

Senior Day

The Choctaw Nation’s annual Senior Day is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 27, at the Bingo Pavilion in Durant. For transportation information, please contact your local Choctaw Community Center.

Choctaw Nation Princess Pageants

DISTRICT 1

The District 1 Princess Pageant will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 22 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Idabel. Deadline for applications is May 8. For more information, call 580-286-6116.

DISTRICT 2

The District 2 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. on May 9 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Broken Bow. Applications may be picked up at the Boys and Girls Club, Broken Bow. For more information, call 580-584-3636.

DISTRICT 4

The District 4 Princess Pageant will be held 4-6 p.m. on May 9 at the Dale Cox Community Center in Poteau. Contestants need to be at the center by 3 p.m. Applications deadline is May 1. For more information, call 918-647-9324.

DISTRICT 5

The District 5 Princess Pageant will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 13 at the Choctaw Community Center in Stigler. Applications are due by May 1. For more information, call 918-967-2398.

DISTRICT 6

The District 6 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. on May 22 at the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton. Applications are due by May 8. For more information, call 918-465-2389.

DISTRICT 7

The District 7 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 26 at the Choctaw Community Center in Antlers. Deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on May 14. For more information contact Virginia Hammons at 580-298-5501 or Susan Skelton at 580-981-7011.

DISTRICT 8

The District 8 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 6 p.m. May 22 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Hugo. Applications are due May 15. For more information, please call 580-326-3528.

DISTRICT 9

The District 9 Princess Pageant will be held May 29 at 5:30 p.m. on the Bryan County Courthouse lawn, Durant, in conjunction with the Magnolia Festival. Application deadline is May 11. For more information, call 580-924-8280, ext. 2503.

DISTRICT 10

The District 10 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 21 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka. Applications are due May 1. For more information, please call 580-889-6147.

DISTRICT 11

The District 11 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 6 p.m. May 8 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in McAlester. Applications are due April 20. For more information, please call 918-423-1016.

DISTRICT 12

The District 12 Princess Pageant is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 29 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Coalgate. Applications are due May 8. For more information, please call 918-317-7427.

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State honors Choctaw Code Talkers

Oklahoma House and Senate members unanimously approve resolution

The State of Oklahoma has offered the Choctaw Code Talkers official recognition from the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Representative Lisa Billy introduced a resolution recognizing the service, valor, and dedication of the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I. She was joined by the Choctaw Nation Chief, Assistant Chief and the Native American Caucus as unanimous approval was given April 1 for this House Resolution.

Senator Sean Burrage also brought Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton on the floor of the Oklahoma Senate as he asked for a verbal recognition of the Choctaw Code Talkers.

The actions of the Choctaw Code Talkers have been credited with changing the tide of war. During the first World War, the Germans were experts at cracking code. All intercepted messages were understood by the enemy. The Germans knew where the Allied supplies, ammunition and troops were and bombed accordingly.

A military officer happened upon the concept of code talking out of sheer luck by hearing two Choctaw men talking in the Choctaw language.



When this commander overheard the Choctaw men talking in their Native tongue, a brilliant idea was born.

Eighteen Choctaws were rounded up, code words were chosen, and men were put on the field telephone. The enemy could not anticipate Allied Forces’ movements any longer.

These 18 Choctaw men of World War I were the first Native Americans to use their own language as a trained “code” to transmit messages in the field during war time. The use of “code talking” was so successful that the military sought out tribal speakers

in WWII to train as telephone warriors. Tribes who were Code Talkers include the Navajos, Choctaws and Comanches.

The 18 Choctaw men who were the original Code Talkers were Joseph Oklahombi, Robert Taylor, Ben Carterby, James Edwards, Ben Hampton, Solomon Louis, Mitchell Bobb, Albert Billy, Tobias Frazier, Jeff Nelson, Victor Brown, Walter Veach, Joseph Davenport, Pete Maytubby, Otis Leader, Calvin Wilson, George Davenport and Noel Johnson.

These men have also been recog-

nized recently by the United States Congress. On October 15, 2008, the President of the United States signed The Code Talker Recognition Act, which provides for Congressional medals to be given to Code Talkers or their descendants if they have passed away, which is the case with the World War I soldiers.

U.S. Congressman Dan Boren and his staff led the effort to recognize the Code Talkers.

Senator James Inhofe carried the banner for the legislation on the U.S. Senate side.

Former Councilperson recognized during Women’s History Month

Boren introduces legislation paying tribute to Lois Burton



In celebration of Women’s History Month, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren introduced legislation March 17 honoring the late Lois Burton for the outstanding example she set for Oklahoma women and all Oklahomans. Ms. Burton’s dedication to the Choctaw Nation, to the State of Oklahoma, and to the improvement of health care and education services in our state is to be highly commended.

“It is important to celebrate the achievements and contributions that women have made to our society,” said Congressman Boren. “Each of us has at least one woman in our life who supported us or gave us advice that shaped us forever – whether it was your mother, another family member, a teacher, a coach, or some other role model.

“I am proud to bring special distinction to Lois Burton as an example of someone whose selflessness, hard work, and dedication on a daily basis had a positive impact on thousands of Oklahomans,” said Congressman Boren. “Her

contribution to the education of Oklahoma’s young people and her work to improve health care services in eastern Oklahoma deserves this special recognition. It is an honor to make Ms. Burton the first woman selected by my office for such acknowledgment.”

Chief Gregory E. Pyle has fond memories of Ms. Burton.

“Lois was devoted to the Choctaw Nation,” Chief Pyle said. “As a Councilperson, she worked tirelessly in her District, caring for not only the tribal members of northern LeFlore

County, but for Choctaws everywhere.

“After retiring from serving on the Tribal Council, she continued to contribute to the needs of the tribe by accepting an appointment as tribal judge.”

Speaker of the Council Delton Cox said, “Lois considered her role on the Jones Academy Board of Education to be one of top priority and was committed to improving educational opportunities for all students.”

Cox has served as Councilperson of District 4 for eight years.

“I consider it a privilege to be Councilman of District 4, Lois’s former district. She was not only my friend but also my cousin and I am grateful to Congressman Boren for choosing to honor Lois during Women’s History Month.”

Choctaw Nation tribal officer takes action

The call came over the radio. A man had pulled a gun on the cashiers of the Carl’s Jr. restaurant in Durant, robbing the fast food establishment and fleeing to a waiting car and driver. According to the Durant Police, the robber, wearing a hood and black clothing, had ordered the cashiers behind the counter and forced them to open the register and give him the cash.

Choctaw Nation Law Enforcement Officer Nathan Calloway paid attention. He was patrolling the area near the casino in south Durant when he heard the broadcast and immediately went into action. Calloway drove east on Choctaw Road toward Ninth Avenue to set up a check point.

As he approached the intersection, Calloway spotted a car matching the description. He turned on all emergency lights and sirens and pursued the silver Lexus for approximately a half a mile.

“As I walked up to the car and asked the driver to roll down the window, I noticed he looked nervous,” Officer Calloway said. “I told him to roll down all of the windows.

“That’s when I saw a man matching the description of the suspected robber in the back seat.”

T.J. White, assistant chief of the Calera Police Department, arrived on the scene to assist Calloway. The two officers asked the suspects to get out and stand at the back of the vehicle.

“I saw a muzzle sticking out of the pocket on the back of the front seat and a semi-automatic weapon beside the man in the back seat,” Calloway said. “There was also a handmade ski mask on the back seat.”

A search of the vehicle revealed a silver-colored .38-caliber revolver, the .45-caliber pistol and a large amount of cash, according to reports. The two suspects, Brandon Wilson and



Officer Nathan Calloway

Jeremy Jones, both 19 years old and from the Frisco, Texas, area, were booked into the Bryan County Jail. It was later determined that the two were allegedly involved in the February robberies of a Love’s store in Durant and an EZ Mart in Calera.

“The successful apprehension of the armed suspects is a positive result of how the tribal law enforcement department works with other agencies,” said John Hobbs, Executive Director of Law Enforcement. “Tribal officers are dually commissioned as deputy sheriffs and always back up the local law enforcement agencies when possible.

“Officer Calloway is an asset to our department and I’d like to congratulate him on a job well done.”

New defense contract brings jobs to area later this year

Choctaw Defense is being awarded a \$61 million contract to replace the U.S. Marine Corps’ fleet of Medium Tactical Vehicle (MTV) trailers. The order calls for a total of 724 trailers, comprised of cargo, water and general purpose variants to be built over the next several years. Officials at Choctaw Nation estimate that the contract will require 40-60 new jobs in order to complete the order. These new jobs will be available several months from now.

