



Pyle to be inducted into Hall of Fame

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle is among the eight outstanding Oklahomans to be selected for induction into the 80th class of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Being inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is the highest honor an Oklahoman can receive from the state. Since the Oklahoma Hall of Fame’s inception in 1927, 613 accomplished individuals have received this commendation. The names of the Hall of Fame members, as well as busts and portraits

of these individuals, can be seen at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Center. In addition, the inductees are recognized on granite monuments in the Heritage Plaza at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. The 80th Annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame will be held November 8 in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center. Tickets for the event will go on sale in September.

Tribal Council approves proposals

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session July 14 at Tushka Homma. Among new business addressed were budget proposals approved for fiscal year 2007-08 for Indian Child Welfare and the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program. It was also agreed that the Choctaw Nation Aging Services Program participate in a Nationwide Elders Needs Assessment. The needs assessment is designed to yield information on Native elder health care needs relating to general health status, activities and daily living, visual, hearing, dental, tobacco and alcohol use, nutrition, exercise, and excess weight, social support and housing. Councilmembers also okayed projects for the Transportation Program, easement grants and an oil and gas lease.

Opening the doors of opportunity

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Career Development Program can open the doors of opportunity. Call now for career and training opportunities – 580-920-2260, toll-free 866-933-2260, or online at www.choctawnation.com.

Jones All Boys School Reunion

The Jones Academy All Boys School Reunion will be held October 20 at the Jones Academy School near Hartshorne, Oklahoma. We encourage all the Jones boys to come and join us – those who attended Jones up through the year of 1954. Wives/escorts are welcome. Registration is at 10 a.m. Activities will last all day, closing with the school’s annual gospel singing. All alumni and visitors are welcome. For more information, please call Jimmy Bruner, Antlers, 580-298-3136; Ted LeFlore, Atoka, 580-889-7989; or Tully Choate, Broken Arrow, 918-455-7255.



Choctaw Nation Health Clinic, McAlester



Rubin White Health Clinic, Poteau

Facilities bring more services

More services will be available to American Indians in Southeastern Oklahoma with the addition of a new pharmacy center at the Rubin White Health Clinic in Poteau and the new 44,807-square-foot Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in McAlester. Ribboncuttings were held July 12 at the two facilities, both built entirely with tribal funds.

Area citizens and tribal officials gathered in Poteau in spite of the stormy weather to celebrate the opening of the newly expanded and remodeled 31,000-square-foot health clinic on Kerr Avenue. The expansion of the clinic has added 11,755 square feet of space and will allow for four new pharmacists, a separate pediatric section, and the addition of ultrasound to the radiology department. The Prescription Refill Center at Rubin White handles all refills for patients receiving care through Choctaw Nation Health Services and can provide up to 5,000 refills a day. That afternoon, under beautiful clear skies, the McAlester Health Care Clinic on South George Nigh Expressway in McAlester opened its doors for visitors to tour the state-of-the-art facility. It houses three physicians, a dentist, a dental hygienist, an optometrist, a pediatrician, a physical therapist, and a physical therapist assistant. Behavioral Health will have a psychiatrist in office two days per week and a full time behavioral health counselor.

Councilman Mike Amos re-elected for another term



Incumbent Mike Amos was re-elected July 14 to serve another four-year term as Choctaw Nation Councilman in District 2. Amos won with 79.01 percent of the votes over Greene Dale Davis who received 20.99 percent. As Councilman, Mr. Amos has been involved in ac-

quiring a new center for the Choctaw Nation Day Care in Broken Bow, a new facility for Health Services and a new Casino as well as a ballfield complex behind the Boys & Girls Club. He has also been elected to serve as Speaker of the Council for the last three years.

Tribal Council Member District 2	Bethel	Broken Bow	Absentee	ABS Hand Count	Total	%
Michael Allen Amos	30	135	377	98	640	79.01%
Greene Dale Davis	19	72	73	6	170	20.99%

Scholarship Advisement Program off to great start

Although the Scholarship Advisement Program is only a few months old, great strides have been made toward improving educational opportunities for Choctaw youth. This program works toward preparing students for college and retaining them once they arrive on campus. Informational workshops and peer advisors are an important part of this program. The program is constantly working to find funding and other resources to help Choctaw students in their pursuit of higher education. Program Director Jo Mc-

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Daniel announced that the program recently received substantial scholarship commitments from two separate organizations. The Austin Family Scholarship is awarded to a Choctaw student who will be a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma. Funding for this scholarship is given by the Austin family in honor of Sam Austin Jr. The \$4,000 award is to be spread over three years if the student continues to meet requirements. Most recently, scholarship

funding has been provided by the O.J. and Mary Christine Harvey Foundation, based in Boulder, Colorado. Two qualified Choctaw students will receive \$5,000 each to be spread over two semesters. The students should have attained sophomore status at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and meet certain other criteria. If you would like to help Choctaw students fund their education, please contact Jo McDaniel at 580-924-8280 or toll free at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2547 or email jomcdaniel@choctawnation.com.

CCA funds available for eligible applicants

- The Child Care Assistance Program presently has funds available to assist eligible Indian families with their daycare expenses. We can assist with child care expenses while you are working, in training or attending classes. Applications are available upon request at the following locations:
- Child Care Assistance Office located at the tribal office, 1704 W. Elm St., Durant, Oklahoma; P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210; 580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170, ext. 2391
 - All tribal field offices in the 10 1/2 counties
 - Child Care Assistance website: www.cncca.org

NOTES TO THE NATION



Choctaw Senior Citizens say thanks

The Choctaw Senior Citizens of Smithville wish to thank the following people for helping the make their trip to the Grand Canyon possible: Choctaw Nation for providing a comfortable bus and a courteous driver; Councilman Kenny Bryant, Choctaw Travel Plazas and other merchants for donations of prizes for our Bingo benefits. Thanks to everyone at Smithville and surrounding areas who came out and supported us.

Graduation and thanks

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to express my appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance in my education. Thank you for giving the Choctaw people a great opportunity to continue our education.

Sinsie Teresa John-Griffith
Little Elm, Texas

Sinsie Teresa John-Griffith of Little Elm, Texas, received her Associates of Applied Science/Office System Technology degree from Collin County Community College on May 11. Sinsie will continue her education in the Cancer Registry Management Program this summer. She is the daughter of the late Jame John and Teresa Marie John of Garvin. Her family also would like to wish her a happy birthday.



Pictured above, from left, is son Jerry Lynn Alexander II, dad Jerry Alexander, Computer-Business Teacher Kristie Cox, and student support representative Mrs. Toni.

Assistance helps with trip to New York

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My husband, Jerry Alexander, and son, Jerry Lynn Alexander II, and I would like to thank you for the assistance that helped my son and husband go to New York City, where Jerry Lynn took 25th place in the nation in computer repair and trouble shooting, out of 100 students that competed.

Jerry also took second place at OSU Okmulgee Tech during Business Professionals of Oklahoma. This is what enabled him to make it to New York City. Jerry and his dad had a great time sightseeing and meeting other students.

We would also like to thank Jack Austin who has always been there for my family when Jerry Lynn participated in Future Farmers of America at Clayton High School. We are proud of our councilmember, Jack Austin, for always answering our calls and being there for us and my hat goes off to Chief Pyle as well who does an excellent job for the Choctaw Nation.

Tammy Jo Alexander
Snow, Oklahoma

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank Choctaw Nation and the Department of Higher Education for their financial support while pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Leadership and my Master's Degree in Agriculture Education. The support I received made a tremendous difference in attaining my education.

Sue Ann Raby
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

The Official
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Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached.

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

The BISHINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation. Circulation is monthly. Deadline for articles is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.

Thank you

Dear Councilperson Charolette Jackson and the Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank you for your support for Whitney Watson, a junior at Kinta High School who was elected as the Southeastern District FCCLA vice president. Whitney and her advisor, Rose Clawserwill, traveled to Anaheim, California, July 7-13 to attend the National FCCLA Convention. Whitney has taken two years of Choctaw Language, is very proud of her Choctaw heritage and will be the first to represent Kinta's FCCLA Chapter as a state officer. Whitney is the daughter of Robert and Sandra Watson of Lewisville, Oklahoma. Ms. Jackson always supports the students at Kinta Public School and they really appreciate her.

Sandra Watson
Kinta, Oklahoma

Information regarding relatives

Dear Choctaw Nation,

On page four of the June issue I read a notice about someone looking for relatives. It gave her name as Newona Crowder Ferall of War Acres, Oklahoma. I would like to get in touch with her since the great aunt Fannie Crowder Wallace she visited was my great-great-grandmother. I have recently been doing research on my Choctaw ancestors and have information I would like to share as well as getting any information I can to add to my notes.

Debbie Townsend
Leesburg, Virginia
debbietownsend@aol.com

Looking for relatives

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We are searching for the relatives of Elbert or Albert "Goop" Minor, born May 10, 1888; date of death was 1953. He was living somewhere in Oklahoma. He was married to Estelle Butler from Lamar County. His parents were John Minor and Rebecca Hill. If anyone can help with any information at all, please contact me at 903-784-0004.

Bonia Minor

In appreciation

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education for providing financial assistance in order to complete my Master's degree in nursing. I will be working as a nurse practitioner. I hope to someday put my skills to work helping Native Americans. I am the grandson of Jackson Jones and Sallie Ann Wilkins.

Edward W. Seiner
Vancouver, Washington

Thank you for donations

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for the donations which you have provided me to take to China as I teach English as a second language at a university in Wuhan this July. I know that my students will be delighted with these gifts. I appreciate your support in this attempt to foster international good will through our teaching.

Jon K. Reid
Durant, Oklahoma



Pictured at the NMAI entrance and the Honor Wall are Mark and Taylor Barnett and Pamela Barnett Bolt.

Honoring their Dad

On Father's Day this year, members of the Barnett and Bolt family visited the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in memory of their father, Rev. Marcus K. Barnett, who passed away in December 2006. In support of the NMAI and as a gift to honor their Dad and the family's Choctaw heritage, the following family inscription was engraved on the Honor Wall at the NMAI: "The Barnett and Bolt Family"

Thank you from police department

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Wright City Police Department is very appreciative of the donation you gave to our department to purchase new uniforms for our officers. Your donation enables our officers to keep a professional appearance. So many agencies are struggling due to cut backs and without people like you it would have been impossible for us to have new duty uniforms. I want to say thank you Choctaw Nation for helping us keep a professional appearance.

Gaylen Hale
Wright City Police Department

Thanks for excellent ER staff

Dear Mr. Sherrill,

I just wanted to thank you for the quality and dedication of your ER staff. On April 26 I fell at home and was unable to bear weight or straighten my right leg. After a call to the ER at Talihina Clinic, I was transported by ambulance. When I arrived I received so much kindness and quick attention. The ER staff went out of their way to make me feel at ease and comfortable. I especially want to thank Dr. Work, Cindy Washington, and Cheryl Collins, and all the others that I do not know their names. Everyone was so helpful and kind when I needed them.

Thelma Collins Newsom



Assistant Chief given proclamation

Assistant Chief Gary Batton was presented with a proclamation from the City of Durant by Mayor Jerry Tomlinson at a reception in Batton's honor on July 16.



Bible to be on display at Tushka Homma

A Bible was presented to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that will be placed in the museum at Tushka Homma. The Bible has a rich history and is well over 100 years old. The Bible was presented to the tribe by Sandy Newby, middle, and Joyce Foraker, right, and was accepted by Mickey Peercy, Executive Director of Health Services. The Bible was used by Sandy's great-grandfather and Joyce's grandfather.

Dedication to be held in Blanchard for Choctaw Medal of Honor Recipient

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Pioneer Telephone Company will be hosting a dedication for Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Tony K. Burris on Saturday, September 15, 2007, in Blanchard, Oklahoma. General Tommy Franks is the confirmed keynote speaker for the ceremony, which will begin at 10 a.m. Sfc. Burris was killed in the Korean War on October 9, 1951, on Heartbreak Ridge. A statue of Burris will be unveiled by family members at the September 15th ceremony.

Fazekas earns national recognition

Dalton Fazekas recently won first place in the Native American Student Art competition. His painting was one of 1,379 entries and spanned over 34 states. Dalton and one of his family members will be flown to Washington, D.C. where he will be presented with an engraved plaque and art supplies. His work will be on display at the U.S. Department of Education in August.



Thanks for medical care

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Choctaw Nation,

I live in Soper and I go to the Health Clinic in Hugo. Dr. Tracy Kidwell is my doctor. She and the whole staff are wonderful.

On June 16, my 15-year-old grandson got his finger cut by a chain saw. I took him to a local hospital and after waiting over one hour and not being seen, I took him to Talihina to the hospital there. The staff, doctors, and X-ray team are a bunch of fine people. They took him right in, his finger required stitches.

I just wanted to thank everyone for the great medical care we get through the Choctaw Nation.

