

Princess Pageants

DISTRICT 1 –
May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel. Applications are due May 2.

DISTRICT 2 –
May 10 at 5 p.m. Applications may be picked up at the Boys and Girls Club and are due April 25.

DISTRICT 4 –
May 10 at 4 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Poteau. Deadline for applications is May 2.

DISTRICT 5 –
May 21 at 1 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Stigler. Deadline for applications is April 15.

DISTRICT 6 –
May 17 at 3 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton. Deadline for applications is May 2.

DISTRICT 7 –
May 30 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Antlers. Deadline for applications is May 23.

DISTRICT 8 –
May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Hugo. Deadline for applications is May 9.

DISTRICT 9 –
May 30 at 5:30 p.m. on the Bryan County Courthouse lawn, Durant. Applications are due May 16.

DISTRICT 10 –
May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Atoka. Applications are due May 9.

DISTRICT 12 –
May 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Crowder. Deadline for applications is May 5.

Council holds March session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Session met March 8 in regular session at Tushka Homma. New business addressed included:

- two oil and gas leases in favor of R.D. Williams;
- two applications to the Department of Health and Human Services, one for a Native American Healthy Marriage Initiative Grant and one for a grant program for residential treatment for pregnant and postpartum women;
- a grant application under the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program, Office of Victims of Crime, Counseling and Faith-Based Services for Crime Victims in Indian Country; and,
- a modification to the Tribal Operations fiscal year 2008 operations.

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Employees accept the challenge

Project Pink team to walk 60 miles in Breast Cancer 3 Day

Nine women affiliated with the Choctaw Nation have accepted an incredible challenge. On November 7-9, their team, Project Pink, will be walking 60 miles each over the course of three days to support the cure for breast cancer.

“We know 60 miles is a LONG WAY,” said team leader Sonya Diggs, “but we also know that it is nothing compared to the diagnosis of cancer. With the thousands of miles that will be walked that one weekend and the millions of dollars that will be raised, we will be one step closer to finding a cure!”

Sonya is joined by Angie Hodge, Jennifer Virgin, Beth Huddleston, Michelle Childers, Lindsey Young, Carrie Wallace, Julie Riggle and Sonja Ray to walk in the Dallas chapter of the Breast Cancer 3 Day, benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Each member of the Project Pink team has agreed to raise a minimum of \$2,200, all of which will go

Upcoming Events

- Coed Softball Tournament April 19, Billy Miller Park
- Spaghetti Dinner April 25, Bryan County Community Center
- Pampered Chef party, May 2

toward making a difference in a person’s life that has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle expressed a strong support for a Breast Cancer Awareness Challenge issued to Choctaw Nation departments to help with fundraising efforts. Several fundraisers include Easter photos with bunnies for \$5 each, raffle donations on pink pearls and a watch donated by Ray Ward Fine Jewelers of Durant, a jump-a-thon at the Choctaw Day Care, a Coed Softball Tournament on April 19 at the Billy Miller 3 field in Durant, and a \$5 Spaghetti



Project Pink team members are, back row, Angie Hodge, Michelle Childers, Lindsay Young and Sonja Ray; second row, Sonya Diggs, Jennifer Virgin and Julie Riggle; and front row, Beth Huddleston and Carrie Wallace.

Dinner April 25 at the Bryan County Community Center (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. for dinner). The team also plans to have a Pampered Chef party May 2 to help raise money for the cure for breast cancer.

Donations can also be made

online by going to <http://www.the3day.org>. Please choose “Project Pink” and choose the team member with the lowest amount of donations. No donation is too small (or too large), and they are tax deductible. The team members are very thankful for the help

in making their goal a reality. According to Project Pink, one in eight women in the United States will continue to be diagnosed with breast cancer. “That’s why we are walking in the 3-Day, because everyone deserves a lifetime,” said Sonya.

Batton speaks to Congress



Assistant Chief Gary Batton recently represented Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation with Congressional testimony before the Appropriations Subcommittee on the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies FY 2009 Budgets for the BIA and IHS Programs.

Specifically, the Choctaw Nation’s testimony outlined the need to lift a moratorium on distribution of Indian Student Equalization Formula funds. This is because grades 1-6 at Jones Academy now have an academic program on campus. Batton voiced the Choctaw Nation’s support of the National Indian Health Board and the National Congress of American Indians’ request in restoring funds for National Urban Indian Health programs, as well as increasing funding for various health services.



Donation benefits children’s medical research

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton presented a check for \$5,000 to the Children’s Medical Research Institute in Oklahoma City on February 4. Pictured are CMRI Executive Director Kathy C. McCracken; Assistant Chief Batton; Chief Pyle; Steve D. Chernauek, MD, who holds the CMRI Edith Kinney Gaylord Chair in Diabetes; and CMRI President Sue Homsey.



Hugo JOM and school officials are pictured with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Perry Thompson.



Wilburton JOM parent committee members are pictured with Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Council Speaker Delton Cox, Councilman Perry Thompson and Councilman Joe Coley.

Wilburton, Hugo JOM programs win 2008 awards

Indian education: ‘Our culture ... our right’

The 2008 Johnson-O’Malley Conference Awards Banquet, held March 4 in Tulsa, recognized exemplary JOM programs throughout Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation honored programs in two schools – Wilburton and Hugo.

“Choctaws have always believed in the education of our youth and understand that education starts at home,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “As education expands our horizons, we prepare to face the needs of a changing world. Through education we more readily embrace change.”

The JOM enrollment in Wilburton represents 23 percent of the total student body. To serve the JOM students, Wilburton Public School has implemented a cultural/academic enrichment program to promote a better understanding and greater awareness of their Native American heritage and culture. Wilburton’s education program helps students and parents become more active in their education and increases self-esteem. They provide school supplies, educational books and materials, and tutoring so that students can gain greater knowledge in the core subject areas. Members of the parent committee are DeAnn Rowe, Mike Chronister, Angela Spears, Karen Wynn and Jennifer Woods.

At Hugo Public School, 22 percent of the student body are members of JOM. The students benefit from an academic enrichment program that provides academic supplies, a library fair, reimbursement of testing fees, speakers and field trips, school software and equipment and a student incentive awards program. Hugo’s parent committee members are Tony James, Michael Thompson, Cathy Davidson, Natasha Hudson and Perry Thompson.

Within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma there are 72 schools participating with a JOM student enrollment of 9,700. JOM staff members include Director Rebecca Clapp, Assistant Director Neal Hawkins and Secretary/Claims Officer Becky Noah.

NOTES TO THE NATION

Tribe receives Pro Patria Award

Dear Chief Pyle,

The announcement of the Pro Patria Award to the Choctaw Nation is a wonderful opportunity to send this long overdue letter of appreciation and gratitude to you and the entire Choctaw Nation for the support given to me while I was deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism from February 2005 to November 2007. I was assigned to Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas for 15 months as the case manager supervisor for the Arkansas Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO) and then attached to the Headquarters Task Force CBHCO, Great Plains Regional Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, as senior clinical operations officer for 18 months. During this time, I was privileged to be a part of the ongoing development and implementation of this brand new type of health care program for the Army that provided remote case management for Reserve and National Guard soldiers who were still in need of health care before discharge or medical separation but could receive their care while still on active duty, living at home, and performing limited duty at a local armory. Since the AR CBHCO covered seven area states, including Oklahoma, I know there were several Native Americans who were attached to the AR unit. It gives me great satisfaction knowing they received excellent management in our program during their CBHCO time.

I had only planned to be on active duty for one year then return to my job as diabetes educator at the Rubin White Clinic. The one year quickly became nearly three years as my services were still needed and I was requested to stay numerous times, including the end when my orders were up. I was happy to still work for our soldiers but knew I needed and wanted to return back to CNHSA to continue in the job I love and that has been the most rewarding one of my nursing career. A continued mobilization would not have been possible for me, though, without knowing my job and benefits were being looked after by my employer. I know there are federal regulations binding for soldiers called to active duty but not all employers bend over backwards to be as supportive as you and the Choctaw Nation.

In addition to thanking you for your support, I owe Sandra Dukes-Lucier, RN, Diabetes Wellness Center coordinator, and Lee Ann Griffin, RN, CDE, my immediate supervisor, a huge thank you for their constant reassuring each time I called that my job was still open for me when I could return and they wanted me to come back. Bernice Williams, RN, and Annette Choate, RN, CDE, are the other two “Salad Sisters” who along with Lee Ann and Raina Spears, RD/LD, community dietitian, helped take on the extra load left by my absence and deserve my lifelong thanks and gratitude.

I also owe Mr. Gary Batton many thanks for his support because I know how important it is for support to come from the highest levels. His appointment to Assistant Chief came while I was away and I congratulate him on this esteemed role. He has worked patiently and hard for the CNHSA and deserves to be recognized for his achievements. So it is no surprise that the Choctaw Nation has been singled out to receive the Pro Patria award for superiority in employer support. I congratulate you, the Tribal Council, and the entire Nation for this prestigious award that is so very well deserved.

My most sincere gratitude and thank you for all that has been done for me and all the troops who serve this great country.

**Nancy L. Clark, RN, MS, CDE, Diabetes Educator
Diabetes Wellness Center
Choctaw Nation Health Care Center**

Home receives repair work

Dear Chief Pyle,

I want to thank you for fixing up my old house. A special thanks to Councilman Kenny Bryant. He goes out of his way to help the Choctaw people.

**Eugene Sweet
Hartshorne**

Student allowance appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for their support. We received the funding allowance for our children’s supplies and school clothes. I want to thank you so very much for the help. It is such a blessing to our kids and to us. Thank you so much for all you do!

Carla and Teddy Boehm

Irish famine remembered

Dear Editor,

I am an Irishman currently researching the famine in Ireland whose own ancestors died and emigrated during the famine. I just wanted to say my own thanks to the Choctaw Nation for their donation to the Irish people despite being in dire and similar circumstances. To Irish people who know the details about the famine this act of human kindness by you people is deeply and fondly remembered.

Martin Mellon



Donations to McCurtain firehouse

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I wanted to thank you and all the folks that helped our fire department purchase the hose we so desperately needed. We have already loaded some hose on the fire trucks and some hose is in the picture. Words cannot express the gratitude for your act of kindness and concern for the Garvin Fire Department and the citizens in McCurtain County.

**Byron Foster, Assistant Chief
Garvin Volunteer Fire Department**

Gratitude and thanks

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to the wonderful people of the Choctaw Nation for the support and service that I received during my recent dilemma. When I needed help, they came to my aid. The employees were friendly and helpful, but a special thank you to the emergency service department. I am sure this could not have been possible if not for the foresight and excellent planning of the Choctaw Nation administration.

Willie Walley, Bennington

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I recently participated in a Choctaw Nation Goat Show at Wilburton. I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for sponsoring the show and for the hat, coat, and plaque that I received. Thank you for all that you do for us.

**Walker Gragg
Spiro Middle School**

Seeking information

Dear Editor,

I am looking for anyone who may be able to give me information on Sarah and Lonnie Boatman. They lived in the early 1900s in Talihina. I found the marriage certificate in my grandfather’s belongings and was curious who they were. I know that they married April 10, 1909, in Sebastian Fort Smith District. She was 34 and he was 23 on the marriage certificate. Any information would be appreciated.

**Melinda Hicks
PO Box 1255
Panama, OK 74951**

Historical information sought

Dear Choctaw Nation,

While researching WWII Army deep sea diving, I came across your website and read about Mr. Newton Rudolph Harris. I am very interested in his story because he was a member of a very small, elite group of soldiers who were trained to repair and rebuild harbors and port facilities used to resupply the allied forces in both the Pacific and European Theaters of the war. He may have been the first Native American U.S. Army Deep Sea Diver and I would be honored to hear his story.

Please contact me at my e-mail address leveillejp@aol.com or phone me at 304-572-2058.

