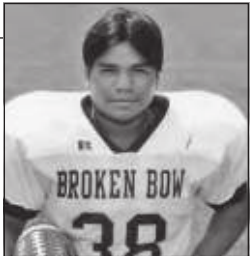
Happy birthday

Happy 43rd birthday on March 8 to Bertha Going from her family, Gabriel Going, Issiac Going, John Going and Kevin Carterby, all of Golden.



Mario turns 19

Mario Issiac Going turned 19 on March 20. Wishing him a happy birthday are his proud family, parents Bertha Going, brothers Gabriel and John Going and Kevin Carterby, all of Golden, and uncle John Ray Carterby of Wicks, Arkansas.



Gee, Fendley have wedding in Hawaii

Congratulations to Robert M. “Bob” Gee and Aleta Fendley on the marriage during the Christmas holidays. The couple were married on December 31, 2006, in Kailua Kona, Hawaii, and spent their honeymoon there. Bob and Aleta reside in Houston, Texas.



Proud Grandpa

Donald R. Airington is pictured with three of his grandchildren, Jacob Laferr, age 6; Khloe Bennett, age 15 months; and Kylie Bennett, age 6. All three are direct descendants of Chief Thomas Leflore. They are descended from original enrollees Wallace Leflore Keltner, Mattie A. Burns Keltner, Benjamin Franklin Airington, Walter B. Airington, and Jacob also from Peter B. Krebs and Pearl M. Krebs.



Marshall turns 1

Marshall Lakota Sims Vanderburg turned 1 on February 8. His parents are John and Kimberly Vanderburg of Shawnee. His grandparents are Bill and Marsha Sims, Gerald and Jane Vanderburg, all of Shawnee. His great-grandparents are Kenneth and Lillian Peltier and Herb and Sylvia Sims, all of Shawnee, and great-aunt Sue Anderson of Yanush. His great-great-grandparents are the late Lejah and Marie Anderson of Yanush and Pauline Peltier of Shawnee. Happy birthday Marshall!



Shaw named assistant softball coach at Georgia

Cameron University head coach Brent Shaw has been named assistant softball coach at the University of Georgia according to an announcement by Bulldog head coach Lu Harris-Champer. Shaw comes to Athens after taking over the Lady Aggies’ program on April 1, 2005. He joined the Cameron staff after spending the previous season as assistant coach at Angelo State University, where he helped guide the Rambelles to the 2004 NCAA Division II National Championship. Shaw and the Angelo State staff were named the NCAA Division II Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. The Rambelles produced two All Americans, seven All Lone Star Conference selections, as well as the Pitcher and Freshman of the Year in Shaw’s only season in San Angelo. A native of Antlers, Shaw spent one season as a graduate assistant at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant. A 2003 graduate of SOSU, he also coached at Durant Junior High and as a volunteer assistant at Murray State College, Tishomingo. He earned his master’s degree in Health and Physical Education from SOSU in 2004. Shaw and his wife, Kelli, have two sons, Reed and Braden.



Jernigan sisters completing educational dreams

Valerie Jernigan is graduating on May 12 from the University of California at Berkely with a PhD in Public Health. Her younger sister, Kasey, after graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a master’s, is in her first year doctoral program at Harvard. The youngest, Meghan, is graduating May 16 from Columbia University in New York City with a master’s in epidemiology. Proud dad is Don Jernigan.

Third generation OU graduate

John C. Lack graduated December 16, 2006, with a Business Management Degree from the University of Oklahoma. John was a member of the American Indian Honor Society. He is the son of Jim and Ellen Lack and the grandson of Ruth Thompson Hankowsky. All are from Norman. John is a third generation graduate of OU, following his grandmother and mother. His grandmother, Ruth, went on to become a professor of communications at OU and also served OU as one of the first Native American directors. His mother, Ellen, has been a teacher and library-media specialist with the Norman Public Schools for over 30 years. His great-grandfather, Webb Thompson, was a full-blood and lived on his land allotment near Wilson with his wife, Anna Bell Thompson, until 1972 when he passed away. John is grateful to the Choctaw Nation for all the support he received during his four years in college. He strongly urges all the youth of the Choctaw Nation to take advantage of all the wonderful programs the Choctaw Nation provides.



Scholar athlete

Job Bacon-Maldonado III is an outstanding student and athlete at John F. Kennedy High School in Denver, Colorado, where he is in the top 4 percent of his class and in advanced placement classes. Joby has been listed in the honorarium of the National Honor Roll and the U.S. Achievement Academy since 2004. He received the Scholar Athlete Award, Honorable Mention All City, Athletic Letterman Award and Academic All State First awards in 2006 for football. He has been on the National Honor Society since 2004 for academics. In his leisure time, Joby enjoys robotics and archery classes. He also finds time to listen to music, play video games, and do weightlifting. As Joby prepares to graduate from high school in May, he is making plans to attend a university in Colorado. He recently received acceptance letters to attend the University of Colorado in Boulder and School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. He is the son of Debra and Job Maldonado of Littleton, Colorado. He is the grandson of Elmer F. Bacon and Linda Morton Bacon (deceased) and Job and Sara Maldonado of Littleton. He is a descendant of Josie Woods Bacon and Roosevelt Bacon, his great-grandparents. This fine young man is an inspiration to his family in Oklahoma and Colorado. His sisters, Edie and Sara Linda, are proud of his achievements and accomplishments. Happy birthday, Joby. Our prayer is that you let the Lord lead as He always has.



Dennington receives degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Tristan Jacole Dennington on graduating from the University of Oklahoma. She received her marketing degree.



Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board promoting leadership

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is making a difference in their communities in many different ways but one that will surely be remembered is the Leadership Conference held on February 28 at South-eastern Oklahoma State University.

This event was sponsored by Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles and South-eastern State University Continuing Education Department. Entitled “Shoot for the Stars, Be a Leader!” this conference motivated students to do just that.

The subcommittee members who worked very hard at planning this event were Cody Peters YAB Chair, Chelsea Wells YAB Vice Chair, Anna Hamilton, Brian Edwards, Clay Edwards and Danielle Adams, all from Hugo High School, Ashley Smith and Monica Smith from Soper High School, Adam Chrissman from Bennington High School, Keri Breshears and Corey Cannon from Antlers High School and

Jenny Townsend from Valliant High School. Kristie Adams and Melissa Cress with Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles helped the YAB in coordinating the event. Joyce Wells, Martina Hawkins and Shonnie Hall with Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles were there to lend a hand the day of the event. Also helping out the day of the event was LeeAnn Griffin with Choctaw Nation Salad Sisters. A total of 400 students attended the conference from the following schools: Rock Creek, Caddo, Bennington, Boswell, Soper, Fort Towson, Hugo, Durant and Tupelo.