Sandra Wymer



Norman Choctaw community students completes language class

Our Phase 2 of the Choctaw language class began March 13. The classes were held at Norman Baptist Fellowship in Norman, with LeRoy Sealy serving as the community teacher. This session of Phase 2 began with the continuation of the alphabet, learning the sounds and articulating each letter of the alphabet. We then began to study the vocabulary words, using the sounds to say each Choctaw word, basic greetings and conversation skills, as well as, how to make question sentences using o, yo, and ho. We also learned how to answer questions with a 'yes' and keyu 'no'. We learned conversation/survival skills: how to go shopping, table conversation, conversation manners, etc. We also talked about Choctaw tribal culture: foods, medicines, plants, clothing, Tribal Government from past to present.

The class ended with a graduation ceremony on Tuesday, July 17. We had 11 students who completed and graduated with high honors. We would like to say "Yakoke" to Miko Greg Pyle and the Tribal Council for making this possible so that our Chahta Anumpa and Culture will survive. Yakoke e chim achi anonti!



Celebrations at McAlester and Poteau Clinics

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

This summer has been one of the greatest in history for Choctaw health care. The brand new McAlester Health Care Clinic is one of the most beautiful and efficient facilities any patient will ever receive services from. Constructed with tribal funds, there are three physicians, a dentist and dental hygienist, a full-time pediatrician, an optometrist and a physical therapist. There is also a Behavioral Health Department.

Driving up to the two-story clinic in McAlester is an awesome sight – the front of the building is gleaming glass, with flags waving in the breeze and a huge parking lot for clients.

The Rubin White Indian Clinic in Poteau also celebrated in July with a grand opening of their expansion, which added four new pharmacists and Prescription Refill Center that handles all refills for patients receiving care at Choctaw clinics. The refill center has automated systems that can provide up to 5,000 refills per day. Added space to the Poteau Clinic also included a separate pediatric section and the addition of ultrasound to the radiology department.

The Council, Assistant Chief and I were also proud to break ground for the first ever Choctaw Clinic in Atoka earlier this summer. Health care for tribal members provides one of the most basic needs for families, and we are dedicated to making sure that it is the most up-to-date care possible.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma encourages young people through summer camps

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

Youth Sports Camps are held all summer in the Choctaw Nation, giving opportunities to young Native Americans to learn skills for basketball, football, softball and baseball. The sports camps are day camps and are scheduled at towns in different areas of the tribal boundaries for the convenience of the youth and their families.

The Chief and I were fortunate to join the kids for part of the day at this year's football camp with Coach Ken Heupel, former OU quarterback Josh Heupel, several other players and about 100 youth. Each of the young people received a signed football and a tee shirt, and two full days of training and encouragement. It was obvious immediately that these sports camps do much more than improve the playing skills of the youth. In addition, their life skills are grown in areas of teamwork proficiency and leadership aptitude.

The tribe also hosts a camp for cultural enrichment at the end of summer. The Cultural Camp



is structured so that the youth will stay for the length of the camp at the Minnitonka Camp Ground in Clayton, Oklahoma, which is a central point in the Choctaw Nation.

In addition to sports and cultural camps, there are Choctaw Nation Youth Wellness Camps, which have a primary goal of providing health education for the prevention of diabetes and heart disease, the two leading causes of deaths in Native Americans. The daylong camps are

for boys and girls age 9 to 13. Other health-related initiatives include a fifth grade education program that staff spend several hours with the class to show them fun ways to exercise, good treats to fix and eat, and how to recognize signs of diabetes.

While the adage "Healthy Living = Longer Life" is often used when promoting the aforementioned programs and camps to help identify, prevent and treat physical problems, we are also concerned with the lifestyles of the young people and hope that these activities are seen as a wise choice in spending the time they have over the summer months.



There is only one Gospel

We thank the Lord for His good tidings of great joy. (Luke 2:10). The Gospel tells the story of the good news of salvation. We praise Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (I Peter 2:9).

You may have heard a question like, "Why do you have to bother them with your religion, aren't they getting along all right with their own religion?"

Our answer would be, "We do not preach religion." Our message is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and no one anywhere is getting along all right without Jesus Christ.

There are many who will say with the Apostle Paul:

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24).

There are thousands of religions, but there is only one gospel.

Religion comes from the reasoning of the human mind. The Gospel is the revelation of the divine mind. Religion originates on earth. The Gospel originated in heaven. Religion is man made. The Gospel is the gift of God. Religion is the story of what a sinful man tries to do for a holy God. The Gospel is the wonderful story of what a holy God has done for a sinful man.

Religion is man's quest for God. The Gospel is God seeking lost men. Religion can only succeed in an outward reformation. The Gospel creates an inward transformation. Religion is good news – the opinions of men. The Gospel is good news – the declaration of a righteous and loving God.

The Apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; ..." (Romans 1:16).

The Gospel is the power of God that takes a thief and makes him an honest man. The Gospel is the power of God that takes a murderer and changes him into a man whose heart is filled with love. The Gospel is the power of God that changes a drunkard into a sober man. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God that can change you.

For nearly two thousand years the Gospel has lost none of its power, it is as much today the power of God unto salvation as it was first preached. It can overcome all obstacles and break down all barriers.

The Gospel works anywhere and everywhere and it always delivers from the bondage of sin.

We need to find out what the Gospel really is, what is needed to compose the Gospel. The Bible warns against a Gospel which is not the Gospel. (Read Galatians 1:6-9).

There is nothing more important to know and to have clear in our thinking than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The New Testament insists that we are saved by believing the Gospel. If you believe the Gospel, you will go to heaven.

If you do not believe the Gospel you will go to hell – lost in outer darkness. Anything which

Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

determines our eternal destiny is certainly deserving of our most careful study.

The word "Gospel" occurs over 100 times in the New Testament. It is described in many ways. It is called the "Gospel of Christ" because it flows from Christ's sacrifice and because Christ is the lone object of the Gospel faith. It is the "Gospel of grace of God" because it saves those who are condemned by the Law. It is called the "Gospel of salvation" because it is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." It is called the "Gospel of peace" because through

Christ it makes peace between the sinner and God and gives inward peace.

What then is the Gospel of the grace of God? If the Bible teaches that we are saved by believing the Gospel, what is it that we are called upon to believe?

If we asked Paul, he would point us to I Corinthians 15:1-4:

"Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also you are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

You will notice the Gospel of the grace of God is composed of two parts: first, Christ died for our sins; second, Christ rose from the dead.

If you will read the epistles of Paul, you will notice that his message centers in three things: the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ. As far as Paul was concerned, the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to do three days work; that work began when He was nailed to the cross and was ended when God raised Him on the third day.

Paul never discussed the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ – His virgin birth, His baptism, His temptation, His miracles, His teachings, or even His sufferings. This is in harmony with the rest of the New Testament, for we must remember that Christ came not primarily to preach the Gospel (though He did), but He came rather that there might be a Gospel to preach. This Gospel was brought to being by His work on the cross. Jesus Christ came to earth for the purpose of dying to deliver men from sin.

When the Christians in Thessalonica were worried about their loved ones who had died, Paul wrote the encouraging words: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." (I Thessalonians 4:14).

Will you today confess your sins (confess means to agree with God that you are a sinner) and trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith? (Romans 3:23).

Pray for America and for our leaders. Pray for our men and women in our armed forces.

10th Annual Labor Day

POW WOW

August 31, 2007

on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds at Tuskahoma

MC – Tim Tallchief, Osage
Arena Director – Bill Takeshorse, Crow
Head Man – Terry Tsotith
Head Woman – Randi Santos
Head Gourd Dancer – Victor Issaac, Mississippi Choctaw
Southern Head Singer – Rowe Kishteton
Southern Drum – Rough Arrow Singers, Shawnee
Northern Head Singer – Alex Alvarez
Northern Drum – Medicine Tail, Alabama
Color Guard – Choctaw Nation

SCHEDULE

2 p.m. Gourd Dance
5 p.m. Break
6 p.m. Gourd Dance
7 p.m. Grand Entry
Registration closes

ADULT CONTEST

All Categories Separate

WOMEN'S
Cloth-Buckskin-Fancy Shawl-Jingle Dress

MEN'S
Fancy-Grass-Traditional-Straight

ALL GOLDEN AGE
COMBINED 55+

1st: \$500; 2nd: \$400; 3rd: \$300
4th: \$200; 5th: \$100

All
Contestants must be in Grand Entry and participate in Inter-Tribal dances. Must be in regalia to receive prize money.

TINY TOTS CONTEST

Under 7 yrs

Head Man Straight Dance Special
Head Woman Special TBA

Bad Weather: Clayton HS Gym

YOUTH CONTEST

All Categories Separate

SR/14-18 yrs old JR/8-13 yrs old
18 yrs old must be in school

SR/JR GIRLS
Cloth-Buckskin-Fancy Shawl-Jingle Dress

SR/JR BOYS
Fancy-Grass-Traditional-Straight

SR Girls/Boys
1st: \$150; 2nd: \$125; 3rd: \$100

JR Girls/Boys
1st: \$125; 2nd: \$100; 3rd: \$75

For information: Willard Polk 580-924-8280, 2349/cell 580-380-5370; Sue Folsom - Special Projects 580-924-8280
Public welcome, free admission, bring your pow wow chairs. All drums, princesses are invited.
Call Willard for booth information. Booth fee is \$20.
NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WILL BE TOLERATED

Youth with diabetes head to Washington as Delegates for Children’s Congress



Desiree Cameron tells Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Mike Amos and Assistant Chief Gary Batton about her trip to Washington, D.C., as a delegate for Children’s Congress.

SUMMER TIME PREGNANCY

Tips for keeping cool and preventing overheating

Summer and pregnancy: two words that can make any woman break out into a sweat. But chill out: there are plenty of ways to keep cool and turn that sweat into a glow.

By paying attention to your body’s warning signs and following these simple tips, you can stay cool and healthy during the dog days of your summer pregnancy.

*To stay cool during the summer months and protect you and your baby from dehydration, drink lots of water, at least eight to 10 glasses of water each day – more if you are active or sweating a lot.

*Try making healthy popsicles by freezing fruit juice, or eat out at an air-conditioned restaurant to avoid using the stove or oven to cook lunch or dinner.

*Spend as much time in an air-conditioned environment as possible. If you don’t have access to air conditioning, a fan and an air filter or dehumidifier can help. However, if the temperature is in the high 90s or higher, a simple fan will not prevent heat-related illness.

*Limit the time you spend outdoors during the midday hours; if you must be outside, rest frequently in the shade.

*Choose lightweight, loose-fitting clothing in light colors, and wear a hat when you are in the sun. Sunburns impair your body’s ability to cool itself and cause a loss of body fluids, so always remember to wear a good sunscreen with at least SPF 15 that protects against both UVA and UVB rays.

*Try taking a cool shower or bath or, if you have access, a refreshing dip in a swimming pool.

*Keep your hair up off the neck, either by cutting it shorter or by twisting it up into a big clip or ponytail.

However, it may not always be that simple to stay cool in the hot and humid part of the country that we live in. Here are a few warning signs of serious heat-related health risks that pregnant women need to watch for.

The following information has been provided by: pregnancyweekly.com:

Summer heat can be extreme during your pregnancy due to extra body weight, and other physical changes. The heat can also be dangerous for you and your baby if you become overheated, dehydrated, or develop hyperthermia (not to be confused with hypothermia, which is caused by extreme cold).

Early signs you are dehydrated include thirst, dry or chapped lips, dry skin, fatigue, and constipation. You may also notice that your baby is less active than usual. If you experience any of these symptoms, go somewhere cool, sit down, and drink cool water or fruit juice. If you feel dizzy or lightheaded, lie down on your left side and place a cool cloth on your forehead and neck.

Dehydration can be especially dangerous when you’re preg-

nant because it can cause your baby’s heart to beat too quickly and increase your risk of preterm labor. The likelihood of preterm labor increases because dehydration decreases your blood volume, thereby increasing the concentration of oxytocin (the hormone responsible for uterine contractions). Your baby is always 1 degree Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than you are, and it cannot sweat to lower his or her body temperature. Avoiding fetal heat stress is especially important during the first trimester when your baby’s major body systems are developing. Hyperthermia may be associated with some birth defects, including heart problems, abdominal wall defects, and nervous system malformation.

This article was provided by: Ruthie Cannon

AFL Project Outreach Worker

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teenagers, their child, male partner, and extended family members. The AFL program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and external agencies.

Choctaw Nation WIC Breastfeeding Classes

<u>Class One</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Class Two</u>
Kimberly Lain		
October 9	Durant	October 16
Durant WIC office, 1601 N. Washington 10 a.m.-12 noon		
October 23	Atoka	October 30
Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon		
November 1	McAlester	November 8
Breastfeeding Room in WIC office in new clinic 10 a.m.-12 noon		
Ami Richards		
September 11	Broken Bow	September 18
Breastfeeding Room in WIC office in new clinic 10 a.m.-12 noon		
October 9	Hugo	October 16
Choctaw Nation WIC office 10 a.m.-12 noon		
Erin Boman		
September 12	Poteau	September 19
Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon		
October 10	Talihina	October 17
Choctaw Nation WIC office in the hospital 10 a.m.-12 noon		
Kimberly Lain, CBE, CLC Bryan, Atoka, Coal and Pittsburg County 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2507 Erin Boman, CBE, CLC Haskell, LeFlore and Latimer County 918-567-7000, ext. 6792 Ami Richards, CBE, CLC Pushmataha, Choctaw and McCurtain County Broken Bow 580-584-2793		

Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week

WIC

simplest way to feed your baby. It makes life easier for the whole family.