James P. Leveille

Seeking information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Gregg L. Lewis and I work for Osage Land Company of Edmond, Oklahoma. When I began working here, one of my first assignments was to try and locate two Seminole girls or their descendants. I learned through discussions with family members that the two were sent to Wheelock Academy in Milerton sometime between 1945 and 1955, when the school was closed down. The girls’ names were Mary and Karen Harjo. I am asking for help from anyone who might have some type of information on these people. The only information that I have on them was that they were originally from around the Seminole area, and that they would have been around 4 and 5 years of age, respectively, when they were sent to Wheelock. If anyone has information regarding these people, please give me a call or send any information to the phone number listed below. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

**Gregg L. Lewis
Osage Land Company
800-330-8274**

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Nathan Maxwell. I am a freshman at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for all the help, including financial, they have given me. College would have been a lot harder without your help.

**Nathan Maxwell
Durango, Colorado**

Seeking information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Edith Kay Bacon Bitsoi. I was born in Talihina Samaritin Hospital on November 17, 1941. My biological mother, Roda Bacon, died of uterine cancer shortly after I was born. My grandmother, Josephine, raised me until I was 8 years old in White Sands Velvet in Choctaw County. At that period of time, my grandmother signed her name as Josephine Frazier who told me that grandfather’s name was Simon Frazier. I grew up only knowing his name. I know my uncle’s name was Cecil Bacon. He passed in November of 1989. I am also trying to find more information on my Uncle Colley Bacon who may have changed his name to Colley Frazier. I know he was born in 1928 which makes him around 89 years old.

If you have information, recognized a name or are related to any of the above names, please contact my son, Deswood Bitsoi. His cell phone is 918-318-0374 or home phone 918-429-0450.

**Edith Bitsoi
e-mail: ctso_67@yahoo.com**

Seeking information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Lisa Slater and I am looking for my husband’s family. He was born at Los Angeles County General Hospital at 5:17 p.m. on October 27, 1959, to a Virginia Allene Parker, 23 years old. The mother is Irish, English, 1/4 Indian/Caucasian and was Catholic. The father was Mexican/Caucasian and was born in Texas, now possibly living in Arizona. His health condition at birth was asthma and it states that his mother has it and was hospitalized in April 1957 and April 1958 for pneumonia. One sibling born in 1956 was listed as stillborn. The mother was very determined to have Dave (not birth name) put in a large loving adoptive home. Dave was in a foster home until he was adopted by George and Nancy Slater on April 21, 1961. If anyone has any information, please call 707-459-3798 or 707-459-2570 or write to 1924 Buckeye Road, Willits, CA 95490.

Lisa Slater

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Choctaw Nation, for the college scholarship monies extended to me. It will really come in handy in helping me attain my goal in the arts.

**Chase Weems
Burleson, Texas**

Seeking information

Dear Editor,

I am working on a biography about Greg Filz, who happens to have CP, which is why I am writing his story instead of him doing it himself. Greg attended school briefly with a young Choctaw lady named Roberta at Jackson High School in Portland, Oregon, in the 1970s. Roberta was incredible, full of energy and spirit. She ran away from home one day and was never heard from. We know she had planned to go to a Choctaw reservation with her girlfriend to live with her grandmother. The teacher, John Jensen, never heard from this girl again. Mr. Jensen is about 75 years old now. We were wondering if perhaps you know of her? Roberta would be in her early 50s and could be living in Choctaw Nation. She was very petite, but packed a wallop with her attitude and determination. She used to sign her name as “HB” for “Human Being.” Mr. Jensen hoped she did well in life.

If you have information regarding Roberta, please contact me with the information below.

**Liza Sanford-Crane
Elkton, MD
theoaksff@hughes.net
410-392-5904**

Appreciation

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton,

My wife and I want to tell you how much we appreciated some ladies employed by the Choctaw Nation Outreach-CHR Department.

They were at the Tohwali Church preparing food for the Jacobs family, when they saw a fire by our house. They called the fire department, hooked up the water hoses, and started watering around the house. They worked in the smoke and heat until the fire was put out. It was a close call. The wind was blowing so hard. Without them letting us know it would have been too late. They stayed calm and helped us. Their names are Del Powell, Oma Clay, Angie James, Darlene Noahubi, and Carrie Ward. We will always remember these ladies and cannot thank them enough.

**Norris and Glenda Harkey
Oak Hill Community**

Education assistance

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I come with my deepest thanks for your assistance in paying for my college. I have recently graduated, but would never have made it through, at least without a substantial amount of student loans. I worked full-time managing a portrait studio along with taking classes full-time at the University of Central Oklahoma. It was such a relief to have assistance with the college bill, especially after my freshman scholarships ended. You have made life during and after college so much easier. Thank you very much for your support of pursuing a higher education. Just a week before graduating I landed a job at Edmond North High School teaching the Special Education classes of Study Skills and Math for Finance and am simply loving it. I appreciate everything this department has done for me.

Jooli (Julie) Elizabeth Evans



Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Keota Lions and the Lady Lions would like to thank you for all the support during the Junior High Tournament. We really appreciate the donations of money, food for the hospitality room and your time in the concession. Your time and talent really made this tournament a big success.

**Coach Doug Cagle
Coach Marcia Parker**

Searching for ancestors

Dear Editor,

I am searching for relatives of Benjamin LeFlore and his daughter, Selena Ralina Leflore. He is my great-great-great-grandfather and Selina is my great-great-grandmother. Any information will be appreciated. Please call 405-329-0386 or write:

**Marie M. Keeling
3229 Willow Rock Road
Norman, OK 73072**

Choctaw programs helpful

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank Choctaw Nation and their programs. We greatly appreciate the people who helped us and all that was done for us during a difficult time. God bless.

**Gary W. Hicks
Panama**

Looking for pictures

Dear Editor,

I am looking for information or pictures of the old town of Garland in Haskell County. There is nothing left but the old cemetery where some of my family are buried. If anyone has pictures, call 817-447-7415 or e-mail rose4ever@sbcglobal.net.

Mike Rose

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Protecting a precious piece of Choctaw history

*From the Desk
of Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

A bell was hung in Pushmataha Hall in 1883 that bears the inscription “Defend the Poor and Fatherless.” Not only has the bell gotten a bit tarnished in that 125 years, the building it has faithfully hung in has weathered and aged until refurbishment has become a necessity. Because of the imminent danger of falling, the beautiful bell has been carefully removed from the enclosed belfry for its own protection.

The original foundry in Baltimore where it was created is still in production, so the bell will be cleaned and refinished by professionals who will be delighted to lay hands on a piece of their own history as well as Choctaw history.

It is a delight to see a part of Wheelock Mission and Academy receive the tender loving care that it is so deserving of. The



tribe has sought grants over the years to assist the dollars that the Tribal Council has pumped into the refurbishment of the facilities, yet time and decay continues to outpace the repairs and improvements.

LeFlore Hall is now home to a fabulous museum that showcases many items that tell stories of individual girls and teachers who were at Wheelock since the beginning.

The museum will be open on Saturday, May 17, when the Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk is held at Wheelock, and it is also open all year, Monday through Friday, from 9 in the morning to 4:30 in the after-



STAR students rewarded



*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

Chief Pyle and the Tribal Council started one of the Choctaw Nation’s newest programs, Success Through Academic Recognition, or STAR, to encourage children to achieve educational success by rewarding those students who make A’s and B’s as well as those who have a perfect attendance. About half of the eligible Choctaw students grades 2 -12 in the 85 participating school districts in the Choctaw Nation earned awards in the first semester of the STAR Incentive Program. In the 10 ½-county area, there were 515 students with perfect attendance, 702 with straight A’s and 1,201 with all A’s and B’s. Each of the students received an award certificate and gift card as a

reward for their excellence.

This was an inaugural semester for the STAR program, and participating schools submitted the achievements of eligible students to the administrative offices in Durant. The awards were delivered to the students last month. The Chief, Council and I appreciate all of the schools who assisted the Choctaw Nation in showing appreciation to the students for their exemplary work.



Council Speaker Delton Cox, the Councilman for District 4, is presenting certificates to STAR students at Pocola High School in the photo at right. The Choctaw Nation STAR Education Incentive Program has presented awards to students in 85 schools within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.



We all need to be saved

This is the season for the Choctaw Nation gatherings of Choctaws and friends during the Trail of Tears Walk and other celebrations. Continue to thank and pray for our Choctaw leaders and pray for the Choctaw people.

If someone says “saved,” what does that mean to you?

A doctor saves a patient’s life by surgery. A lifeguard saves a person from drowning. But in the religious realm many people do not understand what “saved” means. The Apostle Paul said to the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31:

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

Paul was using “saved” in its spiritual sense.

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

We have problems in our homes, they are breaking up. We have business problems, health problems, family problems. Sometimes we want to scream. We want to just quit. We try to run from the reality of everyday living by using alcohol or drugs or even by trying suicide. Like that jailer in Philippi, mankind is crying, “What must I do to be saved?”

Paul and Silas had been preaching the gospel in Macedonia. From Macedonia they went to Philippi to a place of prayer by a riverside and on their way they met a demon-possessed girl and Paul said, “come out of her,” and the demon came out.

The evil man who controlled the girl became angry because she had been telling future events and they were making money on her fortune-telling.

The men took Paul and Silas to the magistrates who had them beaten and thrown into prison and put in bonds. Instead of moaning and groaning because their backs were cut and bleeding, and because they were in jail. What did they do?

Let’s read in Acts 16:25-31:

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

26) And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bands were loosed.

27) And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

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

29) Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30) And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

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

Paul and Silas “prayed and sang praises unto

Chaplain’s Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

God,” and the other prisoners heard them.

All of a sudden an earthquake shook the whole prison, the doors opened, and the prisoner’s bonds and chains were broken. Under Roman Law, if the keeper of the prison ever lost a prisoner, he had to die.

When the keeper of the prison saw the open doors, he thought he would be killed, he pulled out his sword and was ready to kill himself, when “... Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.” (Acts 16:30).

He had been listening to their singing and heard their testimony of Praises to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas answered, “... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

This answer has been repeated and repeated, you have heard it from pastors and evangelists, yet have never had the slightest idea of what it really means to believe. Most people confess that they believe, but yet do not know that they are saved.

A person may believe and yet not be a believer. A man may believe God and be lost forever. Then there is the question, what do you mean by “believe.”

Let’s look at Romans 4:1 at the life of Abraham, as the example of faith, for the answer to our question. “What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?”

Paul tells us that “... There is none righteous, no, not one ...” (Romans 3:10). But worse than that, man is not only lost but is also unable to save himself, by good works, by keeping the law, religion, morality.

Paul says, how was Abraham saved? Was he saved by the law? No, for Abraham was saved 430 years before the law was given. Was he saved by religion? No, because Abraham was saved before he received the rite of circumcision, and not afterwards. Paul continues in Romans 4:3:

“For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”

Here is the only authority, “What saith the Scriptures?”

Notice carefully that Abraham believed GOD. It does not say Abraham believed IN God, but it says very clearly, Abraham believed GOD.

Paul continues in Romans 3:24; 28:

24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus;

28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

That is the answer which Paul gives, salvation is all of grace, received by faith. Will you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior today?

Pray for America. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in our Armed forces.



Shady Point students are congratulated by Council Speaker Delton Cox on being recognized by the STAR program.



Councilman Ted Dosh joins STAR Program staff members Jason Campbell and Director Keith Baxter in rewarding Durant’s Northwest Heights Elementary students.



Councilman Mike Amos participates in the presentation of STAR rewards to Eagletown students.

Controlling your weight

The key to weight control is keeping energy intake (food) and energy output (physical activity) in balance. When you consume only as many calories as your body needs, you will put on excess fat. If you expend more energy than you take in you will burn excess fat.

Exercise plays an important role in weight control by increasing energy output, calling on stored calories for extra fuel. Recent studies show that not only does exercise increase metabolism during a workout, but it causes your metabolism to stay increased for a period of time after exercising, allowing you to burn more calories. How much exercise is need-

Healthy Lifestyles Fitness Tip of the Month

ed to make a difference in your weight depends on the amount and type of activity, and on how much you eat. Aerobic exercise burns body fat. A medium-sized adult would have to walk more than 30 miles to burn up 3,500 calories, the equivalent of one pound of fat. Although that may seem like a lot, you don't have to walk the 30 miles all at once. Walking a mile a day for 30 days will achieve the same result, providing you don't increase your food intake to negate the

effects of walking.