The “Shoot for the Stars, Be a Leader!” conference started with a prayer and welcome from YAB chair Cody Peters. John Jackson, Choctaw Nation’s Executive Director of Grants Research and Development, spoke to the students about what makes a leader. Monica Smith from Soper presented a very informative Power Point on Teen Dating Violence. Ashley Smith,



It was like a game show with a host, Vanna and a speaker.

After lunch Chief Gregory E. Pyle spoke to the youth about how important it is to make good choices and the importance of staying married to one person.

The students were very impressed by Richard Hight from Visual Impact, an artist who does chalk drawings. He spoke to the students about his experience in finding his place in life and challenged them to do the same. He created two very beautiful drawings while on stage – both of these were donated to the Youth Advisory Board.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board would like to give a special thanks to the schools that attended, the speakers, LeeAnn Griffin with the Choctaw Nation Salad Sisters, Southeastern Continuing Education Department, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation. The event was definitely a success.

Way to go, YAB!

Teens and eating disorders



PART 3 OF 5

Reading the signs

Let’s face it, life is busy. You make sure that your family sits down together for dinner as often as you can. The mystery begins; you notice that your 14-year-old has been disappearing into the bathroom after dinner. You also notice the obsession with weight. At first you may chalk it up to “normal teenager,” but now you’re not so sure.

You may suspect an eating disorder, but you don’t want to blow things out of proportion. You’re not alone. The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders reports that over 8 million people suffer from an eating disorder in the U.S. alone.

How can you tell? Early detection can spare years of misery, for you and your child. Take a moment and think about your teenager’s behavior and the following signs of a possible eating disorder.

- Preoccupation with weight, food, calories and dieting
- Excessive exercise, despite fatigue, illness, injury, or weather
- Constant complaints of being fat in spite of normal or thin appearance
- Unnatural facial hair growth in girls due to malnutrition
- Withdrawal from activities because of weight and shape concerns
- Evidence of self-induced vomiting
- Messes and smells in the bathroom
- Disappearing to the bathroom after meals
- Swelling of the glands near the ear (caused by inflammation of the saliva glands)
- Evidence of the use of laxatives, diuretics, diet pills, or enemas
- Cessation or erratic menstrual cycles
- Fainting, light headedness or dizziness unexplained by any other medical problem
- Poor dental hygiene, bad breath, dryness of the mouth area and lips
- Refusal to eat meals with families
- Food rituals (i.e. eating food in sequence, foods can’t touch, etc.)

These are only a few signs of an eating disorder. If you suspect your teen has an eating disorder, do not delay in consulting with a professional to get your teen the help he or she may need.

Next month, Part 4 Teens and Eating Disorders - Prevention.

TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

Bullying

Submitted by Erica Martinez, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board Member

Bullying is when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose. The person being bullied has a hard time defending themselves. Some bullying is easy to notice, like hitting them or name-calling, but other times it’s hard to see. Children who are bullied sometimes experience low self-esteem and depression. Bullies, who often have been bullied themselves, may pick on others to feel powerful, popular, important, or in control.

Bullying is widespread. According to a 2004 Kids Health Poll 86 percent of more than 1,200 9- to 13-year-old boys and girls polled said they’ve seen someone else being bullied, 48 percent said they’ve been bullied, and 42 percent admitted to bullying other kids at least once.

Here are some tips on how to deal with bullying:

- Tell your parents or other trusted adults and they can help stop the bullying.
- If you’re bullied at school tell your teacher, school counselor or principal. Telling is not tattling!
- Don’t fight back! You could end up in trouble yourself. Don’t try to bully those who bully you.
- Try not to show anger or fear. Kids who bully like to see that they can upset you.
- Calmly tell the student to stop ... or say nothing and walk away.

For more information on bullying get online and type bullying. You will find a variety of information concerning school bullying, why kids bully other kids, help for kids that are bullied, and laws on bullying. Bullying is a very important subject to parents, kids, counselors and school officials.

SUMMER YOUTH WORKERS NEEDED

To Qualify You Must:

- Have a CDIB/Membership Card
- A signed Social Security Card
- Reside in the 10 1/2 counties
- Must verify address
- Summer job must be within 10 1/2 counties
- Men 18-21 must verify selective service registration
- Income verification is required

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact WIA at 800-522-6170

NO FAXED Applications accepted!!

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE IS APRIL 13, 2007!!!

OU Signing Day

Jamell Fleming of Seguin High School in Arlington, Texas, signed a letter of intent with the University of Oklahoma. He is a highly recruited cornerback. Jamell was offered scholarships from all of the Big 12 schools. Other schools included Florida, UCLA, University of Central Florida, Wisconsin and Arkansas. During 2006, Jamell was All State Class 4A Corner Back 1st Team, Arlington Star Telegram Super Team 1st Team Corner Back, and All District 15-4A WR 1st Team and CB 2nd Team. He was ranked as a Four Star DB in Rivals.com, ranked second in the Rival.com combine and College Station with a Sprag rating of 97.2, and ranked first in the Arlington Star Telegram Area Top 50. He participated in the 2007 Offense-Defense All American Bowl in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Jamell’s parents are Ralph and Sharon Fleming of McAlester. His grandparents are Eulus Johnson of McAlester, Evelyn Johnson of Ardmore, Dorothy Fleming of McAlester and the late Elmer “Tonto” Fleming. He has a host of relatives all over Oklahoma.



Chilocco Reunion

The Annual Chilocco Reunion, hosted by the Great Southwest Chapter, is scheduled for June 7-9 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. All students, graduates, employees and relatives who attended school or worked at Chilocco Indian Agricultural School are invited and encouraged to attend. The 2007 reunion will be held at the Marriott Albuquerque Hotel, 2101 Louisiana Blvd., NE, in Albuquerque. For more information, you may contact: Betty Deer Shannon, 505-296-5150; Tom Mark, 505-869-2644; George England, 816-373-0505; Keith Franklin, 505-291-1880; Farrell Emhoolah, 505-897-2050; or Faith Jacobs Castles, 925-937-1716.