“I am pleased to announce that Oklahoma-based defense contractor Choctaw Defense has been awarded a \$61 million contract to manufacture trailers for the U.S. Marines right here in Oklahoma,” said Sen. Jim Inhofe.

“I had the opportunity to visit the headquarters while I was in McAlester just a few weeks ago. The quality of products lends to their reputation for being one of the top producers of gear for our warfighters. There’s no question that the jobs created by this company have transformed its communities.

“I’d like President Obama and my fellow members to take notice of the immediate and long-term economic benefits of this defense contract. This money is being pumped directly into the hands of American workers to manufacture U.S. military equipment. It helps the economy and our military – it’s a win-win opportunity.”

Chief Gregory E. Pyle praised the collective work that helped make this award possible. “The Choctaw Tribal Council and I would like to commend Steve Benefield and his staff on the acquisition of this contract.

“The number of jobs this will bring to Southeastern Oklahoma will do a great deal to offset the effect of many of today’s economic problems. Choctaw Defense has operated for years, fulfilling one government contract after another. This contract from the Marine Corps continues to prove that Choctaw Defense has built a reputation on turning out a quality product in a timely manner.”



Chief Pyle visits with a representative from Yale University.

Successful Career Expo held in McAlester

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The second annual Career Expo saw about 1,800 people come through the 185 booths that were set up in the McAlester Expo Center. Perhaps the most thrilling part was seeing the 36 colleges and universities sharing information with prospective students. Yale, Oral Roberts University, Baylor, Bard College, University of Oklahoma and the U.S. Air Force Academy were just some of the higher education facilities offering one-on-one interviews.

Area schools bused in students. Hundreds of adults also dropped in to see what the Choctaw Nation and the vendors at the Career Expo had to offer.

With the unemployment rate rising, many people are seeking a new career and are interested in obtaining specialized training to meet new aspirations. It was great to hear at the end of the day that one vendor had actually hired six people thanks to meeting

the right applicants during the course of the event.

I am very proud of the education and career related programs that the tribe offers. Our Career Development employees have said that they don't feel the training process is truly complete until the students find a job. We have tribal members who are training for many careers, such as nursing, truck driving, cosmetology and speech pathology. There are also students in the program who are going to school to be licensed professional counselors, HVAC techs, pharmacy techs, EMTs and dental assistants.

Students were also given instructions during the Expo on how to apply for financial aid for higher education, and were given a chance to do an ACT/SAT mini-preparation course.

A highlight for many was the chance to meet 2003 Heisman Trophy winner Jason White, who was there to encourage all of us to work hard and be determined to succeed. That is good, solid advice for any of us, whatever our goal is that we are reaching for.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton meet former OU quarterback Jason White who was keynote speaker at the second annual Career Expo.

Employees volunteer in community

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

We have been talking a lot about the Choctaw Nation "sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth" – even television commercials have aired with the message of going green. Several towns in the Choctaw Nation will see improvements and beautification to their parks as a result of the employee's efforts to be more environmentally conscious.

Calera, Atoka, Wilburton and Antlers are receiving trees, flowers, general clean up and even a fresh coat of paint in some cases to help improve the appearance of their community areas. The employees are volunteering their time on



weekends and after work to travel to these locations so that they can show a true servant leadership attitude to others.

Chief Pyle and I are very proud of the tribal staff and want to express our sincere thanks to them for steering this leadership team to "greener" shores!

Chief Pyle, Harper receive awards of appreciation

Infantry Specialists Dustin Heflin and Tony Collins present Chief Greg Pyle and Security Supervisor Scott Harper with employer support awards. The servicemen, who also work as Choctaw Nation Casino Security, presented Chief Pyle with his award because of his initiative to provide Internet service for their use. Harper was given his award for his support of their service to their country. Heflin and Collins were stationed at Camp Bucca in the southern region of Iraq.



Tribal Council holds March Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met on March 14 in regular session at Tushka Homma. Council Speaker Delton Cox opened the meeting and welcomed Youth Advisory Board members attending from Hugo, Durant, Atoka, McAlester, Idabel, Caney, Tushka and Clayton. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and new business addressed included:

- Approval for the Fixed Assets Department to dispose of obsolete equipment stored at the old Talihina hospital so the Choctaw Nation can release the old facility to Indian Health Services.
- Approval of the amendment to the fiscal year 2008 Indian Housing Plan.
- Approval of grant application under U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and Office of Victims of Crimes for Counseling and

Faith-Based Services of Crime Victims in Indian Country program and Tribal Victim Assistance Program.

- Approval of grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Tribal Resources Grant Program.
- Approval of application to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the REACH (Residential Energy Assistance Challenge) grant.
- Approval of the KEDDO Outreach Budget. This program will assist low-income and economically disadvantaged elders over the age of 60 and to include those over the age of 55 for Native American participants.
- Approval of the budget for Administration on Aging Native American Caregiver Support Program Budget. This program provides assistance to

Tribal members in providing information and respite services for family caregivers and grandparents who are relative caregivers.

- Approval of the budget for the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging which support nutritional and supportive services to older Native Americans.
 - Approval of a revolving line of credit loan agreement between Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Choctaw Contracting Services Inc. Choctaw Contracting Services Inc. was established to carry out government contracting and to undertake other commercial contracts.
- The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets in regular session at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.

A good picture of a Christian

It is a privilege and an honor to share with you something from the Bible each month.

Our topic this month is taken from an Old Testament book, Joshua chapters 13 and 14. In the book of Joshua, Joshua gives us a good picture of a Christian.

As we look at the history of Israel, wars of Canaan were nearly over. Israel had found at least temporary rest in the land that God had promised them.

In the history that follows this condition of rest did not continue. In the Book of Hebrews we are told, "If the Lord had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another rest." (Hebrews 4:8-9).

The names, Jesus and Joshua, are the same. Joshua is the Hebrew name. Jesus is the Greek name.

Hebrews is referring to the rest into which Joshua led the people, which was not lasting, because of the faithlessness of Israel.

What the history in Joshua gave to the Israelites was confidence. Confidence as they saw how marvelous God undertook for them.

The first verse of Joshua chapter 13, the Lord's instruction to Joshua was: "Now Joshua was old and stricken in the years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

Several of the tribes had already obtained their inheritance, but other tribes had not yet taken possession of the land that was to be allotted to them. So the challenge was given: "...there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." (Joshua 13:1).

May these words speak loudly to our hearts. Many of us may have known the Lord for years, there is not rest, we're still battling.

"Achukmalit illanukfilashe." Meaning "Let us think on these things." How far have we really entered into the blessings of the precious things of Christ which are ours by title and promises?

Those who have given time to study and meditate over God's blessed Book realize that "...there remaineth very much land to be possessed." There is much more in the Bible that we need to make ours by study in dependence committed to us in the Word of God.

Paul writes in Ephesians 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." We are called upon to take possession of that which is already ours through the gift of God, in Faith.

In the story of Caleb in Joshua chapter 14 we see illustrated this Faith. Caleb illustrates the truth that "...who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12)

Caleb as we know was one of the two spies who brought back a minority report when the ten spies discouraged the people of Israel. (Read Numbers, Chapters 13 and 14).

The ten admitted that the land was all God said it would be, and the grapes of Eschol

Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

was a witness to its fruitfulness, but they were terrified as they saw the walled cities, and the sons of Anak, the mighty giants, in whose sight they were but grasshoppers, so they declared it would be impossible to overcome these people of Canaan.

But Caleb and Joshua brought a good report, saying, "...Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." (Joshua 13:30).

But the people refused to listen, and as we know, were turned back into the wilderness, to wander until all that generation, except Caleb and Joshua, had passed away. Now their children had entered into and taken possession of the land.

Caleb, though 85 years of age, came to Joshua to remind him of the promised that Moses had made, that because "he had wholly followed the Lord" he should have whatever inheritance his heart desired.

Caleb did not look for some valley where he would be safe from the prying eyes of his enemies. He didn't ask for some town or village from which the Canaanites had been driven out already, but he requested

of Joshua to give him the mountain on which Kirjath-arba was located.

Arba was a great man amount the Anakims. Kirjath-arba meant the city of Arba. The Anakims still lived there, but strong in faith Caleb declared: "If so be the Lord be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said."

Acting upon Caleb's request, Joshua blessed him and gave him the hill for which he asked as his inheritance. Caleb took possession of it, drive the Anakims out of the city and changed it name to Hebron, a word that means fellowship or communion.

The name Caleb means "wholehearted" and describes this warrior and faithful servant or God. Caleb did not immediately get possession of Hebron, but he fought until he had driven these giants out.

