

Construction begins on Wright City Center



Shovels turned the morning of July 7 in Wright City to begin construction of a much-anticipated new community center. Area Choctaws watched as Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Councilmembers, tribal, state and city officials broke ground for the 8,800-sq.-ft. facility.

Councilman Jack Austin, all smiles in photo at left with Chief Pyle, said that construction is due to be completed by Thanksgiving this year.

The older facility is being renovated to provide a larger Head Start and Day Care Center.



Council meets in July session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session July 11 at Tushka Homma. Following committee reports, Councilmembers addressed 10 Council Bills.

Approved were:

- An application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a Tribal Wildlife Program Grant. If granted, this will allow the Choctaw Nation to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance, including bison, and species that are not hunted or fished for, its members and their land.
- Budget for KNAP in the amount of \$16,100. KEDDO's Kiamichi Nutrition Area Project grant provides congregate and home-delivered meals at the District 3 Choctaw Community Center in Talihiina. The meals are provided to all over the age of 60, including Indian participants over the age of 55.
- Budgets were also approved for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Aging Nutrition Services for Native Americans; the Administration on Aging's Nutrition Service Incentive Program; and the DHHS Administration on Aging Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act.
- Modifications for the Native American Caregiver Support Program and for DHHS Administration of Aging.
- The budget and recontracting of the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program for FY 2009-10, and
- An amendment to CB-63-09 concerning a line of credit for CMDC and CMDC Defense.

Princess Pageant

Information and photos of this year's candidates for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Little Miss, Junior Miss and Senior Miss are on Page 13.

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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

Grant Resort open for business



Gaming in Grant began seven years ago with seven associates and 72 slot machines in a double-wide trailer. Today, over 500 associates are employed at the all-new Casino Resort, making it one of the largest employers in Choctaw County.

Hundreds attended the grand opening of the Choctaw Nation's newest casino/hotel facility. The casino consists of nearly 70,000 square feet with 1,200 slot machines, eight black jack tables and seven poker tables.

Three restaurants offer a variety of cuisine for guests – The Firehouse Grill with choices ranging from chicken fried steak to jumbo gulf shrimp, Main Street Cafe's breakfast and burgers and Jackpot Java for soup, sandwiches, salad or coffee.

The 60-room hotel is 20,000 square feet and boasts a beautiful smaller version of Durant's award-winning Oasis pool area.



Shepherd nominated for Teacher of the Year

Stacy Culbreath Shepherd has recently been selected as one of 12 finalists for the 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Stacy teaches English and Choctaw language at Durant High School and has been at her current position for 14 years. Including her previous employment at Colbert Public Schools, she has been teaching for a total of 29 years. Stacy gained her college education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University earning a Bachelor's of English/Elementary Education and a Master's of Education degree in school administration.

"It is quite an honor, an opportunity to represent all of the teachers in our district," Stacy said. "The state is divided into six sections with two finalists from each section. Our section is the southeast section. It is a great responsibility to represent all of those."

Stacy is a firm believer of outgoing, fun-loving and adventurous educators. She believes that being innovative and not afraid of getting out of their comfort zones are traits of effective teachers. Educators must define and redefine their role in education as change occurs.

As "times change, students change, and teachers must follow suit," she says. A test Stacy constantly gives herself to evaluate her methods is simply to ask herself: "Would I be bored?"

Stacy's loving family is just one of the reasons why education is such an important part of



her life. She comes from a pioneering family that includes Indian Territory's first Native American judge and the executive director of education for the Choctaw Nation.

"As a Choctaw tribal member, I understand the desperate need to preserve a dying portion of our identity. The teaching of the Choctaw language to young students is the first step in saving our culture," she says. Becoming a teacher was a natural fit for one raised by lovers of learning. In her family, "education equals opportunity" and there is no higher calling than bringing opportunity to others.

Stacy's number one priority, and the main concern of all teachers, is each and every one of the students they are instructing. If selected as the 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, Stacy would advocate that teachers be better trained to understand the culture of poverty and what it brings to the classroom. The "scourge of poverty" goes beyond any political or economic answers, she believes, but is at the very core of why too many students do not succeed.

The group goes back on September 1 for a full day of interviewing. The 3-process interview includes individual, luncheon and round-table sessions. A 10-minute video of her classroom will also be part of the judging process.

The final announcement will be made September 22 at the Oklahoma State Fair.

Information on CDIB

To apply for a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) or duplicate CDIB, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma must have all necessary documents on file before issuing or reissuing a card. For those who received their CDIB before the federal guidelines changed, the necessary documents may not be on file. Copies were not required to be kept at that time.

It is up to the applicant to furnish the documents that connect to the ancestor who was enrolled. However, Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership employees research each record before contacting the applicant with what is needed to issue or reissue a card. This is one of the courtesies performed to assist applicants. The Membership Department contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and must adhere to federal regulations that stipulate what they must have to issue a CDIB card.

Please remember, a CDIB cannot be obtained in one day. If you have children or grandchildren, please apply as soon as you get the state full-form birth certificate. It must show the state file number and the state registrar's signature. We have applications for all states in our office. Please call us before applying for a birth certificate.

Also, a CDIB card does not make you a member of the tribe. You must also apply for membership when applying for a CDIB.

For more information, please feel free to call the Membership Department at 1-800-522-6170.



Future of Choctaw Nation is blessed

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The future of the Choctaw Nation is considered when making each and every decision in the administrative offices of the Chief, Assistant Chief, Council and Program Directors. The vision that we recognize is “To achieve healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws.” We often reflect on that vision so that the decisions we make are staying on track to reach that destination.

In our journey over the next generations, we want to make sure that our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren all have the best opportunities and tools to be successful, productive and self-sufficient. These goals can be achieved through the education and career training being offered, the jobs being created and the health care that is constantly prioritized.

Prospects of things to come for our tribe are extremely exciting and new technology is helping our offices to become more efficient, allowing us to serve tribal members across the world through our computers. I am still amazed that the Choctaw lan-

guage can be learned by anyone in the world simply by logging onto class via the Internet. Many times when we visit cities in California, Texas, Arizona, or other states, our language teachers meet students from their Internet classes and get to visit face-to-face in Choctaw.

While tomorrow’s expectations are great, our heritage and our present day are equally important. Services for tribal elderly are one of our main concerns, and several new community centers have been constructed in recent years, including the one in Durant that is opening this month.

Over the years, we have diversified in business, creating jobs in manufacturing, printing, sales and health fields, just to name a few. The expansion in our gaming and travel plazas has been a tremendous blessing to the construction industry as well.

When I first became Chief, a constant request in my prayers was that I be given wisdom to make good decisions and to lead in the right direction. That is still part of my prayers. The Choctaw Nation has been very blessed and I thank God for all He has provided for us.



City ordinance passes

Heavener YAB Members Brandon Dedmon, Jessie Blackwell, Koby Cross, and Kyler Whites recently presented a powerpoint to their city council regarding a city ordinance in their town. The ordinance passed and an emergency clause was put into place.

You must decide which side you’re on

As a Christian we are in a battle. We are in a spiritual conflict – a spiritual warfare. The enemy of Jesus Christ is always attacking, hindering His followers.

The Bible describes Satan as the enemy of God and warns us in I Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Satan knows his time is short. He is going all out to destroy moral values, decency and spirituality. Satan is powerful.

Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesians 6:10-12, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

The names of Satan indicate what type of personality he is. In the Bible he is called a deceiver,” a “murderer” and a “liar,” an “accuser,” a “tempter,” and “evil one.” Every name in the Bible for Satan describes the type of personality with whom we are dealing.

The Bible warns us of the works of Satan. His works are defined as “wiles,” “devices,” “snares.” He also “beguiles,” “seduces,” “opposes,” “resists,” “deceives,” “hinders,” “buffets,” “tempts,” “persecutes,” “blasphemes.” Every work of Satan is satanic and he can only destroy.

Every time Jesus spoke of Satan, it was by a name that confirms that Satan is a genuine personality. The adversary of every Christian is personal, and he is aggressive, intelligent, cunning and destructive. Every day Satan must be dealt with seriously and intelligently. It is against this powerful spiritual being who directs a spiritual warfare that the forces of God must battle.

The Bible indicates that Satan has great authority in this world. We read in I John 5:19, “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth

Chaplain’s Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

in wickedness.”

Jesus called him “the prince of this world” three times in the Gospel of John – John 12:31, 14:30 and 16:11. The letter to the Ephesians teaches that he is the ruling spirit over the “children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2), which includes all people who have not trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The Bible teaches that Satan has powerful influences in every nation of the world, and he is the mastermind behind the whole system of evil that permeates the world dominated by lustful power, greed, ambition, hatred, lies, aggression and brutality. Satan once offered Jesus all the kingdoms of this world and the glory if He would fall down and worship him (Matthew 4:8-9).

Satan also has authority over the demons and evil spirits. Jesus taught that the Devil even has his angels (Matthew 25:41). He has an organization of hellish forces working secretly and subtly against heavenly forces.

Yes, the Devil is going all-out against Christians today. He is offering us the greatest of worldly pleasures and amusements in the history of the world to get us sidetracked from our spiritual warfare and our witness for Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches that we as Christians are to be separated from the world. We read in I John 2:15, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in

the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

The greatest hindrance to Satan’s plan for the destruction of an individual or a nation is a strong God-fearing Christian. The greatest roadblock standing in Satan’s way is the Christian who lives for God, who walks worthily, who is filled with the spirit and is “... able to stand against the wiles of the devil ... be able to withstand in the evil day ...” (Ephesians 6:11, 13).

And the greatest contribution that you can make as an individual Christian is to keep up your daily devotions, live a clean, honest, humble, spirit-filled life, trust God to guard and protect you morally, physically and spiritually, then become a part of the vocal minority that is openly and publicly witnessing for Jesus Christ.

True believers are a minority, but they are everywhere. They are members of His body. The prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 1:9, “Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”

Isaiah warned again in Isaiah 1:20, “But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Let us recognize that we are involved in a spiritual conflict and that each of us has a role to play. Let us not be the pawns of the Devil, but let us be the servants of God. The Devil is the defeated enemy, and some day we are going to see him cast into the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3).

You must decide on which side you are going to serve – the Devil’s side or God’s side. Will you choose God’s side in this great spiritual conflict?

You can pray something like this, “Oh Lord, I realize I am a sinner, I receive Jesus as my personal Savior by faith.” May God guide you and bless you, is my prayer for you.

Please continue to pray for America, for our leaders and for our brave men and women in service.

Tribal services are increasing

From the Desk of
Assistant Chief
Gary Batton

The Choctaw Nation is seeing an increasing need for the services offered through programs such as Career Development, Extra-curricular, and Scholarship Advisement. Schooling through Career Development is giving a whole new view on education to tribal people. Long-term and short-term training are available to help find and keep a job with a higher skill level.

The Extra-curricular program is for elementary through high school Choctaw students on a once-a-year grant of \$100 dollars each, upon completed, qualifying application. This can be used for many different activities, and the application is available on-line.

The third program I mentioned, Scholarship Advisement, is unique to our tribe.



This program helps students with preparations for college then advises and assists as they continue their college careers. The retention rate has been greatly improved through the program.

The Scholarship Advisement Program also prepares each future collegiate by informing them of scholarships they may be eligible for, helping them complete the applications and holding workshops to help raise ACT scores.

Programs such as these three are totally funded through trib-

al dollars that are made at our businesses such as gaming and travel plazas.

I am very proud to work for a tribe and a leader who prioritizes educational opportunities for our members so that they may build a career and lifestyle for their family that will provide for their future. We have often said that we want the same thing for all of our tribal members that we want for our own families – a good relationship with God, good health, happiness and self-sufficiency.



OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance float places second on 4th of July

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance float from Oklahoma City placed second among 27 entries in the Civic/Non-Profit category in the Edmond July 4th LibertyFest Parade. It was the only Native American entry in the parade. The parade is the largest in the state of Oklahoma and the LibertyFest has been named by CNN and USA today as one of the Top 10 July 4th festivals in the United States.

Section of Hwy 1 closed due to bridge repair

Highway 1 between Hartshorne and Highway 2 in Oklahoma is closed to thru traffic due to bridge resurfacing. The date it will be re-opened is undetermined.

If planning to use this route to go to the Labor Day festivities at Tushka Homma, please use alternate route.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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

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

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

Are you ready to purchase a new home?

The first step in the home-buying process is attending a

Homebuyer Education Class

Come to one of our Homebuyer Classes nearest you to learn the important steps in the home-buying process. You will become more aware of the benefits and risks associated with owning your own home. We make the process fun and educational, so call us for an appointment today! To register, call Debbie Childers at 1-800-235-3087, ext. 297, for one of the following classes:

• **August 18 - 4:30 p.m.**
Poteau Family Investment Center

• **August 25 - 4:30 p.m.**
Broken Bow Family Investment Center

Look what is happening at WIC!

