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December 2007 Issue

The Governor's office has estimated that \$600,000 is needed to obtain transportation and meals for the estimated 2,600 troops. "Chief Pyle has agreed to donate use of 14 Choctaw Nation – **See Homecoming on Page 2**

NOTES TO THE NATION

Burris family says thanks

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

Once again we’re saying thank you to Chief Pyle and the Choctaw tribe. When we suggested that you might help in our brother’s, Tony K. Burris, memorial, we never dreamed that you would do so much. You have treated the family great and you have shown such pride in Tony without even knowing him. We are grateful and proud to be of Choctaw heritage. Thanks again.

The family of
SFC Tony K. Burris

Researching ancestors

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am researching the Gibson ancestors and other family names including Wright, Carnes, Anderson, Bell, Lawrence, Bloodworth, Colbert, Musick, Impson, Sumpter, Loomer, Lewis, Nelson and Thompson. Please contact me at P.O. Box 307, Newcastle, OK 73065 or by email at nativewomen123@hotmail.com. My phone number is 405-387-3678.

Allie May Rosson Golden
Newcastle, Oklahoma

Thanks for scholarship

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

We want to thank you so much for providing your help on a college scholarship for our granddaughter, Lyndsey Nicole Dillard. It was very much appreciated.

Jess and Gerrie Dillard
Borger, Texas

Thank you

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for the scholarship that enabled me to pursue my college degree in sports management at Lubbock Christian University. I will do my best and I am proud to be Choctaw.

Skyler Dane Karins
Lubbock, Texas



Thank you for windows

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so much for my new windows and the French door in my house. They are so wonderful. The two men who put the windows in were very polite. They explained everything that they were going to do. They were very respectful, you couldn’t ask for any better workers. They did a great job. Again thank you so much. You made me happy and proud that I am Choctaw and have a Chief who cares.

Carolyn Moses
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Thanks

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education under the direction of Larry Wade for their support with my college education. Your support is greatly appreciated. I earned my physical education degree at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in December 2006. I am now employed as a coach and physical education teacher at Fort Towson Public Schools. Thanks so much for this great opportunity

Jerren Ellis
Fort Towson, Oklahoma

Thank you for help

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Caddo Quilters wish to thank the Choctaw Nation for help with comfortable transportation and an excellent bus driver to Tipton, Oklahoma. We were able to take 30 quilts to Tipton Orphans’ Home and 10 of us got to go. We were able to view the home, eat a meal, and enjoy the day together. As an observer at a convenience store remarked, “You guys really know how to travel in color.” We sincerely appreciate the Nation’s generosity.

Caddo Quilters

Filling in the blanks

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

I am hoping that someone can help me fill in the empty spaces about my Trahern ancestors. My great-great-grandparents were William Trahern and Rebecca Long. Their children were Joseph W., Joel Paten, Wert Breckinridge, and Laura Hannah. My grandmother was Hannah’s daughter, Josie Deloach.

Carol Hoyt
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
carol_hoyt@sbcglobal.net

<i>Gregory E. Pyle</i> <i>Chief</i>	The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Judy Allen, Executive Director Vonna Shults, Web Director Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director Brenda Wilson, Technical Assistant Janine Dills, Administrative Assistant Lisa Reed, Editor David McCutcheon, Assistant Editor P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 (580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-4148 www.choctawnation.com e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com	<i>Gary Batton</i> <i>Assistant Chief</i>
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The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached.