Breast milk is the perfect food for your baby!

Breast milk is always ready, clean and safe – never too hot or cold.

Breastfeeding reduces the risk of ear infections, diabetes, obesity and asthma.

Some information provided by Amy Spangler, “Breastfeeding: Keep It Simple”

Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 15 sites

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs.
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.; 1st & 2nd Fri.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	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., Wed., Thurs.; 4th Tues.
		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 - 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 Monday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

the JD RF’s Central Oklahoma Chapter in Oklahoma City. Each young lady has a poignant story about being diagnosed and the day-to-day struggles to stay alive – struggles felt by the children and their families.

In type 1 diabetes – the most serious and complicated form of the disease that accounts for some \$132 billion in annual health care costs in the United States alone – a person’s pancreas stops producing insulin, the hormone that enables people to get energy from food. To survive, people with type 1 diabetes must test their blood sugar levels up to four or more times a day and then administer insulin through multiple, daily injections, or the use of a continuous infusion insulin pump.

While trying to balance insulin with the amount of food eaten (which raises blood sugar) and exercise (which lowers blood sugar), people with type 1 diabetes must constantly be prepared for potential life-threatening hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemic (high blood sugar) reactions.

The long-term complications of diabetes include blindness, heart attack, kidney failure, stroke, nerve damage, and amputations. While usually diagnosed in childhood, type 1 diabetes can also be diagnosed in adults.



Five generations – Josephine Clay Newkirk would like to announce the birth of her first great-great-grandson, Ketch Kelly Coates. He was born June 1, 2007, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, and is the son of Matt and Tiffany Newkirk Coates of Tushka. Pictured are Ketch Coates and Tiffany Newkirk Coates, Tushka; Jimmy Newkirk, Weatherford, Texas; Billy “Skully” Newkirk and Josephine Clay Newkirk, Daisy.

NURSERY NEWS

Kamden Blaine Finley

Kyle Finley and Clarissa Bohanan would like to announce the birth of their precious baby, Kamden Blaine Finley, born March 28, 2007, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina. He weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Michelle Carney and Jay Hackworth, Tracey and Shanda Bohanan. Great-grandparents are Elton and Rozetta Carney and Jerry and Dusty Bohanan. Great-great-grandparents include Laura and the late Edmond Carney, all of Smithville. Paternal grandparents are Loretta and Michael Perry of Big Cedar and David Finley; great-grandparents are Irene and the late J.D. Finley. Great-great-grandparents are the late Bes-sie and Louis Watson, Smithville. Kamden has two young uncles who love him very much, Trenton Dees, 9, and LaKota Bohanan, 4. We are all so proud to have him!

Gavin Matthias Noah

Gavin Matthias Noah was born May 23, 2007, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina. He weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches long. Proud parents are Stacy and Shantae Noah of Broken Bow. Grandparents are Betty and Lester Noah of Broken Bow, Pamela and Douglas Simpson of DeQueen, Arkansas, and the late Richard Hames.

Brexton Reece Ward

Brexton Reece Ward was born at 8:37 a.m. on June 6, 2007, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Brexton weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. His proud parents are Steven and Linsy Hodge Ward. Grandparents are Wade and Darlina Hodge of Bethel, Charles Ward of Bethel and Sheila Washington of Longview, Texas.

Tara Michelle Wright

Tara Michelle Wright was born June 6, 2007. Proud mother is Jeri Wright. Grandparents are Geraldine Wright and the late Harold Wright. Great-grandparents include Williston Wesley and Delia Welsey of Wright City.

Tyler Robert Collins

Brian and Catherine Collins of Helena, Montana, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Tyler Robert Collins, on June 7, 2007. Tyler, born at 7:06 p.m., weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces and was 21.75 inches long.

Delighted grandparents are Chuck and Marilyn Sterling of Kimball, Minnesota, and Ron and Sandy Collins of Hugo, Minnesota; and Janet Gardner and Keith Kiemchuck of Peave River, Alberta.

Jax Delano Taylor

Chris and Miss Taylor welcomed their second child at 3:12 a.m. on July 5, 2007. Jax Delano Taylor weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce and was 18 inches long. “Big Sister” Jade Elizabeth Taylor was born December 17, 2003. Maternal grandmother is Julie Elizabeth Powers.

TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

Why is abstinence important?

By KC Wood
Choctaw Nation
Youth Advisory Board

Have you ever wondered why people are always saying that abstinence is important? Well I know I have and I am here to tell you why.

In my community the graduation rate of pregnant girls or fathers under the age of 16 is not good. Most do not graduate high school. You may say that having a baby at such a young age is not a bad thing and depending on the circumstances you may be right, but over half of the young mothers and fathers do not have the right circumstances.

I am not saying that just because you are a teen parent you can't go to college. I am just saying that having a baby in high school is a lot harder and limits your chances of going to college or even getting a good-paying job.

If a teen girl or boy finds out they are to become parents, they have no one to talk to in my area because there is no one or place to turn to in their time of need. When the Boswell Youth Center is up and running they will have a place to turn or someone to talk to. My point is that as long as you don't have sex you won't have a baby. You will then have a better chance of going to college and getting a better job.

My last reason to abstain is the rise of HIVs, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Young teens are at higher risk when they are having sex.

- The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world. Teen pregnancy costs the United States at least \$9 billion annually.

- Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school (only one-third receive a high school diploma) and only 1.5 percent have a college degree by age 30. Teen mothers are more likely to end up on welfare (nearly 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers end up on welfare).



Smith wins poster contest

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognizes and celebrates the many different cultures to which we have the opportunity to offer our services and programs, including American Indians. November has been designated as American Indian Heritage Month. This provides an opportunity to make people aware of the history of American Indians and their contributions to the world.

One of the ways NRCS celebrates American Indian Heritage Month is by distributing a poster created by an American Indian artist. Each year an artist has the opportunity to exhibit his/her talents and heritage on a national level, and the South Central Region of the American Indian/Alaskan Native Employees Association (which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas), has been chosen for 2007.

This year artists presented paintings and they were judged by a selected committee. The theme for this year's poster is, "We are all one family dedicated to protecting Mother Earth." LaDon Smith of Boswell and a member of the Choctaw Nation presented the winning painting. The painting will be featured on this year's poster that will be distributed to all NRCS offices nationwide for local exhibition. Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist, Oklahoma NRCS, presented LaDon with a \$2,000 check on July 24 in Stillwater.

Pets not allowed on festival grounds

Pets will NOT be allowed in the festival area during Labor Day festivities with the exception of dogs owned by physically challenged individuals. They can be kept at the camp site if not an inconvenience to others. Please respect your neighbor and clean up after your animal.

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

CHOCTAW COUNTY
Beginning August 27, 2007
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
408 North M Street, Hugo, Oklahoma

BRYAN COUNTY
Beginning August 28, 2007
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
16th & Locust St. (south building, downstairs)
Durant, Oklahoma

NORTH LeFLORE COUNTY
Beginning August 28, 2007
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Poteau, Oklahoma

LATIMER COUNTY
Beginning August 27, 2007
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
515 Center Point Road
Wilburton, Oklahoma

The class will meet two days each week for approximately three months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office.

If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning GED Classes

Beginning August 20, 2007
Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays

Choctaw Nation Community Centers
in Coalgate, Atoka and Crowder
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Choctaw Nation Community Centers
in Wright City, Bethel and Smithville
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the above locations to students in the Choctaw Nation. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using the Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows students and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she helps you prepare to take the GED test. Classes last approximately nine weeks. A CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) is required.

For more information please contact Linda Tyler, Director, Choctaw Nation Adult Education, at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2319.

Overcoming overweight and obesity in your child

The key to keeping kids of all ages at a healthy weight is taking a whole-family approach. It's the "practice what you preach" mentality. Make eating and exercise a family affair. Get your children involved by letting them help you plan and prepare healthy meals. Take them along when you go grocery shopping so they can learn how to make good food choices.

Avoid falling into some common food/eating behavior traps:

- **Don't reward children for good behavior or try to stop bad behavior with sweets or treats.** Come up with other solutions to modify their behavior.

- **Don't maintain a clean-plate policy. Be aware of kids' hunger cues. Even babies who turn away from the bottle or breast send signals that they're full.** If kids are satisfied, don't force them to continue eating. Reinforce the idea that they should only eat when they're hungry.

- **Don't talk about "bad foods" or completely eliminate all sweets and favorite snacks from overweight children's diets.** Children may rebel and overeat these forbidden foods outside the home or sneak them in on their own.

Outside of all this, remember to love your child **unconditionally**. BE WELL!



CONTACT

Healthy Marriages & Healthy Kids!

918-567-3386

Healthier marriage means families being happy



Come to a Retreat!

Send a check for \$65 (to hold your room – your check will be returned upon attendance)
Healthy Marriage/Healthy Kids Project, One Choctaw Way, Talihina, OK 74571.
Attention Mary Ayn Tullier. Fill out and fax to 918-567-3917.

Check a retreat you want to attend

- ☐ **August 17-18, Robbers Cave Resort, Wilburton**
- ☐ **August 24-25, Beavers Bend, Broken Bow**
- ☐ **September 7-8, Beavers Bend, Broken Bow**
- ☐ **September 14-15, Western Hills Guest Ranch, Wagoner**

Name _____ Email _____

Spouse's name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Some topics covered:

Agenda for Retreats

Communication –

How to talk safely without fighting

Preserve fun and friendship

Maintaining commitment

Learn and identify danger signs

Friday: Check in 12 noon

Class: 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Dinner: 5 p.m.-6 p.m.

Class: 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday: Class 9 a.m.-12 noon

Lunch: 12 noon

Fun planned: 2:30-4:30

Dinner and awards: 6 p.m.



Marriage retreat helping relationships

The Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids program recently had a very successful marriage retreat for 13 couples. While leaving the retreat I took time to reflect on the event and the people who attended. Some of the couples were young, some were older, but all seemed to have a mission to accomplish in their marriages.

Some just seem to need a "renewing" in their relationship. With the busy lives that we all lead, sometimes it does all of us a lot of good to just be alone with each other and make the time to nurture and evaluate our relationship. Some just need quality time together, without friends and family, to just have fun together and experience some intimacy.

For those of us who have been together a long time, we know there are times that we have taken advantage of our mates or feel that we have been taken advantage of or treated in an insensitive manner. These times can lead to bitterness or communication blockages that

can stagnate the relationship for long periods if unaddressed.

I like a story that was told at the retreat by one of the female participants. She shared about a time that she was having serious problems in their relationship. When she stated to the man that she was leaving and began to pack a suitcase, the man went in and got a suitcase out of the closet and began to pack as well. The woman asked what he was doing. He said that if she was going to leave he wanted to go with her. That is when the woman said that she realized that he did not know what was even wrong in the relationship. Both began to laugh and work things out.

The one thing that we all need to remember is that some things are not as big as we think they are in our lives and most can be worked out. When we find our lives going down this road, maybe this would be a good time to call a sitter and take some time to be alone together. We have had people state that they hate to leave the children

because they are gone all week to work and don't get to spend a lot of time with the children. But some day the children will be grown and will remember that mom and dad took a time to renew their relationship and may start to remember how great it was when they came home.

Leaving the children every weekend is not encouraged, but maybe once a month or every two months take time out for your relationship. Sometimes children need to go to grandmother's or spend time with an aunt or uncle to learn a different way of life. We don't always do the same things in our homes as do our siblings or parents.

Take the time to come to a healthy marriage retreat and learn a way to become closer to the person that you love and care about. Take the time to learn ways to resolve conflicts and enjoy each other more. We all need a special time of renewing in our lives and time to stand back and look at what we really have together.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 7	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.						1
	2	3	4 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	5 Durant 10 am-12 pm	6	7 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	8
	9	10 Antlers by appt only	11 Durant by appt only	12 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	13	14 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	15
	16	17 Wright City by appt only	18 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	19	20	21 Poteau 11:30 am- 1 pm	22
	23 /	24 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	25 Wilburton 10:30 am- 2 pm	26	27	28 Bethel by appt only	29
	30						

‘Bright Hope’ of the Choctaw Nation

Suzanne Heard shares her love of the Choctaw Nation with everyone she meets, the feeling instilled by original enrollee mother Irene Hudson Heard and deepening through the years as Suzanne herself becomes one of the tribe’s best ambassadors.

In 1957, Suzanne was crowned Oklahoma’s Semi-Centennial Princess. In 1969, she was commissioned as Choctaw Princess by Principal Chief Harry J.W. Belvin during the 22nd annual Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma. Chief Belvin named her “Ahni Malanchi,” meaning “Bright Hope” of the Choctaw Nation. The commission is for her lifetime.