This record should stir our hearts and lead us to act as Caleb did, in the energy of faith taking possession of that which God has declared He has given to us in Christ.

No enemy can withstand the man of God who goes forward in the power of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to the Word. Such a faith was Caleb's and in this he is an example for us all.

Will you today by faith, lay hold of the best that God has for us, no matter what difficulties may seem to make it impossible for us to overcome the enemy, and to enter into and enjoy our allotted portion.

The secret of Caleb's victories and success was that "he had wholly followed the Lord."

Remember to pray for America. May God bless you in a very special way today is my prayer.

ATTENTION CHOCTAW ARTISTS

If you are interested in participating in a Juried and Judged Choctaw Indian Art Show, let us hear from you!

Please fill out the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the show which will be in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, during the Labor Day Festivities. Included will be the following categories: Painting, Graphics, Cultural, Sculpture, Jewelry, Pottery and Basketry. Please fill out the form and return it to the address below. Art information packets will be mailed beginning in April.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____
Artistic Category _____

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

Return to: Cindy Matson/HR
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
PO Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

For more information, call Cindy Matson at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2481.

You are your child’s most important teacher!

As your child’s first and most important teacher, you can lay the foundation for a lifetime of healthy habits. The more you have fun moving and eating well with your child in these early years, the more these habits will become part of your family’s routines and your child’s life. By working together, you’ll be building a happy, healthy team!

Together you CAN FILL YOUR DAYS WITH MOVEMENT, PLAY, AND GREAT FOODS. As a matter of fact, everyday moments are perfect for getting healthy as a family!

Your child loves to move. When you see them hopping and jumping, join in! Encourage your entire family to move together

To the youth of the Nation Too stressed to rest?

By Jennifer Smith
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Finals are coming up, your boss at your minimum-wage job has had a bad weekend, and your close friends are in a big fight again! People are pressuring you about making future choices all the time and you can’t even find time to focus on the present. Today’s world can be easily overwhelming, especially to teens. Being a teenager about to graduate high school, I know how it is to constantly worry about getting everything done that you are supposed to. Here are some tips that I have found more than helpful when it feels as though there is never enough time in my day:

1. Don’t get bogged down! Keep in mind that you can only do your best and there will be times when you have to let some things go. Focus on the most important things you have to get done and do them well. Other things can just wait.
2. Make lists, lists, and more lists. Don’t rely on your memory because it will undoubtedly FAIL. If you don’t write down what you need to get done, then more than likely it will not get done.
3. Don’t forget to breathe. Not stopping for a break every now and then can be very dangerous. Nobody can function well when they just go and go and go. Take a walk, listen to a song, or just close your eyes for ten minutes. Without rest and breaks, nothing will be done to the best of your ability.
4. Take time to pray or read something that inspires you. Stopping to remember that we are all placed on this earth for a bigger reason than just fulfilling our daily tasks seems to help to focus on the bigger picture and diminish our worries.
5. Do things one at a time. Don’t try to write a research paper, talk to a friend on the phone, and look for a new profile for your MySpace all at the same time. Set aside times for specific things and prioritize them in a wise, logical order.
6. Be prepared! If you know a big event is coming up, get your mind ready for it.
7. My last tip is to eat something at the beginning of your day. I understand how crazy mornings can get, but trust me, it will be much easier to get through the first half of your day with something in your stomach. I know from experience that, without it, all I think about during the first four hours of school is one thing: LUNCH. So please eat something, preferably healthy!

A wonderful friend once told me that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% of how you handle it. You know yourself better than anybody. You know what makes you happy and sad. Try to keep an upbeat, positive attitude towards anything you do and your stress level will be very low. Remember that there is good stress and bad stress. The difference between the two is all up to you!

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS
Market open weekdays May 1-22, except for:
May 6: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
May 13: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).
May 25: Holiday.
Closed May 26, 27, 28, 29 for inventory.

DURANT
Market open weekdays: May 1-22, except for:
May 25: Holiday.
Closed May 26, 27, 28, 29 for inventory.

McALESTER
Market open weekdays May 4-22, except for:
May 1: Stigler 9-12 (market closed).
May 25: Holiday.
Closed May 26, 27, 28, 29 for inventory.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays: May 1-22, except for:
May 25: Holiday.
Closed May 26, 27, 28, 29 for inventory.

**CHOCTAW NATION
FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday. We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon
WAREHOUSES & MARKETS
Antlers: 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431
FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES
Bethel: Choctaw Community Building
Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Idabel: Choctaw Community Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center
Stigler: Choctaw Community Center
In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WIC during everyday moments. Help everyone explore all the ways they can use their bodies to stay healthy and feel good.
Every meal is an opportunity for a healthy family experience. If your child learns to reach for healthy foods now, then they will keep on making good food choices their whole life.
Going to the grocery store or supermarket can be a great learning opportunity. Your child can help make healthy choices as you shop together.

Printed courtesy of Healthy Habits for Life



Sixth grade elementary students at Jones Academy participate in a nutrition class taught by Choctaw Nation Registered Dietitian Raina Sparks.

Students are getting fit

In an effort to promote healthy lifestyles, the Choctaw Nation is sponsoring nutrition classes along with fun physical activities for Jones Academy students. Once a week, Raina teaches the students the importance of good eating habits as well as the need for diligent physical activity.



Jones Academy fourth-grader Joseph Simpson and third-graders Gabriela Bernal and Shelby Tushka take part in exercise class in the gym.



Biggest Loser contest at Jones

Registered Dietitian Raina Sparks and Choctaw Nation Exercise Specialist Scott Horstman have initiated a Biggest Loser contest for Jones Academy employees. The program consists of a 12-week class curriculum along with physical activities to help guide all participants in living healthy lifestyles. Staff members attend a one-hour session where they receive informative and fun nutritional facts. Participants also learn about exercise activity.

Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth

Clean naturally
Why scrub counters, floors, and tubs with harsh chemicals that reduce indoor air quality and harm the environment when you can use a few common household items to get the job done? Some basic ingredients for DIY cleaners include baking soda, lemon, vinegar, salt, liquid soap, and hot water. Follow the recipes at <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/make-your-own-non-toxic-cleaning-kit.html> to create nontoxic scrubs for every occasion.

© The Green Life

NURSERY NEWS

Griffin Liam Alexander
Parents, Josh and Crystal and sisters Cadence Marisue and Billie Kashlynn of Talihina are proud to announce the birth of Griffin Liam Alexander on December 7, 2008, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Griffin was born at 6:17 a.m., weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. Equally proud grandparents are Pamela Beddo of Boswell, Kent and Julie Holt of Talihina, Ronnie and Bunnye Hampton of Boswell, and Danny and Teresa Alexander of McAlester. Griffin is the great-grandson of the late Mary Sue Owen and Grace Hampton of Boswell, Verna Ray Marrow of Talihina and Leona Alexander of Muse.

Kevin Todd Watson Jr.
Kevin Todd Watson Jr. was born December 15, 2008, at Kootenai Medical Center, Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho, weighing in at 7 pounds 14 ounces. He is the son of Kevin and Amy Watson of Kellogg, Idaho. He joins six sisters, Kanda, Taneka, Alicia, Amanda, Addy and Kami, and one brother, Alex. Grandparents are Shirley and the late N.B. Watson and Al and Linda Cummings, all of Kellogg. Great-grandparents were the late Simon and Ethel Watson of Smithville.

Jaden Elan Storie
Jaden Elan Storie was born February 18, 2009, to proud parents Jeffrey S. and Darlene Work Storie. His 20-month-old sister is Hannah Elu Storie. Born at the Tanner Hospital in Villa Rica, Georgia, Jaden weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces. His grandparents are Betty Work of Faris, the late Paul Mayo, Larry Storie of Maryville, Tennessee, and Nancy Bale of Clarksville, Indiana.

Leilani Aloha Nofuentes
Gary Nofuentes and Kailyn Gibson are proud to announce the birth of a beautiful daughter, Leilani Aloha Nofuentes, born March 2, 2009. Leilani weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 19 inches long. Her mother, Kailyn, is from the Walker family. Proud grandparents, all from California, include Dan and Debra Parris, Frank and Michelle Nofuentes, Karen Rhodes. Great-grandparents include Bob and Carol Gibson, Joe and Joan Parris, and Lance Lidgard. Her great-great-grandmother is Sally Frietag.

**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.

WILLS PREPARATION CLINIC
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) will be holding a **FREE Will Clinic** on **Friday, May 15, 2009** **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
at the Choctaw Nation Community Center
2408 E. Lincoln Rd., Idabel, Oklahoma.
To register for the clinic call 1-800-658-1497.
Registration is limited so call as soon as possible.