The Choctaw Nation’s Women, Infant and Children’s program is whole health care, food, physical activity and referrals to other agencies. WIC is a nutrition education program and our goal is to help improve the nutrition health status of low-income women, infants and children.

WIC is working to help families meet the Dietary Guidelines for America’s Healthy People 2010 goals and objectives, and follow the American

Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for infant nutrition.

With these goals in mind WIC is announcing major changes in our nutrition education process and our food packages. VENA – Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment – is the first step in offering quality nutrition services. VENA shifts the focus of the assessment process from eligibility determination to a participant-centered health outcome based

process.

This new process is client-centered and allows the client to interact and voice their health concerns and goals. The paraprofessional can then individually tailor nutrition education to each client. Assessment now becomes a more positive experience for each participant.

NEW FOOD PACKAGES!

Our new food package will now be focused on a more well-rounded diet for our partici-

pants. Added to a participant’s food package will be fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables along with whole-grain products. Infants at age six months will receive baby food fruits and vegetables. Low-fat milk will replace whole milk for all participants over age 2. If you are on WIC you can expect your new food package to go into effect on or after August 2009. Choctaw WIC is excited to offer these new changes to our participants.



Gardner four generations

Descendants of former Chief David Gardner gather for a four-generation photo. Pictured are 3 1/2-month-old Ian Daniel Gardner, Clyde Taner Gardner, Clyde Harvie Gardner and Harve McKinley Gardner who celebrates his 90th birthday August 21.

Alcohol compliance checks

District Attorney Laura Wallis, Hugo Police Department, Choctaw County Sheriff’s Department, in conjunction with Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board 2Much2Lose (2M2L) club and Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, completed alcohol compliance checks in Choctaw County in efforts to make sure that youth are checked for identification, and to prevent underage drinking, selling and usage during the holidays.

Sixteen in total, 13 convenience stores and three alcohol package stores were visited. Out of the stores that were checked, six of them sold alcohol or low-point beer to a person under 21 and failed to check identification of person under 21. In efforts to make sure that no more violations of Oklahoma’s under-21 laws will be broken, Law Enforcement issued four citations, and made two felony arrests on the evening of July 3.

The numbers indicate that almost half of the stores checked in Choctaw County on July 23 violated Oklahoma’s under-21 laws. For more information you may contact 2M2L at website: 2Much2Lose.com.

Drinking and Driving:

- Each year in Oklahoma, approximately 275 people are killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes.
- Approximately 40 percent of all fatal traffic crashes occurring in Oklahoma are alcohol-related.
- Each year, more than 17,000 Americans die at the hand of drunk drivers.
- About 1.5 million American are arrested yearly for drunk driving.
- Forty percent of Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

At any given time and place on U.S. roads, one out of 50 drivers is legally drunk. That average soars to one out of 10 on weekend nights.

For every one-hundredth of a percent increase in the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of late-night drivers, the risk of being killed in a single-vehicle crash nearly doubles.

Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth



Protect your playground

If your ideal getaway is to paddle a pristine river or float on a clear lake, remember to protect that paradise when you’re back at home. Stormwater runoff from yards, driveways, and sidewalks drains into local lakes, rivers, and bays. Excessive amounts of fertilizer, lawn clippings, and animal waste can upset the balance of marine ecosystems. Oil, hazardous chemicals, plastic, and pharmaceuticals can wreak havoc on fish and birds.

“The Green Life”



Caring for baby’s cord

Keep the umbilical cord or belly button clean and dry.

- Wait to put your baby into bath water until after her cord has fallen off and is completely healed (usually two weeks). Instead, wipe your baby off with a wet cloth.
- Clean the cord with alcohol on a cotton swab each time you change the diaper. Your baby may cry because the alcohol is cold but it does not hurt.
- Fold the tip of the diaper down so it won’t rub or irritate the cord.
- Call your health care provider if the cord looks red, irritated, or bleeds.

Choctaw Nation AFL Project

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life

(AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teens, 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 other agencies. Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, relationship enhancement programs, and parenting workshops.

Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is our program goal. Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American Teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American.

For more information or questions about eligibility please call Angela Dancer, Project Director, at 877-285-6893.

This article was written by Ashley Norris.

Oklahoma Tribal Victim Assistance regional training held in McAlester

In March, three Oklahoma Tribal Victim Assistance Programs held their regional training in McAlester at the Choctaw Nation Community Center. This location was chosen because it is centrally located to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Iowa Tribe and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Over 80 people attended the regional training, including Choctaw Nation District #11 Tribal Councilperson Bob Pate and Choctaw Nation Tribal Judge Fred Bobb.

Speakers for the training included Gayle Thom, a retired FBI agent from South Dakota and Dianne Barker-Harold, Unified Solutions TVA Program Manager. Gayle Thom’s morning session addressed critical incident and mass victims and team trauma debriefing. The afternoon session was



presented by Dianne Barker-Harold and her husband, Dale, a retired police officer. Their informative presentation addressed Advocates and Law Enforcement Working Together. Also, during the working lunch the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles/Falvmichi Youth Program pre-

sented a puppet show geared toward eliminating violence in their tribal communities.

The Choctaw Nation, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, and Iowa Tribe all came together to make the Oklahoma Tribal Victim Assistance Regional Training a great success.

Celebrating National Recovery Month

More than 23 million people age 18 or older needed treatment for a substance use disorder in the United States in 2007, and within the Choctaw Nation, many people and their families are affected by this disease. Many people do not understand that addiction is a treatable disease, and this misconception can keep people from getting help. In 2007, as many as 20.8 million people nationwide needed but did not receive treatment at a specialty facility.

To help alleviate this issue and overcome barriers to long-term recovery, The Choctaw Nation Recovery Center and Chj Hullo Li in collaboration with various other tribal programs will seek to raise aware-

ness of the services that are available to members of our tribe. This campaign is intended to educate members of our tribe about the positive effect that treatment and recovery can have on loved ones and the community’s well-being, and celebrate people in recovery – as well as those who help them. Many of the Tribal Community Centers will have information displayed throughout the month of September.

The Tribal Community Awareness program sponsored by the Recovery Center and Chj Hullo Li is part of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month’s 20th anniversary and will address this year’s theme, “Join the Voices for Recovery: Together

We Learn, Together We Heal.” For 20 years, Recovery Month, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, through its Center for Substance Abuse Treatment has celebrated people in recovery from addiction and the treatment providers who help them.

It applauds their achievements and encourages access to treatment services for all those in need. By alerting people to the treatment and recovery services available, we can help our fellow tribal community members and their families find a path of recovery and lead productive, healthy lives once again.

Mahala Sandridge

Mahala Sandridge, sitting in her father’s fire helmet, was born December 23, 2008, to Clint and Monika Sandridge. She is the granddaughter of Marie Bender and Larry and Alfreda Sandridge of Wright City. She is the great-granddaughter of Audrey Sandridge, the late Lewis Whitfield and original enrollee Ida Merry Chitfield of Golden, Oklahoma.



Chloe Faith Felipe

Colby and Colton Grayson are happy to announce the birth of their first cousin, Chloe Faith Felipe. Chloe was born April 14, 2009, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital in Idabel. She is the daughter of Charity and Augustin Felipe of Haworth. She is also the granddaughter of Becky and Kenney Pate of Haworth, David DeLozier of West Monroe, Louisiana, and Evelyn Jessie of Idabel.



Joslyn Bralynn Arles

Joslyn Bralynn Arles was born at 1:32 a.m. on June 13, 2009, at Valley View Regional Hospital in Ada. She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Proud parents are Deidra Lynn Hamilton and Joseph Lee Arles. She is the granddaughter of Tammy and Jimmy Joe Arles Sr. of Mill Creek, Dennis Hamilton of Mill Creek, Thomas Arles of Sulphur, and Francis and Albert Louis of Ardmore. Joslyn’s great-grandparents are Retha and the late Jamie Ledford of Marlow, Mary Francis and the late Jessie Oxley of Sulphur, Janelle and the late Obie Joe Arles of Sulphur, and Susie and the late Bobby Wallace of Sulphur. Great-great-grandparents include the late Yellow Wolf Hamilton, Edith and the late Dwain Mitchell of Mill Creek, Agnes Weddle, Hazel Skidmore and the late Thomas Hoyle of Sherman, Texas. Aunts and uncles include Laura Hamilton of Weatherford, Clovis Hamilton of Madill, Derek and Michelle Hamilton and Sarah Arles, all of Ardmore.



Ressa Lynnor Dill

Proud parents Damarius Henderson and Marissa Dill announce the birth of Ressa Lynnor Dill who was born July 14, 2009, weighing 7 pounds 12.1 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long. She is welcomed home by brother D.J.; grandparents, Bobby and Veta Massengale of Boswell and Randall and Brenda Wilson of Durant. She is also the granddaughter of the late Tammy Lynn. Great-grandparents are Sonny and Elnora Dill of Boswell, Evelyn Wilson of Bennington, Jim and Tia Avants of Durant, Jessie Mae Hill of Boswell, the late Woodrow Wilson, Connie Gene Anderson and Patsy Anderson Avants. All her uncles, aunts, great-uncles, great-aunts and many cousins are happy to have the new addition to the family.



Become a Choctaw Nation Foster Family

By becoming a Choctaw Nation foster family you will serve as a temporary parent to a child or children placed in your home. You will provide for their basic needs, food, shelter, clothing and safety. You will help maintain their social and cultural customs.

Basic Requirements:

- You can be single or married.
- You or your spouse must be an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- You must have the emotional, physical and financial abilities to provide for a child’s needs.
- You must reside within Choctaw Nation’s 10 1/2 counties.

What is the certification process?

- You complete a resource family application.
- A child welfare specialist will visit you and your household to conduct a home study. You and your family will be interviewed. Your home will be inspected to make sure it is an adequate place for foster care.
- You will be fingerprinted and a background check will be done on all adult members of the household.
- Four personal references you provide will be contacted and interviewed.
- You will submit a physical exam form signed by your own current doctor.
- You must attend pre-service training.

The need for Choctaw Foster Parents

Many of our Choctaw children are in need of stable homes and families. It is for these children that we need you to become a foster parent. We need your help to grow, teach and love these children. For more information on becoming a foster parent, please contact our office:

Children and Family Services
PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Lari Ann Brister
800-522-6170 ext. 2635 • lbrister@choctawnation.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! TeleCognitive Research Study

Do you have a good memory?
Or know someone with a memory problem?

Here is an opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research using telemedicine-based memory testing!

The Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic in Talihiina is examining the feasibility of using telemedicine or videoconference technology to study different ways of testing memory and other cognitive abilities. This research may help bring new diagnostic services to rural and underserved populations and aid in the development of new memory-testing procedures, so WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Volunteers must be willing to travel to Talihiina to participate. We need people with and without memory problems over the age of 50. The study takes approximately two hours and those who complete testing will receive a \$25 WalMart gift card. For more information, please call

1-866-800-6514
Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic

Choctaw film maker and writer Steve Judd is living his dreams

Steve Judd is living his dream. When growing up in Oklahoma, Steve Judd wanted to write but he never imagined he would write for television. He is not only writing for television but during his 2008 Fellowship with Disney/ABC he staffed and wrote one of the episodes for the new series “Zeke and Luther” on Disney XD which premiered in June. In writing that one episode, Judd became eligible to join the Writers Guild of America, becoming one of the nine Native Americans with membership out of the guild’s 12,000 members.

Steve, Choctaw/Kiowa, is the son of the Reverends John and Julienne Judd and the grandson of Henry and Carole Willis. He graduated from Broken Bow High School along with Tvli Jacob, also Choctaw. They began in high school making home videos and continued their friend-

ship while attending Haskell Indian Nations University, a friendship which has continued through the years.

He returned to his home state to attend the University of Oklahoma where he majored in communications and minored in Native American studies. He graduated in 2002.

While a student in Norman, Steve, Tvli and other Native American media students created “Restless Native Production Company.” The production company has produced the independent film, “American Indian Graffiti: This Thing Life” which Judd co-wrote, acted, produced and directed. This film was awarded Best Screen Play at Micro Cinema Fest, Best Feature at the International Cherokee Film Festival and Best Screenplay at the Barebones International Film Festival. Judd was also a semifinalist in NBC/

Universal’s Comedy Short Cuts Diversity Film Festival in 2007 with his “MAC v. PC with a Native Twist.”

Many Native American tribes passed down their knowledge and history through speech which means Steve grew up with a strong tradition of oral storytelling. That is why it is no surprise that in 2005, Judd received the Story Teller of the Year Award from the Native Word Craft Writing Circle.

In 2008, he was nominated Distinguished Alumni for the University of Oklahoma and returned in 2009 to give a lecture as part of the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series.