If you consume 100 calories a day more than your body needs, you will gain approximately 10 pounds in a year. You could take that weight off, or keep it off, by doing 30 minutes of moderate exercise daily. The combination of exercise and watching your calorie intake offers the most effective approach to weight control.

Lack of physical activity causes muscles to get soft, and if food intake is not de-

creased, added body weight is almost always fat. Once-active people, who continue to eat as they always have after settling into sedentary lifestyles, tend to suffer from "creeping obesity."

Have you ever heard anyone say, "When I was younger I could eat anything I wanted and not gain weight!" Just stop and think if they were more active then.

It's hard to believe that the average American consumes around 3,800 calories per day. Highly processed foods are very easy to overeat.

For more information call Choctaw Nation Wellness Ed./REACH US at 800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.

Active living for families

Active living helps your family enjoy life! Moving more boosts energy and promotes sound sleep. And it's a lifelong way for you and your child to stay healthy and keep a healthy weight. In fact, active living lowers the chances of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease – for you and your child.

HOW CAN YOU RAISE AN ACTIVE CHILD?

Get moving yourself. Children often "inherit" their family's lifestyle. If you do active things, chances are your child will, too. Adults set the tone

WIC

for active living in the family.

Fit activity into your family life. You don't need to spend extra money, or even get involved in sports. You can all be active – just by doing everyday things.

Do more than watch. Play! Let yourself feel young enough to play, especially with your child. Playing is okay at any age! If you forgot how, your child can show you. Your in-

volvement and enthusiasm support your child's play.

Set limits on TV and computer time – for the whole family. That leaves more times for active play.

PARENT ALERT!

Children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most days. Competitive sports aren't the best choice for most young children. Children naturally start to do things in groups at about eight to 10 years of age. Let them choose the type of activities they enjoy.

Nibbles for Health USDA

To the Youth of the Nation

Teen Choices

By Erin DeWalt
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

It seems that sometimes teens don't think about the choices they make ... it's because they don't. I know, I'm a teen, too. Our teens need to understand that some choices they make affect them in ways larger and more important than you can ever imagine.

One choice that affects teens every day is whether or not to become sexually active. Teens are pressured into making decisions about these situations by many factors. They are constantly seeing advertisements, television programs and music videos that make having sex the "cool" or "right" thing to do.

They also probably acknowledge the fact that many of their friends are sexually active and therefore it's okay for them to be, too.

The thing that many teens don't realize is the chance for negative repercussions. Teen sex leads to teen pregnancy. During 2006, in the 10 1/2 counties of Choctaw Nation alone, there were approximately 600 teen pregnancies and it appears that the rate is still rising.

Teen pregnancies don't only affect the mother and father as they are right now; teen pregnancy affects the outcome of your life as well as the life of your child. Will you be able to finish school? Will you be able to take care of your baby and attend college? Will you be able to afford to feed and clothe yourself and your child? All of these questions represent possible negative effects of teen sex.

There is only one sure way to prevent teen pregnancy, it is to practice abstinence. When many teens hear the term "abstinence" they misunderstand it. The dictionary definition of abstinence is: *The practice of refraining from indulging an appetite or desire.* This means ... not having sex until you are married. As you can see, this means practicing self-restraint, self-control, and having self-respect. It is important for teens to respect themselves enough to not put themselves or others in a risky situation.

Healthy Lifestyles Recipe of the Month

Green Beans with Lemon-Garlic Dressing

1 pound green beans, trimmed
salt, to taste
1/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
juice of 1 lemon
2 cloves peeled garlic, use more or less to taste
1/2 tsp. anchovy paste (optional)
pinch cayenne pepper
freshly ground black pepper



1. Blanch the beans in a large pot of boiling, salted water until they are crisp-tender, about 3 to 4 minutes.
 2. Drain the beans and immediately plunge them into a bowl of ice water to cool them quickly. Drain again. (This may be done in advance and stored in the refrigerator for 2 or 3 days.)
 3. Combine the mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, lemon juice, garlic, anchovy paste (if desired), cayenne pepper and plenty of black pepper in a blender or small food processor and puree. (This may be done in advance and stored in the refrigerator for 2 or 3 days.)
 4. Toss the beans with the mayonnaise mixture and serve.
- Note: This is a delicious side dish with grilled tuna, roast chicken or steak.

Serving size: about 1/2 cup
Number of servings: 4
Per serving: Calories 49; Fat 0g; Protein 2g; Sodium 139mg; Carbohydrate 11g; Fiber 3g; Saturated Fat 0g.

For more information contact
Erin Adams, RD, LD
Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center
One Choctaw Way, Talihina, Oklahoma
1-800-349-7026

NURSERY NEWS

Lucinda Moselle Ladish

Lucinda Moselle Ladish was born at home on November 26, 2007. Her grandmother is Mary Buckholts-Lightheart of Arkansas. Lucy is the great-granddaughter of Paul Buckholts and the great-great-granddaughter of E.E. Buckholts.



Isaac Nathaniel Brown

James and Jeannette Brown of Stillwater announce the birth of their son, Isaac Nathaniel Brown, born at 6:06 p.m. December 10, 2007, at Stillwater Medical Center. Isaac weighed 6 pounds 14.25 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Carl and Jackie Nicolas of Ochelata and Susan Brown of Oklahoma City. Great-grandparents are John and Priscilla Wood of Broken Arrow.



Piper Olivia Blackburn

Piper Olivia Blackburn was born at 6:56 p.m. January 4, 2008, in Tahlequah. Piper weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and measured 20 inches in length. Proud parents are Jimmy Don Blackburn Jr. and Meghan Blackburn of Tahlequah. Piper also has two brothers, Jordan and Trae Blackburn. Grandparents include James and Patsy Roe of Warner, Jimmy Don Blackburn Sr. of Gore and Dorothy Blackburn of Moore.



Daryan Rae Eubanks

Wendi Ward James and Jerrod Eubanks are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Daryan Rae Eubanks. Daryan was born at 11:55 a.m. January 11, 2008, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center at Talihina. She was 17.75 inches long and weighed 5 pounds 5 ounces. Grandparents are the late Wayne "Windy" Ward of Pocola, the late Lucille Marshall Ward of Talihina, Albert Eubanks of Muldrow and Victoria Soulis Eubanks of Florida.



Mia Janelle Reich


Big brother Mick Reich welcomes sister Mia Janelle who was born at 7:15 p.m. on January 29, 2008, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital, Idabel, Oklahoma. She was 7 pounds 14 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Parents are Jay and Melissa Reich of Wright City; brother, Mick Reich of Wright City; maternal grandmother, Lillie Roberts of Durant, paternal grandmother, Brenda Reich of Wright City; and maternal grandfather, Sequoyah Roberts of Wilburton.



Ranes Joe Riddle

Diane Coley and Joey Riddle of McAlester would like to announce the arrival of their son, Ranes Joe Riddle. He was born at 10:39 p.m. February 19, 2008, at the McAlester Regional Hospital. Proud grandparents are District 6 Councilman Joe and Mary Coley of Wilburton, the late Frances Mackey of Red Oak, the late Ranes Coley of Wilburton, Myra Riddle of McAlester and Joe Riddle of Oklahoma City. Baby Ranes is welcomed by his aunts, Heather Coley and Angel Evans; uncles, Roger Coley and Jermaine Riddle; and cousins. He would like to wish his very special cousin, Rae'ven Coley, a happy belated birthday!





Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs. & Fri.
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.
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	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
		8:00-4:30	2nd & 4th Tuesday
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	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
		8:00-4:30	3rd, 4th Friday
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd week - Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro	918-962-3832	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

May 6: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).

May 8: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).

Warehouse open: May 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

Tribal Holiday: May 26. Closed for Inventory May 27, 28, 29, 30.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays May 1-23.

Tribal Holiday: May 26. Closed for Inventory May 27, 28, 29, 30.

McALESTER

May 1: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).

Warehouse open weekdays May 2-23.

Tribal Holiday: May 26. Closed for Inventory May 27, 28, 29, 30.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays May 1-23.

Tribal Holiday: May 26. Closed for Inventory May 27, 28, 29, 30.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSE

Antlers: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443

Durant: Warehouse, 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773

McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

Poteau: Market, 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

Bethel: Choctaw Community Building

Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center

Idabel: Choctaw Community Center

Smithville: Choctaw Community Center

Stigler: Choctaw Community Center

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PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Original enrollee celebrates 103rd birthday

Irene Mills celebrated her 103rd birthday on January 31. Pictured with Irene are great-great-granddaughter Katlynn Blaylock, great-granddaughter Amber Blaylock and great-great-grandson Braden Stephens.



Happy 80th birthday

Raymond Hawkins celebrated his 80th birthday in February surrounded by friends and family. Happy birthday Raymond!



Birthday greetings from the James family

The James family, originally from Cade, Oklahoma, gathered for the 75th birthday of Hiawatha James. They are the children of Richard and Mattie Moffat James of Cade and s of original enrollee Seborn James. Pictured form left to right on the back row are Pocahantas, Quilby, Benny, Etombe and Quanah. Seated is Hiawatha and Lahoma.

Marriage milestone

Congratulations to Brandon and Haley Foster who celebrated their first wedding anniversary on November 11, 2007, at the home of Brandon's mother and father, Bill and Connie Foster, in San Antonio, Texas, where they also make their home. Brandon is very proud of his Choctaw heritage and is pursuing a career in the health care industry with help from grants from the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Fund. Brandon's wife, Haley, is also pursuing a career in health care.



Family birthdays

Happy birthday to Keylan Dean Bond who turned 6 years old on March 20 and to his Papa Larry Bond who celebrated his 55th birthday on March 23. Other family members celebrating March birthdays are Keylan's twin uncles, Mike and Nick, who turned 30 on the 19th; Great-Papa Ben Franklin who was 77 on the 6th and Auntie Gayle on the 24th. Also, belated birthday wishes to his daddy, Kelly Dean Bond, who turned 26 on February 14.



Happy birthday



Birthday wishes are sent to Andrew and Joshua Sam of Baldwin Park, California, from their dad, Morris Sam, Hartshorne, and Mafo and Pokni, Cornelius and Norma Sam of Red Oak, Oklahoma.



Joshua will be 15 years old on April 14 and Andrew turns 16 years old on April 18. They attend Baldwin Park High where they are starters for the football team. I am very proud of you.

Happy birthday

Sean, Joseph and Scott would like to say happy birthday to their little sister, Katie Kay, who turned 3 years old on Valentine's Day. Katie is the only daughter of Major Brian and NanJu Goings. The family lives in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where Brian is stationed while serving in the U.S. Army. Grandparents are Helen Kasony of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Norman Going of Watson, Oklahoma. Her maternal grandma, aunts and uncles live in Korea. Sean, Joseph, Scott and Katie wish their mother a happy birthday on March 11. Birthday wishes also come from nieces and nephews, Andrew, Misty, Kayla, Gavin, Cera, Ashley, Matt, and Gabby.



Look who's 1

Gavin, Kayla and Misty would like to wish their baby brother a very happy birthday. Andrew Cole Goings of Grand Prairie, Texas, turned 1 on March 21. His mother is Andrea Goings and his grandparents are Helen Kasony of Grand Prairie and Norman Going of Watson. Also saying happy birthday to Andrew are Aunt Collette of Smithville, Major Brian and NanJu Goings, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Jon and Cristal Goings, Mesquite, Texas, and Lance and Chanda Goings, Broken Bow, along with numerous cousins and other family.



Gavin turns 20

Andrew, Misty and Kayla would like to wish a happy birthday to big brother Gavin. He turned 20 on February 19. Gavin lives and works in Grand Prairie, Texas. He graduated from South Grand Prairie High School in May 2007. Gavin is the son of Andrea Goings of Grand Prairie. Grandparents are Norman Going, Watson, Helen Kasony, Grand Prairie, and Elaine Gibson, Antlers.