She has a rich Choctaw heritage, from ancestor George Hudson who became the first principal chief of the Choctaws after the Doaksville Constitution was instituted in 1860, to her grandfather, Peter Hudson, a Choctaw historian and Presbyterian minister who was the first superintendent of the Tuskahoma Female Seminary.

Throughout the United States, to Poland and back, Suzanne has been an example of Choctaw diplomacy.

Her trip to Poland was an adventure taken while employed as an education specialist with the Muskogee Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She attended an Arts Education Conference in Cracow in the 1970s where she absorbed Poland’s Old World traditions and creative flair for the arts.

Her most recent trip was to Austin, Texas, where she attended the public viewing of Lady Bird Johnson who passed away July 11 at the age of 94.

“She was a very gracious lady,” said Suzanne. “It was a sad time, but also a celebration of Lady Bird’s life.”

She attended the reception held July 14 at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum and spoke with President and Lady Bird Johnson’s daughters, Luci Baines Johnson Turpin and Lynda Johnson Robb. Hugging Suzanne, they expressed how happy they were to see a representative of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma honoring their mother.

Suzanne has very fond memories of the former first lady. She met Lady Bird Johnson during her whirlwind stop in McAlester on October 27, 1964.

“Lynda remembered her mother coming to Oklahoma,” said Suzanne.

Mrs. Johnson arrived in McAlester on Indian Appreciation Day, attending the ceremony before 3,500 cheering spectators on the lawn of the Pittsburg County Courthouse. Suzanne, dressed in a beautiful buckskin gown belonging to Chief Belvin’s sister-in-law, Wilma Belvin, had the honor of draping a beaded Choctaw medallion around the beaming Lady Bird’s neck.

“Lady Bird was given the name of ‘Ohoyo Holitopa Imma Chulosa’ which is the Choctaw name for ‘Great Lady of Peace’.”

Not only has Suzanne been a part of Choctaw history, she considers the tribe her family and has built a life of leadership and service based on traditions handed down by her ancestors.

Born in Haileyville, Suzanne grew up during the Belvin years going to Council meetings in Pittsburg County where her mother served as president, vice president and chaplain.

“Mother never missed a meeting,” Suzanne smiles. “She would wake me up and we would be off. At that time meetings were held on Saturdays, one in each county, with Chief Belvin sometimes making three or four meetings in one day.”

Irene worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a matron at Jones Academy. Her mother’s care of the children at Jones sparked in Suzanne the urge to work in education.

“Education and art have always been important to me,” Suzanne says. Three days after graduating from Haileyville School, Suzanne was on campus beginning her freshman year at Southeastern State University in Durant. She received her bachelor’s in elementary education and art and went on to Oklahoma City University to earn a master’s degree in counseling. One summer was spent at the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe to learn more about the art of different tribes.

While at Southeastern, Suzanne was the first young woman to receive the Ohoyahoma Award for Outstanding Indian Student.

She worked with the Youth Development Program at Southeastern to improve the care of Native American children. The program focused on three schools – Jones Academy, Eufaula Dormitory and Seneca Indian School.

“There are so many things a person can do to improve the education, health and lifestyle of our children,” said Suzanne. “I once attended a nine-week camp near Brooklyn, New York, as a

counselor. Twin Link Camps were held in the Catskill Mountains and centered around helping troubled minority children learn to handle their problems. The youth, age 7 to 18, came from diverse backgrounds with problems ranging from drug abuse to coping with the loss of a parent.”

Suzanne traveled across the country with two children from Jones Academy. They lived in hospital tents on the campground while undergoing extensive training. Her responsibilities included building the floor of the cafeteria.

“Our group worked in 24-hour shifts and we had it built in two days and two nights.

“The camp was a wonderful experience, one that I really needed,” she said. “The kids experienced the dignity and welcomed the work of mastering their conflicts. I learned as much as they did.”

Of the Presbyterian faith, Suzanne began teaching Sunday School when she was in the fourth grade at Haileyville school. She taught the primary class – first, second and third grades. The church burned down when she was in high school.



Suzanne Heard shares a lifetime of memories – She still has the basket she carried while dressed in her red traditional Choctaw dress in 1957 as Oklahoma’s Semi-Centennial Princess, bottom left photo. Also among her Choctaw collections are her mother’s sewing basket, several baskets from Mississippi, stick-ball sticks and a ball made by Sidney White as well as a treasure-trove of photos, books and memorabilia. One of her most precious memories is presenting Lady Bird Johnson with a Choctaw medallion, bottom right photo.



AP Photo

Suzanne has always appreciated the dedication of others toward improving the educational opportunities available for our youth. She remembers meeting Senator Robert Kennedy in February of 1968 at Seneca Indian School.

Her expressive dark brown eyes grow sad. “He had breakfast with the students and he wrote his name on the first grade’s chalk board. It stayed there until the board was removed years later.

“I worked on research projects creating reports for Bobby Kennedy and he used them to acquisition funds for Indian schools.

“He was shot in June that year.”

Suzanne worked for the BIA for 15 years. She taught school for 25 years, first at Spiro, then Hennissey and then back home at Haileyville and Hartshorne. She has served on the Young People’s Committee of the National Committee of the National Congress of Indians and on the Pittsburg County Choctaw Council as president and secretary-treasurer. Like her mother, Irene, she has chosen to be involved with the students of Jones Academy. She is a member of the school board and she tutors first and second grade students on campus. Suzanne also enjoys frequent visits with her sister, Betty Jane Watson of McKinney.

“Chief Pyle and the Council have done so much to offer our Choctaw youth different educational programs, more chances to reach for their dreams,” Suzanne said. She stressed that we all need to research the many opportunities available for us to help our children and grandchildren – to give them a bright hope.



A group shot taken at one of the first Labor Day Festivals at Tushka Homma is among Suzanne Heard’s favorite photos. She remembers the two-day festival as one for get-togethers, with families and friends gathering in different groups to visit. Sundays included worship services and gospel singing while Mondays were geared more toward tribal business then a free meal for everyone. She has documentation showing the first Labor Day Festival was held in 1948. Suzanne has never missed a Labor Day Festival.

2007 Labor Day Festival

If you have had your Photo ID taken at the Labor Day Festival and have received a letter from the Tribal Membership office asking for birth and/or death certificates, please send them in as soon as possible. They have several from 2005 and 2006 that are still needing the certificates. The Membership office cannot send you the Photo ID card until all the documentation in your file is complete. If you are planning to have your photo ID taken this year, please bring your state birth certificate with you. We will make a copy for you. If you are going to apply for a CDIB for someone who has never had one, bring the original state birth certificate with you. We will make copies.

The Healthy Living Expo presented by the Choctaw Nation Health System will be giving away a Kawasaki Mule, four bicycles, and a wagon. Anyone who comes through the tent and visits the required number of booths is eligible to win the prizes. The expo will give out educational materials and will also provide cholesterol and blood pressure checks and checking your height and weight.

Fourth Annual Choctaw Art Show will be August 31 and September 1 on the second floor of the museum. Museum hours during the Festival: Thursday, August 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, August 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, September 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, September 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Monday, September 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All concerts are free of charge, seats are on a first-come basis. It is recommended that you bring your lawn chairs.

The festival will have plenty of vendors selling eats and treats, more than 100 arts and crafts booths, various sports competitions, cultural exhibits, children’s activities, Choctaw storytelling and many other events. The carnival rides are free of charge during the Choctaw festival, because we want everyone to be able to enjoy them.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



100 year birthday celebration

Happy birthday to Lizzie Thomas David who celebrated her 100th birthday on July 4. She was born in Corinne, Oklahoma to James and Rosanna Wilson in 1907. Celebrating with her is Lester Thomas, her youngest son. He said mom always likes to say that “everyone celebrates my birthday.”

Guess who’s turning 93

Janie Williams Flowers was born in Centrahoma on August 23, 1914, and is the daughter of Frank Williams and Ella Mae Tindell Williams. Mrs. Flowers is a Choctaw and was raised in Coal County. Janie married Cecil C. Flowers then moved to Peoria, Arizona, in 1945, where she resided until 1990. She then moved to Ada where she lived until October 2006. Mrs. Flowers now lives with her daughter, Roxie Flowers, in Durant. Mrs. Flowers has outlived three brothers and four sisters. She has six children, Cecil Jr., Rodney Gale, Ronald Dean, Jerry Jean, Joy L. and Roxie A., and lots of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Her hobbies are quilting, sewing, and dancing.



Cadence Marisue James celebrates second birthday

Happy birthday to Cadence Marisue James who turned 2 years old on May 8. She is the daughter of Crystal Sue Hampton James of Talihina. Her grandparents are Ron and Leatha Hampton of Boswell and Pamela Beddo of Talihina. Cadence’s great-grandparents are Grace Hampton, Dewayne James, and the late Mary Sue Owens, all of Boswell.



She celebrated her birthday at the Boswell Lake Park. Happy birthday from Momma, Papa, and Granny Bunnye, Ryan, Nana, Aunt Jenny, Uncle Ronnie, Tyler and Kylee, Uncle Israel and Aunt Krista, Virginia and Ethan, Kandice and Jimmie Dwayne, Aunt Sue, Granny Grace and Aunt Jessie.

Happy first birthday ‘Maddie’

Madelyn Kay Battiest turns one on August 24. Wishing Maddie happy birthday are mom and dad, Walker and Jamie, sister Kathleen and brother Carson. Also “Nanny” Debbie Battiest and Auntie Amy and Cousin Sara all from Duncan.



Birthday celebration

Kathryn Mae Bridges turned 8 on August 6. Her mom is Melissa Brown of Bokchito. Her grandmother is Patricia Riter of Mannsville and great-grandmother is Julia Cross of Bokchito. Happy Birthday to Justin Cross of Bokchito and Christopher Baugh who turned 2 on August 9. Happy Birthday!



Celebrating 50 years

Congratulations to Simmeon and Wilma Noah, who celebrated their 50th anniversary. The couple is from Pickens, Oklahoma.



Ty to play golf at Bacone

Ty Billey has accepted a scholarship to play golf at Bacone College in Muskogee. The Warriors are a member of the NAIA and compete in the Red River Athletic Conference. Ty is a 2007 graduate of Sayre High School where he had been the number one man on the golf team for the last three years and qualified individually for the Oklahoma 2A State Tournament as a senior. Ty is the son of Carl and Terry Billey and the great-great-great-grandson of original enrollee Lesa Robe.



Kanubbi to join, the few the proud, the Marines

Nicholas Haia Kanubbi is a 2007 graduate of Kingston High School and has now joined the U.S. Marines. Nicholas, also known as “Chief” by his friends and family, is currently in San Diego at MCRD where he will complete basic training. Graduation date is set for September 21. His father, Leroy Tour Jr., mother, Gina Haia Kanubbi, sisters Nichole and Keona, grandmothers, Doris Kaniatubbe and Sally Angeles, numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends wish him all the very best spiritually, mentally, and physically.



Jacee turning one

Jacee Elizabeth Bentley will turn one on August 11. She is the daughter of Aaron and Anita Bentley of Durant. Grandparents include Carolyn Bates and the late Charles Bates, and Larry and Patti Bentley. Great grandparents are Grady and Alice Glenn of Odessa and Juanice Klasing of Altus. Her big brother Brayden Bentley and cousins Jacob and Harrison Bates and the rest of her family wish her a very happy birthday.



Jordan turns nine

Krischelle Wallace would like to wish her cousin, Jordan Bohanon, a Happy Birthday on June 4, which was celebrated with a pizza party and a Shrek cake at Wintersmith Park in Ada. Jordan attends school at Washington Grade School, he enjoys riding his bike, playing volleyball, basketball and swimming. He also enjoys being around his Uncle Albert and Aunt Elaine and the rest of his family and friends. Jordan is the son of Ricky Bohanon and the late Rolena Bohanon of Ada. He is the grandson of the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris and the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley.



Wishing him a happy birthday are Cynthia Bohanon, cousins Cebrane and Becky Wallace, cousin Kathie Wallace, cousin Vincent Wallace, brother Randall Bohnanon, cousins Gary, Felicia and Marissa Trent, Uncle Brad Bohanon, Uncle Will and Aunt Claire Bohanon and cousin Kayelee Bertis – all of Ada. Jordan would like to wish his Uncle Albert a Happy 41st Birthday on June 8 and also Jayson Bohanon who celebrated his first birthday on June 30.

High school graduate

Vincent Owens Wallace graduated in May from Ada High School. Vincent enjoys playing volleyball and being around his family and friends. Vincent is also very proud of his Choctaw heritage. After graduation he plans on being gainfully employed, but also wants to pursue a career as a C.M.A. Vincent is the son of Albert and Elaine Wallace of Ada. He is the grandson of the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris and also the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley.