Judd is living in Los Angeles, California, and currently working with longtime friend Tvli Jacob on a documentary about Oklahoma-born musician Jessie Ed Davis.



Steve Judd with Sammy the ape during the filming of the “Zeke and Luther.” Steve wrote the script for this episode tentatively named “A Hairy Problem.”

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Williston Wesley, 77, waves as he rides in the 75th Annual Wright City Annual American Legion Parade on July 1.

Bryce and Alyssa celebrate summer birthdays

Alyssa Harrison turned 7 years old on June 5. She celebrated with slumber parties and a big birthday bash at Johns pizza. Her brother, Bryce Harrison, turned 4 on July 20 and he celebrated with a dinner at Red Lobster and a camping trip in San Diego. Alyssa and Bryce, along with their dad, aunt Vicki and cousin Kaili, also enjoyed a weekend trip to the beach, Disney Land & Lego Land. Bryce and Alyssa are the grandchildren of Bill and Theresa Harrison and the children of Bill Harrison Jr. of Bakersfield. Happy birthday!



Happy birthday

Wishing a happy birthday to Ms. Lillie Roberts of Durant on August 10. Hope you have a wonderful day!



Happy ninth birthday Austin!!

Caleb and Logan would like to wish their brother, Austin Sullivan, a happy ninth birthday on August 22. Austin enjoys Boy Scouts, soccer, playing video games, riding his bike and being with his family and friends. When asked what he wanted for his birthday he replied, “Transformers – that’s all I ever think about.” Austin will be in the third grade at Northwest Heights. He is the son of Matt and Lorelei Sullivan of Durant. He is the grandson of the Rev. Floyd and Nancy Peters of Antlers. For his birthday he wants a BIG party and to invite all his friends. Happy birthday to Austin. The boys would also like to wish a happy birthday to their mother on August 10 and to their cousin, Girlie Battiest on the 24th.



Happy 15th birthday Dakota!!

Happy birthday to Dakota Wolf Evans. He turned 15 on July 6. His parents are Wallace and Patricia Evans of Kiefer. His grandparents are Gary and Loretta Thompson Perigo of Tulsa and Wallace Sr. and Karen Evans of Indiana.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Dakota Skyler Clarke. He is turning 9 on August 30. Happy birthday “Kota” from Mom and Dad.



Happy 12th birthday

Happy birthday to Morgan Reed on June 26 from her parents, Matt and Lisa. She turned 12 years old.



Happy fifth birthday

Happy birthday to Grace Michaela Spencer of Colorado Springs. She celebrated her fifth birthday on June 1.



Hood graduates Head Start

Makayla Hood graduated from Choctaw Nation Head Start in Hugo. She is the daughter of Christie and Thomas Hood, and sister of Dakota. Also sending birthday wishes to Christie Hood on June 8, Donnie Knight on June 12, Linda Knight on June 18 and Thomas Hood on June 21.



Happy birthday

Lloyd B. Morris II, “Dubby,” turned 37 years young on July 11. He is the son of Lloyd L. Morris and the grandson of Lloyd B. Morris of Stidham.



50th anniversary

Allen Holleman and Sandy Lee met at the end of August 1957. They played miniature golf on their first date. Allen proposed on Valentine 1959 and they married at the First Baptist Church in Celina on June 5, 1959. Allen retired from Indiana Lumbermens/ Amerisure Insurance Company as a senior underwriter and Sandy retired from the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as the Department Head of Human Resources.



The Hollemans were recently honored with a dinner for their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of Sandy’s sister and brother-in-law, JoNita and Danny Jones. The celebration was co-hosted by Sandy’s cousins, Judy and Charles Creech and Cheryl and Sam Mason. Family and friends gathered at dusk in the twinkle-lighted garden where Allen and Sandy renewed their vows. They lit their memory candle, an annual ritual observed at each anniversary. Following dinner, their celebration continued at the Excelsior House Hotel in Jefferson, Texas. The couple resides at Callendar Lake.

40th anniversary

Bill and Theresa Harrison, of Bakersfield, California, celebrated their 40th anniversary of marriage on August 9, 2009. They met in high school at North High in Bakersfield, and their relationship lasted through Bill’s service in the military and with this dedication and love, they united in August of 1969. From their union are two children, Bill Jr. and Victoria Harrison both, of Bakersfield and three grandchildren, Alyssa (7), Bryce (4) and Kaili (2.5) Harrison all of Bakersfield. Mom and Dad we congratulate you in this wonderful achievement and honor you for your dedication to each other through thick and thin, richer or poorer...and staying together until “death do you part” this is an awesome moment to treasure and thank you for everything you do for us and everything you stand for! Yakoke!



Congratulations

The family of Monica Beth Moore would like to say congratulations on her eighth grade graduation. We all wish her much luck in the next four years.



Baseball players excel

Cory Coleman and Dewayne Noah were chosen All-County players for Broken Bow High School baseball in the McCurtain County-8 tournament held April 2009. Both boys are outfielders and pitchers and have contributed extensively to their team.

Cory is the son of Mark and Lisa Coleman of Idabel and Glenda Coleman Morton of Broken Bow. Cory’s grandparents are Priscilla Jones Coleman of Broken Bow and Carl Coleman of Idabel, and Mr. and Mrs. Archie McDaniel of Broken Bow. His great-grandmother is Helen Taylor of Washington.

Dewayne is the son of Gary and Tamara Noah of Oak Hill. His grandparents are the late Jerry Noah and Amanda Noah James, Jacob James of Oak Hill, Debra and Jack Pruitt, and Alfred and Wanda Thomas.



Winners of 5k

Joe Nichols and Brittany Conley were the winners of the “Don’t be a fool about Diabetes 5K/walk.” Choctaw Nation along with Oklahoma Healthcare Solutions sponsored the event on April 1 in Smithville.



Happy birthday

Happy 29th birthday to Tammy Ibarra on August 30. My girl is showing off her 17 pound 11 ounce catfish she reeled in at Lake Texoma on July 5. Happy birthday from your husband, Julian.



Happy 10th birthday

Happy 10th birthday to Kathryn Courtney Howell on August 24, our very own Choctaw princess with freckles. We are so proud of her wonderful spirit, kindness and devotion to our planet and all living things. Wishing that your 10th year is the best ever from Dad, Mom and lil’ brother Will.



Celebrating 94th birthday

Happy birthday to Aunt Bertie!! Berti Brashears Mitchell of Oklahoma City celebrates her 94th birthday on August 10. Wishing her a happy birthday is the Lowrimore family of La Quinta, California.



Byrum celebrates 84 years!!

Christine L. Byrum turned 84 on June 14. She is very active and still works. She is a wonderful grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Happy birthday Ma from us!!



Happy 67th birthday

Happy 67th birthday to Jimmie Paul Howell on July 3. To our amazing, wonderful, silly and adventuresome father and grandfather – hope you have a wonderful 67th year with many, many more to come. Sending you our birthday wishes to California all the way from Texas, from Shawn, Shelly, Katie and Will.



Happy birthday Jean

Happy birthday to Jean Nichols of Lexington, South Carolina, on July 13. She turned 71 and celebrated her birthday with a broken arm from working in her beautiful flower garden. Birthday wishes from LaVerne Bishop.



Happy third birthday

Happy birthday to Wesley Joe Tigner on August 31 from his Grandpa Joe and his Aunt Susan, Aunt Debra and Aunt Lisa. He will turn 3 years old.



Rios graduates

Martina Rios graduated with a gpa of 3.5 from Wicker High School in Wicker, Arkansas. Martina was accepted by Clarksville University of the Ozark in Clarksville, Arkansas. She is the daughter of the late Donna Boud and Martin Rios of Gillham, Arkansas. She’s the granddaughter of the late Osbine and Maeclan Bond of Bethel. Her family is very proud of her. She wishes to pursue her education in a medical field. Way to go Martina!

Happy birthday Jaden!

We would like to wish Jaden Miss America Murrin of Oklahoma City a happy birthday on July 3. Birthday wishes from grandparents, Joe and Pam McNulty of Oklahoma City; Uncle Chris and Aunt Melissa Coffelt of Yukon, and cousins, Korbin Lane Coffelt of Yukon and Berry Buster Vantrees of Oklahoma City.



Happy 11th birthday

Happy 11th birthday to Cheyanne Cranfield from your family. Her birthday is July 30.



Family celebrates birthday

Happy birthday to Shirly Ann Christie of Wilburton. He Indian name is “Little Dove.” She is a beautiful person, generous to a fault, very friendly, sympathetic, helpful and trusting. The most special person you would ever hope to meet and with all that she has a great big heart. Shirley will be celebrating her birthday on July 23. She turned a “young” 67. We have one brother left now, the youngest, Roger Christie of Irving, Texas. Roger turned 65 in June so we wish him a great big happy birthday also.

Then there is the big sis, Christine Angel, living in California. She turned 71 in April. Happy birthday to everyone of the family.



Breckin excels academically

Breckin Horton, a fifth grade student recently competed in the Keota Academic Meet at the Stigler Technology Center. Approximately 250 Oklahoma students from over a dozen area schools competed in four categories: Math, Language Arts/English, Social Studies and Science. Breckin placed in all four categories with two first place finishes in Math and Language Arts/English, a second place finish in Social Studies, and a fourth place finish in Science. Breckin is the daughter of Scott and Shannon Horton of Spiro, and the granddaughter of Sue Horton of Panama. She is the great-great granddaughter of original enrollee Turner Lee “Buster” LeFlore.





This summer, the Choctaw Nation Annual Golf Camp was held at two different golf courses, splitting the north and south districts of the Choctaw Nation. The south camp was located

at Silverado Golf Course in Durant and the north camp was at Arrowhead Golf Course in Canadian. There was a tournament held for a Choctaw Nation traveling team for the advanced golf-

ers. The staff and instructors did a very good job of teaching the campers, whether a first-time golfer or an advanced player, the basic game of golf.

Youth stay busy at summer camps



The Choctaw Nation Annual Summer Football Camp was successful for the summer of 2009. The campers were coached by OU’s Assistant Coach and Quarterback Coach, Josh Heupel, as well as other football coaches and stars. They received good instructions in areas of offensive and defensive drills. The camp was held at Paul Laird field on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. The players worked hard and learned a lot of the basic fundamentals of football.



The Choctaw Nation Cultural Enrichment Camp is an exciting opportunity to learn more about the Choctaw heritage and culture. The focus of the camp was stickball, archery, arts and crafts, storytelling and the Choctaw language. The Culture Camp was held on the grounds at Tuskahoma. The campers enjoyed learning more about their Choctaw heritage and where they came from.



The Choctaw Nation Basketball Camp went very well this summer. The camp was held at 12 different sites. The campers learned fundamental skills of basketball to use throughout the school career with the ultimate goal of playing college level basketball. They picked up some tips from some high school head coaches and former university players. They learned a lot and they are looking forward to applying their new skills in their next basketball game.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Sept ember 2009

A Vocational Rehab representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Durant 10:00-2:00	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	10	11 Idabel 10:00-12:00 Broken Bow 1:00-3:00	12
13	14 Talihina 10:00-2:00	15	16 Antlers By Appt.	17	18 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	19
20	21	22 Poteau 11:30-1:00	23 Atoka 10:00-2:00 Coalgate 10:30-1:30	24	25	26
27	28 Crowder By Appt.	29 Wilburton 1030-2:00	30			

To the youth of the Nation Self-esteem

By Madison Cress
Choctaw Nation YAB

You can’t touch it, but it affects how you feel. You can’t see it, but it’s there when you look at yourself in the mirror. You can’t hear it, but it’s there every time you talk about yourself. What is this important but mysterious thing? It’s your self-esteem!
What Is Self-esteem?
To understand self-esteem, it helps to break the term into two words. Let’s take a look at the word esteem first. Esteem is a fancy word for thinking that someone or something is important or valuing that person or thing. For example, if you really admire your friend’s dad because he volunteers at the fire department, it means you hold him in high esteem.

And self means, well, you! So put the two words together and it’s easier to see what self-esteem is. It’s how much you value yourself and how important you think you are. It’s how you see yourself and how you feel about your achievements.
Self-esteem isn’t bragging about how great you are. It’s more like quietly knowing that you’re worth a lot (priceless, in fact!). It’s not about thinking you’re perfect – because nobody is – but knowing that you’re worthy of being loved and accepted.
Why Self-Esteem Is Important
Self-esteem isn’t like a cool pair of sneakers that you’d love to have but don’t have to have. A kid needs to have self-esteem. Good self-esteem is important because it helps you to hold your head high and feel

proud of yourself and what you can do. It gives you the courage to try new things and the power to believe in yourself. It lets you respect yourself, even when you make mistakes. And when you respect yourself, adults and other kids usually respect you, too.
Having good self-esteem is also the ticket to making good choices about your mind and body. If you think you’re important, you’ll be less likely to follow the crowd if your friends are doing something dumb or dangerous. If you have good self-esteem, you know that you’re smart enough to make your own decisions. You value your safety, your feelings, and your health - your whole self! Good self-esteem helps you know that every part of you is worth caring for and protecting.