**What’s for Lunch?
Cooking Demonstration**
provided by
Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Program

All times are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	1st Tuesday – Poteau 2nd Tuesday – McAlester 1st Thursday – Durant 2nd Thursday – Antlers
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Choctaw Nation Food Distribution
Lisa Mullens, Director • 580-924-7773

Choctaw Nation WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., 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
			2nd Wednesday
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	Daily
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	3rd, 4th Friday
		8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd week - Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
		8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday
Spiro	918-962-3832	8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd Thursday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to our mom, Nadine McDonald, on February 16 from her children, Marilyn Taylor, Larry McDonald, Debra McDonald, Matthew McDonald, Jefferson McDonald and Sherry McDonald.



Congratulations Team Sertoma on season

The Boys and Girls Club of McAlester Team Sertoma, coached by Teresa Hamilton and Annette Morse, finished their season 5-4 with only eight girls. The girls had a good time. After the season, trophies were donated by the sponsor and they were invited to a pizza party sponsored by the coaches. A “Big Thank You” to Councilman Bob Pate. Pictured from left are Coach Annette Morse, Rachel Eggleston, Madison Ward, Anna Kenieutubbe, Maddy Turner, Coach Teresa Hamilton, Cassie Grey, Ashley Johnson and Paige Grimes. Not pictured is Jaden Vega.

Brothers celebrate



Zackary Morris turned 29 years old and his brother, Jesse Lee Ostroski turned 26 years old, both on March 12. Zackary and Jesse are the sons of Lloyd L. Morris and the grandsons of Lloyd B. Morris.



Choctaw sings

Samantha Crain, a 22-year-old Choctaw singer/songwriter and Shawnee native, will be releasing her debut full-length album “Songs in the Night” on April 28. This album is a follow-up to her critically acclaimed EP, “The Con-fiscation: A Musical Novella.”

Samantha’s band is Samantha Crain and the Midnight Shivers.



Jayden makes family proud

Jayden Thomas Wall is 4 years old and already making his family very proud. His thankful attitude and accomplishments are an indication of the strong family values being instilled in the next generation of Choctaws.

Jayden is a good student in Kindergarten. He plays on the basketball team and is eager to develop his athletic skills. His teacher says that he is a very smart student, eager to learn, and is very active in classroom activities. Jayden is already committed to his faith in God and always says grace before his family eats their meals, following the good example his parents have set for him.

Jayden is anxious for his little sister to arrive this month. His family is confident he will be a wonderful big brother.

Jayden’s parents are Thomas G. and Jaime Wall; his grandparents are Thomas and Marilyn Wall of Laporte, Texas, and his great-grandparents are Zora and George First of Tuskahoma.



Happy 18th birthday to both

Happy 18th birthday to Zackie Short and Kody Kaniatobe. Zackie’s birthday is February 15 and Kody’s birthday is on April 20. Happy birthday to both from Kim Kaniatobe.



Happy ninth birthday

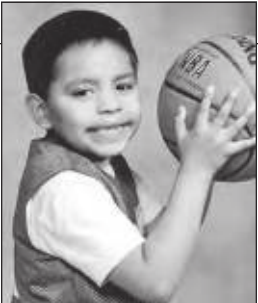
Happy ninth birthday to Hope Nicole Reeves from her Mom, her brothers, Kyleigh, Granny and Papa Ben, her aunts and uncles, and all her cousins.



Twins celebrate birthday



Happy birthday to Ethan and Anna Kenieutubbe of McAlester. The twins celebrated their seventh birthday with a pool party on January



25 with friends and family at Americinn in McAlester. Ethan had an Incredible Hulk and Anna had a Hanna Montana party.

Parents are Brian and Teresa Hamilton of McAlester; brother, Austin Kenieutubbe, and grandfather, Osborne Kenieutubbe. Their uncles, Travis, Taylor, Thurman and Truman also wished them both a wonderful birthday.

Ethan enjoys playing video games and playing sports. Anna Makenzie enjoys watching Hannah Montana and playing sports.

Happy birthday Dad!

We would like to wish the Rev. Albert E. Simon of Durant a happy 82nd birthday. His birthday is April 18 and he is still going strong. We hope you will have a great day! From all your children, Dale Simon, Marvin Simon, Mike Simon, Norma Simon Cook, Gary Simon, and Alberta Simon DiAngelo of Los Angeles, California, and also Lena Simon Tiger of Shawnee, and Melvis Wilson of Calera. Even though you are far away, you are never out of our thoughts.



Happy 75th birthday

Kenneth James Wilson celebrated his 75th birthday on February 22. His parents were Isaac Wilson and Lucy Frazier Belvin. He graduated from Caney High School. He lives in Lawton with his wife, Barbara, and granddaughter, Caylynn.



Happy 74th birthday

In celebration of the 74th birthday of Dan Bedingfield on March 30, his family and friends wish him health, happiness and God’s blessings. Dan is the grandson of original enrollee Mollie A. Bedingfield.



Happy birthday Drew!

Andrew “Drew” Amos will celebrate his eighth birthday on April 27. He enjoys playing soccer, basketball and baseball. He is excited about turning 8 because now he gets to go to the Choctaw Nation Sports Camps and ride the bus. He is the son of Mike and Vicky Amos of Broken Bow and his grandparents are Maryline Colbert and the late Nick Colbert of Broken Bow and Bill and Louise Amos of Garvin. Happy birthday Drew from your sisters, Day and Chae and the rest of your family.



Happy 13th birthday

Gabriel Louis will celebrate his 13th birthday on April 22. He is a student at Durant Middle School. He enjoys going to church, playing sports and the piano, and being with family, friends and his dogs. He is a blessing from God and we are so proud of him. Happy birthday from Mom and family.



Gabriel would also like to wish his Uncle Ray a happy birthday.

Happy first birthday

Brooklyn Ruth Frazier celebrated her first birthday on December 27 with a big Care Bears party. Brooklyn is the daughter of Micah and Andrea Frazier of Broken Bow; grandparents, Willard and Sandra Frazier, Willie and Lorraine Stewart, all of Broken Bow, and Charles and Sharon Stewart of DeQueen, Arkansas.



Happy eighth birthday

Brianna Carol Powell of Norman celebrated her eighth birthday on April 13. Brianna is a second-grader and enjoys school. Brianna is a third-year Brownie Girl Scout who loves to ride her bicycle, draw, read, dance, giggle and laugh. We are all so proud of her! Happy birthday from all your family, Britney, Daddy, G.G., Fishstick, Grandma Margie, Papa, Grandma Linda, and last but not least, Tawnni. Happy eighth birthday Brianna!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Tyler Ward of Talihina for being named to the All-Tournament team at the Leflore County Jr. High Tournament.

Tyler’s little brother, Jayse, and sister, Brittany, would also like to wish Tyler a happy 15th birthday on March 10.



Happy 29th birthday

Kimberli Crook of San Diego, California, turned 29 on March 5. She was very happy to meet Chief Pyle during his recent visit to San Diego and took the opportunity to complete tribal enrollment for her two children, Rita and Mikaela Crook. Kimberli is married to Michael Crook. She is a former Western States martial arts gold medalist in sparring and works at The Home Depot. She is contemplating a return to school and completion of her college degree.



Student strives for excellence

Justin Tyler Abraham was named Star Student for the month of December and also was awarded the Certificate of Bravery Award by the North Little Rock Community Police Department. On January 14, Justin came in first place in the 2009 Spelling Bee at Meadow Park Elementary School in North Little Rock.



Justin recently started his own organization called “Americans Advocating Civil Rights” through his personal experience of being the target of a bullying incident in 2007. Justin’s story was featured on the “Montel Williams Show” in March of 2007. In June of 2008, Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe awarded the International Coalition Against School Violence, founded by Justin’s mother Shanna McCoy-Rollins, a proclamation declaring the month of August as “National School Safety Awareness Month.”

Justin’s grandmother is W.C. Rollins and his great-great-grandmother is Mattie Slater Rollins.

Williamsses celebrate 60th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence “Larry” Earl Williams celebrated their 60th anniversary on March 20 with family and friends.

Laurence, born in Stonington, Maine, entered World War II at the age of 17 and was part of the second wave to land ashore at Normandy. After the war, life on the island was too slow for him, so he caught up with his older sister, Carrie and her husband, Ralph Fowler, in Denver where he met his future bride, Addell, on New Year’s Eve night 1948. She was in town, living with her older sister, Jewell and her husband Willie Winsett, and working at the Denver Country Club. He knew she was the one, and married her two months and 20 days later. Many of their friends and family members felt that it was such a short courtship and that the marriage might not last were proven wrong. Addell was a local girl, born and raised in Caddo, and of Choctaw descent. Her father, John Seago, and her new stepmother, Leta Armstrong, raised her after siblings, Carl, Jewell, Orval, Lavern and W.C. (death by military aircraft 1940) had left and married to set up their own homes. Family and friends of Addell still live in the southeast area of Oklahoma, mostly Ardmore, Caddo and Durant.