Wishing him all the best are brother Cebrane and sister-in-law Rebecca and niece Krischelle Wallace, all of Ada. A sister, Kathie Wallace, cousins Randall Bohanon, and Jordan Bohanon, all of Ada. and Uncle Brad Bohanon, Uncle Will and Aunt Claire Bohanon, Uncle Ricky Bohanon and wife Cynithia Bohanon, and cousin Kayelee Bertis, all of Ada. Also cousins Gary, Felicia, and Marissa Trent, Wendy, Kenny, and Mila Frazier, Glen, Krystal, Jaxson Bohanon and all the rest of his families. We are proud of him and all of his accomplishments through all the school years.

Look out Kindergarten!

Here comes Dylan Michael “Binker” Garcia who turned five on July 7. Best wishes to you from your proud parents, Kevin and Elizabeth, Brother and Sis, Trevor and Amber. Also sending their good wishes are Grandpa Sam and Nana Paula of Oregon, Vava Nancy Oakes-Spring and Vovo Stan of California. We all wish you the very best in school. Dylan, your extended Choctaw family of Hugo wish you a happy birthday and good luck in school. With this birthday being on 07-07-07, you can’t miss.



Queen is crowned

Congratulations to Miss Brianna Kaye Howard on winning the 2007 Oklahoma Today’s Girl Queen in the baby division. Brianna is the 2-year-old daughter of Matthew and Nakisha Howard and the little sister to Braden Howard of Tuttle. On June 7-10, Brianna competed in the state competition in Plano, Texas. We would like to thank all of her sponsors: Dr. Marcia Warren of Warren Eye Care in Mustang; The Embroidery Barn in Tuttle; Sherman and Gloria Ward of Talihina; Paul and Dian Howard of Muse; Virginia Woolverton of Edmond; and Stephanie, Mike, Cody and Cade Sanderson of Edmond. Brianna won several awards during her competition including Overall Talent, Overall Today’s Model, Photogenic, and Dream Baby.



Brianna also won the three levels of The President’s Volunteer Service Award. Recipients received an official President’s Volunteer Award pins in Bronze, Silver and Gold, a personalized certificate of achievement, a letter from the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, and a letter of congratulations from the President of the United States. The President’s Volunteer Service Awards are presented at the state and national competitions. One of the most important awards that Brianna won was the Humanitarian Award. This award is for the girl who has done the most volunteer work for any non-profit organization or charity. Brianna has started her own charity effort called “Brianna’s Sweet Dreams.” She is collecting new teddy bears and books for the Chi Hullo Li drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for Native American women and children in Talihina. If you would like to help out with Brianna’s efforts please give us a call at 405-381-9263. Now that Brianna is the Overall Queen, she will represent Today’s Girl for the 2007/2008 year. She received a Round Crown, a Monogrammed Banner, Velvet Robe, cash on stage and a scepter. She will attend at least 10 Today’s Girl Official Functions, help directors at Preliminaries and host the Christmas Party for the Oklahoma Today’s Girl contestants. When her reign is complete, the Sunday after the State Competition, if she has met all her duties and responsibilities, she and her chaperone will be driven to the airport to take a wonderful trip that will change yearly. Today’s Girl Queens are our working ambassadors.

Charity Bohanan graduates 34th Cadet Lawman Academy

Charity Bohanan, daughter of Eddie and Paula Bohanan of Muse, Oklahoma, recently graduated the 34th Cadet Lawman Academy at Burns Flat. A cadet starts their day at 5:30 a.m. with vigorous physical training and very strict discipline in place at all times. There are approximately 140 cadets broken up into platoons that are closely monitored by members of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The academy strives to instill the core values of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol in the cadets. Cadets receive training in leadership, patriotism, firearms, defensive driving tactics, aircraft, and boating safety. Cadets are held to a very high standard that requires them to excel under pressure. Congratulations to Charity on a job well done, your family is proud of you.



Congratulations

Levi Coleman is the 9-year-old son of Brad and Robie Coleman of Piedmont, and grandson of Mary Ann Childers of Idabel, Bob and Janice Coleman of Oklahoma City, Charlene and Jerry Ezell of Tishomingo and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas of Kingston. Levi is pictured with the trophy that he won when he participated in the Susan G. Komen Tennis Tournament in Oklahoma City. Also pictured is the 11 year old that Levi competed against for the big trophy, and the tennis instructor of both boys. Congratulations to Levi.



Happy 20th Birthday Dustin

Keep up the good work, we are proud of you – Mom, Vernon, and Trevor, Grandpa and Grandma Teague.



Fred turns four

Happy Birthday to Frederick A. Sanders II. Fred celebrated his fourth birthday June 18. His parents are LaTrista Sanders Minor and Frederick A. Sanders, both of Dallas. Fred has two sisters, Emani and Evon Sanders.



Good luck, Harlan

Harlan Wright of Durant left July 17 Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and is to continue on to Iraq. Good luck from everyone! Harlan is the daughter of Geraldine Wright and the late Harold Wright. He has three sisters, Jeneva, Louella and Jerrie.



Aaron turns three

Aaron Elum Allen Lowe turned three on July 19. We want to say Happy Birthday from mom Amanda, dad Travis, Grannie Tammie, Papaw Hardy and all his other Grannie and Grandpas, Aunts and Uncles. Aaron lives in McCurtain, Oklahoma.



Congratulations Brittany Monroe

Brittany entered a contest with her poem “Angel Wings” to the International Society of Poetry, and she has won. Her poem has been published in a book called Timeless Voices, and she has recieved the Editor’s Choice Award and Who’s Who in Poetry. Brittany turned 17 on July 10. Brittany is the daughter of Sherie McGee of Tulsa and granddaughter of the late gospel singer, Rena Bell Wakole. We are proud of you!



Spring celebration for three grandchildren



Rebecca James, above, Mia James, above right, and Joe James, right, all have something to be proud about. Rebecca celebrated Spring with her new dance dress and moccasins, Mia is shown in a dress that she celebrated her first communion in, and Joe has just graduated from Kindergarten. Rebecca, Mia, and Joe are all grandchildren of Dan James from Cookson, Oklahoma.





Three generations enjoy the day at Beavers Bend – Mary Potter, an employee of Choctaw Nation Food Distribution; Vedis Noah Murillo visiting from Phoenix; and Siney Noah.

OUTREACH AT THE BEACH



The boys and girls attending Outreach at the Beach June 28 earned prizes for participating in the Healthy Lifestyles activities. Pictured are Shoni Hall, Baylor Brown, Ethan Adams and Danielle Adams.



Councilman Mike Amos hands out door prizes.



It's two big points for Mario Lewis, 5, of Idabel. In addition to the outdoor activities during Outreach at the Beach, numerous tribal programs set up in a tent to hand out information and goodies to those in attendance.



Several youth from the Broken Bow and Eagletown Boys and Girls Clubs hold hands as they are escorted across the bridge to ride in the bumper boats at Beavers Bend.



McAlester Facility Director Terry Hanzel presents new Bibles to both Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Chief Gregory E. Pyle during the opening ceremony of the McAlester Health Clinic on July 12. The gifts were in appreciation for all that they do for the tribe and improving the health care of its members.



C.E. “Buck” Durant of McAlester rests in the comfortable waiting area outside of the Eye Care office in the McAlester Clinic.



The sun comes out just in time for the ribboncutting of the new clinic in McAlester. Enjoying the beautiful afternoon are Britton Barone and Ariana Byington.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

September 3: Closed.
ANTLERS
September 6: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).
September 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).
Closed for Inventory September 27-28.
Warehouse open: Sept. 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26.
DURANT
Warehouse open weekdays September 4-26.
Closed for Inventory September 27-28.
McALESTER
September 4: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open weekdays September 5-26.
Closed for Inventory September 27-28.
POTEAU
Warehouse open weekdays September 4-26.
Closed for Inventory September 27-28.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES

Antlers: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: Warehouse, 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

Bethel: Choctaw Community Building
Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Idabel: Choctaw Village Shopping Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center
Stigler: Choctaw Community Center

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Labor Day Festival tent setup

Tent setup on the grounds can begin August 20 for the Labor Day Festival at Tuskahoma. Setup will not be allowed before that date.



Councilman Joe Coley of Wilburton picks up a prescription at the new Choctaw Refill Center in the Rubin White Clinic in Poteau. Assisting him is Laura Smith.



62nd Annual Gospel Singing

John Chapel United Methodist Church is holding its 62nd Annual Gospel Singing on August 25, beginning at 7 p.m. The church is located 5 miles south, 3 miles east and 1 mile south of Allen, Oklahoma, on Hwy. 48. Gospel singing will be dedicated to Sue Walton. All singers and visitors are welcome. Please bring your lawn chairs. A concession will be available.

Wilson Reunion

Descendants of Sissie Narlett Wilson are again having their family reunion at the Smithville Community Center, September 1. All friends and relatives are welcome. Doors open at 10 a.m.; potluck luncheon will be at 12 noon. Bring your favorite dish and also an item for sale at the auction.

Veterans honored at each of the Choctaw Community Centers

Talihina



Veterans from Talihina include:

John Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Sylvester Moore, Virgil Sam, Franch A. Johnico, Jack R. Atwood, Harry C. James, Venson Goring, Everett Wood, Richard Neal, J.B. Stockton, Eugene Felker, Carl E. McIntosh, Walter J. Dye, Jimmy Miller, John W. Emmert, Mark P. Emmert, Bobby F. Emmert, Marion McCurtain, Ambert McCurtain, Jack England, Perry Durant, Joe Q. Russell, Allen E. Dukes, Edward L. Carter, Wilburn Bacon, Paul Massey, Hennyetta Imbese, Dallas W. Seeley, Danny R. Roberts, Eugene W. Jones, Marie Waggoner, Willie Ward, Jewett Potts, Bobby R. King, Sherman Ward, Hagan Collins, Edna Johnico, Suzette Johnico, Nat Marshall, Joe O. Jones, Mack C. Carlile, Virgil E. Marston, Jearl D. Watson, Roger England, C.J. Perera, Don J. Lanning, James Robinson, AC Ritter, Monty R. Olsen, Harold S. Boye, Jesse Love, Malcolm Wade, Ralph Bonney, Francis Johnson, Robert Bacon , Sr., Leonard Bacon, Floyd Davis, Gilbert Brewer

Smithville



Veterans from Smithville include:

Kenneth Smith, Magdalene Scott, Z.B. Anderson, Alvin Moore, Wanda Leet, Odell Nichols, Bobby Nichols, Corneal Cusher, Margie Watson, Nathan Watson, Tommy Blake, Kenneth Ludlow, George Watson, Bobby Ludlow, Marvin Going, Eugene Ludlow, Ed Wilson, Leroy Wilson, Kenny Bryant, Isaac Wilson Jr., Richard Wilson

Antlers



Veterans from Antlers include:

Creston Watson, Bennie Gibson, Andrew Choate, Bertram Bobb, Jack Austin, Victor Eyachabbe, L. G. Crain, Wrightsman Thomas, Floyd Peters, Olen Durant, Raymond Wright, Abraham Jones, John Underwood, Roy Smallwood, Harlan Peters, Wallan McKnight, Wayland Carter, Stephen Billy, Henry York, Virgil Silvey, Preston Moore, John Cooper, Buford Sipes, John Roebuck, John Hooser, Jack Work, Folsom White, Roger Wright, Joe Martin, Don Felihkatubbee, Roy Jackson, Leo Smallwood, Virgil Bland, Buddy Dunlap, Bobby Dunlap

Coalgate



Veterans from Coalgate include:

Reuben Burge, Roger Barnes, Ellis Carnes, Thomas Cospers, Ernest Dutton, Jesse Fredrick, Evelyn Guffey, Nellie Hunter, Richard Kindig, Lowell Mason, Jack Matthews, Edward Mayer, Roger McAnally, Arvard McLellan, Harold Mitchell, Tommy Morgan, Ward Morrison, Jerry Nanney, Donald Stanberry, Bobby Willard, Julian Yother, James Harris

Crowder



Veterans from Crowder include:

Martin L. Killingsworth, Edward Smith, Lloyd B. Morris, Walter Phelps, Bill Scherman, John Holland, Eddy Barker, Troy L. Smith, Pete Autrey, Jerry Feck, Arnold King, Reece Crabtree, James Charles

Wright City



Veterans from Wright City include:

Benny Ray Austin, Cyrus Battiest Jr., Luther Battiest, Presley Battiest, Ryman H. Battiest, Daniel Herndon, Leila Jefferson, Frank Nahwooksy, William Myers, Elias Roberts, Abner N. Taylor, Jonas James, Cecil D. Tom, Willis Maytubby, Leon Wesley, Larry Wesley, Jonathon Wilson, David Davis, Angus Ray Williston, Earnest Snow, Billie Harkins, Robert Thompson, Jimmy Bacon

Wilburton



Veterans from Wilburton include:

Alford Harley, Arthur Mackey, Bobby White, Cecil Watson, Cleveland Jefferson, Cornelius Sam, Eric Newman, Glen W. Boerner, Herald Jack Ray, Homer Noley, James Noley, Jerry Noley, John Hart, Leonard Drapee, Marvin Ginn, McKinley Taylor Jr., Ray White, Sequoyah Roberts, Wayne Scott, Charles Swafford, Jerry Cantrell