Hall of Fame nominations for 2007 are being accepted. Contact James Edwards for more information, 918-742-1549, email jimpstone@peoplepc.com.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
MAY	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed.		1	2 Durant 10 am-12 pm	3	4 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	5
	6	7 Antlers by appt only	8 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	9	10	11 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	12
	13	14 Wright City by appt only	15 Durant by appt only	16 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	17	18 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	19
	20	21 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	22 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	23	24	25 Bethel by appt only	26
	27	28 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	29	30	31	A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.	
2007							

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA
YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Phone Number _____

Name of High School currently attending _____

Name of post-secondary education facility you plan to attend _____

Students must prove enrollment with a post-secondary education facility, by letter of admission.

GPA _____ Class Rank _____ ACT/SAT scores _____
(Information regarding GPA, Class Rank, and ACT/SAT scores is optional)

Academic Achievement/Awards _____

Interests/Hobbies _____

Requirements for Scholarship

• Must have a typed, double-spaced essay of 250,000 words describing your future educational plans, goals.
• Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member and attach a copy of Tribal Membership & CDIB card.
• All applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2007.
• Winning applicants will be notified by May 31, 2007.

Please mail your application and essay to:
Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles
P.O. Box 882
Hugo, OK 74743

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

Sponsored by: Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

OBITUARIES

James Robert Manley

James Robert Manley, 72, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2006, in Alhambra, California. He was born March 3, 1934, the son of Curtis V. Manley and Olive “Sweetie” F. Pugh Manley.

His parents preceded him in death.

James’ maternal grandmother, Ada Wilson Pugh, was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. She was the mid-wife in the Big Cedar community at the time of James’ premature birth. His palm-size body was placed in a makeshift incubator by using a shoebox on the open door of the oven. He was said to be “the size of a robin,” thus his nickname of Robin which stuck all the rest of his life.

James had a servant’s heart. All his life he spent his days thinking of other people. His last years were spent serving Alhambra Calvary Chapel in many areas but was especially pleased to lead the homeless ministry. Each week he collected groceries, assembled sandwiches and then distributed sack lunches to the homeless.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Sylvia Gomez Manley; two children, James Robert Manley Jr. and Marilee Michelle Manley; four grandchildren; a brother, Curtis V. Manley of Wilburton; and numerous extended family members.



Viola Marie Alford

Viola Marie Alford passed away November 26, 2006, in Paris, Texas. She was born January 22, 1930, in Tom, the daughter of Willard Brown and Flora Horn Brown.

Viola’s greatest pride in her life was her family and her goal was to always take care of them. She was a tremendous cook and at every holiday all her family would gather at her home. Viola could piece quilts with the best of them. She would spend many, many hours piecing and hand-quilting beautiful quilts for her family members and friends.

After her boys were grown, she went to work at the nursing home. Later she worked at Haworth Schools until her health would not allow her to do so any longer. She never met a stranger and was a joy to be around. Viola was a faithful member of the Bokhoma Community Church.

She was preceded in death by one grandson, Jeremy Alford, and one great-granddaughter, Morgan Alford.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Jack Alford; four sons and daughters-in-law, Edward and Barbara Alford of Marshall Hill, Kenneth and Mary Alford of Moon, Ricky and Debbie Alford of Redland, and Larry and Sharon Alford of Broken Bow; and nine grandchildren, Twaila Wiley, Billy Jack Alford, Richard Alford, Kevin Alford, Clay Alford, Sarah Morse, Bethany Alford, Dewayne Gamble and Kayla Alford.

Clara Mae Fry Smith

Beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother Clara Mae Fry Smith, 96, passed away January 31, 2007. She was born on December 15, 1910, the second of 11 children and oldest daughter of Buster and Fannie Fry of Hartshorne.

She was considered the “Houston connection” and matriarch of the Fry family. Family was the most important thing in Clara’s life and she spent her years quilting, crocheting and cooking for those she loved. She will be greatly missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bud Smith; son, Bubba; newborn grandson, David; and eight brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her daughter, Jo Ann Braly; her grandsons, Nicky (Laura) and Ricky (Rhonda) Braly; five great-grandchildren, Justin, Steffani, Austin, Taylor and Madison Braly; one great-great-grandson, Gage Braly; two brothers, C.H. and Wilburn Fry; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Donnie Leon Barlow

Donnie Leon Barlow, 63, of Poteau passed away October 23, 2006, in St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born November 22, 1942, at Tulsa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ellis Barlow and Besie Walker Burdick, and a stepfather, Warren Burdick.

Survivors include his daughter, Donna M. Barlow of Weatherford; son, Sammy L. Barlow of Wister; two sisters, Connie Harris and Cynthia Lovell, both of Panama; brother, Dennis Burdick of Liberty; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; numerous other relatives and loved ones and a host of beloved friends.

Tehya Jefferson

Little Teyha Chula Marie Jefferson went to heaven on February 26, 2007, at the age of 2 months and 11 days. She was born December 14, 2006, at Idabel, the daughter of Marcus Traylor and JoAnna Jefferson.

She was preceded in death by her maternal great-grandparents, Johnnie and Rena Jefferson; great-uncle, Jeff Jefferson; and great-aunt, Diana Jefferson.

Survivors include her parents of the home in Millerton, Oklahoma; grandparents, Edward and Gwen Traylor of DeKalb, Texas, and Kathleen Marie Jefferson of Muskogee; three sisters, Shaina Jefferson of Idabel and Ashlen Shantel Hicks and BreAnna LaDawn Jefferson, both of Millerton; four aunts, Shelly Traylor of Prescott, Arizona, Rita Cole and husband D.J. of Portage, Indiana, Tresa Ann Rice of Muskogee and Sandra Gaffney and husband Melvin of DeKalb; three uncles, Paul Traylor and wife Bridgit of Frankfort, Germany, and Scotty Traylor and Tate Traylor, both of Texarkana, Texas; three great-aunts, Leila Jefferson of Wright City, Clarissa Milam and husband Randy of Dardanelle, Arkansas, and Josephine Baker and family of Idabel; one great-uncle, Wayne Jefferson of Dallas, Texas; one nephew, Jalynd Moore of Idabel; 13 cousins, Dillon, Nicholas and Christopher Rice, Donovan, Logan and Chenoa Cole, Lakreisha and Devin Gaffney, Jason and Sarah Milam, Michael Boyd and family, Allen Boyd and family and Jay Boyd.

Tehya lived a short life but will be forever remembered in our hearts.

Patricia Lynn Schuchardt

Patricia Lynn Schuchardt, 46, of Spencerville passed away on March 3, 2007, in Spencerville. She was born January 11, 1961, the daughter of Charles and Ruby Miller and had lived in the Spencerville community most of her life.