Their sons and their families, along with other friends, and many nieces and nephews help celebrate the couple’s nuptial with a gala event and remembrance slide show of events in California where they lived.



55th anniversary

Cornelius and Norma Sam celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on March 12. Together they have 13 children, grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. We are very proud of our parents and wish them many more years together.



50th anniversary

Eddie and Juanita Barker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 4 with friends and family at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Stigler. Eddie and Juanita were married April 4, 1959, in Kansas City, Missouri.

They have three children, Cassie Miller and husband Bill of Kearney, Missouri, Eddy Barker and wife Michelle of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and daughter Melinda Kopetsky of Overland Park, Kansas. They have five grandchildren, Tyler Barker of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Courtney Barker of Blue Springs, Missouri, Bradley Barker, deceased, and Amanda Lewis of Cameron, Missouri. Eddie is the son of original enrollee Mary Hensen Barker.



Happy second birthday

Happy birthday to Colt! Colt Crader turned 2 on March 11. He celebrated at the Imagination Movers concert in Fort Worth with Mom and Dad. We are so blessed to have Colt in our lives. Mom, Dad, Pokni, Moshe Moshe, MeMe, PaPa, Nana, PaPa, all his aunts, uncles and cousins wish him the best year!



Happy birthday

I would like to wish my sister, Naomi, a happy birthday on April 1. Happy birthday from your sister and family.

Happy birthday Dad

I would like to wish my daddy, Rod Cannady, a happy birthday on April 24. Birthday wishes from your son, Cody, and Mom.



Queen Little Miss

Cadence Marisue Alexander was crowned Queen Little Miss at the Harvest Royalty Pageant of Main Street in Talihina on November 8, 2008. Proud supporters at the event were her parents, Josh and Crystal Alexander; her brother, Griffin Liam; her nana, Pamela Beddo; and her cousin, Virginia Beddo. Cadence was selected from her age division and received a crown, certificate and long-stemmed rose. Way to go baby doll!



Happy third birthday

Wishing a happy third birthday to Gunner Samuels on April 11 are Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt Chey, Aunt Jo and Cousin Jake.



Happy first birthday

Happy first birthday to Colton Samuels! Colton celebrated his birthday on March 13. Birthday wishes from Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Jo, Cousin Jake, and Aunt Chey.





JA 4-H student B.J. Nunn and her Grand Champion Cross barrow.

Jones Academy captures top honors at Atoka, Poteau

B.J. Nunn of Jones Academy 4-H exhibited the Grand Champion (overall) at the Winter Classic Livestock Show held January 31 at Atoka and at the Poteau Swine Jackpot on January 24 in Poteau.

At Atoka, B.J. and her Cross barrow won first place in Class 7 Crosses, was selected as Champion Cross and Grand Champion (overall). The Cross barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy. B.J. is an academic honors student at Hartshorne Jr. High.

Also placing at the Atoka swine show were Jones Academy students:

Micah Tiger – First place and Reserve Champion Yorkshire.

Cheyenne Neal – First place Hampshire.

Lonsford Crook – First place Cross and third place Hampshire.

Rachelle Dinardo – Second place Cross and third place Hampshire.

At Poteau, B.J. also exhibited the Grand Champion (overall). B.J. and her Cross barrow won first place in Class 5 Crosses, was selected as Champion Cross and Grand Champion (overall). The Cross barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy. B.J. is an academic honors student at Hartshorne Jr. High.

Other students attending the Poteau Swine Jackpot along with their placing include:

Cheyenne Neal – First place Hampshire.

Lonsford Crook – First place Hampshire, Reserve Champion Hampshire and first place Cross barrow.

Felicia Nunn – First place and Breed Champion Chester and second place Hampshire.

Tristian Evans – Fifth place Hampshire.



Lonsford Crook is pictured with his award-winning Cross barrow.

Jones Academy 4-H'ers attend Stigler Swine Show

Tristian Evans of Jones Academy 4-H exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion (overall) at the Stigler Swine Jackpot show held January 17 at Stigler. Tristian and his Cross barrow won first place in Class 5 Crosses, was selected as Reserve Champion Cross and Reserve Grand Champion (overall). The Cross barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy. Tristian is a 10th-grader and is an academic honors student.

Other students attending this event along with their placing include:

B.J. Nunn – First place Hampshire and second place Chester White.

Lonsford Crook – First place Hampshire, Reserve Champion Hampshire and fourth place Cross barrow.

Nichalle Evans – First place Chester White.

Felicia Nunn – Second place Chester White.

Jones Academy program teaches responsibility

By Amber Davenport Sutton
Hartshorne Sun Staff Writer

Third through 12th grade students at Jones Academy have an opportunity to learn life skills and responsibility through the Academy's hog program.

Brandon Spears, agricultural supervisor at Jones Academy, said, "Our hog program consists of 35 children, ages 9-19. And we have 20 brood sows in production. Children who belong to this unique agricultural program are more than just members, they are a part of these animals' lives from the very beginning."

According to Spears, students assist with the process starting with breeding by artificial insemination. The sow carries her litter for 114 days during gestation period. The sows are then placed in farrowing crates to farrow. The students assist with the birth of litters and with tasks such as ear notching, administering iron and vaccination shots. At three months old the piglets are assigned to a student. This animal becomes that member's project.

Each hog program member is assigned one to three pigs, depending upon the member's age and maturity level. They care for their pigs before school, after school and sometimes at night if needed. They are responsible for feeding, exercising, brushing their show pigs and cleaning out their pens. This work prepares the student and the pig for shows at



local, state and national level.

Jones Academy students have won many awards over the course of the past 11 years. Among those awards are Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow at the 2006 Oklahoma Youth Expo in Oklahoma City and Grand Champion Market Hog at the 2003 and 2006 Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fairs in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Members are currently preparing for their county show which is held at the McAlester Expo. Jones Academy has had the Grand Champion Market Hog at the Pittsburg County Spring Show winning this title in 1998, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

"We started with five students and four sows on December 1, 1997, from which we have grown our club and our herd. This program is a valuable tool and vehicle for our students, teaching them responsibility, work ethics, pride and life skills. It also gives them positive direction and incentive to succeed," Spears said.

"We wouldn't be as accomplished as we are without the support of our entire staff. The kitchen staff prepares sack lunches for our out-of-town shows, while the dorm staff makes sure our uniforms are clean and ready for show days. Even the janitorial and maintenance staff have a hand in our success, always being there if we need something.

"My wife, Keli Spears, volunteers much of her time to helping with entries, assisting students at shows and being a chaperone for female students at out-of-town events.

"Brad Spears, Jones Academy administrator, Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton are very supportive as well."

Show pigs are judged on overall balance, muscling, soundness, width and freshness. Hogs must be heavy muscled, wide made and productive. Most of the pigs that are shown by Jones Ag students are born, bred and raised at Jones Academy. Many of the show gilts

are kept for reproduction purposes and are put back in the sow herd. The remaining pigs are used for consumption at Jones Academy, these pigs are processed at Eastern Oklahoma State College and Kilgors at Stigler. Money earned by the students at livestock shows is put into a special savings account, specifically for the students' use.

Spears has a wall of fame in his office that contains pictures of award winning students and their projects. "This wall means a lot to these kids. Many students that have graduated from Jones Academy who come back to visit younger siblings, cousins, and friends will stop by my office to look at their pictures on the wall and will tell me, 'Thanks, this program helped me stay on the right path and gave me something positive in my life at that time.'

"I tell my kids we are a team like any other team. We work together, we lose together, and we win together," said Spears.

Students visit SOSU

Thirty-five Jones Academy junior and senior high students visited the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus for Native American Visitation Day on March 11. The students spoke with recruiting and admissions officers as well as tribal scholarship representatives. The juniors and seniors also participated in a tour of the campus grounds. The featured event was an art performance and a keynote speech by Tulsa artist Richard Hight. Mr. Hight spoke to the students on the importance of finding your gift in life and using your talents to serve others. As part of his presentation, Mr. Hight also made a remarkable landscape drawing using colored chalks. Some of the students expressed how important the visit to SOSU was in view of preparing for college.



Chris Colungo, David Salkey, Krystall Barnes, Lee Scott, Eleasah Horton, Kyle Pearson and Travis Pablo.



Krystall Barnes, Shalane Black and Sabryna Newbreast.