Stigler



Veterans from Stigler include:

Bert Perry, Gerald Perry, Jerry Perry, Eugene Braham, Dixon Lewis Jr., Julias Morris, William Martin, Billy Cummings, Larry Franklin, Lawrence McCann, Joe Wilson, George Bohanan, Pat Rose, Donald McAlvain, Donald Busse, Wendell Dennis, Hershel Prentice, Ken Burge, Robert Maxwell Jr., Michael Scantlin, James Fitzer, Darryl Colwell, Phillip McCann, Rocky Billy, Jerry Johnson, Albert Perry, Jr., Gerald Burge, Billy Townley, Kenneth R.Harmon, Kenneth W. Harmon

Poteau



Veterans from Poteau include:

Robert Hair, William Free, Robert Taylor, Eric Willis, Robert Lynn White, Calvin Billy, Wayne Ballew, Jay Burnett, Harold Hansen, Bill Harden, Phillip James, Curtis Loyd, Odis Luman, Aure Thrift, Shirtley Montaghi , Raymond Wilson, Floyd Simmons, Sampson Moore, Dave Bulter, Jack Owens, Wayne Lowe

McAlester



Veterans from McAlester include:

Fredrick Ahhaitty, Melvin Alberson, Walter Amos, William Joe Amos Jr., Thomas W. Anderson, Curtis F. Baker, William Billy, Alvie Carney, Tex Cope, Forest Cross, Harlow Cunningham, Frank Cuzalina Jr., Jimmie E. Dunn, Calvin E. Durant, Louis G. Ellison, Dewitt L. Farrell, Norman R. Frye, Earl Folsom, Billy G. Gibson, James E. Green, Jack Haynes, Thomas L. Hendrix, Cordell Henry, Delbert A. Hotubbee, Kennth A. Hotubbee, Larry James, Otis Jefferson, Randolph Jefferson, Johnny E. Jones Jr., Rapheal W. Jones, Bob Kanimaya, James Kanimaya, Matthew E. Kemp, Jack Lee, Osborne Kenieutubbe Jr., William King, Roy Labor, Jack Lee, Charles Lester, Zachary Lewis, Ronald Love, Kenneth G. Major, Frank McMurtrey, John McMurtrey, William Moore, Joe Dow Mullins, Windal Muse, Gilbert Nail, Charles O'Leary, Robert Pate, Thurman Pitchlynn, Maxwell E. Quinn, David W. Rankin, Bill Richardson, Dennis Sam, Louis G. Sam, Emanuel Sexton, Ronnie L. Silmon, Cleveland Sweet, Eugene J. Sweet, Lake E. Wilson Jr., Phillip Morris, Larry Linney, Jerry Burlison

Idabel



Veterans from Idabel include:

William “Bill” Amos, Simon Amos, Kenneth Williston, Leroy Williston, Jack Touchstone, James McClure, Jerry John, William Jessie, Herbert Jessie, Tom Williston, Caston Wilson, Truman Jefferson, Vernon Johnson, Jimmy Washington, Leroy McKinney, Nathan Holt, Florence Spalding, Louis Clark, Bill Lambert, John Epperson, Charles Roy Harley, Eddison Elliott, Walker Davis, Bennie Frazier, Lawrence Battiest, Gladys Goldtrain

Spiro



Veterans from Spiro include:

Bill Coleman Sr., Joe Parish, John T. Adams, Grady Adam, Thurman Moore, Carson Harris, Joe Randall, Gene Sockey, Howard Bryant, Malcolm Stephens, Milton Stephens, Charles Stephens, Leon Mize, Jim Fry, Bill Coleman Jr., Tom Pat Swafford, Silas Dean Adams, Jan Randall, Robert Sheffield, J. B. Adams, Bob Coleman, Edna Perry, Delton Cox, Harold Adams

Broken Bow and Bethel



Veterans from Broken Bow include:

Lawrence Battiest, Lyman Choate, Ruby Choate,Sinaklin Forbit, Randy Jacob, James McKendrick, Silas McKinney, Willis McKinney, Paul Stephen, Newman Tisho, Raymond Touchstone, Randall Watson, Harvey Williams, Mary Williams, Thomas Williston, Joe James, RJ Frazier, Louis Battiest, Robert Frazier,

Veterans from the Bethel area include:

Douglas Bohannon, Richard Blake, Louis Williams, Virgil Samuel

Atoka



Veterans from Atoka include:

Ted LeFlore, Roosevelt Butler, Carl Tucker, Troy Smith, Rayson Nichols, E.J. Johnson, Jack Work, Sherman Armstrong, Forrest Calvert, Weldon Norman, Curtis Harjo, Ronald Scott, Thompson LeFlore Jr., Carl McBrayer, Joe Hayes, Bill Wagner, Jack Bacon, Don McBrayer, John Burlison

Durant



Veterans from Durant include:

Richard Adams, Silas Blaine, James W. Cox, John Henry Choate, Joel Camp, Terry Cole, Ted Dosh, Clayburn Elix, Bob Green, Melvin Gaines, Truman Heron, Jarvis Johnson, Troy Keithley, Jeremiah LeFlore, Rex Mitchell, Eunie Mintz, Paul Price, David Perriam, Roberts Sanders, Eudis St. John, Gordon Bruce Schulze, Jr., Jerry Thompson, Charles Tidwell, Ollie Wilson, Willie Walley, Ottis Wesley, Richard Wade, Frank Watson, Elum Gilmore

Hugo



Veterans from Hugo include:

Art Southard, Harrison Frazier, Paty Abbott, Lynn Abernathy, Iscae Simpson, Alto Battiest, David Hunter, Larry Battiest, George Robinson, James Terry, Bobby Bell, RW Nored Jr., RW Nored Sr., Henry Rodriguez, Daniel Thomas, Jack Rosenthal, E.D. “Dutch” Crews, David Wilkie, Bobbie Bell, Cecil Bell, Don Lowman, JD Carter

Graduation and birthday

Jamie Nicole Wood recently graduated from Norco High School in Norco, California where she was an honor student. Her graduation date was also special in that it was her 18th birthday. Her future plans are to attend Riverside Community College where she will pursue a degree in the medical field. Jamie is the daughter of Bonnie Michele Golledge, granddaughter of Carolyn Shoop of Orange County, California, and great-granddaughter of Irene Victoria Gardner Cobb. Her mother and family are extremely proud of her.



Sky completes bachelor’s degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Sky William Storey of Haworth on her graduation from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Agricultural Education.

Michaela graduates with honors from OU

Michaela Anders Parks, 2002 graduate of Stigler High School, earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of Oklahoma on May 11. She is the daughter of Greg and Rebecca Kasbaum of Oklahoma City and Mike Anders of Mangum. Parks graduated with special distinction, earning a GPA of greater than 3.75. Michaela will be working as a dental hygienist for pediatric dentist Dr. S. Brian Molly, DDS, in Oklahoma City until September when she and her husband, Damien, will relocate to the Phoenix, Arizona, area.



Finley graduates with bachelor’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Wanda Jean Finley. Wanda graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in May with a Bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

Anders earns law degree

Joshua Dillion Anders, 1999 graduate of Stigler High School, received his juris doctorate degree from Harvard Law School on June 7 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is the son of Greg and Rebecca Kasbaum of Oklahoma City and Mike Anders of Mangum. After graduating from Stigler High School, Anders attended Eastern Oklahoma State College and Northeastern State University where he earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. Anders and his wife, Jill, currently reside in Cambridge but will be relocating to New York City where he will be working for the firm of Paul, Weiss and Associates.



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- Summer Youth Work Program
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- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

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HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshorne, OK 74547

Smith ready for master’s program

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Courtney Lyn Smith for her recent graduation from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor’s of Business Administration in Economics. Courtney plans on starting her master studies in the Fall and will be studying speech and language pathology.

Page earns RN degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Amanda Urisa Page on her graduation from East Central University in Ada with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.



Rowh earns LVN plans for RN degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Cassie Anne Rowh who completed her studies at Frank Phillips College where she earned her Licensed Vocational Nurse Degree. Her plans are to continue her education at Amarillo College where she will pursue her Registered Nurse Degree.

Presley graduates East Central with master’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Brenda G. Presley for earning her Master of Education in Library Media at East Central University. Brenda would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for the financial assistance through her bachelor’s and master’s degree education.

Matheus graduates

Ashley Susanne Matheus of Fort Worth graduated June 17 from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. Ashley was elected to the Student Senate and is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. She studied abroad on the Semester at Sea program traveling around the entire world on a cruise boat for 92 days. It started in the Bahamas, then to South America, then Africa, China, India, Vietnam, and Hawaii. She accepted a position with accenture in downtown San Francisco.



Conner plans to attend School of Medicine

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Andrew Kahlen Conner for graduating from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Physiology. Andrew plans to attend Indiana University School of Medicine in the fall.

Graduation and birthday

Hattie James of Boswell would like to announce the recent graduation of her granddaughter, Joni Diane Petty John Campbell, from the 2007 New Mexico Junior College nursing program. She was a 2006 LPN graduate and president of the class. She received her Associate’s RN in May of 2007.

She is the daughter of Joey Petty John of Hugo, Lisa Wolbert of Enid and stepdad Billy, granddaughter of Hattie James of Boswell and J.C. of Grant, also Bill and Gertie James of Tahlequah. She plans to move back to Oklahoma and work on receiving her Bachelor’s Degree of Nursing. She is married to Jeremy Campbell of Sallisaw and has one daughter and four sons and a special uncle, Derrell James.

Congratulations Joni, your family is so proud of you for all of your accomplishments.



Lacy finishes bachelor’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Lacy Foster for her recent graduation from Angelo State University with a Bachelor’s of Science degree.

Laws-Rodriguez earns degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Joaquin Amado Laws-Rodriguez for completing her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and graduating Magna Cum Laude.

Teacher earns national honor

Leroy Cantrell, a business and computer teacher at Mount Saint Mary High School, recently received the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction award by the National Society of High School Scholars for 2006. Cantrell was one of 71 teachers to receive the award. Cantrell’s teaching sytle is to promote accountability in his students to prepare them for college.



Tara earns degree with honors and says thanks

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Tara J. Ford on her recent graduation from the University of Alaska with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Tara graduated Cum Laude and PSI CHI. Tara would like to give a big thanks to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department.

Blake graduates with bachelor’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Blake N. Guest on his recent graduation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree.

Congratulations

Heather Ritchie graduated from Jay High School May 18. She was one of three salutatorians of her class. She is the daughter of Ms. Kim Ritchie and Mr. Jim Ritchie, the granddaughter to Thurman Hudson of Poteau and Ms. Peggy Masters of Grove. Heather is the great-granddaughter of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson. She is president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and past president of Student Council. She was chosen as part of the KURM Dream Team. Heather plans on attending Tulsa Community College and plans on getting a PhD in psychology. Congratulations and good luck on your future plans from your Choctaw family.



Cantrell graduates from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Congratulations to Connor Cantrell on receiving his Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Connor is the son of Leroy and Cindy Cantrell of Oklahoma City, the grandson of Homer and Charlotte Cantrell of Krebs and Mary Savage of Oklahoma City. Connor currently lives in Denver and will soon begin his career as an attorney.

Connor and his family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Department of Higher Education for their financial support while pursuing his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Spanish at Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, and their continued support while attending Law School in Denver. The scholarships received over the last seven years have been greatly appreciated and made a tremendous impact on his college experience.

Great job Connor - we are proud of you and your accomplishments!!



Pennington graduates OU with bachelor’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Lacy Pennington on her recent graduation from the University of Oklahoma. Lacy graduated with a Bachelor’s of Art History.

Congratulations Ohoyo

Keeley Nicole Hudson graduated from Choctaw Nation Head Start in Hugo. Keeley is the daughter of Dustin and Natasha Hudson of Hugo. Grandparents are Fred and Dimple Wickson of Hugo, and Corinne Hudson of Smithville. Keeley played soccer with her younger brother, Koda, for the Munchins and played her first season of T-ball. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson of Smithville. Good luck as you enter the big school this next year from all your aunts, uncles, and cousins. Also good luck to Koda as he heads off to his first year at Head Start.

Happy birthday from all your family Keeley. She will be five on August 16. Hope you have a wonderful birthday.



Young earns Master’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Joshua Tye Young on his recent graduation from West Texas A&M University with a Master’s of Business Administration.

Bachelor’s in Cinema earned

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jennifer Rose Lara who completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Cinema with a minor in Anthropology at Southern Illinois University.



Thornton earns degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Penny Jean Thornton on her accomplishments in earning her Elementary Education degree at Northeastern State University.

Renwick graduates with perfect score

I want to thank the Higher Education Department for its financial support during my undergraduate studies at Haskell Indian Nations University. I especially want to thank Larry Wade for helping me out in a time of need. I am very thankful for him going out of his way to find me and help me out with my financial situation.

I just graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with my Bachelor’s of Science in Environmental Science. I was able to graduate at the top of my class with a 4.0 and was named the Haskell Student of the Year. Without the financial support from the Choctaw Nation it would have been harder and more stressful to achieve these honors. I am so thankful and appreciative for everything the Choctaw Nation has done for me and my family. Thank you again – Katie Renwick.