A homemaker, Patricia liked to paint and go to garage sales. She also enjoyed crocheting, looking for arrowheads, collecting bottles and spending time with her granddaughter, but most importantly, she loved being a mother.

Her mother preceded her in death.

Survivors include two daughters, Misty Green of Hugo and Carrie Chandra of Oklahoma City; her father of Spencerville; a brother, Earl Skipper of Spencerville; two sisters, Lavonne Elliott of Hugo and Joyce Weaver of Alma, Arkansas; and one granddaughter, Yasmine Rzaeyev, along with a host of other family and friends.

Raymond ‘Chief’ Vann Watson

Raymond ‘Chief’ Vann Watson, 88, of Eufaula passed away February 15, 2007, in Oklahoma City. He was born on April 8, 1918, in Watson, the son of Martin and Annie Huff Watson.

Raymond attended Watson Elementary and graduated from Smithville High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on August 13, 1942, in Oklahoma City. While enlisted Raymond received the ATO Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. He worked as an insurance agent and was a member of the Eufaula First United Methodist Church and the Eufaula American Legion.

He married Virginia Lue Bryan on July 7, 1942, in Wilburton. She preceded him in death after 53 years of marriage.

His parents; one son, Kenneth Watson; and two brothers, Lewis and Oreg, also preceded him in death.

Survivors include his partner, Virginia Sinclair of the home; his son, Ronnie Watson of Edmond; grandchildren, Tara Watson-Poindexter and husband Rhette of Oklahoma City and Jeff Watson of Edmond; and great-grandchildren, Chloe Poindexter, Ruby Poindexter and Alexis Poindexter.



Leo Eugene Harley

Leo Eugene Harley, 59, of Henryetta passed away February 16, 2007, at Tulsa. He was born April 20, 1947, at Idabel, the son of Leo Michael and Esther Cephus Harley. He was of the Methodist faith.

Enlisting in 1967, Leo proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Leo had entered the Army just out of high school. After serving, Leo met and married his wife of 30 years, Velma Taylor. They were married September 8, 1977, and moved to Henryetta to make their home. When he was a young boy, Leo enjoyed hunting and fishing. As he grew older bingo became his favorite interest.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Ruby Washington; aunts, Hazel Brown, Adeline John, Lila Brown and Ida Thompson.

Survivors include his wife of the home; son, Leo Eugene Harley Jr. of the home; daughters, Lisa Marie Harley of DeQueen, Arkansas, and Gail Harley of Idabel; stepdaughter, Gloria Jacobs of Bixby; brothers, Roy Harley of Idabel, Alfred Harley of Wilburton, Everett Harley of Idabel and Virgil Harley of DeQueen; sisters, Leola Stehle of Fort Worth, Ruth Williston of Idabel and Amelia James of Idabel; uncle, James Brown of Idabel; eight grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Thad Ray McCollum

Thad Ray McCollum, 76, of Silsbee passed away January 25, 2007, at his residence. A native of El Centro, California, he was a longtime resident of the area. He was a retired pipefitter out of Local 195.

Survivors include his wife, Betty McCollum of Silsbee; daughter, Mary Jane McCollum of New Braunfels; sons, Donald Ray McCollum of Milpitas, California, Thad McCollum of Lumberton and Chad McCollum of Silsbee; brother, Eddie Brashears of El Centro, California; sister, Diana Alexander of Monahans; and grandchildren, Josh McCollum, Jason McCollum, Holden McCollum and Courtnee McCollum.

John Sampson Scantling

John Sampson Scantling, 64, passed away February 8, 2007, in the Pleasant View Home of Albert City, Iowa. He was born November 16, 1942, in Yuma, Arizona, to Henry Addison Scantling and Lorraine McKinney Scantling, the fifth of six children. All of his siblings survive him, Freida, Mattie, James, Henry and Preston.

John worked variously as a laborer, logger and driver. After the death of his first wife, he went back to school, at the age of 50, to learn to read and do over-the-road trucking. After several years on the road he decided it was “terribly lonely” and he took to short hauling in the Portland, Oregon, area, near three of his children and his youngest brother.

In 1999, John remarried and settled in Northwest Iowa. He was very proud of his heritage though he knew little of his background or traditions. He spent time collecting Indian regalia and information that he used for presentations in schools, churches and libraries.

He was semi-retired for the last few years.

Survivors include his wife, Roberta Scantling; four children; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Martin Samuel Carney

Martin Samuel Carney, 50, of Broken Arrow passed away November 16, 2006, in Tulsa at Saint Francis Hospital. He was born July 2, 1956, at the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talahina to Sam Carney and the late Augusta La Fountaine of Ardmore.

Mr. Carney was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, a Northwest Airlines Aircraft Inspector and a volunteer soccer coach.

Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Patricia, and sons, Tristin Adryan and Trent Alexe Carney, all of Broken Arrow; brothers, Glen, Johnny, Nick, Dennis and Keith Carney; and one sister, Teresa Freeman.

Herbert Morris Cook

Herbert Morris Cook, 78, of Stigler passed away on February 23, 2007, in Stigler. He was born March 26, 1928, in Garland, Oklahoma, to Willie Jim and Myrtle Garland Cook.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and served in occupation forces in Japan. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 35 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, James Merle Cook and Willie Nash Cook; and his second wife, Wanda McSpadden Cook.

Survivors include his two daughters, Kathy Roberts and Dawn Waddle, both of Hot Springs, Arkansas; a son, Brad Cook and wife Tricia of Hot Springs; three sisters, Edith Prentice of Stigler, Francille Neal of Claremore and Alice Faye Stout and husband Bill of Stigler; his first wife, Elizabeth Lay Zinn of Hot Springs; seven grandchildren, Rhett Roberts, Andy Roberts, Ragan Roberts, Caralisa Cook, Calin Cook, Alex Waddle-Murphy and Memory Waddle; and four great-grandchildren, Laila Murphy, Madison Murphy, Drew Roberts and Declan Roberts.



Pearl Pickens Gallagher

Pearl Pickens Gallagher, 86, of Aurora, Colorado, passed away on November 25, 2006, after battling cancer and kidney failure for over a year. She was born on October 31, 1920, in Blanco, the daughter of Louisa Moore and Isaiah Pickens.

She attended Indian boarding school in Oklahoma and then went on to graduate from the University of Oklahoma’s School of Nursing on May 7, 1943.