Seven reasons to become a part of SAP

“Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma college-bound students and parents should take advantage of an opportunity by joining the tribe’s Scholarship Advisement Program,” says Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO). “The SAP program is free to tribal members and its list of benefits is growing. The best time to join is sooner rather than later – ideally by their sophomore year of high school,” Chief Pyle adds.
The Choctaw Nation launched SAP two years ago with the mission to focus on college preparation and retention for Choctaw students. In the last two years more than 1,500 CNO students and parents have taken advantage of a rapidly growing list of program benefits. “We continue to add features to SAP, and so the reasons to join the program are increasing as well,” says Program Director Jo McDaniel.

Here’s what SAP’s staff say are the top seven reasons why all college-bound students and parents should join the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program no later than the sophomore year of high school.

1. Preparation and Planning Advice

College is one of life’s major steps and preparing for it is vitally important. SAP advocates starting preparations early. Having a game-plan in place by the sophomore year of high school should be a college-bound student’s goal. Starting earlier is even better. The key step in preparation is simple planning. Students and parents should start by checking out the College Planning Timeline on SAP’s Web site (www.choctawnation-sap.com). Step two: Contact and build a relationship with an SAP counselor who can provide valuable guidance aid. SAP counselors help build and adjust student plans throughout high-school and into the college selection process. Above all, both students and parents should enroll in SAP’s free program to access all SAP benefits.

2. Access to Scholarship Database

Soon SAP will launch what will be the best possible nation-

al database of Scholarship, Internship, Grant and Fellowship opportunities. It will be customized for Choctaw students enrolled in SAP’s program. The database will contain thousands of funding opportunities worth billions of dollars. But – you can’t access the database if you’re not enrolled in SAP. Facts about this remarkable database:

- Choctaw students are eligible to apply for every opportunity.
- Only enrolled members (students or parents) of SAP may access the database by using their SAP username and password.
- Access will be from the Scholarship tab on the SAP web site.
- To enroll in SAP browse to the Apply Online tab on SAP’s Web site. SAP’s enrollment form has been re-structured to make sign-up easier. Sign-up can be done in less than 10 minutes. Best of all – it’s FREE.

3. ACT/SAT Preparation

If you could take a test over and over in order to get a better score, you’d do it, right? That’s how high school exams like ACT and SAT work. The two exams most colleges look at for admission – and foundations look at when granting scholarship money – can all be taken repeatedly and only the highest score counts. Many CNO scholars started taking the exams in junior high school and raised their scores by five to 10 points by the time they took their last test in high school. To build a better ACT or SAT score students must learn how to prepare for the exam. That’s where the SAP’s college test preparation program can help. In the next 10 months SAP will schedule five ACT workshops throughout Oklahoma. Workshops are led by noted testing consultant Chad Cargill. Cargill took the ACT 18 times and raised his score from a 19 to a 32. Attend the workshop to learn Cargill’s secrets. Check out ACT Preparation on SAP’s web site.

4. Pick the Right College

OK, suppose you have the grades, test scores and resumé to earn admission to Cal/Berke-

ley. Does that mean you’re well-suited for a school of 35,000 students in the San Francisco Bay Area? Maybe. Success at the college level involves more than resumé and test scores. It’s also about what kind of person you are – your interests, ambitions, and how you relate to others. The goal is to pick the kind of colleges that are best for you and then chart a course and a plan to land where your chances of success are greatest. SAP’s counselors are in touch with all kinds of colleges. They can provide expert help in the vital college selection process.

5. Make the Most of High School

Let’s face it. What you do during high school years determines where you’ll be able to go to college – and how much scholarship money you’ll earn. What should you be doing in your freshman, sophomore and junior years to maximize your chances for college? SAP’s experts know the answers. First, download SAP’s College Planning Timeline from the web. It tells you what you should be doing in each year of high school. Next, contact SAP at the beginning of the sophomore year for the best planning advice. Get to know a counselor who can guide you.

6. Meet Cool People – Like You!

The SAP network is a fun group who all have CNO in common. Members include students and parents from all over the nation. Meet SAP’s peer advisors – college students at Oklahoma universities.

7. Build Your Native American Asset

Being Native American is a big asset for college-bound students. Nationwide, colleges and universities are seeking Native American candidates and are rapidly adding Native American programs and opportunities. Joining SAP will teach you how to build and leverage your CNO assets. SAP will help guide you to Native American activities that will add to your resumé. See the Summer Programs tab on SAP’s Web site for a long list of 2009 Native American summer activities.

YAB seniors go to New York City



The 2009 graduating seniors of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board visited New York City this summer. These youth completed several community projects promoting healthier communities, building leadership skills and being positive mentors/role models in their communities. They also were required to attend city, school board and Tribal Council meetings.

The CNYAB took in all that New York City had to offer! While there the YAB had the opportunity to see two Broadway shows, “The Lion King” and “Wicked.” There was a ferry ride to visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Subway and a lot of walking were the main modes of transportation as they visited many of New York City’s attractions. There was shopping on Fifth Avenue as well as Little Italy and China Town. The Museum of Natural History, Empire State Building, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NBC Studios and so much more! Among the many eateries, the YAB had dinner at Mars 2112 in Times Square and the Hard Rock Café. The CNYAB also took in a Yankees game as they played against the Texas Rangers. The day the YAB were to return to Oklahoma, they made a visit to the shooting of NBC’s Today Show where they made their appearance in the crowd.

The CNYAB seniors that went on the trip were J.D. Chancellor, Brittany Sober, Brittnie Cannon, Cheyenne Bushman, Sara Janway, Madison Small, Lindsey Smith, Starla Horton, Ashley Loyd, Casey Coleman, Sam Walker, Jill White, Joshua Francis, Danielle Adams, Chelsea Wells, Alexis Collins, Kirby Coffey, Jennifer Fugate, Katie Maxey, Rebecca Timmons, Kamron Tipton, Kerwin Moore, Presley Grammar, KC Woods, Bryce Dillard, Erin Dewalt, Debra Tate and Jake Burch. Sponsors were the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Staff: Joyce Wells, Martina Hawkins, Melissa Cress, Kristi Adams, Shonnie Hall and Clint Cannon.

The CNHL Staff is proud of all their YAB’sters, but would like to make special mention of three original YAB members. Chelsea Wells, Danielle Adams and Alexis Collins are Hugo High School 2009 graduates. These young ladies have been in the YAB from the very beginning and dedicated many hours to their communities and to Choctaw Nation. This trip was not only a big thank you to the YAB but a sad farewell as they move on. They will all be missed by the staff and their fellow CNYAB members.



CNO scholar Dalton Valeria describes college tour experience

In the college preparation timeline compiled by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP), no time period is busier than the summer after the junior year. “The first item on the Scholarship Advisement Program’s long ‘to do’ list for the junior summer is to investigate colleges, preferably by touring top choice campuses,” says CNO Chief, Gregory E. Pyle.

But for high achieving CNO students like Dalton Valerio of Cibola High School (Albuquerque, NM) the summer between junior and senior year is packed with so much activity – Dalton is working two jobs – that a helping hand is often required. That’s especially true when it comes to the important task of seeing first-hand the places he might attend college. In Dalton Valerio’s case the help he needed came from two sources.

As is usually the case, first to the rescue was a motivated



Dalton Valerio will be a senior next fall at Cibola High School in Albuquerque, NM. His activities and grades qualify him for admission to top colleges. Working two jobs this summer, he reached out to his Mom, Pam Kileen - and the Scholarship Advisement Program - for help to make the most of college campus tours. Stanford is high on his list.

parent – in this instance Dalton’s Mom, Pam Kileen. Next was aid and counsel Pam found from Stephanie Hodge in CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program. Helping students – and parents – through this busiest of seasons is one of the main goals of SAP according to Chief Pyle.

When he returns for his senior year at Cibola High School, Dalton Valerio will be student body president, captain of the swim team, marching

band percussionist/choreographer, active in Operation Smile (a non-profit organization that gives aid to children with facial deformities), and lead male role in EXPO!, a student directed show that portrays a story through dance.

Dalton’s ambition is medical school, perhaps specializing in anesthesiology. He is an exceptional student with a chance to win admission and scholarship to one of the nation’s top schools. So how do

you pick the one that’s best – Stanford vs. Cal Berkeley? Or Dartmouth vs. Harvard? The answer, of course, is you go there – to look, see and feel.

When he put out the distress call to his Mom to help organize college visits, Dalton admits he was drowning in admission literature. With Pam’s help – and networking assistance from SAP – Dalton has now completed a West Coast visit to Stanford and Cal/Berkeley and hopes to later take advantage of Dartmouth’s Native Fly-in and a tour of top East Coast schools. But Dalton’s visits to Stanford and Berkeley weren’t the typical student guided tour and walk-around. “Because of SAP I was able to see a whole different aspect of each school,” says Dalton.

“The help we got from SAP in terms of calling ahead to campuses and setting up appointments was phenomenal,” says Pam. “They made phone calls and sent emails to both

campuses. SAP got responses and contact information back to me for both schools. They set us up with Native American groups at Stanford and professors at Berkeley. SAP made Dalton sound so good that they went out of their way to meet with us,” says Dalton’s Mom.

“SAP’s contacts at Stanford and Berkeley let me see a whole different aspect to each school,” says Dalton. While he liked both schools, the result of the West Coast trip allowed Dalton to develop a preference – Stanford – that would not have been possible without taking the trip, or without the help of SAP.

“Stanford was still in session during my visit, so there were students all around. I was impressed with the diversity,” says Dalton. “We heard about five different languages during lunch - and the campus was beautiful. SAP’s contact with Greg Graves, Native American recruiter for Stanford, helped us set up a meeting with Win-

ona Simms, Director of Native American Cultural Center and I as able to learn how much support the school gives its Native American students.”

No matter how they do it, students should seriously investigate their top college choices, says SAP. If travel and in-person tours aren’t an option, students should research their preferred options on the Web and take “virtual tours” of their top choice schools. But the ideal tour is still in-person, especially for the top two or three schools, according to SAP.

“You can’t get the whole gist of a college until you visit the campus,” Dalton adds. “Even if they send you mail with pictures, it’s still not the same. You need to see the student life and the buildings.

It’s different than when you’re online. You have to see what the environment you’re going to live in is like because you’re going to be there for four years.”



Super Students

Jones Academy Super Students are: back row, fourth-grader Bryan Hawkins, sixth-graders Chris Lone Elk and Jonah Parker, fifth-grader William Rush.

In front are first-graders Chris Lopez and Diaz Moore.



Crowder named All-State



Wade Crowder, recent graduate of Verden High School, has been chosen by the Oklahoma Coach’s Association as an All-State player in the upcoming All-State Games. The All-State Games were played at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa. Wade was also chosen by the Daily Oklahoman as catcher on their First Team All-State Roster. Wade finished out his senior season with a batting average of .527, 10 homeruns and 55 RBI’s and hopes to play baseball at Redlands Community College in El Reno. Wade is the son of Bryan and Maria Crowder and the grandson of Esther Bacon Crowder, all of Anadarko. He was coached by Roy Edwards.



Synhorst is valedictorian

Michele Elizabeth Synhorst was the 2009 valedictorian of Ironwood Ridge High School in Oro Valley, Arizona, and has also been selected to be a National Merit Scholar. Michelle will start college this fall at Rice University in Houston. Michelle is the granddaughter of Charles McClure of Dallas, Texas, and the great-granddaughter of deceased original enrollee Ruby Marx McClure.

Cane earns bachelor’s



Lucas Cane has graduated from East Central University with high academic achievement, receiving his bachelor’s degree in history education. He was awarded Outstanding Social Studies Student Teacher in

April, he is a member of Alphi Chi Honor Society and Phi Alpha Theta. He has completed his first semester of graduate school and plans to pursue his doctorate at the University of Oklahoma. Lucas is married to Lindsey Abney Cane, they have a son, Bradley, and are expecting another son in October. Lucas is the son of Morris and Patricia Willoughby Cane. He is a descendant of original enrollee John Bench.

Lucas and his family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all their past and continued support.

Bryne receives national honor



those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. Bryne is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Harris of Oklahoma City. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Harris of Lame Deer, Montana, and Nathan Thompson Jr. and Shirley of Ardmore.

Williams serves his country



LCPL Mitchell Williams left for San Diego, California, for basic training in the U.S. Marine Corps in March 2008. He graduated from basic training that following June and was assigned to the Marine Corps Base in Twenty Nine Palms, California, in October 2008 for training with a special dog unit. In February 2009, LCPL Mitchell Williams was deployed to Iraq.