Carol Smith celebrates 64th birthday

Carol Smith celebrated her 64th birthday on February 20th in Bakersfield, California. Happy birthday Carol.

Original enrollee celebrates 102nd birthday

Happy birthday wishes to Ruby Lee Trammel Brewer, an original enrollee who was born on February 7, 1906. She celebrated her 102nd birthday.



Look who is 1

Happy first birthday to Kenzie Elizabeth Foster who celebrated her first birthday on January 3 at the home of her parents, Eric and Cresta Foster, in Spring Branch, Texas. Kenzie is the granddaughter of Bill and Connie Foster and John and Priscilla Stewart of San Antonio and Spring Branch, Texas. She is the great-granddaughter of Ramona Colasky of Wasilla, Alaska, and Mae Dawson of San Antonio, Texas.



Happy birthday

Happy second birthday on April 23 to my little angel, Mahaley Lyn Cole of Antlers. Parents are Johnny and Mary Cole. Grandparents are James and Michelle Thomas of Wister and Johnny and Retha Cole of Antlers.



Happy 25th birthday

Christopher Carterby of Cove, Arkansas, was born on March 4, 1983, at Talihina. Happy birthday wishes from his parents, John Ray Carterby and Faye Carterby of Cove, Arkansas; his grandma, Mary Carterby, and aunts, Bertha Going, Melinda Simpson and Martha Carterby, all of Golden; and all of his nieces, nephews and cousins.



Belated birthday wishes

Newman Tisho Jr. was born on January 18, 1953, at Talihina. He turned 55 years old. Wishing him a happy birthday are Mr. and Mrs. Gee Tisho and all his Oak Hill family and friend Bertha Going of Golden.



Little beauty

Rymee Rayne Mayer entered her first pageant on February 9. She received second runner up. She was sponsored by employees from the Stringtown Choctaw Casino, her Papa and Moshie Cubb. She had a good time and her daddy was very proud of her. She wants to thank all of her family that helped and supported her – parents Shannon Bryant and Eddie Mayer; grandparents Edward and Patricia Mayer, Coalgate, Buckshot Bryant, Talihina, and Ruthie Fulton, Wilburton.



Happy 18th birthday

Proud grandmother Lettie E. Brantley of Camden, Arkansas, would like to wish her granddaughter, Paula Hamilton, a very happy 18th birthday on March 25.



Celebrating 26th

A happy birthday wish goes out to SPC Christopher King on his 26th birthday February 5. SPC King is the grandson of the late Eden Allen and Nancy Cooper. SPC King is serving a second tour of duty in Iraq 240th company. His proud parents are Danny and Virginia Jean Cooper King.



Look who's 1

Morgan Lane Hensley of Talihina celebrated his first birthday on Febuary 7. Proud parents are Brandon Hensley and Leslie Hampton Mize, Talihina. Grandparents are Lester Hampton and Lugenia Leflore of Talihina, Delores Wallen Davis and Myron Merryman of Bengal, Mona Parrish and Roy Swaim of Heavener, and Forest Thomas Hensley. Morgan has an older sister, Erin Mize of Heavener. Morgan has many aunts, cousins, uncles, and friends.



Amoses celebrate 59th anniversary

Congratulations to Bill and Louise Amos who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on March 26, 2008. May the memories you share and the times that you recall help to make the years ahead the very best of all.



Happy 75th birthday

Mary Carterby was born on March 17, 1933. Wishing her a happy birthday are her daughters, Bertha Going, Melinda Simpson and Martha Carterby, all of Golden; son, John Ray Carterby and Faye Carterby, Cove, Arkansas, and several nieces and nephews.



Happy belated birthday

Martha Carterby was born on February 10, 1967, at Talihina. She turned 41 years old. Happy birthday wishes from her mother, Mary Carterby; her sisters, Melinda and Bertha, and brother, Ray Carterby, Cove, Arkansas, and all the rest of the family.



Mario turns 20

Mario Going was born on March 20, 1988, at Idabel. Happy birthday wishes from his family – his mother, Bertha Going, and brothers, Gabriel, John, Kevin, all of Golden; his aunts and uncle, Melinda Simpson, Martha Carterby, and John Ray Carterby; and his grandmother, Mary Carterby, Golden.



Colt turns 1

Colt Crader turned 1 on March 11. Colt spent his first birthday on his first trip to the zoo with mom and dad. He then celebrated with cupcakes with his grandparents. Happy birthday from Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and Moshi Moshi.



Happy 6th birthday

Austin Keith Hunter Johnson of Coal- inga, California, turned 6 on February 25. Nana and Papa Catherine and Keith Boles wish him a happy birthday along with his parents, Joe and ShiAnne Johnson; big sister, Aspen; little sister, Alyson Cate; Uncle Todd and Aunt Nett; and cousins Darrian, Jaiden and Todd.



Congratulations

Connie Goulet, daughter of the late Leon Bohanan, and Mike Bond are proud parents of Aysia Leona Elizabeth Bohanan. Aysia's grandfather, Leon, died suddenly and did not get to meet his new grandchild. Her parents wanted Leon's friends and family members to see his newest grandchild that he would have adored.



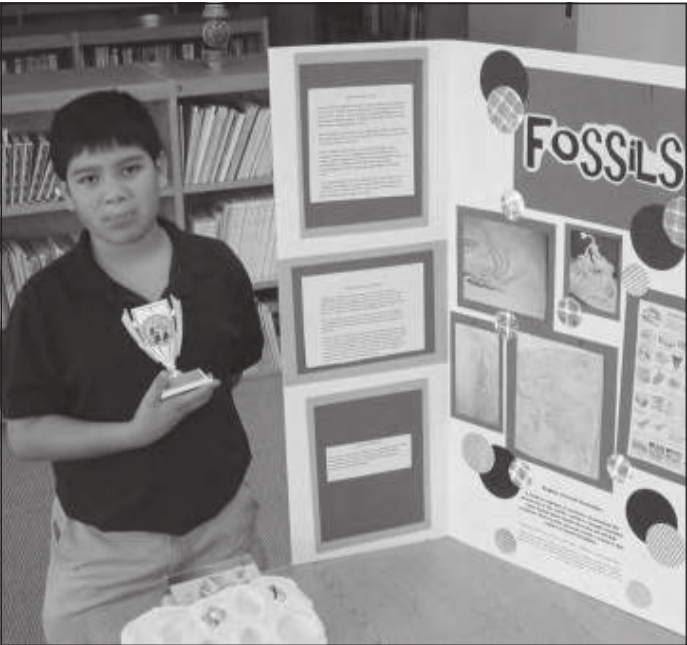
Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Bert Billy on April 10 from the Whiteshield, Limpy, Tiger and Billy families.

Gabriel is turning 12

Gabriel Louis will celebrate his 12th birthday on April 22. He is a sixth grade student at Durant Intermediate School. His school accomplishments include fifth/sixth grade spelling bee champion, regional spelling bee finalist, a member of Duke University TIP, Quest, National Federation of Music Clubs, Superintendent's Honor Roll, and Young Keyboard Artists Club. Gabriel enjoys basketball, football, reading, school, video games, going to church, playing the piano, and being with family, friends, and his dog, Blue Eyes. He is the grandson of Mimi Louis and the great-grandson of the late Rev. William and Mrs. Pearley Louis. You are truly a blessed gift from God; happy birthday from your mom and family. Gabriel would like to send belated birthday wishes to his Uncle Ray and to his cousin, Caleb, who celebrated his first birthday on April 16.





Projects place at Science Fair

On February 7, two Jones Academy students participated in the Hartshorne Elementary School’s Gifted and Talented Science Fair.

Lee Scott and Alisha Picone, both sixth-graders, submitted science projects for the contest. Lee Scott placed second in the research class with his replica of fossils and how they are formed. Alisha Picone placed sixth with her experiment based on different types of soils.

Both students worked very hard on their projects. They are a great addition to our student body at Jones Academy.



Jones Super Students

Teachers choose top students for third nine weeks

Mrs. Wells named Micco Spencer and Daisica Rice the Third Nine Weeks Super Students in her combined classroom at Jones Academy. Both are in the second grade. Micco, who loves to read, is the son of Emily Spencer and is from Oklahoma City. Daisica reported to Jones Academy in January. She is the daughter of Amy Valdez of McCloud.

Isaiah Rodriquez, third grade, and Jillian Hernandez, fourth grade, were named Mrs. Martin’s Super Students. Isaiah is the son of Sonya Chatkehoodle of Tulsa and Jillian is the daughter of Ethel Williams of Durant.

Bvianna Bernal and Wesla Butler were chosen by Mr. Sirmans as his fifth grade Super Students. Wesla is known for her helpfulness in both classroom and dormitory. She is the daughter of Senora



Front Row L-R: Timothy Bad Heart Bull-Eder, Wesla Butler, Bvianna Bernal, Micco Spencer, Daisica Rice, Isaiah Rodriguez, and Jillian Hernandez Back Row L-R: Alicia Moore, Mark Trujillo, Administrator Brad Spears, and Ismial Garibay.

Manley of Tulsa. Bvianna first enrolled at Jones Academy in 2003. She is the daughter of Andra Bernal of Tulsa.

Mr. Dugan, sixth grade teacher, commended Timothy Bad Heart Bull-Eder and Ismial Garibay for working

hard, doing everything asked of them, and for their scholastic performance. Ismial is the son of Connie Garibay of Oklahoma City and Timothy is the son of Mareno Eder of Rapid City, South Dakota.

The Jones Academy Alter-

native School Super Students for the third nine weeks are Alicia Moore and Mark Trujillo. Alicia is the daughter of Tina Moore of Shawnee. Mark is the son of Marvin Trujillo and Lisa Old Person of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico.

Enroll now at Jones Academy!



Jones Academy is now accepting applications for the 2008-09 school year. We have openings in grades 1-12.

Tour our new facilities for our elementary school.

Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future!

Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post-Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

Please call for a tour or an application at toll-free 888-767-2518 or write to:
Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshorne, OK 74547



Jones Academy youth are STARs

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is recognizing several Jones Academy students for academic achievement during the fall semester of 2007.

As part of the STAR Education Incentive Program, students qualified for rewards through academic performance and school attendance. These students were given Wal-Mart gift cards and a certificate of recognition from Chief Greg Pyle and Tribal Councilmember Bob Pate.

The Jones Academy students met the program criterion by making straight A's or



A and B's and/or perfect attendance for the semester.

Pictured in top photo are elementary students Mariah Amos, Enrique Guerrero, Lee Scott, Shelby Tushka, Wilmer Guerrero, Jillian Hernandez,

Alisha Picone, Kendale Willie and Cyrus Battiest.

In the second photo are high school students Katreece and Shaylia Cobb, Faustine "Frosty" Herrera, April Conley and Melissa Canterbury.

Students participate in poster contest

Jones Academy fifth grade students participated in the 2008 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. The theme for this year's contest was "Bring Our Missing Children Home."

The fifth-graders were given the opportunity to discuss safety issues and come up with ideas to help bring missing children home. We also talked about preventive measures that can keep children safe from predators such as "don't get in a car with strangers" and "always stay visible to parents and guardians when out in public."

Students visualized and used imagery to get ideas for the contest. They did a fantastic job using artwork to share their feelings and beliefs on a subject that needs all of our attention. We know that being educated helps us make good decisions for ourselves as well as the communities where we live. Knowing what to do in situations and having plans in place saves time and lives.

It was difficult choosing a winner for the poster contest



Cynthia Brown, Bvianna Bernal and Jessica Sampson display their posters.

because we have many talented students that have grown a great deal in the field of art this year.

Every day fifth grade students read a story and are given time to draw a picture of the story that they imagined in their mind as they read. They have used watercolors, colored map pencils, and crayons this year to help connect the words with their imagination. "NO WONDER IT WAS HARD TO PICK A WINNER!!!"