Pearl joined the Army Nurse Corps on November 20, 1943, and served as a nurse in the U.S., European and Asiatic Pacific theaters during World War II. She received an honorable discharge on February 23, 1946. She was always proud of both her Choctaw heritage and of her service to her country in World War II.

She married Robert A. Gallagher on January 15, 1949, in Los Angeles. The couple moved to South Dakota and lived there until 1968 when they moved to Colorado. Pearl worked as a nurse for veterans administration hospitals in South Dakota and in Colorado until her retirement in January 1984. In retirement, she enjoyed quilting, gardening and golf. She gave away many beautiful quilts to family and friends. Pearl planted and cared for her vegetable gardens and a lovely rose garden. She belonged to the 18 Hole Ladies Golf Club and was proud of shooting a hole in one on July 22, 1992, on the third hole at Aurora Hills Golf Course.

Her husband, her parents and a sister, Ruth Bauer, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughter, Patricia Melrose of Louisville, Colorado, and her brother, Otis Fox of Hartshorne.

Marcus Kerry Barnett

Marcus Kerry Barnett passed away on December 13, 2006. He was born on August 13, 1938, in Chambers, Oklahoma, the son of M.K. Barnett and Minnie C. Grubbs Barnett. He attended grade school at Chambers and graduated from high school at Savanna in 1956, where he was a standout in several athletic fields. He was nicknamed “Dynamite in a small package.”

He married his high school sweetheart, Beverly Elaine Ingram, on April 20, 1956. He attended ECU in Ada, went into the Army in 1957 and received his honorable discharge in 1964. He graduated from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, with a BS in education in 1973. He graduated from SMU Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. He was a journeyman lineman first class for El Paso Electric Company for 15 years.

Marcus was an ordained elder United Methodist minister and retired after 30 years of service in 2001. He served churches in Atoka, Wewoka, Sallisaw, Piedmont and Poteau. He also served in the New Mexico Conference as well.

He coached little league baseball, football, basketball and track in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma; was a member of the Lion’s Club and held several offices; Rotary Club, Red Cross (board of directors), Ministerial Alliance (secretary and treasurer), Democratic Party (delegate and secretary for precinct, district and state). He worked with the Boy Scouts of America.

His Masonic record includes member of Savanna Lodge No. 534. He was initiated an entered apprentice, passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft and raised to sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1979 at the Atoka Lodge. He served in all the appointive and elected offices, including Worshipful Master in 1985 and 2005. He was an Eastern Star. He was a 32nd degree of the McAlester Scottish Rite. He joined the Bedouin Shrine of Muskogee in 1994.

Survivors include his wife of McAlester; one daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Pamela J. and Tom Bolt of Virginia; two sons and daughters-in-law, Marcus Kerry Barnett Jr. and wife Tamara of McAlester and the Rev. Mark S. and Linda Barnett of Midwest City; seven granddaughters, Laura and Audrey Bolt, Niki, Montanna and Mikhayla Barnett, Taylor and Brenden Barnett; one grandson, Lane Barnett; one great-grandson, Xander; two sisters, Oleta Mitchell of McAlester and Lucy Mae Suter of Okmulgee; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends.



Billy Joe Reynolds

Billy Joe Reynolds, 62, of Caddo passed away May 19, 2006, in Denison, Texas. He was born April 19, 1944, in Colbert, the son of Jake and Willie Reynolds.

Joe and Geraldine Wright were married on January 18, 1969, in Pauls Valley. He was an auto mechanic, a member of DAV, a proud member of the Choctaw veterans and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He enjoyed spending time at the local coffee shops and taking care of his yard. However, his greatest joy was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Elmer, A.J., Kenneth and James Clinton Reynolds; and sisters, Onida Clark, Francis Stout, Ann Burgess and Gertrude Davis.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Billy J. Reynolds and Cindy of Houston, Texas, and Terry Reynolds and Kassie of Stillwater; daughter and son-in-law, Tammy Beauchamp and Brian of The Colony, Texas; brother and sister-in-law, David Reynolds and Jayne of Denison; sisters, Trudy Gilbert of Choctaw and Patsy McDaniel of Haltom City, Texas; and grandchildren, Aaron Beauchamp, Mollie Beauchamp and Bethany Beauchamp of The Colony, Noah Bass and Rylan Reynolds of Stillwater.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Eddine Thompson

Joseph Eddine Thompson passed away on March 2, 2007, in Speer, Oklahoma. He was born November 29, 1925, in Fort Towson. He married Christine Caldwell on November 5, 1947, in Hugo.

Joseph was a retired veteran, mechanic and rancher. He lived to be 81 years old and enjoyed watching baseball and the western channel, playing snooker pool and working on cars. He was also a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and attended High Hill Church.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Ward and mother Selea Aaron and Josephine Thompson; wife, Christine Thompson; two sons, Eddie Chris Thompson and Joseph Patrick Thompson; brother, Hansel Jenner Thompson; and great-grandson, Anthony Scott Songer.

Survivors include his brother, Perry Thompson and wife Gail; sister, Iva Wallace and husband Daniel of Hugo; daughters, Geneva and husband Johnny Songer and Janice and husband Robert Finch, all of Hugo; one son, Ronnie and wife Bobbiejo Thompson of Hugo; grandchildren, Jarvis Finch, Robin Hunter, Lisa Hunter, John Songer Jr., Andrea Finch, Kristen Thompson and Alex Joseph Thompson; 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchildren.



Lodosca Marie ‘Dot’ Cariker

Lodosca Marie “Dot” Cariker, 78, passed away February 5, 2007, at a Wenatchee, Washington, hospital. She was born December 13, 1928, in Bokoshe, Oklahoma, the daughter of Turner and Beulah Thomas Cariker.

She graduated from Chilocco Indian School in 1946 and was married that same year to Clarke McKibbin in Kansas City, Kansas. They were divorced in 1969.

She moved to Port Angeles in 1951 and she worked as a checker at the Tradewell store in the early 1960s. She then moved to Bremerton and she worked in the Merit Mart Pharmacy there from 1965 to 1968.

Dot married Tom Gatliff in 1978 in Bremerton and he preceded her in death in 1980.

She had worked as an electrician’s helper in the Bremerton Naval Shipyard for over 20 years, retiring in 1990. She continued to live in Bremerton, going to Seattle in 2000 and then Montesano in 2002 to be with her daughter, Linda Cole. In August of 2006 she moved to Cashmere, Washington.