McAlester Boys and Girls Club tours Jones Academy

A good time was had by all! On Wednesday, June 10, children from the Boys’ and Girls’ Club in McAlester arrived at approximately 9 a.m. for a tour of the Jones Academy Elementary School and the agriculture program. After a short tour of the campus, the students enjoyed themselves on the playground equipment. Then it was on to the hog barn! At the hog barn, the group suited up and climbed into the pens with the pigs. The director of the agriculture program, Brandon Spears, talked to the students about the swine program. He spoke about how to groom pigs and what kind of special diet the hogs are on. Some students enjoyed playing with the piglets while some brushed the older sows. The children were then served refreshments and pictures were taken.



Jones Academy students enjoy Field Day

The elementary school students at Jones Academy enjoyed Field Day activities on May 20. It was a day of fun and exercise on the campus grounds for grades 1-6. Activities included a horse shoe toss contest, football and softball throws, jump rope, a 100-yard dash run, turtle races and a tug-of-war finale.



James at FBLA nationals



Brittney James represented the state of Missouri and Waynesville High School as the 2009-2010 Missouri FBLA Treasurer in Anaheim, California. Brittney was the first Waynesville High School student to be elected to represent their school. Brittney will be learning what it is like in the real business world. She will be conducting meetings with the other state officers in the state of Missouri. She attended with FBLA advisor, Mrs. Jodie Luttrell during June 23-26, 2009. Brittney is a native Oklahoma Choctaw from Watson, and her parents are Dan and Kim James of Waynesville, Missouri.

Provins is Stanford-bound



Congratulations to Kaitlyn “Tessa” Provins Smith, who graduated on June 4, 2009, as class valedictorian, and Female Cougar of the Year at Golden Valley High School in Merced, California. In addition to a 4.42 gpa, Varsity Girls Water Polo MVP and All-League female goalie 2007 and 2008, she was awarded the 2009 Dale Lacky Scholar Athlete Award. She is honored and anxious to begin her freshman year at Stanford University in fall 2009 and to become a proud member of Stanford’s Native American Community. Tessa is the daughter of Vincent Phillip Smith and Judith Provins Smith, granddaughter of Clyde C. and Phyllis Smith, and the great-granddaughter of Della Mae Thomas. Please join us in wishing her the best and keep her in your prayers as she begins her journey.

Thompson graduates from ECU

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education would like to recognize and congratulate Tiffany Jane Thompson on her graduation from East Central University with a biology minor in chemistry.

Come join us! Enroll now at Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2009-10 school year. We have openings in grades 1-12. **Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms.** Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future!

Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

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

Please call for a tour or an application at toll-free (888) 767-2518 or access or write to:

**Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshorne, OK
74547**



Chief Greg Pyle, State Rep. R.C. Pruett, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb, Councilman Jack Austin and Assistant Chief Gary Batton attend a June 30 luncheon in Antlers.

Congressman Dan Boren special guest at Antlers luncheon

Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Jack Austin welcomed U.S. Congressman Dan Boren to a luncheon June 30 at the Choctaw Community Center in Antlers.

At left, Chief Pyle and Councilman Austin present Congressman Boren with a Pendleton blanket.



Councilman Jack Austin sits for a moment with W.W. and Rosalyn Thomas before lunch at the Community Center in Antlers.



Chief Pyle, Councilman Austin and Assistant Chief Batton have their picture taken with sisters Loren and Karen Crosby. Loren is the District 7 Little Miss.



Councilman Austin and Assistant Chief Batton with sisters Jamie, Britney, Sarah and Shalena Baker.



Congressman Boren, Delia and Wiliston Wesley, Chief Pyle and Pushmataha County Sheriff Jimmy Duncan.



Five-year-old twins Jaylie and Quinton Williams, Lisa Williams, Jaimie Williams, Brent Jano and Jessica Holt.



Curtis Rose and Jenny Beth Caraway.

Youth take three-day trip to Oklahoma City

During the month of June, the 8th-11th grades of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board took a three-day trip to Oklahoma City. There were 87 youth that went and the communities represented were Antlers, Atoka, Battiest, Bethel, Boswell, Broken Bow, Clayton, Durant, Heavener, Hodgen, Howe, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Soper and Stigler.

The trip was educational as well as fun! The first day they had a tour of the State Capitol and visited the Oklahoma History Center. Day two was full of fun at Frontier City, White Water Bay and ended with an Oklahoma Redhawks game. Day three was a visit to the National Memorial and Museum.

Sponsors attending were Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles staff members Joyce Wells, Martina Hawkins, Melissa Cress, Kristi Adams, Shonnie Hall, Gena Hutchings and Clint Cannon; Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach staff Keosha Ludlow and Joey Tom, and Oklahoma State Department of Health representative Gina Barnett. Bus Drivers were Brandi Lovell of Howe and Ruby Nored of Hugo.



The CNYAB work hard all year and this trip is just a way to say thank you for all their efforts.

During the year the YAB accumulate points as they do different projects and volunteer in their communities. To qualify for the trip they have to reach a certain number of points as well as attend city,

school board and Tribal Council meetings.

The CNYAB is open to all youth 8th-12th grade that live within the 10 ½ counties. If you are interested, please call Joyce Wells at 580-317-9335.



Storytelling Festival

The Annual Choctaw Storytelling Festival was held June 20 at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel.

Several area Choctaws shared their memories with storytellers Tim Tingle and Greg Rogers who documented the stories. Many others came just to listen to the fun and fascinating narratives.



Cordia graduates with honors

Andrew Carr Cordia of Alexandria, Virginia, graduated cum laude with the Class of 2009 from St. Stephens and St. Agnes High School. He plans to attend Yale University this fall.

Andrew has received numerous honors and awards including the Saints Award 2008 which is given to the athlete who demonstrates character on and off the field. He was chosen by the student body and faculty to serve as a peer leader, mentoring freshmen and new students. In 2008 and 2009, Andrew served as varsity lacrosse captain and was member of the All-District, All-State and All-IAC Lacrosse Teams. He was also chosen for the Adidas National High School Lacrosse All Star Team in 2008. He earned the bronze medal at the 2008 World Lacrosse Championships: Iroquois Nationals. This year, Andrew is listed on the Tewaaraton High School Boys watchlist, Alexandria Sportsman Athlete of the Year for Lacrosse, U.S. Lacrosse National Senior Showcase Team and was awarded the St. Stephens and St. Agnes School Sportsmanship Award.



Choctaw Nation Food Distribution

Open 9:00 to 3:00
Monday through Friday
(We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12:00)

Warehouses & Market

Antlers Warehouse 306 S.W. "O" St. (580) 298-6443	Durant Warehouse 100 1/2 Waldron Dr. (580) 924-7773
McAlester Warehouse 1212 S. Main St. (918) 420-5716	Poteau Market 100 Kerr Ave. (918) 649-0431

Food Distribution Sites

<u>Bethel</u> Choctaw Community Building	<u>Broken Bow</u> Chocataw Family Investment Center
<u>Idabel</u> Choctaw Community Center	<u>Smithville</u> Choctaw Community Building
<u>Stigler</u> Choctaw Community Building	

ANTLERS

- Market open weekdays September 1-25, except for:
- September 2: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
 - September 9: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
 - Closed September 7 for holiday.
 - Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
 - Food Demo – September 17

McALESTER

- Market open weekdays September 2-25, except for:
- September 1: Stigler 9-12 a.m. (market closed).
 - Closed September 7 for holiday.
 - Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
 - Food Demo – September 15

POTEAU

- Market open weekdays September 1-25, except for:
- Closed September 7 for holiday.
 - Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
 - Food Demo – September 8.

DURANT

- Warehouse open weekdays September 1-25, except for:
- Closed September 7 for holiday.
 - Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
 - Food Demo – September 10

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Choctaw Nation honors our American Veterans



Councilman Hap Ward standing proudly with his Idabel veterans – from left are Jimmie Paxton, Nathan Holt, Simon Amos, William Jessie, Bill Lambert, Charles R. Harley, Sammie McGowan, Councilman Ward, Eual Kelly, John Epperson, Walker Davis, Moses Jones, Truman Jefferson, Bennie Frazier, Jack Touchstone, Harvey Allen, James Haddock, William Tonihka, William Amos and Color Guard Herbert Jessie.



Wright City veterans are Robert Thompson, Robert Snow, Luther Battiest, Benny Ray Austin, Albert Tom Jr., Cyrus Battiest Jr., Johnny Wilson, Cecil Tom, Daniel Herndon, Isaac Jocab, Alvin Donadson, Councilman Jack Austin, District #7 Little Miss Princess Loren Crosby and Melton Baker.



Stigler veterans pictured with Councilwoman Charlotte Jackson and Color Guard Herbert Jesse are Pat Rose, Bill Clemmings, Mike Scantlen, Don Busse, Larry Franklin, Joe Wilson, Wendel Dennis, Darry Colwell, Dixon Lewis Jr., Ken Harmon and Bobby Ludlow.



Broken Bow veterans: seated are Ruby Choate, Mary Williams, Louis Williams and Austin Battiest. Standing are Councilman Mike Amos, Lyman Choate, Color Guard Melvin Tom, Joseph James, Robert Frazier, Willis McKinney, Jonah Ward and Teddy Ward.



Crowder Choctaw Veterans pictured from left to right Troy Smith, Charles Allen, Walter Phelps, Lloyd Morris (seated), Martin Killingsworth, Eddie Barker, James Charles and Virgil Lewis.



Smithville veterans – front row from left to right are Bobby Ludlow, Richard Wilson, Eugene Ludlow, George Watson, Z.B. Anderson, Odell Nichols, Lowell Nichols, Councilman Kenny Bryant and Color Guard Herbert Jessie. Back row: Billy James, Tommy Blake, Nathan Watson, Con Cusher, Wanda Leet, Meg Scott, Kenneth Smith, Greg Hudson and Stanley Hudson.

Coalgate veterans pictured at right – front row: Color Guard Terry Cole, Ward Morrison, Tommy Morgan, Nellie Hunter, Evelyn Guffey, James Harris, Thomas Cosper, Noah Burris, Jack Matthews and Color Guard Herbert Jesse. Standing are Arvard McLellan, Bobby Willard, Roger McAnally, Marvin Hampton, Jerry Nanney, Arvard J. Ward and Richard Kindig.



Talihina veterans – front row: Marie Waggoner, Richard Neal, Henryetta Imbese, Walter Dye, Sharon Anderson, John Anderson, Virgil Marston, Sam Johnson and Carl McIntosh. The second row is Jearl Watson, Jimmy Miller, Virgil Sam, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Joseph O’Neal, Harry James, Bob Emmert, Franch Johnico, Ron Hammer and Vernon Himes. The third row is Jewett Potts, Darryl England, L.D. Holt, Marion McCurtain, Don Lanning, Don Woolverton, C.J. Perera, Joe Jones, Eugene Felker, Dave Sparks, Oddis Farris, Wilburn Bacon, Mark Emmert, Gary Crank, Monty Olsen

and Perry Durant. The last two rows combined are Everett Wood, Sherman Ward, Jack Parks, Dallas Seeley, Richard Hollenbeck, John Emmert, Cecil Brown and Edward Carter.



Choctaw Nation honors our American Veterans



McAlester veterans – Front row are Joe William, Tom Anderson, Lloyd Morris, Eugen Willis, Sonny Billy, Alvie Carney, Harlow Cunningham, Buck Durant and Norman Frye. Second row: Joe Clagg, Neatha Quinn, Dewitt Farrell, Philip Morris, Mr. Green, Maxwell Quinn, Frank Cuza-

lina Jr., Eugene Arpelar, Eugene Sweet and Lake Wilson. Third row: Joe Clag, Col. Montgomery, Emanuel Sexton, Joe Mullins, William King, Walter Amos, Cleveland Sweet, Larry James, Windal Muise, Larry Linney and District #1 Councilman Bob Pate.



Poteau veterans – In front row are Eric Willis, Robert Taylor, Color Guard Shirley Mantaghi, Floyd Simmons, Joe Folsom and District #4 Princess Andrea Ford. Second row: Bill Harden, Jack Owen, Mike Logan, Calvin Billy, Herman Billy and Councilman Delton Cox. Shirley Mantaghi is holding a picture of Edmond Billy who wanted to attend1 but was unable.



Durant veterans – Seated are Troy Keithley, Ernest Hooser, Willie Walley, Paul Price, Jeremiah LeFlore and Rex Mitchell. Standing are Color Guard Terry Cole, Eudis St. John, Robert Green, Truman Heron, Alan Perry and Jarvis Johnson.