One feature did stand out

after evaluating Cynthia Browns' masterpiece which was the sun at the end of the road signifying hope for the missing children if we all work together using programs like AMBER Alert and being prepared to deal with such situations in an effective way. Staying informed and keeping up with new techniques is something that the fifth grade at Jones Academy feels is a key issue to keep all of our children safe and help bring back those that are missing.

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 250-500 words describing your future educational plans/goals.
- Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member living in 10 ½ counties ONLY and attach a copy of Tribal Membership & CDIB card.
- All applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2008.
- Winning applicants will be notified by May 31, 2008.

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

1st Place \$500.00 • 2nd Place \$250.00 • 3rd Place \$150.00

Sponsored by: Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board



Ada’s Phase 1 Language Class graduates

Congratulations to the community class in Ada who completed its Phase 1 Choctaw language course.

Richard Adams from the Choctaw Nation School of

Language presented certificates to the graduates on February 7.

Pictured are, back row, Richard Adams, Julie Pendleton, Ruth Hancock, Diane Jacob,

Kim Kaniatobe, Kody Kaniatobe and Courtney Parchcorn; second row, J.J. Jacob, Don Jacob and Hannah Harjo; and front row, Halley Taylor and Victoria Solana.

Native American drama showcased at CASC Spring Film Festival

Independent film director Sterlin Harjo, Seminole/Creek, presented his film “Four Sheets to the Wind” at the Carl Albert State College Spring Film Festival March 11. Choctaw Nation Council Speaker Delton Cox introduced Harjo, a native Oklahoman, who filmed the movie in his hometown of Holdenville.

“Four Sheets to the Wind” premiered in 2007 at the renowned Sundance Film Festival, receiving much critical acclaim. The film features a young Seminole man whose father suddenly dies. He begins a journey of self-discovery that takes him to Tulsa, to love, and to a greater understanding of himself.

Viewers attended the free showing in the Hamilton Auditorium on the Poteau campus of CASC. Harjo, both direc-



tor and screenwriter of “Four Sheets to the Wind,” explained the filmmaking process before the drama began.

Harjo attended the University of Oklahoma where he studied painting before tackling screenwriting and film theory at the university’s film and video-studies program. He completed development

on “Four Sheets to the Wind” through Sundance Institute’s Filmmakers Lab and in 2004, the Sundance Institute awarded him an Annenberg Fellowship. The film was a finalist for the NHK Award.

The Spring Film Festival is funded by an endowed professorship granted by the CASC Development Foundation.

ATTENTION PARENTS

Native American children between the ages of 8 and 17 years are needed for a study evaluating body fat, physical activity and cardiovascular health at

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Study compensation and parking are provided.

Call

405-271-8001 x42719

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.



Kelsey McPherson who is a Choctaw tribal member served as a page for Representative Lisa J. Billy who is also Choctaw. Kelsey is the granddaughter of Betty Karr of McAlester.

CNYAB members present workshop

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board members Severt Dahl of Clayton, Jessie Blackwell of Heavener, Ariel Miller of Kiowa and Rosie Statham of Red Oak presented a workshop on “Self-Esteem (Who Am I?)” at the 17th Annual Pittsburg County Adolescent Health Conference.

Approximately 400 seventh and eighth grade students attended the workshop held February 13 at the Peterbaugh Middle School in McAlester.



2008 Folsom Scholarship funds available

It is once again time to begin accepting applications for the annual Folsom Scholarship for Choctaw students. The purpose of the Folsom Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a high school senior who is a member or descendant of the Choctaw Nation, in recognition of his or her potential for success and desires to make a difference in the lives of others.

Criteria/Requirements:

1. Past Performance:

- Must provide an official copy of high school transcript (or equivalent).
- Must provide two letters of reference from some combination of the following individuals (only two will be judged):
 - Teacher/counselor
 - Parent/guardian
 - Community-based organization (i.e., non-profit, religious affiliation, volunteer organization, etc.)
 - Personal reference (not a relative)

2. Statement of Financial Need: All applicants must include a statement of financial need (in their own words). This statement must address two elements: (1) Why does the applicant need these funds? (2) How has the applicant prepared for and envisioned meeting his or her college expenses?

3. Statement of Education and Career Goals: The applicant must provide a written statement of 500 words or less explaining what his or her personal goals are and how this educational opportunity will help make a difference in the community in which the applicant lives and/or works.

4. Native American Requirement: The appli-

cant must provide a copy of his or her Choctaw membership card or other proof that he or she is a member or descendant of members of the Choctaw Nation.

5. Letter of Acceptance: The applicant must provide a copy of his or her letter of acceptance from the issuing institution (may be a trade school, two-year or four-year accredited institution, certification or licensure program, etc.).

6. Attendance Requirement: The applicant must attend an institution within his or her state of residence.

7. Citizenship: The applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

Submission deadline: All application materials must be postmarked by May 23, 2008.

Award Decision: No later than June 13, 2008
Award Amount: \$5,000, paid directly to the institution the winner will be attending

To apply: The above requested items constitute the complete application. Failure to provide all requested items by the deadline will result in disqualification. Send the required documentation to:

JKL Foundation
Attn: Folsom Scholarship
15950 N. Dallas Parkway, Suite 725
Dallas, TX 75248

Children of Choctaw Tribal Council members are not eligible to participate in the Folsom Scholarship program.

NOTE: The Folsom Scholarship was previously awarded by Datatrac Information Services, Inc. Going forward, it will be awarded by the JKL Foundation. All other elements of the scholarship program remain the same.



Acuna invited to New Zealand

Tommy Acuna, a ninth-grader at Elk City, has been invited to represent Oklahoma in the 20th annual Down Under Sports Tournament in New Zealand. Cross country athletes from the United States, Australia and New Zealand compete in the event which is hosted each June and July in either Australia or New Zealand. Acuna is seeking sponsors and raising money to make the trip. For more information call 580-225-4323 or visit the website at www.downundersports.com.

Congratulations

Alia McCrite, a senior at Lone Grove High School, has been named a finalist in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship program. Less than 1 percent of students nationwide receive recognition as National Merit Scholars. Also, Alia has been selected as a 2008 Academic All-Stater by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence which is a significant accomplishment. Alia is the daughter of T.J. and Donna McCrite of Lone Grove and grandparents are the late Ray and Florence McCrite of Bennington and the late Carolyn Lester of Grant and Henry and Shirley Lester of Soper. Her maternal great-grandmother was original enrollee Susan Williams Lester of Soper.



Martinez earns Citizenship Award

Rique Martinez, a junior at Ryan High School, was awarded the 2007 Citizenship Award by the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound. The term Active Citizenship implies working toward the betterment of one’s community or a program through economic participation, public service, volunteer work, and other such efforts to improve life for all citizens within such a program.

Rique was presented the award on December 22, 2007, at their annual banquet.

Rique also carries A-B grades in all of his honor classes. His parents are Misty McKee and Enrique Martinez of Ryan, Oklahoma. His grandfather is the late David McKee of Soper and his Nana Nelda McKee is of Soper.

Congratulations Rique.

UAB grad

Brandon Burris, ATC, graduated from University of Alabama-Birmingham on May 3. He received his Master’s Degree in Exercise Physiology. During his tenure at UAB, his primary responsibility was the health care and injury prevention for the Blazer football, cross country and track teams.

Prior to attending UAB, Brandon earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Athletic Training from the University of Tulsa in May 2006. While at Tulsa, he worked with the Golden Hurricane football, men’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis and women’s rowing teams.

In addition to these university teams, he also worked with Eastern Oklahoma Orthopedic Center and Union High School. Brandon also served as an intern for the Tulsa 66er’s, a local NBA development league team.

Brandon is a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association and earned ATC (Certified Athletic Trainer) in 2006. He began his career in athletic training during his sophomore year at Broken Arrow High School, where he graduated in 2002.

Jones earns bachelor’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Matthew Justin Jones of Keota who graduated December 14, 2007, from the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, with a Bachelor’s of Science in Middle Childhood Education.

To the Higher Education Department:

I would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” for all your continued support in helping me pursue a degree.

— Matt Jones

Bachelor degree earned

Michael Wayne Bingham earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Louisiana Baptist University in May 2007. Michael is the son of Joe and Eloise of Durant and brother to James “Tony” Bingham of the Dallas, Texas, area.

Michael Bingham is the grandson of the late Noel James Wilson and Starla Kay Wilson of Lane, Oklahoma. He is currently working on his master’s degree and is a permanent resident of Edmond, Oklahoma.

Evans receives degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Julie “Jooli” Elizabeth Evans of Oklahoma City on her graduation in December 2007 from East Central University. She earned a degree in special education-mild/moderate disabilities.

Prior to graduating, Jooli secured a position at Edmond North High School where she is a special education teacher instructing teenagers in study skills and consumer math.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
MAY	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.				1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Wilburton 10:30 am- 2 pm	Antlers by appt only	Durant 10 am-12 pm		Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Crowder and McAlester by appt only	Wright City by appt only	Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm		Poteau 11:30 am- 1 pm	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2008		Bethel by appt only					
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			Talihina 10 am-2 pm	Durant by appt only		Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	

Chaplain takes Word of God to our troops

From the relative safety of a bunk on base or flying into an unsecured area by Black Hawk helicopter, Chaplain Jimmy Felihkatubbee Nichols continues to pray for and with our troops.

“The ministry experiences have been very rewarding,” writes Nichols of a mission. “I conducted 38 services in 10 different locations in Afghanistan and Pakistan with 921 soldiers attending and 39 commitments to Christ.”

Jimmy, an Army veteran, enrolled at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, where he earned his Bachelor of

Science degree in Bible and Pastoral Ministry in 1992 and he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1995 from the Church of God Theological Seminary. He received a direct commission in April 1994 in the Army Reserve and attended the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, with endorsement of the Church of God.

He began his active duty Army chaplain ministry in 1996 at Fort Hood, Texas, serving in the 4-42nd Field Artillery Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. He was assigned to Korea in 1999 where he served

two years at Camp Yongsan as the 524th Military Intelligence Battalion Chaplain. He was assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in 2001 and served as the battalion chaplain in the 82nd Airborne Division’s 1st Brigade, 2-504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and served in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. He then served as the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Chaplain for the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and in Southwest Baghdad, Iraq.

Recently promoted to Major, Chaplain Nichols will graduate this summer with a

Master’s Degree in Community Counseling followed by an assignment to Heidelberg, Germany, where he will serve as the Community Family Life Chaplain.

He and wife Patricia have been married for 20 years. They have four sons, Wesley, Nathan, John and Jeffrey. Jimmy is the son of Jimmy Felihkatubbee and Janie Maynard, who both grew up in Antlers.

He is currently stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he continues to counsel soldiers and Army families at the Family Life Center.



Photo: Church of God International Offices

Chaplain Jimmy Felihkatubbee Nichols in Afghanistan



Flag presentation

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tray Ardese of McAlester and SSg. Jason Detten of Battiest visited the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant March 11 to present Chief Gregory E. Pyle with a Choctaw Nation flag that was flown over Camp Alasad, Iraq. Pictured are Councilman Bob Pate, Lt. Col. Ardese, Chief Pyle and SSg. Detten. Between the two Marines, they have been to Iraq five times and to Afghanistan twice. Lt. Col. Ardese is currently in charge of a Headquarters Squadron in Japan and SSg. Detten is stationed at Pensacola, Florida.

Thunderbird Youth Academy now taking applications

Thunderbird Youth Academy (TYA) is Oklahoma’s National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. TYA is the premier high school alternative to Oklahoma youth who have been unsuccessful in the traditional educational environment.

TYA offers students 16-19 years of age the opportunity to earn a GED and if qualified up to six semester hours of college through OSU-Okmulgee Tech. Both males and females are encouraged to apply. There is no admission fee to the applicant, with the exception of class portraits, class rings and class books that are optional and will be made available for purchase.