Students developing their cultural and artistic talents

Krystall Barnes, a professional artist from Durant, is teaching classes this semester to promising art students at Jones Academy. The after-school classes are part of an enrichment program to help students develop their cultural and artistic talents. Ms. Barnes reports that the students are having a "blast" and she is enjoying herself also. She also notes that there are some very gifted art students at the school. Ms. Barnes is Resource and Referral Specialist at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. As a professional artist, Ms. Barnes has her work represented at an art gallery in Denison, Texas.

2009 Folsom Scholarship funds available

Applications are being accepted for the Folsom Scholarship which is awarded annually 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 desire to make a difference in the lives of others. The \$5,000 award will be paid directly to the institution the winning student will be attending.

Applicants are required to provide an official copy of their high school transcript and two letters of reference from some combination of the following individuals: teacher/counselor, parent/guardian, community-based organization or personal reference from a non-relative. Only two letters will be judged.

All applicants must also include a statement of financial need, written in their own words. The 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?

A statement of education and career goals must also be included.

The written statement needs to be 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.

A copy of the applicant's Choctaw membership card or other proof that he or she is a member or descendant of members of the Choctaw Nation must be included.

Also, the student must provide a copy of the letter of acceptance from the issuing institution. It must be a trade school, two- or four-year accredited institution, or certification or licensure program. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of and attend an institution within his or her state of residence.

All application materials must be postmarked by May 22, 2009. The award decision will be made no later than June 15.

The required documentation needs to be mailed to JKL Foundation, Attn: Folsom Scholarship, 15950 N. Dallas Pkwy., Ste 725, Dallas, TX 75248.



Jones Academy student Koty Durant won second place in an art contest sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of "Bikers Against Child Abuse." BACA members came to Jones Academy on March 11. Scott Spears, president of the Southeast Chapter of BACA, presents a \$75 check to Koty for his poster. The bikers and students had a lively give and take session.



Members of the Choctaw language class at Bethel Hill, under the instruction of Bob Ludlow, are presented certificates by Richard Adams. The students are Elfreda Willis, Lilliella Willis, Tracie Tonihka, Barry Tonihka, Michelle Tonihka and Dwayne Tonihka. Awarded for perfect attendance are Elfreda Willis and Lilliella Willis.



Richard Adams presents special certificates to young Choctaw language students at Bethel Hill – Enchil Tonihka, Deedra Tonihka, Gabriel Tonihka and Shacy Tonihka.



Instructor Bob Ludlow, left, is pictured with Kulli Chito students of the Choctaw language Virginia Jefferson, Charles Watson, Darlene Noahubi, Alton Noahubi, Choctaw Nation Assistant Director Richard Adams, and student Marilyn Jefferson. Receiving awards for perfect attendance are Alton Noahubi and Marilyn Jefferson.

Dean’s Honor Roll

Brittney McCutchen is presently attending the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, where she made the Dean’s list during her first semester. She is pursuing an elementary/pre-elementary education. Brittney attended Carl Albert Jr. College in Poteau for two years. She is also an employee of the Pocola Casino. She is the daughter of Jacqueline Butler of Talihina and the granddaughter of Vernon and Norma McCoy of Clayton. Brittney and her family would like to say thank you to the Choctaw Nation for her educational and employment opportunities.



March Bow Shoot Results

5 and under: 1st – Weston Davis, 2nd – Taloa Ravin
6-8: 1st – Waylon Davis, 2nd – Andrew Amos, 3rd – Gavin McConnell
9-13: 1st – Sam Jacob
14-16: 1st – Jason Bugos
17-19: 1st – Ryan Canant
Women 20 & over: 1st – Cyndi Houser, 2nd – Pam Waugh, 3rd – Audrey Jacob
Men 20 & over: 1st – Justin Jackson, 2nd – Jamie Houser, 3rd – Leo Garvin

Team Oklahoma Choctaw boys take championship

Team Oklahoma Choctaw, consisting of one team of young men and one team of young women, traveled to Henryetta to participate in the 6th Annual Madness in March All-Indian Basketball Tournament March 18-22. Thirty boys teams and 22 girls teams traveled to compete from communities across Oklahoma, as well as from other states, including Mississippi, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa and Arizona.

The tournament officially kicked off with a College Prep Seminar on Wednesday. The seminar is geared toward preparing Native American youth for the rigors of college.

The fans’ favorite event of the week was Friday Night’s Rising Star Activities, complete with a Slam Dunk Challenge. A packed house witnessed the showcase of high flyer Team Oklahoma Choctaw Slam Dunk winner Lane Adams of Red Oak.

Teams competed in pool play all day Thursday and Friday vying for the #1 seeds with bracket play beginning on Saturday morning. The Girls Team Oklahoma Choctaw ended the tourney with a 2-2 record. The Boys Team Oklahoma Choctaw swept the tourney going undefeated 7-0 and taking home the coveted Gold Ball after beating the Mississippi Choctaw in the finals.

The tourney concluded Sunday evening with a formal Awards Banquet. Team Oklahoma Choctaw member Derek Anderson of Battiest received Tournament MVP and Offensive Player of the Tournament. Marcellus Hill of Boswell was also named to the All-Tournament Team.

The two teams were made up of young Choctaw men and women from across the Choctaw Nation.



Boys Team Oklahoma Choctaw included: Marcellus Hill (Boswell), Martin Stevens (Boswell), Derek Anderson (Battiest), Kyle Baker (Wright City), Jordan Eagleroad (Talihina), Parker Taylor (Rattan), Kirk Taylor (Rattan), Barry Williams (Wright City), Samuel Steve (Durant), and Lane Adams (Red Oak).



Girls Team Oklahoma Choctaw included: Heather O’Neal (Talihina), Shavannah Short (Eagletown), Hailey Elrod (Durant), Cierra Matthews (Talihina), Presley Grammar (Soper), Malinda Steve (Calera), T’iata Roberts (Ada), Ariole Bennett (Durant), and Ashley Scroggins (Howe). Coaching staff included Brad Clay, Kevin Gwin, Cyndi Houser, and Tyrone Stafford.

Jones on State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council

Keota High School junior Shasta Jones has been selected for the inaugural State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council, State Superintendent Sandy Garrett announced. Shasta is the daughter of Darrell and Pat Jones and the granddaughter of Choctaw Nation District 5 Councilperson Charlotte Jackson, Donald Jones and the late Zula Jones, all of Keota.



Shasta competed with hundreds of high school applicants who applied from across the state for the first-ever Student Advisory Council, which is comprised of 50 outstanding students in grades 9 through 12 and is geographically diverse.

The council’s first meeting was February 11 in Oklahoma City, where members discussed with Garrett and facilitators the school dropout problem and possible solutions. They also were introduced to lawmakers in both the state House and Senate.

“Some of the most insightful and innovative ideas for school improvement come from students themselves, and it’s important we take the time to listen and learn from what they have to share,” Garrett said, indicating she was deeply impressed with the intellect and maturity of her council.

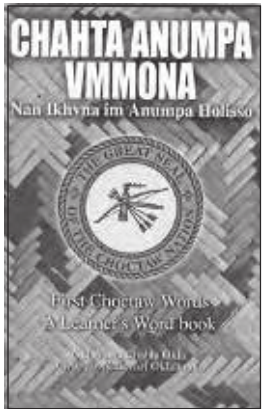
“There have been a lot of changes in schools in recent years and the global economy demands there be much more in the years to come,” Garrett said. “I want to know what our student leaders think we could be doing better or differently in Oklahoma to ensure their peers have every opportunity to succeed. It’s never been more important for instruction to be relevant and to think outside the box where it’s warranted.”

Garrett said she will be incorporating many of the ideas generated at the meeting as part of the planning for the Oklahoma Dropout Summit being convened by the State Department of Education in partnership with America’s Promise Alliance on March 25.

For more information about the State Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council and its members visit www.sde.state.ok.us.

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Watson presented with commemorative knife

HMC (Ret/Navy) Brian Watson received a commemorative Buck knife during a ceremony in December. The knife was given in appreciation of Brian’s military service including two tours of duty in Iraq.

The knife project originated as a way of saying thank you to local service men and women returning from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Buck Knives Co. is located in Post Falls, Idaho.

Chairman Chuck Buck has provided a discount for purchasing the knives and they along with other individuals and businesses continue to donate and support this effort. The knives are Buck model 192 Vanguard sheath knives, each engraved with the branch of service insignia in gold on the handle. The top line is the branch of service. The second line is the date the branch of service was established and the date of manufacture. The third line is the Navy key words – Honor - Courage - Commit-



Retired U.S. Marine Graham Crutchfield presents a Buck knife to Brian Watson.

ment..