In her younger years, she was an all-star second baseman for the Washington State Women’s Fastpitch League, playing for the Blue Angels of Port Angeles. Raising her family, she canned everything she grew, caught or killed. She also liked to embroider, crochet and sew, having sewn all her daughter’s bridesmaid dresses, among other clothing. She also loved to bowl.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dale McKibbin, on June 25, 2002, and three brothers, T.A. Cariker, Doyle Cariker and Butch Cariker.

Survivors include two daughters, Janet and her husband, Don Gatlin, of Entiat, Washington, and Linda and her husband, Norman Cole, of Montesano; four brothers, Irby (Virgie) Cariker, Salida, California, Ace (Peggy) Cariker, Fort Worth, Texas, Frank Cariker, Port Angeles, and Duck (Rose) Cariker, Round Rock, Texas; three sisters, Thelma Cariker, Sacramento, California, Jane (Pete) Cariker, and Gail (Sid) Malban, all of Dumas, Texas; nine grandchildren, Daniel Gatlin, Dionne Borden, Paul and Adam Cole, Stephanie Teeter, Mark Cole, Shea Huntington, Shonda Rogers and Shelly McKibbin; and three great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn Borden, David Gatlin and Madison Teeter.

Ted Wilson ‘Bo’ Thomas

Ted Wilson ‘Bo’ Thomas, 56, a life-long resident of Eleta, passed away January 25, 2007, in Antlers. He was born September 5, 1950, in Roxton, Texas, to Richard James and Jeffie Marie Taylor Thomas.

Ted worked as a laborer for Birchfield Lumber Company. He was a member of the Goodwater United Methodist Church and enjoyed hunting, fishing, singing, playing his guitar and hanging out with his friends.

He was preceded in death by his father and two brothers, Haskell Thomas and Robert Thomas.

Survivors include his mother of Goodwater; his love, Billie Sue Allen of Nashoba; five children, Latricia Thomas and husband Jose of Goodwater, Ronnie Wilson Thomas and wife Barbara of Ochopee, Florida, Theodore Thomas and wife Lea of Goodwater, Abraham Thomas of Goodwater, Van Richard Thomas of Goodwater; mother of his children, Pat Shomo of Bethel; brother, Jerry Thomas and wife Kelly of Sobol; four sisters, Rosa Baker and husband Melton of Broken Bow, Lora Tom and husband Albert of Wright City, Elma Lamb of Sobol, Susie Roberts and husband Samuel of Goodwater; 11 grandchildren, Coltin Thomas, Kyra Thomas, Shaina Thomas, Theodore Thomas, Dalton Thomas, Leticia Petra, Kay’lyn Sustaita, Mandy Ward, Felicity Noahubi, Dakota Aidridge, and numerous other relatives and friends.

Mary Weaver

Mary Weaver, 58, of McAlester passed away February 28, 2007, at Southcrest Hospital, Tulsa. She was born on January 11, 1949, in Talihina to Anias and Matilda Thompson Fisher.

She attended the Creek Nation Eufaula Boarding School in Eufaula. Mary married Tommy Weaver in 1972 in McAlester. She was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church and she enjoyed fishing, gardening, attending garage sales, partaking in morning coffee with her husband on the back terrace and taking adventurous trips with Tommy.

She was preceded in death by her father and a sister, Lahoma Fisher Otts.

Survivors include her husband of the home; a son and daughter-in-law, Anthony Wesley of Dow, Oklahoma; two daughters, Jeanelle and Corey Collins of McAlester and Michelle and Michael Winlock of Muskogee; his mother of McAlester; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Verna and Richard Watt of Kansas City, Kansas, Dora and Don Layman of Eufaula and Lenora and Ronnie Cox of Checotah, Oklahoma; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Alton Jennings ‘Jack’ Maxwell

Longtime Seminole resident Alton Jennings “Jack” Maxwell, 78, passed away on February 24, 2007, in Seminole. He was born on December 13, 1928, in Allen to Sidney Oliver and Hester Mae Rail Maxwell. He was a member of the Church of Christ at Little. He worked in construction for over 35 years. In 1990 he retired after 25 years of real estate sales.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, G.W. Maxwell, who died in the invasion of France.

Survivors include his son, Jerry Maxwell of Bullhead City, Arizona; four daughters, Carolyn Sparks of Las Vegas, Nevada, Rebecca Maxwell of California, Cheryl Malcolm of California and Rachele Lewis of California; five brothers, Kenneth Wayne Maxwell of Ada, Willis Don Maxwell of Kingston, Alfred Landon Maxwell of Madill, Larry Maxwell of Ada and Mike Maxwell of Fort Worth, Texas; three sisters, Helen Bernice Priest of Ada, Beverly Carr of Wewoka and Debra Hatton of Allen; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Junior Carl ‘Don’ Cochnauer

Junior Carl “Don” Cochnauer, 75, passed away on February 17, 2007. Born May 29, 1931, in Boswell, his family relocated to Brentwood, California, in 1942.

Don served in the U.S. Navy from 1950-1954 on the USS Cushing as a ship swimmer. He came home a decorated war hero. Don’s wonderful smile, enthusiastic personality, tender spirit and sense of humor made everyone his immediate friend. He worked at Gaylord Container for 36 years. He attended Glad Tidings and Family Bible Church for many years. His hobbies included golf, travel, gardening, eating, and his wonderful grandchildren. He was loved and admired by his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Henry; mother, Sylvia; and brothers, Calvin and Albert.

Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Fern; son, Brett, and daughter-in-law, Beverly; son, Glenn; two adored grandchildren, Heather and Derek; sisters, Alpha Uptagrove and Dorothy Henderson; mother-in-law, Geri Martz; and numerous extended family members.



Evalena Beatrice McMurtrey Anderson

Evalena Beatrice McMurtrey Anderson, known as Beatrice, passed away on February 18, 2007. She was born January 13, 1918, in Atoka County, Oklahoma, to Lora McMurtrey and Irene Cox Frinzell McMurtrey, an original enrollee.

She was married to Paul Anderson, the son of Tandy Anderson, on December 23, 1939, in Antlers. They were together for 15 years. Paul was killed in an accident at work on February 26, 1955. Together they had three children – Ronald Paul, Polly and Johnny Lee. Bea was baptized as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses on January 8, 1966, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She endured many trials in her 89 years. When she looked back on those times she would comment on how grateful she was that Jehovah chose her as his servant and that it was only with Jehovah’s help she was able to endure. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

She was preceded in death by a son, Johnny Lee; her parents and 10 of her siblings.