Wilburton veterans – Standing are Councilman Joe Coley, Marvin Noley, Wayne Scott, Ronnie Woodruff, Cecil Watson, Marge Rizer, Peter and Bob White. Seated are Sequoyah Roberts, Marvin Ginn, John Hart, Alfred Harley, Ray White and Jimmy Labor.



Antlers veterans – Seated are Leo Smallwood, Bennie Gibson, “Hoot” Robinson, Roger Lessenger, Joseph Martin, M.T. Greenwood. Standing are Color Guard Terry Loman, Victor Eyachabbe, Bertram Bobb, Roy E. Jackson, Andrew Choate, W.W. Thomas, Wallan McKnight, Councilman Jack Austin Sr., Harlan Peters and Virgil Slivey.



Spiro veterans – In front are Jimmy Fry, Joe Randall, Milton Stephens, Gail Chadwick, and Bill Coleman Jr. Middle row: Bill Coleman Sr., Edna Perry and Carson Harris. Third row: Councilwoman Charlotte Jackson, Harold Perry, Malcolm Stephens and Councilman Delton Cox.



Atoka veterans – Veterans Advocacy John Lance, Carl McBrayer, Weldon Norman, Roosevelt Butler, Carl Tucker, Forrest Calvert, Ted LeFlore, Rayson Nicholas and Councilman Anthony Dillard.



Hugo veterans are Councilman Perry Thompson, R.W. Nored, Dutch Crews, Bob Williams, Lyndell Finch, Henry Rodriguez, Charles Pence, Floyd Roebuck, Cecil Bell, Robert Garrett, Ray Abbott, David Hunter, Mike Rorie, Larry Davenport, William Middleton,

John Harlin, Nashoba Ilabano, Color Guard Alto Battiest, George Robinson, Arnold Crain, William Barnett, R.D. Payne, Ike Simpson and Charles Battiest.

Thursday, September 4

Entertainer: Samantha Crain an hour before the pageant starts
7:00 PM Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant, Amphitheater

Friday, September 4

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum Open
Noon - 7:00 PM Photo ID booth open
10:00 AM Arts & Crafts exhibits open
Noon - 8:00 PM Health Expo, next to Council Chambers
Noon - 5:00 PM Quilt entries @ Information Center
2:00 PM Gourd Dancing on Capitol lawn
4:00 PM Art Show Winners Announced
5:00 PM Registration for Chief Pyle Physical Fitness Challenge, Council Chambers Lawn
6:00 PM Youth age 8-18 Chief Pyle Physical Fitness Challenge Council Chambers Lawn
6:00 PM Concerts @ Amphitheater
7:00 PM Inter-Tribal Pow Wow Grand Entry on Capitol lawn
7:00 PM Fast Pitch Tournament at Red Warrior Park


Saturday, September 5

6:30 - 7:45 AM 5k Registration at Hwy. 271
8:00 AM 5k Race begins at Hwy. 271
8:00 AM Fast Pitch Tournament continues
8:00 AM 3 on 3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball Registration
8:00 AM Horseshoe Tournament Registration
8 AM - 8PM Health Expo
8:30 AM - 5:30 PM Youth Advisory Board offers crafts and puppet shows for youth @ playground
9:00 AM Playground Supervised
9:00 AM Horseshoe Tournament
9:00 AM Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament
9:00 AM Quilt Show @ Information Center
9:00 AM 3 on 3 Basketball at Basketball Courts
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum Open
10:00 AM 6th Annual Choctaw Art Show, 2nd floor of Museum
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM Photo ID Booth Open
2:00 PM Terrapin Races, Playground
2:00-4:00 PM Buffalo Tours, load bus @ museum
5:00 PM Children's Drama, Choctaw Village Amphitheater (bring lawn chairs)
4:00 PM Free-Throw Contest @ Basketball Courts
5:00 PM 3-Point Contest @ Basketball Courts
5:00 PM Tough, Tough Choctaw Registration, Council Chambers
6:00 PM Tough, Tough Contest, Council Chambers lawn
6:00 PM Concerts @ Amphitheater

Sunday, September 6

8:00 AM Fast Pitch Tournament continues
8:00 AM Chief Pyle Golf Classic @ Wilburton Golf Course
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM Youth Advisory Board offers crafts and puppet shows for youth @ playground
10:00 AM Worship Services, tent behind amphitheater

Join us for the Grand Opening of the new Cafeteria 2 p.m. Thursday, September 3



Monday, September 7

9:00 AM-1:00 PM Photo ID Booth Open
9:00 AM-1:00 PM Choctaw Nation Museum Open
10:00 AM Labor Day Official Ceremonies, Amphitheater
Posting of Flags - Choctaw Color Guard
The Lord's Prayer in Sign Language
Storyteller Tim Tingle
Introduction of Tribal Council and Judges
State of the Nation Address by Chief Gregory E. Pyle
Door Prize Drawings
Free Meal for Everyone, Cafeteria
11:30 AM Pick up Quilts from Quilt Show

Events throughout the Festival

Carnival Rides Free, courtesy of Chief and Tribal Council
Specialty Acts, including Magician Russell Turner, Robinson's Racing Pigs, "Great Cat Adventures Tiger Show", special appearance by Spider-Man at the Going Green booth, Superplay, Rock Climbing, Mechanical Bull, Pony Rides and Inca Flute Players.

Choctaw Village Schedule

Saturday, September 5, 2009	Sunday, September 6, 2009
10:00 AM Choctaw Dancing	1:00 PM Flint Napping
10:30 AM Stickball Skills	1:15 Silver smithing
11:00 AM Banaha Making	1:30 Primitive Weapons
11:30 AM Storytelling	1:45 Storytelling
Children's Activities	Children's Activities
1:00 PM Stickball	2:15 PM Corn Game
1:30 PM Language	2:40 PM Pottery
1:45 PM Arts & Crafts	
2:15 PM Choctaw Dancing	

Concerts are **FREE** of charge. No alcohol or drugs allowed on Choctaw sacred Grounds
Register at the Information Booth for door prizes to be given away on Monday, September 7, 2009 immediately following the State of the Nation Address. Must be present, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and 18 or over to be eligible to win.

T-SHIRTS AND SOUVENIRS ORDER FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____


✓ Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
<input type="checkbox"/> A - Waterproof drawstring backpack with Seal - can be worn as a backpack or carried - \$10.00	N/A	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Labor Day Shirt - Red - \$15.00	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> C - Labor Day Shirt - White - \$15.00	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> D - Labor Day Cap - Red - \$12.00	N/A	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> E - Labor Day Cap - White - \$12.00	N/A	_____	_____

T-shirt sizes available are:
Children - (2-4), (6-8), (10-12), and (14-16)
Adult - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large

(Price includes postage and handling)

Order Total

To order, send payment (**No Personal Checks**) with completed form to:
Labor Day T-Shirts
PO Box 1210
Durant OK 74702



District Princesses vie for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma crowns

The annual Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Princess Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 3, in the amphitheater on the grounds at Tushka Homma. District princesses will vie to wear the crowns of Little Miss Choctaw Nation, Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation and Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Not pictured are Stormy Pitcock, District 6 Little Miss, Rachel Renee Hogan, District 5 Jr. Miss, and Jennifer Daney, District 10 Sr. Miss. Entertainment by Samantha Crain begins at 6 p.m.



Mona Shawntale Jones
District 1 Little Miss



Marni Billy
District 2 Little Miss



Jasmine Schoon
District 3 Little Miss



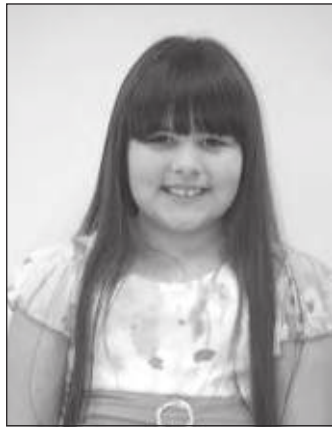
Adrianna Curnutt
District 4 Little Miss



Juanita Rose Gonzalez
District 5 Little Miss



Loren Crosby
District 7 Little Miss



Summer Jade Moffitt
District 8 Little Miss



Josephine Gilmore
District 9 Little Miss



Britney Pittman
District 10 Little Miss



Cheyhoma Lyn Dugger
District 11 Little Miss



Neiatha Cameron Hardy
District 12 Little Miss



Heather Denise Fox
District 1 Jr. Miss



Stephanie Tehauno
District 2 Jr. Miss



Joyce Cummings
District 3 Jr. Miss



Kacie Raines
District 4 Jr. Miss



Jayde Frazier
District 6 Jr. Miss



Rebeckah Boykin
District 8 Jr. Miss



Malinda Steve
District 9 Jr. Miss



Morgan Moore
District 10 Jr. Miss



Tasha Meashintubby
District 11 Jr. Miss



Mekyla Tay Jacobs
District 12 Jr. Miss



Janny Nicole Townsend
District 1 Sr. Miss



Cayla Compton
District 2 Sr. Miss



Andrea Ford
District 4 Sr. Miss



Kristie McGuire
District 5 Sr. Miss



Autumn Cooper
District 9 Sr. Miss



Ashton Rachelle DiNardo
District 11 Sr. Miss



Sara LeAndra Morgan
District 12 Sr. Miss

New rates for parking at festival

There has been an increase in the parking rates during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival. Weekend parking passes are now \$15. A daily parking pass is now \$2.

choctawstore.com

FEATURE PRODUCT OF THE MONTH!



Sew-On Patch
featuring the
Official Choctaw Seal

\$3.00 each

Choctaws...growing with pride, hope, and success!

Labor Day Festival



Choctaw Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the employees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma would like to seek your assistance in helping furnish food pantries in Southeastern Oklahoma.

Canned food donations will be accepted September 3-7 on the Capitol Grounds during the Labor Day Festival at Tuskahoma. Drop boxes will be placed at the entrance of each parking area.

Thank you for helping feed our hungry neighbors in the Choctaw Nation! We hope you enjoy this year's Labor Day Festival!

Sponsored by the Employee Teambuilding Committee

Goodwater’s Jeffie Gibson shares memories

The Choctaw Nation is a matriarchal society, one who for centuries has looked to the strength of its mother, grandmothers and great-grandmothers.

A perfect example of generations having the guidance of a family matriarch is represented by Jeffie Gibson of Goodwater, who turns 83 years old this month.

Jeffie, though not the oldest in the family, has lovingly taken care of her own mother for years. “Granny” Ida Wesley Taylor recently celebrated her 100th birthday and many say it is thanks to her daughter who still makes many remedies that were taught to her by her grandmother and father.

“My grandma, Eliza Taylor, was an Indian doctor,” she said. “I used to go with her to the woods when I was little. I loved to play in the woods but I was young and didn’t pay attention to what she was gathering.

“My Daddy used a few things he learned from her,” Jeffie remembers. “He used to get the top of this bush, a little bush that grows about three foot high, and boil it for fever. He gave it to us when we were little.

“Grandma would make a medicine that was good for just about anything – burns, sores or cramps. She used to sell it.

“To make it, she would find a bunch of roots that grow nearly on top of the ground, scrape the top off and get to the soft place. Boil some of it in about a gallon of water. I think the plant was called shoestring.

“I still make medicine for the eyes from sassafras. You split the sassafras limbs to get to the white thing in the middle. Scrape it out and put it in water and let it sit for a day. It will gel.

“Now we have eye droppers, but we used to skin a chicken feather down to the quill and use it to put the medicine in our eyes.”

Jeffie was a single parent of eight for many years – four boys and four girls. She raised her children in Goodwater with Granny Ida at her side. She has always been involved with not only her family, but in the church and the community. Jeffie also worked in the



Jeffie Gibson, seated in center, is surrounded by many members of her family.

Antlers Nursing Home for 20 years. Today, an early morning visit can find Jeffie busily working in her garden, cooking, looking after her mother and a couple of her great-grandchildren. She is indeed 83 years young. Happy birthday, Jeffie!

Generations gather for Ida’s 100th birthday



Another sixth-generation is represented by Aiden Dale Davidson who is sitting on his great-great-grandpa Wilson Taylor Sr.’s lap at Granny Ida’s side.

Several sixth-generation youngsters gathered on July 4 with their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents to celebrate “Granny” Ida Wesley Taylor’s 100th birthday. Miss Ida was born July 5, 1909, in Rufe, Oklahoma. Pictured are Cologista Kelly holding granddaughter Sherry Taylor, Courtney Hopper with daughter Kheighana, Angela James and granddaughter Chloe James, Jeffie Gibson, Ida Wesley Taylor, Laura Tom with great-granddaughter Addison Thomas, Chris Thomas, Canyon James and Chay James.

Trail of Tears from Mississippi walked by our ancestors

◆ ◆ ◆ Choctaw history ...