Brian is a proud member of the Choctaw tribe, the grandson of the late Simon and Ethel Watson of Smithville. He was raised in Kellogg, Idaho, and enlisted in the Navy in 1983. He spent the next 23 years at various duty assignments including Yorktown, Virginia; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and two tours of duty in Iraq as a

medical corpsman. Since his retirement in 2006, he and his wife, Joyce, now live in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where he enjoys hunting, fishing and working part-time. Brian is the son of Shirley and the late N.B. Watson of Kellogg.

Brian is grateful to the Choctaw Nation for its support in the way of care packages while in Iraq and Chief Pyle’s letter upon his retirement.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

MAY	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Idabel 10 am-12 pm Broken Bow 1-3 p.m.	2
	3	4 Durant 10 am-2 pm	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18 Antlers by appt only	19 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	20	21 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	22 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt only	23
2009	24	25 Holiday	26 Crowder by appt only	27 Wright City by appt only Bethel by appt only	28 Wilburton 10:30 am-1:30 pm	29 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	30
	31						

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.

OBITUARIES

J.L. Williams

James Lonnie “J.L.” Williams, 22, of Hugo passed away February 27, 2009. He was born February 21, 1987, in Ardmore, the son of Wyatt and Susan Williams. He lived in the Valliant area from 1996 to 2000 and then moved to the Hugo area.

J.L. was a security guard for the Choctaw Nation Casino in Grant. He enjoyed riding bulls, hunting, fishing, playing football, running, weightlifting and aggravating his niece, Macy Grace.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lonnie Mignon Williams and Jap and Otha Williams, and his great-grandfather, James “Zeke” Sorrels.

Survivors include his parents of Hugo; one brother, Josh Williams and wife Amanda of Hugo; a niece, Macy Grace Williams of Hugo; grandparents, Linda Williams of Wilson, James Leon Sorrels of Mill Creek, and Phyllis Sorrels of Mill Creek; great-grandmother, Maciel Sorrels of Mill Creek; aunts and uncles, Joni and Michael Phelps of Wilson, Chad and Wendy Sorrels of Ada, David and Marie Sorrels of South Carolina, and Dara and Bobby Cusher of Tulsa, along with a host of other family and friends.



Lucille Underwood

Lucille Taylor Underwood, 85, passed away December 24, 2008, in Oklahoma City. She was born March 24, 1923, in Finley, the daughter of Archibald and Lena Noah Taylor.

Lucille married Louis Underwood on December 28, 1945, in Antlers. She was a charter member of Bobb-Myers Methodist Church and was a member of the Choctaw Nation Senior Citizens Center.

She attended Goodland School and was a #1 Dallas Cowboy fan. She loved OU, professional football, basketball, fishing, cooking, and was a green-thumb gardener.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis Underwood; her parents; brothers, Joseph Taylor and Wayland Nelson; sisters, Catherine Sexton and Rhoda Mae Noah; two nephews, Larry Notah and Matthew Taylor; one niece, Kathy Nelson; and her best friend of 50 years, Helen McBride.

Survivors include her nephews, Perry Taylor, Kim Taylor, Michael Sexton, and Anthony Nelson, all of Oklahoma City, Terry Sexton of Durant, Timothy Nelson of Yukon, and Paul Wayne Notah, Lewis Notah and Gerald Notah of Window Rock, Arizona; nieces, Ruby Choate and Priscilla Coleman, both of Broken Bow, Sandra Denton and Cheryl Nelson, both of Oklahoma City, Lena Maturino of Durant and Cleta Mata of Caddo; two sisters-in-law, Helen Taylor of Blanchard and Nell Nelson of Norman; two brothers-in-law, John D. Underwood and wife Dovie of Finley and Harrison E. Underwood and wife Janine of Flagstaff, Arizona; as well as numerous other relatives and friends.



Loretta Melton

Loretta Melton, 71, of Talihina passed away April 6, 2007, at her home. She was born June 20, 1935, in Lawton to Jeff and Cora Wall Amos.

She married James M. Melton on July 10, 1954, at the Talihina Assembly of God Church and was a homemaker. She was a member of Goodsprings United Methodist Church.

Loretta was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She loved being with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Ethel McBride, Lucy Palmer and Mae Wallace; one infant son; and one grandson, Justin Monroe Martin.

Survivors include her husband, James M. Melton of the home; daughters, Elizabeth V. and Hugh Morgan of Talihina, Cynthia G. Sanchez of Heavener, Donna and Melvin Jackson of Tulsa, Judy K. Melton of Heavener, Darlene S. and Austin Ludlow of Talihina; sons, James D. Melton of California and Lysander L. Melton and Jonathan Melton, both of Talihina; 19 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.



Eugene Wright Jones

Eugene Wright Jones, 66, of Talihina passed away February 25, 2009, at Sparks Regional Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born June 9, 1942, in Talihina, the son of Jackson and Sallie Wilkins Jones.

He married Margie Ward on January 9, 1971, in McAlester and they were married for 38 years. Eugene worked at the PHS hospital, Talihina and Ada Indian hospitals until he retired in 1993. He served in the U.S. Army Rangers for four years with honors. He attended Goodland School for several years and then he attended Clayton High School, where he graduated.

He enjoyed sports and when he was a child he was always running. He was Clayton High School basketball captain, softball catcher for the Talihina Choctaw team. He enjoyed coaching the baseball team, Talihina Warriors.

He really enjoyed warm weather and being with his family. He never knew a stranger and enjoyed visiting. He always had a smile for you.

He was a member of Good Springs United Methodist Church, Lenox, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents; uncle, Melvin Ben; sister, Evelyn Taylor; mother-in-law, Katherine Ward; grandchild, Baby Jones; and two brothers-in-law, Wendy and Melvin Ward.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two sons, Michael and Paula Jones of Bartlesville and David and fiancé Gina Hearn of Talihina; daughter, Catherine and Bobby Carlson of Talihina; seven grandchildren, Christopher Jones, Zamuel Hemphill, Sammy Hemphill, Charles Hemphill, Tamara Hearn, Hailei Emde, Stai-cei Lewis; one great-grandchild, Donavin Evitt; two brothers-in-law, J.D. and Cindy Ward of Ardmore, Sherman and Gloria Ward of Talihina; three sisters-in-law, Daisy Perry of Bokoshe, Marie and Adam WhiteEagle of Talihina and Betty Wesley of Talihina; sister, Elizabeth Siener of California; and a very special person, Aunt Florence of Divide, Oklahoma.

Ruth R. Riley

Ruth R. Riley, 85, a lifelong resident of Norman, passed away January 25, 2009. She was born October 4, 1923, to Samuel “Joe” Scott Beck and Myrtle Carter Beck in Midway.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Paul H. Riley; sisters, Hazel Bolding and Nell June Allen; brother, Lewis Beck; niece, Pamela K. Winblood; nephews, Melton M. Moran and Neal Keith; great-nephew, G. Scott Grissom; great-nieces, Kae Dawn Winblood and Brandi Winblood; and her children, Raven Wahkinney and William Scott Weber; sister-in-law, Phyllis and husband John Chatterton; and good friend, David Herring.

Thomas Jefferson Riddle Jr.

Thomas Jefferson Riddle Jr. of Edmond passed away November 12, 2008. He was born January 12, 1929, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Thomas Jefferson Riddle Sr. and Barbara Coax Riddle.

The family moved to Oklahoma City in 1930, where Tom attended Foster and Capitol Hill High Schools, graduating in 1949 from Central High School after his military service. He served his country with honor in the U.S. Merchant Marine, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He led a remarkable, courageous, and adventurous life, including witnessing the atomic bomb test at Bikini Atoll, and assisting in quelling the infamous prison break and subsequent riot known as “The Battle of Alcatraz” in 1946. He boxed in Golden Gloves and was the welterweight boxing champion of the U.S. Navy 7th Fleet. He was also a local blues singer known among Oklahoma City blues musicians as “South Dallas.”

He then began a 28-year career as a firefighter, serving in the Midwest City and Tinker Fire Departments before joining the Oklahoma City Fire Department in July of 1951. He retired June 30, 1978. As a young firefighter, Tom saw a good friend and fellow firefighter severely injured while fighting a fire. The injured man was not allowed to seek medical attention until his shift was over the next morning. Gangrene set in due to lack of prompt medical attention and the injured firefighter’s leg was amputated. This experience inspired Tom to take action in support of his fellow firefighters. His life’s work and passion was to fight for employee dignity, fair wages and benefits, and job-site justice for firefighters in the public sector. A pioneer is one who, with no guarantee of success, leads with courage and conviction, convincing others to follow into uncharted territory. Tom Riddle was a pioneer who led Oklahoma City and Oklahoma state firefighters into the new arena of collective bargaining.