TYA is now accepting applications for class #31 which begins July 13, 2008. Over 2,600 students have successfully graduated from the Academy since their inception in 1993. Are you ready to take the ChalleNGe? Call 918-824-4850 or visit our website at www.ngycp.org/ok.

Cooper is deployed

Second Lieutenant N. Blaine Cooper deployed to the Paktia Province of Afghanistan on March 6. He is serving with the 1st Squadron 61st Cavalry 101st Airborne Division stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. 2LT Cooper will serve in Afghanistan until May of 2009. Blaine is a 2002 graduate of Jenks High School and a 2006 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. Blaine is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation serving our country. Please keep 2LT Cooper, all of our troops and their families in your prayers as they serve.



WW II medals awarded

Edwin G. Anderson of Talihina has been awarded for his service to the U.S. Navy – 60 years after his tour of duty in World War II.

Anderson entered into the Navy in December 1941, at the age of 17. He spent three years as a member of a small, select group of Naval Intelligence who worked with Japanese code.

A commendation letter sent to Anderson in 1946 was shown to Oklahoma Senator Kenneth Corn, who in turn sent it to U.S. Representative Dan Boren. As a result, Anderson has finally received the recognition he so deserves.

Anderson is the recipient of the World War II Victory Medal/Ribbon; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal/Ribbon and Bronze Star; Combat Action Ribbon; Honorable Service Lapel Button, and the U.S. Navy Honorable Discharge Lapel Button.

As so often is the case with intelligence missions, the secret is honored. Many years have passed, but Anderson is recognized for his service during this country’s time of need.

Thank you, Mr. Edwin G. Anderson.



It’s a small world

Former Choctaw employee and tribal member Tawny Gilmore and her commander, Major Brad Carter, have found that they have something in common. They are both from Oklahoma and Tawny’s former supervisor, Virginia Vietta, is related to Major Carter.

“Tawny is a newly promoted sergeant in my company,” writes Major Carter. “She is an outstanding soldier. If we had a battalion of these dedicated Choctaw women, we could bring this war to a speedy conclusion.

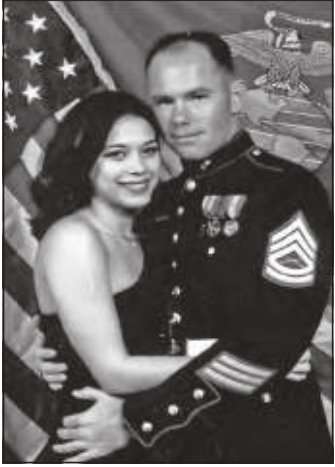
“I say that as an expert – I am married to one and have two others that rule my home.”

Major Carter is married to Shari Work Carter of Seminole, the daughter of Dr. Joe and Mildred Work. They have two daughters, Abby and Maya. He is the son of Ernest and Kathy Carter of Seminole. Ernest is Virginia Vietta’s stepbrother.

Major Carter and Sgt. Gilmore are with the 45th Brigade Combat Team in Baghdad.

McAlester native follows career in Marine Corps

Master Sergeant Larry Ott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after high school in 1988 and has made it his career. He returned to Iraq in February for seven months, making his fourth trip there. Larry’s home base is Camp Pendleton, California. His home town is McAlester. He and wife Michelle have two children – a son, Tyler, and a daughter, Abby. He is the son of Vivian Eastwood of McAlester and Jr. Ott of Oklahoma City. His grandmother is Pauline Brown and he has a number of aunts and uncles in the McAlester area



A grandfather’s dream is fulfilled

Editor’s note: Ray Moore of The Dalles, Oregon, submitted this happy birthday wish for his grandson, J.R. Moore, including with the message some very special memories...

My grandson, J.R., is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He is a great-grandson of one of the original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, my mother, Katie Barnhill.

J.R. helped me to fulfill a dream of mine in 2003 when we participated in the Trail of Tears Walk. After having six heart attacks and six bypass heart surgeries I thought my chances were gone of achieving my dream, but my physician said I had improved so much he would give his stamp of approval. My wife, Nellie, a retired nurse, was very dubious and would only give her approval if I could have a walking partner. Since she walks with the aid of a walker she could not participate. I assured her that there would be numerous medical personnel along the walk route and that proved true. Still, she would not relent until I obtained a walking partner.

When I called our 17-year-



Sp. J.R. Moore is serving with the U.S. Army at Camp Taji, Iraq. His family – wife Chris, baby Kyle and daughter Heather – make their home at Fort Carson, Colorado, and await his return in 2009. J.R. recently celebrated his birthday – Happy Birthday!

old grandson, J.R., he immediately agreed. Unbeknownst to me he had been researching the Trail of Tears Walk and was well aware of the significance to our tribe but never knew about my dream. Achieving one’s dream was quite emotional for me and when we rounded the old Council house, I was not able to respond to him. He ran for his grandmother who assured him it was an emotional, not a physical problem.

I had not been to Oklahoma since leaving 53 years earlier.

One sister had described how I could locate the house where we had lived in McAlester. After some searching, I located the spot where the house used to stand near the Rockets baseball team field. Later, using a very crude map a second sister had drawn I was able to find our home at Savanna.

J.R. and his grandmother were able to see where I was born and he was a tremendous help in our travels.

We were fortunate that Chief Pyle made time to meet with us when we visited Durant.

Trail of Tears

T-shirt

Order Form

T-shirts are white.
Sizes available are:

Children – (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) and (14-16)

Adults – Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X, and 3X



COMMEMORATIVE WALK
Saturday, May 17
Wheelock Academy
Millerton, Oklahoma

Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-shirt – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Cap – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
Name _____			
Address _____			
City/State/Zip _____			
Phone Number _____			
E-Mail _____			

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and 3X 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



Chief Pyle says hello to Deloris Rosson and William Rosson during lunch at Antlers on March 26.

Lunchtime at Antlers



Howard Loman and Abe Jones visit with Councilman Jack Austin.



Manolla Rosenthal and Cledith Wesley, seated, are pictured with Norma Austin.



Happy birthday to Elsie Walls, front right, who turned 73 on March 26. She is joined by Anita Reich, Mary Billy and Nita Wade and across the table, Virgil Silvey, Linda Silvey and Florence Chavis.



Ernestine Rosenthal-Krohn and her brother, Frank Rosenthal, are pictured with Amos Wesley.



Mary Ruth and Virgil Blan, left, and Troy and Pat McKeen enjoy the roast beef dinner at Antlers.

Christian youth group visits Choctaw Nation



The Choctaw Nation welcomed visitors from Tennessee during the first week of March. A group from Tennessee Tech's University Christian Student Center arrived in McAlester on March 2. They were assisted with their housing arrangements there by the Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ, keeping McAlester as their home base during their stay in the Choctaw Nation.

On Monday, the group traveled to Tuskahoma to work at the Choctaw Historic Village. Due to bad weather, they were unable to work at the village but were able to spend time on the Capitol grounds. Les Williston talked to the youth about our Choctaw culture and they were then invited to lunch and to tour the museum.

On Tuesday, the students and sponsors met with Terry Cole, Choctaw Nation's director of Historic Preservation and NAGPRA representative, and the Historic Preservation staff. We are very appreciative of the UCSC and how the students volunteered to help clean up old Choctaw cemeteries. They spent the day at the historic Philadelphia cemetery in Bryan County and the Carney cemetery in Pittsburg County.

"The kids were here during the snow that we had in March," said Cole. "They didn't let it faze them. They worked hard with us and we all had a great time."

On Wednesday, the group met Councilman Bob Pate and the community center staff in McAlester and were invited to lunch with the senior citizens. We would like to thank Bob Pate and the staff of the McAlester field office for their hospitality and the great lunch before the Christian group headed home to Cookeville, Tennessee.

"We really enjoyed our visit to the Choctaw Nation," said Campus Minister Dave Edmonds, "and are thankful for the hospitality shown to us by our new friends from the Choctaw Nation. It was a memorable trip."

Sealy among group selected to visit China

The 16th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences will be held July 15 to July 23 at Yunnan University in Kunming, China. The congress' theme, "Humanity, Development and Cultural Diversity," was proposed by Chinese scholars and is designed to address multidisciplinary issue.

Four members of the University of Oklahoma's Department of Anthropology will be attending the session entitled "Language Contact and Endangered Languages." Gus Palmer, Mary Linn and Leroy Sealy will each be giving papers. These talks share the results of some of our research and the effects of our institutional programming in documenting and teaching native languages.

Patricia Gilman, Anthropology Department chair, will be attending to further represent the department by underscoring the serious com-

mitment we have to endangered languages and by fielding questions concerning the university's role in language revitalization. The IUAES meeting at Kunming, China, falls perfectly into the stated goals of community and international scholarship and collaboration.

The endangered language session is chaired by Dean Yuan Yan of the Yunnan University in Kunming who invited the group to attend and present papers. Dean Yuan was a visiting scholar at the University of Oklahoma in 2005. During her time here, she met and began the foundation for collaboration with Mary Linn, Gus Palmer and Leroy Sealy and the Department of Anthropology.

Sealy is the Choctaw language instructor for the University of Oklahoma and a community language teacher for the School of Choctaw Language, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Baker takes the stage

Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City presented Eric Coble's satirical comedy, "The Dead Guy," February 15-March 8 at Stage Center. Playwright Eric Coble enjoys poking fun at American obsessions, and in "The Dead Guy," the world of reality television is the butt of his humor. During the taping of "the new reality television show," Eldon (played by Choctaw tribal member Chad Alan Baker) tries to woo back his former girlfriend (Jennifer Wells). Gravelly E. Finley III is the show's cameraman.

Hatcher on Chancellor's List

Tate Elizabeth Hatcher of Charlotte, North Carolina, qualified for the Fall 2007 Chancellor's List at Appalachian State University in Boon, North Carolina. Students must achieve a 3.85 grade point average or better in order to be listed. Ms. Hatcher had a 4.0 during the fall semester. She is a sophomore majoring in psychology at Appalachian. A 2006 graduate of Myers Park High School in Charlotte, she is the daughter of Wayne and Terri Hatcher of Charlotte, the granddaughter of Fern B. Eberhart and the great-granddaughter of Sara Fowler Tate.

Ms. Hatcher is very grateful for the generous scholarship from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show

The Second Annual Eastern Oklahoma Ag Trade Show will be held at the LeFlore County Fairgrounds on April 30. Speakers will discuss topics of interest ranging from beef production to poultry operations.

The morning session will be primarily for poultry producers. Speakers and topics will include Energy Alternatives discussed by Dr. Jim Britton, OK Foods Inc. Environmental Stewardship and how it affects the animal industry will be covered by Paul Bredwell, VP, U.S. Poultry and EGG Association. Dr. Susan Watkins, state poultry specialist for the University of Arkansas, will provide information on Drinking Water Quality.

The luncheon speaker will be Ron Hayes, Farm Broadcaster with the Oklahoma Farm Report.

The afternoon session will focus on beef issues. The topics and speakers will include Volunteer Conservation Works, to be presented by Krysta Harden, executive director, National Association of Conservation Districts. Wayne

Smith, OSU fire ant specialist, will explain the implications of the proposed quarantine on transportation of Ag products due to fire ant control. Dr. Dave Sparks, OSU veterinarian, will talk about foot and mouth disease.

A free lunch will be provided.

Over 50 exhibitors are expected. Booths will range from Ag chemicals, farm financing, farm equipment and supplies, metal and fencing supplies to feed and seed dealers. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the morning and afternoon sessions. Three hours of poultry education credit will be given for attending either session. The LeFlore, Latimer, Haskell and Sequoyah County and Talihina Conservation Districts, Choctaw Nation, OSU Extensive Service, Oklahoma Grazing Lands Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and OK Foods Inc. will be sponsoring this event.