Survivors include her son, Ronald Paul Anderson of Greenwood, Arkansas; daughter, Polly (Vernon) Berditt of Converse, Texas; sister, Mildred Irene Faulkenberry of Phoenix, Arizona; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Words cannot express the appreciation for the staff of Rosewood Rehabilitation and Care Center of Converse. Evalena, as they knew her, was a resident there for almost three years.

Mary Susie Smith

Mary Susie Smith, 75, of Duncan passed away March 17, 2007, at Oklahoma City. She was born August 31, 1931, at McAlester, the daughter of James Ralph and Mary Cearley Grubbs.

Mary was a retired secretary for Halliburton Services, a member of the Red Hat Society, and a member of First Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Grubbs, and a sister, Martha Bell.

Survivors include a son, Nick Smith of Kannapolis, North Carolina; a daughter, Susan Mayberry of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; a brother, John Grubbs of Garland, Texas; sisters, Jessye Martin of Garland, Lou Peacock of Dallas, Texas, and Judy Lowry of McKinney, Texas; two grandchildren, Lori Bandi of Dallas and Isabella Mayberry of Oklahoma City.

Pete Roebuck

Pete Roebuck, 85, of Seabrook, Texas, passed away March 17, 2007, at Seabrook. He was born September 3, 1921, in Soper, the son of Ulysses G. Roebuck and Minnie B. Fennell Roebuck and grew up in the Boswell area. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II. He was a drywall contractor and he enjoyed hunting and fishing. Anyone who met him would say that he was the greatest man they ever knew. His passing leaves a vast hole in the hearts of his family that will never be filled.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Gwendolyn, Vivian, Pearly Lou, Fern and Joyce; his first wife, Juanita; and a daughter, Lisa.

Survivors include his wife, Jean Roebuck; two brothers, Joe Ben Roebuck and his wife, Grace, of Oklahoma City and Floyd Roebuck and his wife, Loraine, of Boswell; four children, Sandra Lowe and her husband, Bill, of Anadarko, Donald Roebuck of Wichita Falls, Texas, Stephanie Bullard of Webster, Texas, Paula Cain of Iowa Park, Texas; stepdaughter, Joanne Hardy and her husband, Donald of Houston, Texas; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, along with many other relatives and friends.

Dara Esther Folsom

Dara Esther Folsom, 18, of Agua Dulce, California, passed away September 22, 2004. She was born January 2, 1986, in California, the daughter of Jerry and Beth Folsom.

Dara graduated Los Angeles High School with honors. She was the great-granddaughter of World War I code talker Sampson Folsom.



Mary Elizabeth Choate Poorman

Mary Elizabeth Choate Poorman, a Pittsburg County native, passed away February 21, 2007, in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she had lived the past few years. She was born December 27, 1907, in the Choate Prairie community bearing the family name, located west of present day Indianola, Oklahoma. She was the daughter of William Frederick Choate, an original enrollee, and Mary Elizabeth Piegrass Choate. On her father’s side, she was the granddaughter of George W. Choate and Eliza Wade Choate.

Her Choctaw lineage included prominent family members involved in the history of the Choctaw Nation. Her grandfather, George W. Choate, played a large role in the development of Pittsburg County. He was a pioneer Tobucksy County judge, a judge of the Choctaw Supreme Court, and the President of the last Choctaw Senate before statehood. Her grandmother, Eliza Wade Choate, was a founder of the Choate Prairie Baptist Church and an active leader in the Christian affairs in the area.

Her mother was the daughter of Danish immigrants and traveled alone by train at the age of 18 from the state of New York to Indian Territory. She served as a Baptist missionary and teacher to the Choctaws at the school in Atoka.

Mary Elizabeth Choate Poorman graduated from McAlester High School in 1925. She attended Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where she earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. She then began a long career as a teacher in Waynoka, Indianola and Okarche public schools, all in Oklahoma. She spent many years teaching in U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, including Wheelock Academy and Eufaula Boarding School, both in Oklahoma, and Tuba City Indian School in Arizona. She also taught in the Bernalillo and Albuquerque public schools in New Mexico.

During World War II she volunteered for the Women’s Army Corps and graduated from the Officer Candidate School for WACs at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, serving in various service areas during the war. Later she returned to active duty and served in the Korean conflict and in Japan. She remained in the Army Reserve until her retirement as a lieutenant colonel.

While teaching at Tuba City, she married Ralph Poorman, a fellow teacher and native of Pennsylvania. While living in Albuquerque, Mrs. Poorman took an active role in the civic and church activities of the community. She was a genuine “people” person and she will be missed. Her nieces and nephews played a significant part in her life as she did in theirs.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents; a sister, Lydia; brothers, Tuska E., George R. Choate and James A. Choate; a niece, Amysue Ahn; and two nephews, Lt. George R. Choate Jr. and James Frederick Choate.

Survivors include her nieces, Geraldine Colby of Asheville, North Carolina, Ramona Schrader of Knoxville, and Kay Johnson of Santa Rosa, California; and nephews, David Choate of Williamsburg, Virginia, James E. Choate of Stillwater, and Ben P. Choate Jr. of Muskogee.

James Martin ‘J.M.’ Spring

James Martin “J.M.” Spring, 82, of Waco, Texas, passed away December 7, 2006, in a Waco hospital. He was born August 30, 1924, to John and Ruth Spring in the Horton Community in east Texas. Upon graduation from Commerce High School, he enlisted in the Army and served in the Philippines in World War II. After being honorably discharged from the Army, J.M. enrolled in East Texas State Teachers College where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

While attending college, J.M. met Imogene Dunn of Cooper, Texas. They married on July 9, 1948, in Commerce, Texas.

J.M. spent 32 years as an educator in Texas, serving as a teacher, coach, and administrator. His years were spent in the school districts of Honey Grove, Commerce, Mt. Pleasant, Seymour, Graham, and Crandall. He spent his retirement years farming in Delta County.

Following the death of his wife in the late 1990s, he moved to Paris, Texas, where he was a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church. J.M.’s final years were spent in Waco.

He was very proud of being a member of the Choctaw Nation. Ancestors on his paternal side can be traced from Mississippi to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears.

J.M. was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; brother, John Dennis Spring; and sister, Lorene Spring Palmer.

Survivors include three daughters, Peggy Spring of San Antonio, Texas, Judy Spring of Waco and Sherry Spring Harmon of Fort Worth, Texas; four grandchildren, James Kaspar of Aubrey, Texas, Sarah Kaspar of Curitiba, Brazil, Daniel Harmon of Kilgore, Texas, and Stephanie Harmon of Houston, Texas; one great-grandchild, Sydney Kaspar of Aubrey; five siblings, Katherine Spring Chilton of Commerce, Susie Spring West of Mena, Arkansas, Faye Spring Ingram and Margie Spring Williams of Quinlin, Texas, and Jack Spring of Commerce; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jesse David Coffman

Jesse David Coffman passed away February 11, 2007, in Bakersfield, California. He was born December 11, 1942, in Richmond, California, the son of Jess and July Coffman.