Among his achievements he was a charter member of the International Association of Firefighters Local #157 (formerly #1524) – 1964; and helped to pass legislation providing Worker’s Compensation benefits to firefighters. Prior to this, Oklahoma firefighters who routinely put their lives on the line for the good of the public had no state on-the-job injury or death benefits; helped to pass legislation in 1971 establishing the Fire and Police Collective Bargaining Act, which guaranteed firefighters the right to bargain with their municipality regarding wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment. Under this new act, he conducted negotiations for the first contract between firefighters and the City of Oklahoma City. He served as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #157 (Oklahoma City) 1971-1976; served two terms as president of the Professional Firefighters of Oklahoma, an association of 73 firefighter local unions from all over the state. He also established the first successful Affirmative Action program for firefighters within the United States.

As an independent labor consultant, he negotiated for numerous Oklahoma firefighter local unions, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal employees, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodges, the International Union of Police Associations, the Allied Paint and Trades Councils, the Office and Professional Employees Internation, OKC Principals’ Association, and the American Federation of Teachers. He negotiated and arbitrated contracts between the respective cities and International Association of Fire-fighters’ locals in Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, and New Mexico. As advocate, he fought and won the Oklahoma City Firefighters’ first arbitration case with the City; fought and won the first reinstatement of a wrongly discharged firefighter through the process of binding arbitration in Oklahoma. He participated in writing the firefighter overtime requirements which were included for the first time in the Fair Labor Standards Act of the United States Department of Labor; Oklahoma AFL-CIO Executive Board member and parliamentarian for eight years; served as secretary-treasurer of the Oklahoma County Democrat Party; and was an Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area United Way trustee. He represented Oklahoma firefighters in more than 1,000 arbitration cases as their official advocate. Tom was also inducted into the Oklahoma Labor Hall of Fame in 2003.

Tom was the son of an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He married Winona Dee Hodel Henderson on February 11, 1966. He was a member of Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church of Edmond.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Paige. Survivors include his wife; four children, Sherri Henderson, Tamlyn Jordan and husband Matthew, Robin Riddle and Thomas Jefferson Riddle III and wife Ashley; five grandchildren, Patrick Delaney, Nicholas Snodgrass, Sydney Riddle, Shaun Stephenson and Zachary Jordan; brother, Peter Riddle and wife Barbara of Lincoln, California; and nephew, Jerry Riddle and wife Michelle Shipley of Los Angeles, California.

Billie Beatrice ‘Grandma Wood’

Billie Beatrice “Grandma Wood,” 94, of Spiro passed away March 15, 2009, in Spiro. She was born April 24, 1914, in Shady Point, the daughter of William Henry and Olla Henderson Coleman.

She was a member of the Spiro Church of Christ. She taught school during the war and worked at Hamlin Garment Factory. She loved sewing, gardening and painting pictures.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Waymon Wood; a son, Bobby Wood; and one sister.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Joella and Odell Clark and Sue and Bill Marler, all of Spiro; son and daughter-in-law, James and Jan Wood of Spiro; 10 grandchildren, Larry Clark of Tahlequah, Terri and husband Scott Wyatt of Edmond, Ron and wife Kathy Clark of Castle Rock, Colorado, Jill and husband Lou Garcia of St. Louis, Missouri, Jamie and wife Sabrina Wood of Stillwater, Julie Wood of Oklahoma City, Dena and husband Chris Brickey of Durango, Colorado, Pat and wife Heather Garner of Spiro, Buffy and husband Greg Kephart of Harrison, Arkansas, and Kerrie Wood of Odessa, Texas; 15 great-grandchildren, other relatives and loved ones and a host of beloved friends.



Tudor Scott Morgan Evans

Tudor Scott Morgan Evans of Arkoma passed away February 21, 2009, at his home. He was born December 3, 1958.

He was a craftsman by trade and worked for George King and Sharp’s Auto Repair in Fort Smith.

Survivors include four daughters, Brandy King Goff of Cedarville, Arkansas, Krista Belle Evans of Havana, Arkansas, Sara Evans of Idaho and Summer Evans Cooke of Idaho; his parents, Captain and Mrs. Simpson Evans Jr. of Fort Smith; sister, Kandace Evans of Po-cola; and four grandchildren.



Clark R. Bohanon

Clark R. Bohanon, 69, of Atoka passed away March 2, 2009, at Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, Sherman, Texas. He was born July 8, 1939, in Ludlow, the son of David and Emeline Ludlow Bohanon.

Clark was a van driver for Choctaw Nation. He was a prayer warrior and member of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. He loved gospel singing, church activities and spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father; son, Marty Bohanon; brother, Esias Bohanon; sister, Alicetine Bohanon.

Survivors include his mother; four daughters, Rosemary Bohanon, Jacqueline Bohanon and Lucy Bohanon, all of Atoka, and Brenda Barrett of Wicks, Arkansas; one son, Mark Evans of Atoka; five sisters and four brothers-in-law, Leona and Richard Samuel of Smithville, Ella and Ramsey Willis of Tulsa; Lodie and Stan Mitchell of Lawton, Della Jones of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Corene and the Rev. Melvin Palmer of Idabel; one brother and sister-in-law, Randel and Ruthie Bohanon of Smithville; one grandson, Jonathan Bohanon; many uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

Bradley Lee Lemons

Bradley Lee Lemons, 17, of Garvin passed away February 14, 2009. He was born December 12, 1991, in Talihina, the son of Bobby Lee Lemons and Jacqueline James Jennings.

Bradley lived the last eight years in Garvin, moving to that area from Choctaw County. He was a freshman at Valliant High School. His desire was to graduate with his friends; they would say he was a good friend. He loved playing basketball and truly enjoyed being a team player for the Bulldogs. Bradley liked to fish. He was a member of the Hampton Chapel Methodist Church in Spencerville, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his father; grandparents, Bill and Mollie Lemons, Leon Jennings and Andrew and Katherine James; and a sister, Jacqueline Lemons.

Survivors include his mom and stepdad, Jackie and Willie Jennings of Garvin; seven sisters, Tammie Brown of Millerton, Kay Bagsby of Idabel, Rhonda Felan of Caddo, Lena Smith of Cumby, Dana Saine of Kemp, Texas, Yarnell Smith of Lindale, Texas, and Mary Ann Buhrkuhl of Broken Bow; eight brothers, Robert Lemons of Lexington, Bobby Lemons of Paris, Texas, Billy Lemons of Corrine, Michael Lemons of Caddo, Harley Davidson of Valliant, Shawn James of Idabel, Dennis James of Bennington, and Billy Jennings of Glover; and a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.



Velma Horton Betts

Velma Horton Betts passed away February 18, 2009. She was born January 29, 1915, in Tupelo to John and Mary Magdaline Swaffer Bench.

She married William Leon Horton on April 8, 1933. He preceded her in death on December 9, 1985. She later married Jess Betts. He preceded her in death on November 11, 1997.

Mrs. Betts was a homemaker, a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She volunteered for organizations within the Chickasaw Nation, receiving a reward for her service from Governor Aboatubby. She was a member of the local Native American senior citizens group, playing tambourine in the band. She was a Christian and had attended The Evangelistic Temple in Ada.

She was preceded in death by her parents; twin brother, Velton Bench; brothers, Emmitt, Clay and Lloyd Bench; sisters, Johnie Payton, Oma Lee Holman; two daughters, Ruby Laxton, and “Cookie” Hasball; son D.Leon Horton; granddaughter, Tammy Laxton; and great-grandson, Billy Hood.

She loved her family, music, and flowers. She’s now surrounded by all three.

Survivors include three daughters, Reva Sue Willoughby and husband Leroy of Oil Center, Leota Howard and spouse Terry Hopper of Ada, Deloris Trobaugh and husband Neal of Eufaula; son-in-law, Vernon Laxton and wife Della of Ada; sister, Mildred Green of Ada; 16 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; 24 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.



Henry Radford York

Henry Radford York, 75, of Antlers passed away March 9, 2009, in Paris. He was born February 1, 1934, in Honey Grove, Texas, the son of Harley Steven York and Zennie Jane Coch-nauer York. He lived most of his life in Hugo.

Radford was of the Baptist faith. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a retired machinist. He loved to fish and hunt, especially for squirrels, and enjoyed reading Western books.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Elizabeth York; two sisters, Bertha Maxwell and Bertie Shelton; and three brothers, Roscoe York, Franklin York and William S. York.

Survivors include a sister, Reatha Freeman of Hugo; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of other family and friends.