Please call Lisa at 918-647-3554 for additional information

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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

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

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

Outstanding reader

Brianna Howard would like to congratulate her big brother, Braden Howard of Tuttle, for winning the 2008 Grady County Reading Council Outstanding Reader Recognition Award. He will be recognized at a banquet that will be held by the Grady County Reading Council. Molly Levite Griffis, an Oklahoma award-winning author, will be the entertainer for the evening. Braden is the 7-year-old son of Matthew and Nakisha Howard. He is the grandson of Sherman and Gloria Ward of Talihina. Braden attends the first grade at Tuttle Elementary School and is on the Superintendent's Honor Roll. He is very active in soccer, baseball and Cub Scouts.



OBITUARIES

Virgil Oren Coffee

Virgil Oren Coffee, 94, of McIntosh, New Mexico, passed away January 13, 2008, at the home of his son, Dale, in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Born October 5, 1913, in Hugo to James Carrol and Lelia Jane Kendrick Coffee, he was the fourth of six children. His mother was an original Choctaw enrollee. Virgil was proud of his Choctaw heritage and encouraged and assisted his children and grandchildren to become tribal members.

Virgil lived in Hugo and attended public schools there. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, he worked a variety of agriculture-related jobs until he finally became a short-order cook. He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in camps in California. In 1935, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, becoming an officer during World War II. He served in the Medical Service Corps performing medical evacuation during combat operations in Europe. When conflict began in Korea in 1950 he saw action again as an officer conducting medical evacuation during combat operations. He retired from the Army in 1956 with the rank of Major, while serving as medical supply officer of the station hospital, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico. After working for the New Mexico National Guard in supply operations in the late 1950s, he worked as a weapons management specialist for the Defense Nuclear Agency in Albuquerque, 1960-1973. During this period he was detached to work with the State Department’s AID mission in Vietnam, 1967-1968. He was in Saigon during the Tet Offensive. During his years of retirement, his favorite activity was genealogy and family history.

Virgil married a young widow, Iva Fern Wingfield Green, June 3, 1938, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. They had seven children. The family lived in Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico (Alamogordo), Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico (Albuquerque, 1953-1961; McIntosh, 1961-2008).

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a son, Daniel Lee Coffee; a grandson, Charles Oren Hale; a great-grandson, Damon Coffee; two brothers, Jefferson Davis and James Haskell Coffee; and two sisters, Margaret and Nadine Coffee.

Survivors include three sons, Edwin Russell Coffee and wife Phyllis of Woodbridge, Virginia; Virgil Oren Coffee Jr. of Albuquerque, and Dale Scott Coffee and wife Nola of Rio Rancho, New Mexico; three daughters, Iva Fern Barclay and husband Ernest of Moriarity, New Mexico, Barbara Jean Gonzales and husband Tommy of Blue Water Lake, New Mexico, and Patricia Laverne Britt of Odessa, Texas; brother, Edwin Russell Coffee of Bakersfield, California; 16 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

Kenneth Bohanon

Kenneth Eugene Bohanon, 47, of Broken Bow passed away February 9, 2008. He was born May 28, 1959, in Talihina, the son of Anthony “Cubby” and Rena Stewart Bohanon.

Kenneth enjoyed grilling, all sports, and spending time with family, friends and helping others.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Milway Bohanon and Lewis Haiakanubbie; sisters, Mary Sue Ward and Ruth James; nephew, Jonathan Ward; two grandnephews, Bradley and James McKinney.

Survivors include his wife, Eunice Bohanon of Battiest; three sons, Trent Eugene Bohanon and Brent Robert Bohanon, both of Battiest, and Kenneth E. Bohanon Jr. of DeQueen, Arkansas; one stepson, Tyron Bohanon of Tulsa; three daughters, Renesa R. Bohanon of Oklahoma City, Jody Bohanon of Midwest City and Kelly Bohanon of Oklahoma City; brother and sister-in-law, Solomon and Esther Stewart of Warm Spring, Oregon; sister and brother-in-law, Linda D. and Jimmy Lowman of Watson; one grandson, Kevin Bohanon of Battiest; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

The family of Kenneth Bohanon would like to thank everyone in Choctaw Nation, Chief Pyle, Mike Amos, Kenny Bryant, CHR, all the security and transportation, Byars “Hot Shot” Baken who picked up my son to be in time for the funeral. I know we will grieve for a long time but with your help I know we will make it. Thank you Mike Amos for being there for my brother.

– Linda Lowman, Watson
Solomon Stewart, Warm Spring

Alice Pisachubbie

Alice Pisachubbie, 88, of Hugo passed away March 7, 2008, in Hugo. She was born February 9, 1920, in Speer, Oklahoma, the daughter of William Harrison Pisachubbie and Adeline Austin Pisachubbie. She grew up in the Speer community, living there all her life except for approximately 30 years that she lived in Dallas, Texas. She was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Hugo.

Alice retired from Baylor Hospital, Dallas, after 25 years as an LVN. She enjoyed sewing, visiting with friends, and doing things for her family. She was very generous, kind, compassionate, forgiving and loving to all of her family and friends. She will be truly missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, Colbert, Eli, Jesse, and Edward Pisachubbie; and one sister, Josephine Thompson.

Survivors include two nephews, William “Ed” and wife Marjorie Pisachubbie of Hugo and Perry and wife Gail Thompson, also of Hugo; one niece, Iva and husband Daniel Wallace of Hugo; and many grandnephews and grandnieces, along with many other relatives and friends.

Helen Della Willis

Helen Della Willis, 88, of Swink passed away February 29, 2008, at Swink. She was born February 27, 1920, near Wright City, the daughter of John and Isabel James Herndon.

She grew up in McCurtain County and moved to Oregon in 1952, moving back to McCurtain County in 2006. She graduated from Chilocco Indian Academy, loved to read, enjoyed gardening, liked to crochet and was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Orval Willis; a son, Jerome Willis; a brother, Calvin Herndon; four sisters, Beulah Culp, Janey Snapp, Lona Snow and Rose Krieger.

Survivors include her son, Daniel Allen Willis of Idabel; daughters, Jerilyn Kay Luna of Swink and Myra Isabel Mumey of Mills City, Oregon; 11 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Roy ‘Rodger’ Seabourne and Martha Seabourne

Roy “Rodger”

Lawrence Seabourne passed away September 18, 2007. His wife of 28 years, Martha Seabourne, passed away earlier that year on May 29, 2007. Rodger was born January 23, 1959, in Long Beach, California.

Martha was born January 15, 1963, in Long Island, New York. They leave behind a son, Roger Seamus, and a daughter, Rachel Vera.

Rodger was a senior engineer with Microsoft on the development team of Windows NT. Martha was a devoted wife and mother.

Rodger was proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was proud that a distant grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War and proud to be an American. He had been a Marine and served his country in Desert Eagle.

Rodger and Martha were both compassionate people with generous hearts. They were always willing to help others whenever they could.

Preceding Rodger in death was his mother, Georgia Delilah.

He is survived by his father, Robert Roy; brother Richard William; sisters Cathy Diane, Sandra Ellen, Nancy Jane and Zoe Beth; along with numerous nephews and nieces.

Martha’s family survivor is her mother, Martha Dooner.

Rodger and Martha traveled a lot so that they could stay close to their children, whom they loved with all their heart and soul. They always had fascinating stories to tell about their travels and experiences. We will miss their stories, jokes and the laughter we shared with them, always.

Harrison ‘Pete’ Williams

Harrison “Pete” Williams, 31, of Paris, Texas, passed away February 14, 2008, at his home. He was born April 3, 1976, in Kingston, New York, the son of Robert Williams and Mary Pisachubbee Williams.

He lived in Paris for the past four years after moving from Hugo, where he had lived most of his life. Pete loved people and people loved Pete. He never met a stranger. He also enjoyed golfing and was a supervisor for the casino.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Helm Williams; three children, Robert Charles Williams, James Blake Alexander and Maranda Alexander, all of the home; his father; birth mother, Sharon Brandt of Denver, Colorado; four sisters, Judith “Rocky” Davidson and husband David of Hugo, Jana Boykin and husband Sam of Hugo, Jodi Williams of Oklahoma City and Terri Williams-McKey and husband Alton of Oklahoma City; one brother, Mark Abbott and wife Lucille of Tulsa; two brothers-in-law, Chad Helm and wife Sheri of Powderly, Texas, and Garry Helm and wife Stephanie of Paris; 17 nieces and nephews, Robert Davidson, Ashlee Fulton, Julianna Davidson, Marcus Abbott, Josh Abbott, Heather Abbott, Sophie Abbott, Rachel Boykin, Ethan Boykin, Rebeckah Boykin, Bree Logan, Mary Katherine McKey, Brittany Helm, Steven Helm, Kaden Helm, Dakota Helm and Taylor Helm, along with a host of other family and friends.

Wilma Jean Webb

Wilma Jean Webb, 64, of Chandler, Arizona, passed away February 27, 2008, after a courageous five-month battle with cancer. She was born October 29, 1943, in Brawley, California.

Wilma was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church. She enjoyed community concerts, Community Arts Council, square-dancing, fishing, hunting, bowling, crafts, gardening and the piano.

She was known for her extraordinary organizational skills, graciousness, faith in Jesus Christ, integrity, and especially her giving spirit as can be seen by raising her younger brothers and sisters. She also incorporated all of these skills in her extensive community volunteer activities.

Wilma was employed as a California State Correctional Accounting Officer from 1968 to 1994. She was past California State Grange Subordinate Club Secretary, Soroptimist Chairperson for Woman of Achievement Status of Women Human Rights and Orientation Leadership Training. She lived five years in Arizona.

Survivors include her husband of 27 years, Lawrence “Larry” Webb; stepson, Mark Webb; stepdaughters, Louann Oakden and Claudia Piano; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers, George, Frank, Bill and Andy Sumahit and Ted Racho; sisters, Maxine Wanner and Barbara Jorgensen; and many nieces and nephews.

Lorene Jean Thompson

Lorene Jean Thompson, 83, passed away February 22, 2008, at Windmill Manor in Coralville, Iowa. She was born February 26, 1924, to Lena Jefferson Byars (Oklahoma Choctaw) and Harry Alexander Byars (Mississippi Choctaw) in rural Carter County, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Thompson’s family attended McAlister Baptist Church, Durwood Baptist Church and Okchamali Baptist Church, all Oklahoma Choctaw Baptist churches. She attended Wheelock and Chilocco Indian Schools in Oklahoma as did her siblings, Sweeney Byars, Rosalie Imotichey and Tony Byars, all deceased. Her brother, John Arnett, attended Haskell Indian School in Kansas and died while on active duty in the Aleutian Islands during World War II.

After graduating from Chilocco, she settled in San Antonio, Texas, where she married Julio Graciano. They later divorced. She subsequently married Jack Marshall Thompson who died April 29, 1967. Mrs. Thompson was a gifted seamstress and musician, talents she employed for her family’s well-being.

Survivors include her children, J.D. Graciano of Middletown, Delaware, Kenneth E. Thompson of Wilmington, Delaware, and Jacki Thompson Rand of Iowa City, Iowa, and of Ada, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Amelia Rand, Thomas Rand and Anthony Graciano; four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

Vivian Pauline ‘Bea’ Southerland

Vivian Pauline “Bea” Southerland of La Grange, Texas, formerly of Coalgate, passed away May 9, 2007, in Austin, Texas. She was born February 28, 1924, in McAlester to George Flanigan and Catherine Emma Fulton Flanigan. Her mother was an original Choctaw enrollee.

Bea married Eldon Southerland and they raised their children in areas in Oklahoma and Texas. She was a homemaker and owned a couple of second-hand shops for a short time. She loved spending time with her family most of all. She also liked driving around different places just to see what she could see.

Bea will truly be missed but left lots of memories to help us get through these difficult times.

She was preceded in death by her husband and two infant sons, Jackie and Wayne; a brother, James Flanagan; and her parents.

Survivors include her daughter, Kathy McMillen of La Grange; sons, Adrian and Richard Southerland of La Grange, Paul Southerland of Brenham, Texas, and Joe Southerland of Perryton, Texas; 14 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Christopher James Southerland

Christopher James Southerland passed away November 25, 2007, in Mancos, Colorado. He was born January 15, 1974, in Perryton, Texas, the son of Paul and Debbie Schooling Southerland.