Jesse was an honest and caring person who gave of himself and asked very little in return. He was a renowned storyteller who could entertain as well as educate through one of his stories. Jesse and his stories will be greatly missed by all who knew him. When anyone met him as a stranger they left with a new friend. Jesse loved driving trucks and was employed by Sullivan Petroleum for 30 years until 1999 and then Wholesale Fuels until 2007.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, John Coffman and Ralph Coffman.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia Coffman; son and daughter-in-law, Jesse and Lori Coffman; daughter and son-in-law, Julia and Tony Kelly; sisters, Barbara Green and Grace Harris; sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Eugene Janeway; sister and brother-in-law, Roy Rhoades; grandchildren, Tony II, Courtney, Jessica and Patrick Kelly; numerous nieces and nephews and family members.



San Antonio



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, General Joe Campbell and wife Betsy and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.



Natasha and Scott Britton brought 3-month-old Madison and 2-year-old Morgan with them to the San Antonio Choctaw meeting.



Karen, Joseph and 18-month-old Anthony Flores.



Chief Pyle greeted Jim Tidmore, Toby Blanda, Erica, Emily, Sarah and Lewis Tidmore to the convention center in San Antonio.



Daniel Lebar, only 5 1/2 months old, came to the San Antonio meeting so he could get registered with the Choctaw Nation. His parents are Andrea Christian and Timothy Lebar.

Children of Tradition Cake Walk

Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun and help raise money for the Children of Tradition during a Cake Walk at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, at the Choctaw Community Center, Coalgate. For more information, please call Pat Mayer at 580-927-2697 or Louise Ott at 580-927-3641.

Jessie Family Reunion

A Jesse Family Reunion will be held April 6 and 7 at Kulli Tuklo UMC, Idabel. This is an organizational family reunion to choose the committee for yearly reunions and to greet and meet. For more information, contact Cheryl Jessie Stephan, phone 214-587-6802 or email mismicki@tx.rr.com, or Lola Wesley, phone 580-212-6523.

Gospel Singing

Faith Baptist Church in Antlers is holding its Annual Gospel Singing on Saturday, April 21. The event is being hosted by the family of Lee Roy Ward. Supper is at 5:30 p.m. Faith Baptist Church is located 2 1/2 miles north of the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 2. For additional information, call 918-917-3439.

Family Reunion

A reunion of relatives of Mary J. Battiest, Herman Allen, Tom Tell Williams and Mose Leflore is scheduled for June 2 at Boggy Depot State Park Shed #3. For more information, call 580-239-1960. Please bring a covered dish for the noon meal.



Tala Lynn Bohanan was happy to assist Chief Pyle in giving out door prizes. She drew the winning tickets from the basket.



Veterans Advocate Brent Oakes with nephews John Michael and Jalyn Williams in Houston.



Craig Fendley, Bob Gee and Aleta Fendley-Gee are pictured with Chief Pyle in Houston. Bob and Aleta were married New Year's Eve on a cruise.



Jill Bagley and granddaughter, Ella Green.



Lillie Swansey and Imogene Hudson both attended Wheelock Academy.



Heather Walker pushes her son, Shawn, with the help of 3-year-old Faith.



Donna and Harold Oiler visit with Executive Director of Choctaw Nation Health Services Gary Batton.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Harris County DA Chief Investigator John Harrison and Tribal Police Executive Director Dan Brashears.



Tiger Cubs Lil' Dribblers

The REACH 2010/Wellness Department at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center would like to say "Job well done!" to the Tiger Cubs Lil' Dribblers. Since September, once a week, 30 pre-k and kindergartners and 62 grades one through four students have met to practice their basketball handling skills. They had a chance to show their skills during Talihiina High School games, February 6, 10 and 13. They received their Tiger basketballs at an end-of-program party. The REACH 2010/Wellness Department, Teresa Frederick and Doris Ward would like to thank the Talihiina School for its help and use of the facilities. They would also like to thank parents MiMi Blemmel, Crystal Lowe and Misty Johnson and DWC employees Amber Blue and Crystal Matthews for all of their help with the Lil' Dribblers.

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

The Accounting Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is trying to contact the individuals listed below. Choctaw Nation is in possession of unclaimed funds that may be due to these individuals. If your name is listed below, please contact:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Kellie Pickett Jr., Accountant
or phone 580-924-8280, ext. 2408

Weslee B. Akin
Treva Armstrong
Jesse Arnold
Laura Ann Ayala
Mary Baker
Bobbie Barnett
Kelli Battiest
Collin Blackard
Steven Lee Blackowl
Leah Burns
Denay L. Burris
Jina Capps
Carla Chester
Brandi Clark
Saundra Coble
James Colbert
Carrie Cole

Connie Crisp
Matthew Davidson
Cody Davis
Joshua Dellinger
Michael Dooney
Lloyd Dukes
Estate of Edward Leflore
Dustin Goss
Angelia Gueli
Gloria Harn
Krystin Hatcher
Aaron Hebert
Richard Hefner
Racheal Hernandez
Relena Hernandez
Kimberly Hicks
Christy Hill

Lorraine Hollis
Tanya Horton
Ashley Hyde
Sandy Jackson
Aaron Johnson
Casey Jones
Judy Kendrick-Winlock
Joni Kester
Jessica Kilgore
Charisse Ladd
Jedidiah Lane
Kristina Long
Janie Malik
Gary Mays
Adrianne McBride
Emily Meeks
Christina Merlo

Michael Moore
C Rosa Morales
Brian Mussett
Paige Nolen
Jason Page
Billy Pillars
Heather Poindexter
Neva Roark
Lee Ann Robertson
Debra Robinson
Carrie Romero
Elizabeth Rose
Roy Rose
William Ross
Steven Roy
Jacob Sallee
Erica Sanders

Lydia Saylor
Lena Scott
Jeremy Serbout
Russell Simplon
Michele Smith
Britnee Stearman
Linda Storie
Carmeon Thompson
Tamara Thompson
Lisa Tidwell
Paula Wadman
Dennis Wagner
Korree Wallen
Amanda Wells
Kenneth Westbrook
Michelle Wheeler