Amanda graduates from East Central University

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Amanda Jo Woolley on her recent graduation from East Central University. Amanda finished her Bachelor’s of Arts degree in December of 2006.

Little Dixie RSVP honors Choctaw volunteers

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Little Dixie Community Action Agency recognized its partnership with the Choctaw Nation by presenting an appreciation award to Choctaw Councilman Perry Thompson and Choctaw volunteers. The award was presented July 11 during the weekly lunch held for Choctaw senior citizens in Hugo.

Most of the cooking, service and cleanup is conducted by a hard-working group of senior citizens, and the RSVP program wishes to recognize their efforts and support for senior food programs across Choctaw,

Any interested senior citizens can call Little Dixie RSVP at 580-326-5165 for information on volunteer opportunities.

McCurtain and Pushmataha counties.

In addition to their lunch duties, seniors at the Choctaw Nation Community Center operate a food booth at local events, raising money for families in need and to take the whole

senior group on a variety of road trips throughout the year. Recent and upcoming adventures include trips to Nashville, Muskogee Christmas lights, and numerous trips to special events in Durant.

For his support of the seniors' efforts, RSVP presented an award to Choctaw Tribal Councilman Perry Thompson. The award was presented by Little Dixie RSVP Director Barbara Moffitt.

The Choctaw Nation group is just one of many opportunities for senior volunteer involvement through the RSVP program.



Councilman Perry Thompson speaks after receiving an award of appreciation from Little Dixie RSVP Director Barbara Moffitt with the large Choctaw volunteer group behind him.

Austin Family gives scholarship in honor of Sam Austin Jr.

The family of Sam Marion Austin Jr. has created a scholarship in his honor. This scholarship, overseen by the Scholarship Advisement Program (Jo McDaniel, director), is awarded to a University of Oklahoma student who meets certain criteria.

The Austin family shared the following information about Mr. Austin:

Sam Marion Austin Jr. was born to Sam and Maggie Austin in Rufe, Oklahoma, in 1925 and grew up in Valliant in a loving family of three brothers and three sisters. After serving his country faithfully in the South Pacific during World War II, Sam studied at Oklahoma University, where he earned an engineering degree and developed a life-long appreciation for the importance of education.

While at Oklahoma University, Sam met Glowrine Herth, his beloved wife of 39 years, and began a family life that eventually included three children. Sam's early career started in Indianapolis, where he worked for the RCA Cor-

poration. After two years, however, his home state drew him back to a civilian position at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, where he became Chief of the Engineering and Planning Division of the Air Logistics Command.

After Glowrine's death in 1990, a fateful London double-decker bus ride introduced him to Leah Meyer Lefstein, who brought him great joy as his wife for 14 years. Sam passed away in Indianapolis in December 2006.

Though Sam lived in many places and traveled the world, the state of Oklahoma and McCurtain County were always dear to him. A graduate of Valliant High School, Sam maintained his connection to southeast Oklahoma through frequent visits and life-long friendships. Sam was immensely proud of his Choctaw heritage and believed that improving the educational opportunities available to Choctaws would help the tribe to thrive.

Sam's spirituality and deep Christian faith were reflected in his devotion to Messiah Lu-

theran Church in Oklahoma City, where he was a founding member. He was also an active participant in many volunteer activities in the communities in which he lived.

Sam lovingly expressed his deep commitment to family and friends through the time he spent playing with his children, the infectious laughter that permeated the household and family gatherings, the many humorous stories shared and repeated over the years, and the adoration he showered on his grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Sam had a love of words, poetry, and quotations from great literature. A man who could connect with any fellow human being, Sam had a favorite quotation: "Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man."

Sam's brothers and sisters include Frank and Wilson Loman, Malacha Gaddy, Wauhilla Gale, Jack Austin (Choctaw Councilman) and Hiahwahnah Kimzey. His children are Lynn Gimlin, Richard Austin, and David Austin.

EagleRoad first recipient of Austin Family Scholarship



Lena 'Nikki' EagleRoad has been selected by the Austin family to be the first recipient of a scholarship in honor of Sam Marion Austin Jr. This scholarship

will be overseen by the Scholarship Advisement Program and its director, Jo McDaniel.

Nikki, a sophomore from Talihina, is a pre-med major at the University of Oklahoma. She maintains a high grade point average while being an active community and church member. Some of her volunteer work includes such things as setting up a playground with OU Big Event and raising money for Relay for Life. Besides being a member of the Christian Sorority Kappa Phi, she is an active participant in Lighthouse Cathedral Church and Pine Grove Baptist Church.

As part of the Choctaw Nation JTPA Summer Youth Program, Miss Eagle Road worked at the Choctaw Nation Hospital for four years. She also worked for one year at Talihina Public Schools.

Miss EagleRoad was an Honor Scholar for four years and received the Choctaw Nation Scholarship and Sooner Heritage Scholarship. In her free time she may be found playing intramural basketball and softball, reading, or playing X-box, Play Station or Game Cube.

Sardis Dam 5k and second annual Rocket Run held



Rocket Run – Karen Sumpter, second; Michelle Davis, first; Matt Agnero, first; Tom Brennan, second; John Noah, third. Not pictured, Gina Williams, third.



Sardis Dam 5k – Ladona Medlock, third; Audrey Elledge, second; and Karen Sumpter, first.



Sardis Dam 5k – John Noah, first; Skeeter Hogue, second; and Jordan EagleRoad, third.

The first Sardis Dam 5k run was held June 23 near Clayton, Oklahoma. The run was held across the Sardis Lake Dam and ended at the spillway below the dam. The race drew 69 runners and will be held as an annual event.

First place in the women's category was Karen Sumpter of Talihina; second place was Audrey Elledge of Tulsa; third place was Ladona Medlock of Talihina.

First place in the men's category was John Noah of Wilbur-

ton; second place was Skeeter Hogue of Allen and third place was Jordan EagleRoad of Talihina.

This was a sanctioned race, and was sponsored by the REACH 2010/Wellness Department at Choctaw Nation.

The second annual Rocket Run was held during the Boom in the Valley Event at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center on July 3. This event was also sanctioned and drew 186 runners and walkers.

First place in the women's division was Michelle Davis of Jones; second place, Karen Sumpter of Talihina; third place, Gina Williams of Clinton.

In the male division, Matt Agnero of Poteau took first place; Tom Brennan of Poteau was second place and John Noah of Wilburton was third place.

This event was sponsored by the Choctaw Nation REACH 2010/Wellness Department and the CVD Happy Heart program.

The Wellness Education/REACH Department would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out, the co-sponsors and all the participants for making these events possible.

Pettigrew inducted into Space Camp Hall of Fame



Penny J. Pettigrew, daughter of Betty Ward Pettigrew, granddaughter of Roy Samuel Ward Sr. and great-granddaughter of Edward A. Ward and Mary Couch Ward, joined Dr. Wernher von Braun, known as the father of modern rocketry, astronaut Dorothy Metcalf-

Lindenburger, and five others as the inaugural inductees into the U.S. Space Camp Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held June 13 in Huntsville, Alabama, with William "Captain Kirk" Shatner serving as emcee.

The Space Camp Hall of Fame was created to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of Space Camp and designed to honor graduates, former employees and supporters who have distinguished themselves in their respective careers or made considerable in-kind contributions in an effort to help further the goals of the Space Camp program. Current plans call for as many as 10 to be inducted annually.

Pettigrew attended a three-day adult Space Camp while she was an undergraduate student at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.



Crystal Gayle part of Friday night lineup

Country music legend Crystal Gayle will be kicking off the entertainment on Friday, August 31, during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma. Due to medical problems, Billy Currington had to cancel tour dates.

Crystal Gayle takes the stage at 6 p.m., followed by Charlie Daniels Band at 8 p.m. and Sara Evans at 10 p.m. Another talent-packed night is planned for Saturday at the amphitheater – B.J. Thomas is scheduled at 6 p.m., Tracy Lawrence at 8 p.m. and Trace Adkins at 10 p.m.

Sunday gospel singing starts at 2 in the afternoon and continues through the evening with popular Christian music artist Michael W. Smith scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

All concerts are free of charge.



LeMaster working on historical book project

Michelle LeMaster, an assistant professor in the history department of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, spent a week in June touring Choctaw Nation facilities.

LeMaster, pictured here with Chief Pyle while visiting

the headquarters in Durant, is working on a book project focusing on the English, French and several Indian tribes during the 1700s.

Cultural Preservation Officer Olin Williams assisted Michelle with learning more of the history of the Choctaw Nation.

Wilburton Choctaw Language Class

Phase II of the Wilburton Choctaw Language Class will begin September 4. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Wilburton Choctaw Community Center with Instructor McKinley Taylor Jr. For more information call 918-465-2389 or 918-465-9890.

OBITUARIES

Josh Wallace Jr.

Josh Lee Wallace Jr., 48, Ada, passed away May 4, 2007, at a local hospital. He was born December 27, 1958, at Wynnewood, Oklahoma, to Josh Lee Wallace Sr. and Minnie Gibson Wallace.

He lived in Elmore City most of his life before moving to Pauls Valley. He attended school at Pauls Valley, and later moved to Ada. Mr. Wallace was employed with Shelton Used Cars, Pelfery Used Cars, Solo Cup Company and was a custodian for the Ada Gaming Center until his retirement. He was a member of Midway Baptist Church for many years.

Survivors include a brother, Albert Wallace and wife Elaine, Ada; four nephews, Cebrane Wallace and wife Becky, Vincent Wallace, Randall Bohanon, and Jordan Bohanon, all of Ada; a niece, Kathie Wallace, Ada; great niece Krischelle Wallace, Ada; five aunts, Ethel Wallace, Pauls Valley, Mary Meeley, Maysville, Agnes Ned, Pauls Valley, Pat Amos, Sulphur, and Janice Capear, Sulphur; two uncles, Marvin Wallace, Sulphur, and Fredrick Wallace, Sulphur; a great-great-great aunt, Irene Gibson, Pauls Valley; and numerous cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Rolena Bohanon, uncles, Raymond Gibson, Andy Gibson, and Edward Gibson, an aunt, Winnie Gibson, and three cousins, Johnny Lee Wallace, Dean Ned, and Candice Gibson.

Austin Prough

Austin Charles Prough, 5, of Durant passed away July 8, 2007, at The Children’s Center in Bethany. He was born December 20, 2001, in Oklahoma City to Mali T. Prough.

Austin was a very special child and his smile and humor touched many lives in his short but joyous life. Austin will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Mali T. and Shawn Keeton of Durant; brother, Patrick “Tex” Keeton of Durant; sister, Savannah Ketchum of Pampa, Texas; grandparents, Charles and Theresa Prough of Durant and Kenneth and Debbie Keeton of Fritch, Texas; great-grandparents, Rodelia Prough of Durant and Jr. and Ruby Keeton of Pampa, Texas; aunts and uncles, Tana and Jeremy Boucher of Stephenville, Texas, Koi Prough of Durant, Jennifer Keeton (U.S. Air Force) of Laikenheaph, England, Chris and Rainy Keeton of Corinth, Texas, Phillip and Lacey Keeton of Borger, Texas, and David Cox of Pampa, Texas.



Kenneth Grant Anderson

Kenneth Grant Anderson, 78, of Daisy, Oklahoma, passed away June 12, 2007, at his home with his loving family by his side, after a six-year courageous battle with multiple myloma. He was born November 20, 1928, at Hominy, Oklahoma, the son of original enrollee Choctaw Bethel Anderson and Gertie Lee Elliott Anderson.

He graduated from Buffalo Valley High School in 1947. Mr. Anderson was a veteran serving in the U.S. Navy from 1947-1951 as a marksman. He graduated from Southeastern State College in 1954 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Education, where he also had an outstanding career as a noted athlete in both football and basketball for the Southeastern Savages. He then attended the University of Oklahoma and received his Master’s in Educational Administration.

He began his educational career as a teacher and coach and was later a superintendent of schools. He worked for the Oklahoma State Department of Corrections as a counselor, psychologist and medical administrator, retiring in 1993. He also served as a deacon at McGee Valley Baptist Church, was a Gideon, and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

He married Ruthie Mae Bacon on August 11, 1954, in Talihi-na.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Everet Anderson, Tommy Anderson and Delta Anderson; three sisters, Ethel Escue, Lois Glenn and Evelyn Toumbs.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two daughters, Kathy Marie Anderson of Daisy and Kenni Sue Anderson Lane and husband Rick of Madill; two grandsons, Jedidiah Franklin Lane of Richardson; Micah Grant Lane of Durant; three brothers, Edwin Anderson and wife Joy of Spiro, Jerry Anderson and wife Vernie of Mansfield, Texas, Bill Anderson of Ponca City, along with several nephews and nieces and special nurses, RN Brenda Wood and RN Cindy Tharp, along with many dear and loved friends.