By Len Greenwood
Reprinted from March 1995 Bishinik

After the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, George Gaines was named by Secretary of War Lewis Coss as general supervisor for the removal of the Choctaws from Mississippi to what is now southern Oklahoma. Gaines determined that the best method of handling the removal was to move about one-third of the Choctaws per year in each of the years 1831, 1832, 1833. Gaines set removal of the first one-third of the Choctaws to begin on November 1, 1831.

The Choctaws moving from Ahi Apet Okla and northern Okla Falaya were to be gathered in Memphis, Tennessee, and those from Okla Hannali and southern Okla Falaya were to be gathered at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Across the river from Memphis and Vicksburg, Captain Jacob Brown, the re-

moval agent west of the Mississippi, had been ordered to secure wagons, oxen, horses and supplies to take the Choctaws west.

Secretary Coss had named Geroage Gibson as removal agent east of the great river and Gibson had acted as the “peace-maker” standing between general agent George Gaines and Francis Armstrong, who were long-standing enemies. Gibson convinced Gaines to serve only in a general supervisory capacity while Gibson would supervise the gathering of the Choctaws at Memphis and Armstrong would be in charge of getting the southern Choctaws to Vicksburg.

The Choctaws were allowed the first two weeks of October 10 to gather their crops, assemble their personal property and sell their houses and chattels, so that they could be at the two ferry points on November 1, 1831. Because of the urging of the State of Mississippi,

the Choctaws were ordered to leave all of their livestock in Mississippi and promised that they would be furnished new livestock when they reached the “Choctaw Nation in the West.”

In the meantime, the newly created Bureau of Indian Affairs, not to be left out of the act, came up with a new wrinkle. The BIA said it would offer special incentives to any Choctaw willing to walk to the new land. Each Indian who decided to walk would be paid \$10 in gold, given a new rifle and three-month supply of powder and ammunition, be fed along the way and be furnished with a qualified guide to lead them to the new land. Approximately 300 of the Choctaws decided that the BIA plan was the way to go. There was “one fly in the ointment” though. The “guide” hired by Captain Brown, whose name is lost to history, was not the expert on the west he represented himself to be to Captain Brown.

Beginning in mid-October, Gibson and Armstrong began sending Army wagons through the three Mississippi districts, gathering up the Indian families who would travel west in the first year of the migration. Thus, during the final week of October, encampments of Choctaws began to spring up all around the outskirts of Memphis and Vicksburg, with

the population of these encampments growing daily.

And, along with the Choctaws came something else. RAIN! These heavy rains came and stayed, flooding the Mississippi, St. Francis, White, Arkansas and Big Fork (Ouachita) rivers, turning the river valleys into quagmires.

A quick conference between George Gaines and his principal removal agents revealed that the floods would make the roads impassable so that there was no way the Choctaws could be taken west from the Mississippi by wagon as originally planned. This left only one alternative-to make the removal by steamboat. With the government having already cancelled its order for such boats, the Choctaws had to wait while new boats were rounded up. Finally, Gaines and his crew were able to round up five steam boats, the Walter Scott, the Brandywine, the Reindeer, the Talma and the Cleopatra, the latter three being smaller steamers with less passenger capacity. And, while the boats gathered, the Choctaws had to wait outside Memphis and Vicksburg. They soon ate up all of the available rations, as Gaines had anticipated a Nov. 1 start and had not furnished any additional food for contingencies.

To be continued in the September BISHINIK

Iti Fabussa

Question: Dear Iti Fabussa, what was everyday life like for our Choctaw ancestors?

Dear reader: This is a broad and complex question. Answering it is almost as difficult as answering “What is life like in Oklahoma today?” This is because our Choctaw ancestors filled many roles and stations in life, lived in different districts and villages around the homeland, belonged to one of two different iksa (moieties), and even spoke different dialects of the Choctaw language. Life had its own uniqueness for each individual person, and the way that people lived changed through time, just as it does today. The following discussion can only be general.

A depiction of traditional Choctaw life should begin with women. Women held a very respected place within Choctaw society. They were recognized as the foundation of the community, both because they were able to give birth, and because they were the major food-producers. Choctaw women spent a good deal of their time in and around their home settlement. They conducted most of the life-essential activities done around the house such as cooking and child-rearing, but also produced amazing works of art in the forms of pottery (c.f. Knight 1996), river cane basketry (c.f. Gettys 2006), and fine mulberry bark textiles (c.f. Anonymous 1755). Women did most of the work in house-construction, and it was women, not men, who were considered to be the homeowners. Some Choctaw women served as doctors, and a few women were so esteemed by their communities that they received the title “Ohoyo Holitopa” or “Beloved Woman” (Pesantubbee 2005).

The traditional roles of Choctaw men complimented those of the women. Most Choctaw men had three principle duties: protecting the community, hunting, and playing stickball. During the 1700s, and probably before, the Choctaws were recognized for their preference to fight defensively rather than attacking enemy villages (e.g. Du Pratz 2001:326-327 [1758]). Fighting at home for the lives of their women and children, Choctaw warriors had to be extremely skillful, and they were (Romans 1999:130 [1775]). Choctaw men trained hard to be effective warriors, simultaneously honing many of the skills that were needed for hunting and stickball. Men did some of the heavier work around the village, like setting the posts during house-construction. Some men also served as doctors, historians, and chiefs.

Choctaw children helped their parents with some of the activities mentioned above and played games that prepared them to take on the roles of women and men when they matured.

To better understand what life was like for our Choctaw ancestors from our 21st century perspective, it is important to realize that the traditional lifeways followed by our forebears brought them into more direct contact with their natural surroundings than does the lifestyle of most Americans today. Many of the activities conducted by Choctaw men, women, and children followed the seasons of the year, and many of the Choctaw months were named after these activities or after seasonal, natural events. The passages that follow present some general information about the seasonal activities conducted by Choctaw people in the 1600s, 200 years before the Trail of Tears.

The Choctaw new year began with either the spring or fall equinox (Swanton 2001:45). It was roughly at the spring equinox that the agricultural fields were planted. Choctaw men, women and children worked together to sew the seeds of native corn, beans, sunflowers, and gourds. During the warm months, women and girls tended the fields, chasing off would-be predators like crows, and gathering wild edibles like lamb’s quarter that came up as “weeds” in the agricultural fields. Men and boys hunted small game with rabbit sticks and blowguns, providing essential protein to the diet.

The most important spiritual event and biggest celebration of the year came at the end of summer when the green corn became ripe. During this time, community members prayed and fasted, focusing on forgiveness and new beginnings.

During the fall, the men hunted large game, especially deer and bear. Women processed the meat and other tissues, while men sometimes tanned the hides. Archaeological evidence suggests that late fall was another time of major celebration (Blitz 1993:125).

In the winter, women cooked food that had been stored during earlier months and collected ripe persimmons. Men worked on shell jewelry, tools, major projects like boats and sometimes defensive fortifications.

In the spring the cycle began again, with preparing the fields for planting.

Anonymous
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Please mail your questions to Iti Fabussa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.com with “Iti Fabussa” in the subject line.

Editor’s Note: Due to the volume of the response to this column our writers will prioritize the questions according to topics and space availability. We will publish as many as possible in future issues of the newspaper.

English	Choctaw	pronunciation
dead	illi	il-leh
friend	jkana	inh-kahn-nah
mother	ishki	ish-kih
father	iki	enh-ke
baby	vllosi	ahl-lonh-se
beautiful	aiukli	ah-yuk-leh

Choctaws gather in Kansas



Historic Haskell University in Lawrence

Chief Gregory E. Pyle welcomed families to a meeting at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, on July 16. Pictured at left are Chief Pyle, Robert, Barbara, Cindy and Elena Hardy with Assistant Chief Batton. During the meeting, Michael Bertels helped Chief Pyle with door prizes pictured at right.



The Rev. Julianne Judd with the Chief and Assistant Chief.



Fun before the meeting begins - Elena Hardy.



Russell Sossoman, the Executive Director of Choctaw Housing, visits with Ruben Noah of Kansas.



Ruth McCauley, Chief Pyle and Ruth Lynn Hooper.



Gary Kelly and Caryn Biar attended the Lawrence meeting.



Rick Greeno and Chief Pyle.



Wichita area tribal members meet with Chief, staff

Lauryne Dunsworth, left, received a softball glove and ball for helping draw tickets for the door prizes. In photo at right, Internet language teacher Lillie Roberts talks with Patricia Bond and Nancy Koob.



Rachel Perkins and Joshua Petrik and Shawna Barr and baby Alyssa Barr.



Chief Pyle wishes Alex Moon happy birthday. Alex turned 16 on the day of the Wichita meeting.



Assistant Chief Batton is pictured here with his brother, Fred, and neice, Ashley, who live in the Wichita area.



Susan and Mike Seal are pictured here with Chief Pyle. They own Choctaw Buffing Company Inc.



Happy 49th anniversary to Louise and David Hendrix, pictured here with their daughter, Nori, in the middle.



Jerry Gibson, originally from Broken Bow, came to the Wichita meeting.

OBITUARIES

Rev. Raymond Taylor

Rev. Raymond Taylor, formerly of Wilburton, passed away July 8, 2009, in Meridian, Mississippi, at the age of 69. He was born March 19, 1940, in Wilburton to the late Lizzie and McKinley Taylor.

He served nine years in the Armed Forces. He had a love for the mission field and labored for the Lord in the ministry and mission work for 35 years. He served as Director of Missions in Oklahoma for six years and served as a pastor for 11 churches in Oklahoma and two in Mississippi.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Anthony Ray Taylor, and a brother.

Raymond is survived by his wife of 38 years, Regina Denson Taylor of Walnut Grove, Mississippi; daughter, Sharon Bennett of Philadelphia, Mississippi; three grandchildren, Cassie Whittaker of Austin, Texas, Christopher Bennett and Talon Taylor, both of Ada; three great-grandchildren, Tristan Whittaker of Austin, Texas, Matthew and Dakota Whittaker, both of Wilburton; four sisters, Ethel Salvino of Canton, Ohio, Rose Gilmore of Calera, Lillie Roberts of Durant, and Ruth Tremper of San Diego, California; brother, McKinley Taylor Jr. of Wilburton, and his loving church families in Oklahoma and Mississippi.



Cecil Leon Brooksher

Cecil Leon Brooksher passed away on May 10, 2009, in California. He was born on July 31, 1916, in Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Clora Brooksher who passed away after 72 years of marriage.



James ‘Buck’ Hubbard

James “Buck” Hubbard, 82, of Granbury, Texas, passed away in Monroe, Louisana, on February 22, 2009, at the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home. He was born in DeQueen, Arkansas, on June 11, 1926, to James and Maudi Spain Hubbard.

He was a Navy Veteran of World War II and served onboard the USS Yorktown CV10 in 1944-45 in the South Pacific. He was the grandson of Choctaw tribal members Granger Spain and Lula Mae Shelton.

He was a leader in the solid waste industry for 45 years in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. He was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury. Buck was involved in local politics in Tarrant County, Texas, serving on the City Council of North Richland Hills, Texas, and served as Mayor of Colleyville, Texas, for 10 years.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Imogene Farrar Hubbard; daughter, Patricia Hubbard, and brother, J.C. Hubbard.

Survivors include his wife, Billie Sue Porter Hubbard of Granbury; children, James “Sonny” R. Hubbard III of Houston, Ronald Hubbard of Woodland Park, Colorado, Curtis Hubbard of Valley View, Texas, Sue Kulaga of Tyler, Texas, Donna Eckhardt of Monroe, Louisiana, Jan Freeman and Sheree Yarborough, both of Granbury, Rhonda Moore of Lindale, Texas; 20 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; brothers, Martin Leverts, Shirley Bounds, Lonnie Bounds and Jimmy Bounds; and sisters, Margie Dale, Betty Woodell and Carolyn Capps.

Dennis Darrell Scarberry

Dennis Darrell Scarberry, 54, of Valliant passed away on July 7, 2009, in Valliant. He was born on April 8, 1954, in Talihina to Edgar Scarberry and Cleo Lavina Jacob Scarberry.

He was a bricklayer in the housing industry and lived in the Valliant area since 1962.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his three sons, Uriah Scarberry and Paul Scarberry, both of Valliant, and Daniel Scarberry of Durant; his ex-wife, Linda Scarberry; brother, Sonny Scarberry of Enid; half-brother, Kevin Clark; two sisters, Dolly Carpenter of Old Ocean, Texas, and Sherry Brown of Oklahoma City; half-sister, Andrea Clark; four grandchildren and other family and friends.



Wilda Joann Storey Forbit

Wilda Joann Storey Forbit, 71, of Broken Bow passed away July 10, 2009, at Pleasant Hill. She was born on February 10, 1938, at Pollard to Marshall and Gladestine Storey.