Chris went to school in La Grange and from there moved to Colorado. He worked as a supervisor for Alert Traffic Control of Colorado.

Chris married Misty Neely on July 20, 2002, and they had two children, Swae and Eldon. He loved them with all his heart; they were his whole world. His life was filled with love for everyone around him. Chris always had a smile on his face and the sound of laughter for all to hear. He tattooed all of our hearts with love and for that we are thankful we were able to share his short life.

He also loved outdoor life, fishing, hunting and camping. He was an adventurous guy and even worked for a while in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Eldon and Bea Southerland, and an uncle, Pat Schooling.

Survivors include his wife, a daughter, Swae, and a son, Eldon, all of the home; his parents, Paul Southerland of Brenham and Debbie Brown of La Grange; two brothers and four sisters, Brandi Iselt of Valley Mills, Texas, Michael Southerland of Colton, California, Amber Fisher of Giddings, Texas, Terra Southerland of Phoenix, Arizona, Tosha Taylor of Wellington, Kansas, and Cody Southerland of Hinton, Oklahoma; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and many cousins.

We will all dearly miss Chris.

Eva Darlene Lowe

Eva Darlene Lowe, 59, of Frederick passed away February 26, 2008, at Memorial Hospital in Frederick. She was born October 27, 1948, at Frederick to Levi and Dovey Lucille Renfro Airington.

She attended Frederick Public Schools.

On August 7, 1965, she and Billy Dale Calhoun were united in marriage at Frederick. Mr. Calhoun preceded her in death on April 9, 1969. She later was married to Charles C. Lowe on May 12, 1980, in Frederick. She was a homemaker and a member of the Pentecostal Church.

She was also preceded in death by her father and her stepfather, Herman Mitchell.

Survivors include her husband of the home; her mother, Lucille Mitchell of Hollister; two daughters, Kimberly LeValley of Hobart and Tammy Calhoun of Ardmore; a son, Don Higgins Jr. of Wichita Falls, Texas; five sisters, Alice Teague of Carnegie, Lillis White of Chickasha, Gail Morris of Tucumcari, New Mexico, LaDonna Turner of Roosevelt and Sherry Braddock of Frederick; four brothers, Levi Airington Jr. and Ernie Airington, both of Oklahoma City, Richard Airington of Ardmore and Travis Airington of Altus; six grandchildren, Dale Davis, Brandon Davis, Jennifer Payne, Joe Davis, Jeffery Payne and Jonathan Higgins; five great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

James Richard Grubbs

Longtime Stillwater resident and business owner James “Jim” R. Grubbs, 60, passed away October 7, 2007, in Houston, Texas. He was born November 4, 1946, in Ada to James and Wanda Chapman Grubbs.

Jim took Patricia Kerntke as his bride on May 29, 1965, in Stillwater. He and Patricia have made Stillwater their home while raising two sons. Jim owned and operated Stillwater Paint and Body Shop. He enjoyed his work along with many hobbies. Jim loved to play the guitar, ride Harley motorcycles and making Indian crafts. He also enjoyed the outdoors. Fishing was another great joy of his. Jim’s best time spent was with his family and hanging out with his good friends playing pool and singing karaoke. Also, he was a longtime member of the Stillwater Moose Lodge. Although Jim is no longer with us, his memory and legacy will be kept alive through the family and friends he leaves behind which include his wife of 42 years; two sons, Shane and wife Sherryl Farthing of Perry, Oklahoma, and Brett and wife Teri Grubbs of San Antonio, Texas; one sister, Kathy Hopper, and mother, Wanda Grubbs, of Sapulpa; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father and half-brother, Paul Ray Taylor.

Peggy Roberts

Peggy Roberts, 82, of Westphalia, Texas, passed away February 26, 2008, in a Temple hospital. She was born August 25, 1925, in Muskogee to Choc and Ola Downing Kilgore. She lived most of her life in the Dallas area and spent the past four years in Westphalia. She retired in 1991 as the office manager of Fischer and Spillman Architects in Dallas. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Richardson.

Survivors include a son, Bart Roberts and wife Susann of Grapevine, Texas; a daughter, Randy Willberg and husband Ronnie of Westphalia; and seven grandchildren.



OBITUARIES

Freddie Joe Vaught

Freddie Joe Vaught, 78, passed away February 9, 2008, at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman. He was born January 1, 1930, in Muse, Oklahoma, and lived in Whitesboro, Oklahoma, then later moved to Oklahoma City.

Mr. Vaught joined the U.S. Navy in 1951 and played in the USO band as an accomplished guitarist. He worked as a paint and construction contractor after the military. He loved children, playing dominoes and catching fish.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Clara Reynolds Vaught; mother, Minnie Woods Vaught; father, Theodore Vaught; sister, Gerry Hilderbrant; brother, Jackie Vaught; and stepson, Olan Goodling.

Survivors include two sisters, Norma (Lanny) Nellis of Noble and Sue (Terry) Dickey of Wichita, Kansas; stepchildren, Sue Prince and Clay Goodling of Seymour, Texas; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.



Oma N. Douglas

Oma Neretta Douglas, 95, passed away March 15, 2008. She was born in Tuttle, Oklahoma, to James and Mary Ellen Murphy McLellan.

Oma married George Calvert Douglas on February 17, 1931, at the First Christian Church in Chickasha. She lived from 1912 to 1951 in the Tuttle vicinity and from 1951 until her passing in south Oklahoma City. A member of Brookwood Baptist Church, she was active in church throughout her life. She taught Sunday School classes of different age groups and served on various committees.

She was employed at TG&Y and a doctor's office for several years, but was primarily a homemaker. She will be missed very much by her family, friends, and church family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, five brothers, one sister, one son and two daughters.

Survivors include a loving son, William Douglas and wife Patsy of Moore; grandson, Steve Douglas; great-grandson, Alex Douglas and Mary Massey-Douglas, all of Moore; plus many nephews and nieces.

Eugene Harold Lane

Eugene Harold Lane passed away January 26, 2008, in a local care center. He was born August 3, 1926, in Caddo to Bartholomew "Bat" and Stella Lane.

He and Rosetta Holley were married February 16, 1951, in Ardmore. He attended school at Liberty, Caddo and Ardmore Business College. He worked at Exchange National Bank, Franklin Oil, and Total Refinery. Gene did income tax returns for 42 years. He taught seventh grade Sunday School for 42 years at First Baptist Church in Ardmore.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two nephews, William Lane and Charles Lane; and two nieces, Christine Williamson and Estell Shoopman.

Survivors include his wife; daughter, Gina Lane; grandson, Kyle Lane; great-grandson, Alex Lane; two nephews, Roy Lane of Lake Havasu, Arizona, and Harold Lane of Oregon; and two nieces, Argie Carty of Lake Havasu and Ella Fields of Garland, Texas.

Jo Nita Misenheimer

Jo Nita Misenheimer, 93, a longtime resident of McAlester, passed away March 6, 2008, at McKinney Health Care Center, McKinney, Texas. She was born June 6, 1914, in Wade to Emory and Virginia May Whitlow Risner.

She moved with her family to Kiowa and graduated from Kiowa High School. She then attended college for two years and married Manley L. "Bill" Misenheimer who was her husband of 67 years at the time of his death on September 16, 2002. They lived in New Mexico and then Orange, Texas, while Bill worked the shipyards during World War II. They then moved to Kiowa and operated Jo's Family Ranch where Jo was a homemaker. They moved to Wewoka and then to California where Jo worked for the U.S. Navy and Air Force in the sale of surplus military equipment. She retired in 1977 and they moved to McAlester.

Mrs. Misenheimer was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church where she was very active and worked with the youth. She was a member of the Pittsburg County Genealogical Society and the Ohoyohoma Club.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Louise Johnston; and a brother, Colbert Risner.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, William and Mary Kay Misenheimer of Melissa, Texas; two grandchildren, Jeff Misenheimer and wife Jennifer of Holdenville and David Misenheimer and wife Melandy of Sheridan, Oregon; and seven great-grandchildren, Joel Misenheimer of Stillwater, Jaime Morgan and husband Blake of Columbia, South Carolina, Jessica Misenheimer of Stillwater, Nietzsche Misenheimer and Enya Misenheimer, both of McMinnville, Oregon, and Caleb Misenheimer and Scarlett Misenheimer, both of Sheridan, Oregon.

Natalie Ann Miller Wood

Natalie Ann Miller Wood, 50, of Hugo, passed away March 21, 2008, in Muskogee. She was born August 6, 1957, in Hugo, the daughter of James "Chick" Wood and Gladys Noah Wood. She lived most of her life in the Hugo area.

Natalie loved playing softball and enjoyed life and the outdoors. A homemaker, she enjoyed cooking and was well-known for her fry bread.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Jamie Rose Wood.

Survivors include a son, James Russell Wood of Hugo; a step-daughter, Amanda Ebsen of Hugo; five sisters, Debbie Raper of Hugo, Robin Taylor of Antlers, Dorothy Potter of Hugo, Julia Durrence of Hugo and Rosie Harris of Fort Towson; two grandchildren, Britney Ebsen and Allen Ebsen, along with a host of other family and friends.

Derek Leon Dorman

Derek Leon Dorman, 33, of La Grande, Oregon, passed away March 1, 2008, at Grande Ronde Hospital. He was born June 24, 1974, in Sacramento, California, to Guy and Terri Fulton Dorman.

Derek graduated from Encino High School in 1992. He was a talented musician and songwriter, as well as a loving and devoted father.

He was preceded in death by his father and his sister, Wendella.

Survivors include his son, Hunter; mother, Terry Zidek of New Pine Creek, California; and grandparents, Carol and Yvonne Fulton of Sacramento.

James E. Swarm

James E. Swarm passed away January 9, 2008, after a short illness. He was born on February 24, 1932, in Idabel to Archie and Agnes Swarm.

James attended the Baptist Church of Lemoore with his wife, Frances Vanakien, also from Idabel, for many years. He also served in the U.S. Navy for more than 20 years and remained in the reserves for another 10 years. He served both his country and family with love and honor.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Michael.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Jim of Tulare, Paul of Fresno and Robert of Lemoore; three daughters, Cheryl of Spark, Nevada, Carol of Mineral Springs, Arkansas, and Laura Jo of Stratford; two sisters, Addie of Fresno and Grace of Traver; a brother, Doyal of Reedley; and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss him dearly. He also had several close friends who will miss all of the fun times they had on hunting trips.



Virginia Lee Bond Grider

Virginia Lee Bond Grider, 70, of Oklahoma City passed away March 6, 2008. "Ginny" was born November 24, 1937, at the Lawton Indian Hospital to Alma Leona Clark Bond and LeRoy Bond of Atoka.

She worked at Western Electric for many years and then retired from the Oklahoma County Assessors Office. Virginia loved to fish, was an amazing seamstress, and loved her "girls" on the OU Women's Basketball Team. She made puppets for a puppet ministry for many years with Freda Marsh.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Jerry Dean Bond; and her grandparents, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Anderson Bond and Henry J. Bond and Earnest Arthur Clark and Ada Alice Logsdon Clark. Her grandfather, Henry J. Bond, was the first treasurer in Atoka County after Oklahoma was made a state. Also preceding her in death was a great-grandson, Rylan.

Survivors include her loving husband, B.D. Grider of the home; daughters, Cheryl Rikli Farrar and husband Bob of Oklahoma City, Linda "Susie" Laxson and husband Hoppy of Oklahoma City, Karen "Katy" Little and husband Paul of Mustang, and Bernadine Martin and husband Randy of Tennessee; sons, Charles "Chuck" Rikli of Tennessee, and Wilson Grider and wife Barbie of Mustang; 21 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and an unborn great-grandbaby who Mom was sure is a girl! Also surviving are two nephews.

Many of the great-grandchildren called Virginia "Grandma Grandma." She loved them so much, as they did her. Mom was so excited when two of the grandchildren and one of the great-grandchildren were named after her middle name, Lee, which was also her Daddy's name.





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