Freddie Bob ‘Cornbread’ Schwartz

Freddie Bob “Cornbread” Schwartz, 60, passed away February 9, 2007, in Oklahoma City. He was born January 26, 1947, at Wynnewood to Frederick and Mildred Schwartz.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Marie of the home; daughters, Elisa and husband Russell Grim II of Jacksonville, Florida, Francy Looney of Tuttle and Tonya and husband Roger Harding of Jacksonville; stepson, Terry Michael Page of Oklahoma City; stepdaughters, Helen M. Herring and Michelle R. Stevens, both of Oklahoma City, and Deborah Ann Nichol of Mustang; his mother of Oklahoma City; one special mother-in-law, Helen J. Ring of Collinsville; sister, Pam Curtis of Cashion; 10 grandchildren; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins and a host of friends including very special friends Jeremy Ross, Doug Parker, Mark Leonard, Pete Zigler, Steve Gages and Moon Doggie.

Gaylynn Smith

Gaylynn Smith, 52, of Paris, Texas, passed away June 2, 2007, at Paris Regional Medical Center. She was born June 19, 1954, in Paris, a daughter of Dean and Billye White Green.

She married Joe Smith on January 9, 1976, in Paris. She was a loving wife, mother, daughter and friend.

Survivors include her husband; four children, Melissa Perkins and husband Mike, Shawn Thompson, Kevin Smith and wife Kristin, and Brent Smith and wife Andrea; her mother; grandchildren, Brooke Vanstory, Trey Vanstory, Jolie Smith, Jalen Smith, Braeden Thompson, Raven Thompson, Jaden Smith, Presley Thompson and Paige Oliver; brothers, Doug Green, Jimmy Green and Greg Green; sisters, Becky Williams and Sue Ross, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Minnie Rose White

Minnie Rose White, 97, of Mount Vernon, Texas, passed away March 11, 2007. She was born March 31, 1909, near Sawyer, Oklahoma, the daughter of Larbin R. Himonubbe and Victoria Hemby.

While living with her uncle and his wife, Bill and Katherine Hemby, Minnie met Howard J. White in Sawyer. Howard had come to Sawyer to work for his uncle, Pat Craft, at his sawmill and cotton gin. Minnie and Howard were married in 1931 in Atoka and moved to Paris, Texas, the same year. They began their family while living in Paris. The family moved to Saltillo, Texas, in 1945, where Howard worked as a machinist at the Gulf Oil pump station. They lived in Louisiana, Mississippi and West Texas before Howard retired in 1967.

Mrs. White was widowed in 1967 and later moved to Mount Vernon in 1981. She was a loyal member of the Old Saltillo Methodist Church, which she attended regularly until she became disabled in 2003. She was a homemaker well-known for her delicious lemon and coconut cream pies. She enjoyed taking care of beautiful flowers indoors and out. She also created beautiful handwork and was a talented seamstress.

She was preceded in death by her husband; brother, William A. Himonubbe; and a grandson, Jody White.

Survivors include her four children, Glinn White and wife Marilyn of Bryan, Texas, Wayne White and wife Myrna of Dubberly, Louisiana, Imogene Barnett and husband Gene of Saltillo and Betty Eaves and husband Richard of Houston; a sister, Linda Knight of Hugo; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter. Nieces and nephews include Marie Winters of Sapulpa; Ima Buchanan of Addielou, Texas; Floyd Himonubbe of Hugo; Virginia Williams of Powderly, Texas; Jim Hmonubbe of Irving, Texas; and Rickey Knight, Donnie Knight and Christie Knight of Hugo.



Francis Murphy Tonubbee

Francis Murphy Tonubbee, 70, passed away July 10, 2007, in Dallas, Texas, from cancer. He was born September 8, 1936, in Boswell, Oklahoma, the son of Murphy and Lillian Harrington Tonubbee.

After graduating from Bennington High School in 1957, he moved to Dallas and began working at a candy company and later a clothing manufacturer. He married Barbara Johnson of Cade, Oklahoma, and they had one daughter.

Survivors include his daughter, Brenda Tonubbee Beaver and her husband, Danny, of Mesquite, Texas; grandson, Daniel Beaver of San Angelo, Texas; brother, Marland Tonubbee and his wife, Patty, of Greenville, Texas; brother, Wayne Tonubbee of Louisiana; sister-in-law, Roseann Tonubbee of Mesquite; brother-in-law, Odell Goodwin of Boswell, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Sammy and Jesse; and two sisters, Lura Lee Foster and Gleades Goodwin.



Larry Davis

Larry Davis of Oklahoma City passed away June 15, 2007. He was born February 28, 1950.

Larry enjoyed going to his favorite coffee shop with his friends. He was friendly to everyone. Larry served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam.

He was preceded in death by his mother, LaVerne Ishcomer, and sister, Bobbie Haney.

Survivors include his father, Aleckton Davis and stepmother Wanda Davis; sister, Ann Henry; nephews, Jason and Robin Harry; nieces, Brittany Harry and Stephanie Yazzie; great-nieces, Alexis and Shamia Martin; special friend, Theresa Kayitah; aunts, uncles and loving family members and friends.



Patricia Ann McCurley

Patricia Anne McCurley, 68, of Smyrna, Tennessee, passed away June 10, 2007, at the Stonecrest Medical Center in Smyrna. Born May 11, 1939, in Ada, Oklahoma, she was the daughter of the late C.W. and Olive Pat Smallfield Gunter and the granddaughter of original enrollee John Smallfield. Pat was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Mrs. McCurley fought a long, courageous battle with lung cancer. A former resident of Jackson, Tennessee, where she lived for 34 years, she had been a resident of Smyrna for 12 years and was the owner of Carmen’s Department Store as well as a personal banker for the Bank of America. She loved God and her family and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Smyrna. Mrs. McCurley was a member of the Red Hat Club and she enjoyed ballroom dancing.

Her husband, Robert Jerald McCurley, preceded her in death on September 14, 1998.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Carmen Diane and John C. Dunn of Smyrna; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Connie and Gerald Winston and Barbara and W.A. Taylor; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

William Ashby Edmonds

William Ashby Edmonds, 71, of Clinton, Oklahoma, passed away June 11, 2007, at the Clinton Veterans Center. He was born December 9, 1925, in Wilburton, Oklahoma, the son of E.C. Edmonds and Charlotte Hampton Edmonds.

According to the staff of the Veterans Center, he was well-loved and cared for, both by them and his fellow residents. He was well-known as “Wild Bill” for his outgoing personality, but was also described as very charming and polite.

He served in the Navy, both in World War II (May 9, 1944-May 24, 1946) and the Korean War (December 28, 1950-April 26, 1952). He was a ship fitter-metalsmith welder 3C, doing troop transport on the USS Dickens from the Philippines to Iwo Jima, as well as shipping ammo on the USS Virgo from the Philippines to Tokyo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Ross Edmonds; and a sister, Lindel Belle Edmonds. He is survived by two sisters, Bernice Edmonds and Evelyn Farrell, both of Stillwater; one brother, Richard Edmonds of Mustang, Oklahoma; two daughters, Billie and Debbie; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Doris Jene Herman

Doris Jene Herman, 67, Ada, passed away June 22, 2007, at Soper, Oklahoma. She was born December 18, 1939, in Eunice, Louisiana, the daughter of Samuel and Lera Daniels.

Doris was a member of the Archery Baptist Church. She was also the HC 71 Soper mail route carrier for many years. Doris was a protective mother and she enjoyed many things such as traveling, shopping, antiques and collecting miniatures. She loved to laugh and really enjoyed life. Doris carried about her a simple dignity and had good taste in many things.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Herman, May 1996; her son, Shawn Herman, July 1995; and her parents.

Survivors include her sons, Michael Herman of South Carolina and Brian Herman of Fort Towson; daughters and sons-in-law, Laddonna and Alex Arredondo of Ada and Shanna and Larry Burton of Soper; brothers and sisters-in-law, Travis and Nedra Daniels of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Jim and Cookie Daniels of Van Alstyne, Texas; sister-in-law, Mary Herman of Springfield, Missouri; brother-in-law, Luther and Pat Herman of Durant; aunt, Ida Mae Stonum of Soper; mother-in-law, Frankie Herman of Soper; and grandchildren, Paige Covington, Zac Covington, Cheyenne Herman and Chas Maynard.

Doris Oucille Gamble Allen

Doris Oucille Gamble Allen, 85, passed away June 9, 2007, at her home in Henderson, Kentucky. She is the granddaughter of original enrollee Elizabeth Jane Barnett and the daughter of Silas Dennis and Artie Bessie Gamble. Her mother, Artie Bessie, attended Oklahoma Presbyterian College, Durant. She had one sister, Wanda Gamble.

Doris was born December 28, 1921, in Blanchard, Oklahoma, where she attended primary school. She left Oklahoma for California in 1941 and lived there until 2002 when she moved to Kentucky to be closer to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A devout Baptist and proud member of the Choctaw Nation, Doris was also an at-large member of the Women of the Moose and Elks Club. A local restaurant icon in California, Doris worked as a cook for over 25 years.

Coming from austere conditions and working as a single mother, Doris was nonetheless able to leave behind a successful legacy. She compelled her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren to never forget their Native American ancestry. She often told stories of her early life in Oklahoma and that of being a Choctaw. While not formally educated herself, Doris impressed upon her lineage to always do their best, never make excuses and to always do the right thing, even if it was not done to you. Her offspring include several college graduates, governor’s scholars, military officers, and teachers.

She is survived by her two sons, Jerry D. Allen of Murray, Kentucky, and Dennis E. Allen of Fairfield, California; grandson, Lt. Col. Scott R. Allen of Alexandria, Virginia; granddaughter, Geri D. Prescott of Henderson, Kentucky; great-grandchildren, Emily and Allen Reeves of Henderson, Adam Prescott of Henderson and Alex, Aaron and Sarah Beth Allen of Alexandria. All of Doris’ children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are enrolled or enrolling members of the tribe.



Lavada Lewis Scott

Lavada Lewis Scott passed away May 3, 2007. She was born January 8, 1912, the second child of Mollie Brooks and William Frank Lewis of Ty Valley, Oklahoma. Her father was killed when she was 8 years old and she and her younger siblings were sent to Goodland Indian Orphanage in Goodland, Oklahoma. Four years later, while at school, Lavada’s older sister, Myrel, passed away.

In the early 1930s the boarding school had to close for a year because of financial difficulties. The following year, an anonymous donor gave \$5,000 for the school to reopen. Years later the donor was revealed to be Will Rogers.

Lavada graduated from Goodland in 1933 and went to Paris Nurses Training School in Paris, Texas. She graduated in 1936 as a registered nurse. Her first job was in Oklahoma City at a tuberculosis sanatorium where her sister, Thelma, was a patient. After Thelma’s death, she worked at Lamesa Hospital in Lamesa, Texas, where she met her future husband. They were married for 42 years until his death. During those years she practiced her profession in various hospitals in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, finishing the last 10 years of her career at Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland, Texas. In 1987 she moved to the El Paso area.

She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Myrel Lewis, Thelma Forbes, William Frank Lewis Jr. (MIA, World War II), Dorothy Petretti and Lolita Husted; her husband; her only son, Frank Lewis Scott; and two grandsons, Erick Graham Scott and Scott William Bradley.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Lou Ann and James Bradley; siblings, Pauline Edigar of Kansas, A.C. Hackney and Authorine Hollock, both of Oklahoma; and brother-in-law, Al Petretti of California.



Nina Mae King Minyard

Nina Mae King Minyard passed away July 6, 1991. She was the daughter of W.W. King and Alice Pulcher King; granddaughter of John Pulcher and Sarah Pulcher; and sister of John and Perry King. She loved her heritage. She would put her Indian dress on and go to school with her grandchildren, talking to the children about her life.

She was the mother of nine children, Onie Minyard Jr. of McAlester, deceased; Glen Dale Minyard of Squaw Valley, California, Lawana Sue Minyard of of Visalia, California, Gail Dean Yost of Leeper, Michigan, Wayne Allen Minyard of Visalia, deceased; Beverly Jean Perry of Bakersfield, California, Larry Minyard of Squaw Valley, Vicky Cosey of Visalia and Guy Thomas Minyard of Alabama.

Gladus L. Zumwalt Underwood

Gladus L. Zumwalt Underwood, 89, of Fresno, California, passed away June 19, 2007. She was born in Tulsa. After her mother passed away, her father moved to California.

Mrs. Underwood had a heart of gold, always with an open door to anyone who needed help or something to eat. Everyone who knew her loved her and felt very lucky to have her as a friend.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Conley; father, F.M. Zumwalt; mother, Viola M. Boatright Zumwalt; brother, Louie Zumwalt; son, George “Butch” Conley; grandson, Little George Conley.

Survivors include her daughter, Lynda Franks and family of Fresno, California; sons, Larry Conley and wife June of Sweetwater, Texas, and Terry Conley and wife Janet of Fresno; one brother, Sammy Zumwalt of La Feria, Texas; a nephew, Don Chuck Zumwalt and wife Sally of Laurel, Mississippi; 10 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.