Wilda was raised in the Pleasant Hill Community and graduated from Haworth High School. She spent 25 years in Owasso where she worked as a secretary for Owasso Public Schools. She felt spending time with her children was a priority. She was a great mom and never missed a moment when her children were playing ballgames or at track meets. She was always the one behind the camera.

On April 6, 2006, she married Sinaklin Forbit at Broken Bow. She was preceded in death by her father; brother, Jimmie Allen Storey, and grandparents, Lena and Andrew Fuller, Maggie Elizabeth and John William Storey.

Wilda is survived by her husband of the home; son and daughter-in-law, Dustin and Jennifer Roberson of Owasso; daughters and sons-in-law, Kim and Jim Horton of Weatherford, Texas, Connie and Spencer Davis of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Tonya and Chris Chandler of Oklahoma City; mother, Gladestine Storey of Pleasant Hill; brother and sister-in-law, Stan and Lynda Storey of Pleasant Hill; 16 grandchildren, Rachel, Rebekah, Jonathan, Andrew and Jeremy Horton; Malachi, Josiah and Jachin Davis; Kaiden and Jacob Roberson; Hannah, Micah and Baby Chandler; stepchildren, Howard Ray Forbit of Broken Bow, Charles Forbit and James Forbit, both of Dallas, DeAnna Castle of Broken Bow, Audra Forbit of Dallas, Kristi Martinez of Broken Bow; nine step-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.



Roy Lester Labor

Roy Lester Labor, 87, of Wilburton passed away July 6, 2009, at the VA Medical Center in Muskogee. Roy was born in Hugo on May 23, 1922, to the late William Henry and Mary Easter Tyler Labor.

Roy worked in the carpentry department at McAlester Ammunition Plant. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was of the Baptist faith, a member of the Wilburton Masonic Lodge #141 and member of the Hartshorne VFW.

Roy was the husband of Gloria Labor. Roy and Gloria were married October 10, 2006, in McAlester.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Neoma Jean Labor; brothers, William Labor, Orville “Obe” Labor, Chester “Check” Labor; sister, Opal Oldham; son, Joe Labor, and son-in-law, Jimmy D. Gammons.

Roy is survived by his wife of the home; his daughters, Laquita McCarty of Amarillo, Texas, Lynn Gammons of Wilburton, and Deann Gibbs of Wilburton; son, R.D. Labor of Stigler; sister, Nita Faye Wade; brothers, Loyce “Peachy” Labor and his wife, Youil, John Labor, Jimmy Labor and his wife, Shirley; grandchildren, Bret Labor and wife Jennifer of Wilburton, Bandi McPherson and husband Curt of Canadian, Texas, Christi Hall and husband Eric of Stillwater, Cody Gibbs of Stillwater, Jimmy Gammons and Chance Gibbs, both of Wilburton; great-grandchildren, Cody McPherson, Jakob Labor, Brynn McPherson, Trey McPherson, Ryley Labor; stepchildren, Gloria Elaine Voelker, John David Owen and Patty Harrison; five step-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Jasper Gene Floyd Sr.

Jasper Gene Floyd Sr., 68, passed away on June 23, 2009, in Kingston. He was born on June 19, 1941, in Houston, Texas, to Jasper L. and Pearl Henderson Floyd.

Jasper was a kind-hearted man who would do anything for anyone. He loved working around the yard and piddling with junk. He also enjoyed sitting around and visiting with his family and friends. Jasper was a hard worker who loved his family. The family will always remember his smile and the love that he had for his grandchildren and the fact that he was stubborn and bullheaded.

Jasper was preceded in death by his parents, J.L. and Pearl Floyd; son, Rocky Glen Floyd; brothers, Raymond Lee Floyd and Jerry Don Floyd, and sister, Shirley Ann.

He is survived by his sons, Jasper Floyd Jr. and wife Paulet, J.J. Floyd and wife Evie, and Terry Floyd, all of Houston, and Darryl Hawkins and wife Christie of Oklahoma City; daughters, Jackie Gale Floyd of Woodville, Jo Jo Pryor and husband Travis of Farlington, Kansas, Shelly J. Floyd of Irving, Texas, Pearl Sana Brie and husband Ivan of Houston; sister, Joyce Fulgham of Antlers; brothers, James Frank Floyd and wife Ida Mae of Woodville, and Billy Ray Floyd and wife Wanda of Houston; niece, Anna KoJo of Conroe, Texas, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Andrea Kaye ‘Angie’ Morgan

Andrea Kaye “Angie” Morgan, 48, of Talihina passed away June 25, 2009, at Oklahoma State University Medical Center in Tulsa. Andrea was born in Poteau on November 2, 1960, to Billy Joe and Janella Lewis Morgan.

She was a devoted member of First Baptist Church, Talihina. She worked as an LPN/medical transcriptionist. She enjoyed spending time with her family and her church family.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Ervin Morgan, and maternal grandparents, Molly and Jeff Lewis.

Andrea is survived by her parents; two brothers, Ricky Joe and Shelly Lynn Morgan of Oswasso and David Glen and Nina Marie Morgan, of Poteau; nieces and nephews, Geoffrey Morgan, Clint Morgan, Whitney Morgan, Taylor Clark and Marissa Martin; paternal grandmother, Grace Long, and aunts, uncles and cousins.

Benny Vince Grayham

Benny Vince Grayham passed away on June 25, 2009. He was born on April 12, 1952.

Benny, a proud Choctaw, served his country in the U.S. Army. He loved to fish and garden. He is missed by his large family and many friends.

He is survived by his sons, Christopher and Benny Jr.; his parents, Doris and Bentley Grayham of the home; sisters, Sherry and brother-in-law Jim Wilson, and Faye Heldenbrand of Texas.



Savola Olene ‘Chockie’ Self Edge

Savola Olene “Chockie” Self Edge passed away on July 8, 2009. She was born on September 9, 1939, in Soper.

She attended Soper School and on November 3, 1956, she and Bob Edge were married in Soper. They celebrated their 52nd anniversary on November 3, 2008. In 1957, they welcomed Cynthia Deraine into their family and then were blessed again in 1960 with the birth of Eulala Dalene (Henri).

Shortly after marriage, they moved to Farmington, New Mexico, where she worked waitressing until she started to college in Durango, Colorado. She received her bachelor’s degree in education and began teaching in Bloomfield, New Mexico. She taught there for a few years and then they moved back home to Soper. She and her husband went in partnership with her sister and brother-in-law to purchase the B&E Grocery in Soper. After a short period, she went to work at Soper School teaching fifth grade. She received her master’s degree in education in 1974 from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She also completed all but the dissertation for her doctorate degree in education at East Texas State in Commerce. She spent the remainder of her career in the education field. She worked for the Oklahoma State Department of Education, was a professor of education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and taught special education at Wright City Public Schools.

Chockie was a loving wife and mother. She loved her close-knit family and would promote a get-together on just the slightest chance. She was a member of the Soper Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar Kermit “Butch” Self and Clara Louise “Granny Bell” Self; brother, Oscar Kermit Self Jr.; sister, Eulala Grace “Prill” Blankenship, and great-grandson, Lonnie Alvarez.

She is survived by her husband, Bob Edge of the home; daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Terry Jackman of Wright City; daughter, Henri Edge of Soper; grandchildren, Kari and Jonathan Teague, and Amy Yarbrough, and great-grandchildren, Keeli Tsosie, Davin Anna and Kaleb Teague, all of Wright City.

Ramsey J. Horton Sr.

Ramsey J. Horton Sr., 86, of Groves, Texas, died December 8, 2008, at his home. He was born on January 24, 1922, in Oklahoma City to Robert Benson Horton and Eunice Mae Griffin Horton.

He lived in Groves for 67 years and was retired as a supervisor from Texaco after 40 years of service. Ramsey was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church, Lion’s Club of Port Arthur, Texas, VFW Post #4820 of Port Neches, member and past president of Texaco Retirees Club and a past member of Knights of Columbus of Port Arthur. Ramsey received his schooling at Seeger Indian School in Colony, Oklahoma, Jones Academy in Hartshorne and was a graduate of Chilocco High School in Chilocco. While attending Chilocco, Ramsey was a member of the National Guard 45th Infantry Division. After graduation, he was given a discharge to attend Cameron University in Lawton.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II aboard the destroyer USS Gillespie, DD609, in the European and Pacific theaters, earning eight battle stars. Upon his return from service, he resumed his job at Texaco in Port Arthur, and also continued his education at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister and brother-in-law, Weltha M. and Frazier Kemp, brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Elizabeth Horton, sister and brother-in-law, Aileen and James L. Brown.

He is survived by his wife, Genevieve Horton of Groves; two daughters, Janet Smock and Emil Riedel of League City, Texas, and Myrleen George and husband Gaylon of Cedar Park, Texas; two sons, Ramsey J. Horton Jr. and wife Patricia of Pasadena, Texas, and Ross Horton and wife Tara of Austin, Texas; 11 grandchildren, Rebecca Smock, Logan George, Dustin George, Melanie Johnson, Jonilee Pusley, Ramsey J. Horton III, Judah Horton, Josh Horton and Marie Horton; four great-grandchildren; six nieces and nephews and numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews.



Wallace Dale Winfrey

Wallace Dale Winfrey, 73, of Shawnee passed away on June 12, 2009, at the Valley View Hospital in Ada. He was born March 21, 1936, at Wayne to Lee Roy Winfrey and Fannie Rosetta Harrison Vinfrey.

He was a graduate of Bokchito High School and attended Eastern Oklahoma State College on a basketball scholarship before serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Upon returning form Korea, he married Vaunda Carter of Durant. They made their home near Shawnee. Dale farmed and ranched, and Vaunda taught school until her death. He and his son were in the trucking business at the time of his death. Dale served in Belize, Central America, as an agriculture missionary for one year and made mission trips to India and Mexico. He was of the Baptist faith. He composed Christian hymns and enjoyed singing and playing the guitar.

He was pedeced in death by his parents, grandparents, and wife Vaunda.

He is survived by his son and daughter, Glendayl Wayne Winfrey and Barbara Kaye Chesser, both of Shawnee; grandchildren, Samantha Russell of Oklahoma City, Randy Loper of Plano and Joseph Chesser of Shawnee.



Hester June Carter

Hester June Carter passed away on July 5, 2009, after a 9-month struggle with lung cancer. She was born November 8, 1932, in Konawa, Oklahoma, to Marvin J. Cook and Linnie Mae James Cook.

She lost her mother when she was two and spent many of her early years with various family members. June attended Mount St. Mary’s in Oklahoma City and later worked at Tinker Air Force Base where she met and married the love of her life, a pilot, James L. Carter, on May 5, 1951. In 1965, June and her family moved from Edwards Air Force Base to Oklahoma to be close to the love and support of relatives while her husband served in Vietnam. In February 1966, the Air Force reported Jim missing-in-action which remained unchanged for 38 years. She never remarried and raised three sons to adulthood providing many pearls of wisdom along the way.

After living in Shawnee and Tulsa, she moved to Norman in 1970. June earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Oklahoma School of Social Work. This prepared her to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Oklahoma City for 17 years, retiring in April 1995.

Continuing a lifelong need to help people, June joined the Peace Corps in 1998. She was stationed in St. Kitts where she provided guidance and assistance to the local social services agency. She returned two years later to Norman and friends.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, James L. and Grace Carter of Shadow Hills, California; John and Pam Carter of Norman; Joseph and Dee Ann Carter of Richland Hills, Texas; grandchildren, Shelby and husband Wes Hixson of Keller, Texas, Jena Carter of Boston, Massachusetts, Lindsey Carter of Richland Hills, and Matt Carter of Norman; and great-grandson, Preston Hixson of Keller.

Marion ‘M.A.’ Whitten

Marion “M.A.” Whitten, 54, of the Marshall Hill Community passed away July 13, 2009, at his residence. He was born August 18, 1954, not far from where he passed away in the Marshall Hill Community.

Marion was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a self-taught auto mechanic and really enjoyed working on cars. Marion liked to fish, garden and was an avid reader of the newspaper. He was affiliated with the Kulli Tuklo Methodist Church and was a lifetime resident of the Marshall Hill Community.

He was preceded in death by his father, M.N. Whitten; mother, Phoebe Williams; and a sister, Fern Williams Dollar.

Marion is survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Lisa Whitten of Hattieville, Arkansas, Mark and Jessica Whitten, Allen Whitten, and Milton Whitten, all of Idabel; a daughter, Marian Shomo of Idabel; brothers and sister-in-law, Larry Wesley and Leon Wesley, both of Valliant, John and Susan Williams, and Horace Whitten, all of Idabel; sisters and brothers-in-law, Nancy and Henry Temples of Valliant, Wilma and Richard Emhoolah Sr., and Dimple Sharp, all of Idabel; eight grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and a host of friends.