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

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

BISHINIK® 2007

Brokeshoulder family has reunion

The families of the late Thomas Brokeshoulder, Clifton Brokeshoulder and Levene Brokeshoulder Johnson, held their annual reunion at the Sac and Fox Center Shawnee, Oklahoma, on October 12 and 13. This year’s reunion was organized by the Johnson families who also planned the activities and catered a BBQ dinner. Those attending were: Floyd and Delores Brokeshoulder, of Dallas; Dave and Pat Brokeshoulder Walters, Renda Walters, of Norman; Russell and Rainey Colbert, David, Ryan, of Norman; Leonard and Wynokia Brokeshoulder, of McAlester; Serena Brokeshoulder Underwood, Brent Underwood, of McAlester; Loretta Brokeshoulder Graves Schwarz, West Linn, Oregon; Karen Pyrch, Lauren and Jessie Pyrch, of Portland, Oregon; Sharol Graves, of North Hollywood, California; Shawn Schwarz, of Norman; Eddie Brokeshoulder, Ashley Brokeshoulder, of Shawnee; Marshall and Winona Brokeshoulder Lumpmouth, of Phoenix, Arizona; Darrell and Angelica Lumpmouth, of Phoenix; Shelly Lumpmouth, Trisha, Robert Frizell, James Webster, Phoenix, Arizona; Glenda Lumpmouth and Mike Trevor, Phoenix, Arizona; Harry Brokeshoulder, Shawnee; Katrina Brokeshoulder Coriz, Matoka Coriz, Devin Brokeshoulder, Tryin Brokeshoulder, Brenda Brokeshoulder, Albuquerque; Rita Brokeshoulder, Eli Brokeshoulder, Whirlwind Brokeshoulder, Shawnee; Martin and Glenda Brokeshoulder Johnson III, of Woodbridge, Virginia; James and Norma Wallace, Sulphur; Jeanette, Jennifer, Jill, of Sulphur; Pat Amos, Sulphur; Candace, Cortney, Casey Amos, of Sulphur; Jay and Janice Capehart, of Sulphur; Russell, Elisha, Shala, of Sulphur; Calvin Johnson, of Valley View, Texas; Ronnie and Lorraine Johnson, of Marietta; Kathleen Johnson and friend, of Marietta; Bill Johnson, of Ardmore; Kenneth Johnson, Elisa Johnson, of Durant; E.T. and Shirley Thompson, of Marietta; David and Rita Scott, of Ada; Leslie and Lee Rackley, of Norman; Helen Brokeshoulder Arns, Cave Creek, Arizona; Clift Brokeshoulder Jr, of Surprise, Arizona; and Harold Brokeshoulder, of Phoenix.

Hugo Head Start writes letters to Santa

Kids from Ms. Fieriel and Ms. Hollie’s Class

Dear Santa,

I want toys and an etch-a-sketch. I want turtle shells and dresses. I want dress shells. Josh and Dustin want toys. Bring my Mom money and bring Dad things. – Jessica Hyland

I want a stove and a kitchen. I want a washer and dryer, broom and a mop and also a dust pan and that’s all. I want baby clothes for the baby. – Jake Blakenship

I want a bulldozer and another bulldozer. I want two motorcycles and a car. I also want a truck and pumpkin tractor. I want a monster truck. – Elijah Turner

I want a baby penguin and John Sena pajamas. I want Cars pit crew play set. I want the WWE belt. – Alex Thompson

I want a monster truck and a four-wheeler. I want a toy gun. I want a car. Mom wants 10 dollars. My sister can drive Dad’s four-wheeler. – Logan Makerney

I want a real dog and a cat. I want some clothes. Mom wants strawberry perfume. – Kendall Cogburn

I want a horse and a dog. I want a toy bear. Please bring Mom an elephant. Dad wants a horse cover. I want a pink ball. I want an elephant, too. – Trista Miller

I want a remote control car and a BB gun. I want a tractor and trailer. – Braylon Langley

I want new underwear. I want keys. I want a toy pumpkin and a school bus. I want some glasses. I want a new barn and wood house with horses and trailers and a car. I want my name on my toys. Mom wants a new phone. Dad needs a new house phone. – Ty Hammons

I want a Christmas tree and a Car cartoon movie. I want a baby. I want Santa to bring a snowman for Mom. Bring Daddy a sucker. Mamaw wants a balloon and that’s all I want. – Hannah Jones

I want soldier gun and two excavators, and hunting toy and it comes with two deal. I want a dump truck and a bobcat. I want a trailer and a truck with the bobcat. – Michael Lick

I want some new cars and a guitar. I want better hunting boots. I want a race car backpack. I want a race car jacket and race car shirt. I want some more new cars that I roll with my hand. I want a new bat; it’s what you hit a ball with. I want a football shirt. I want another bat. – Austin McKnight

I want a car. I want a monster. I want cop cars. Mom wants a new T-shirt and get Dad something OU. – Michael Perry

I want a Chirstmas car. – Callie Covington

I want a Diego hat (orange), and a driving wheel. Mom wants pants and Dad wants pants too. Baby needs sleepers and pants and diapers. – Makayla Hood

I want a pooping baby doll and trampoline. – Courtney Hammons

Kids from Ms. Stephanie and Ms. Sequina’s Class

I want a blue guitar. I want lots of underwear and a power ranger. I want a pumpkin. I want a Spiderman. – Koda Hudson

I want Santa to send me a track and a car. I want boy socks with dinosaurs. I want candy, too. I want hot sleeves. – Andrew Bowers

I want this little thing that I’ve always wanted. I want a stroller and a baby doll to go in it. I need some more play dough. – Lil-labeth Whitlow

I want a football and another football. I want a bat and ball. – Logen Vantrees

I want a bicycle and a ball. I want a computer and new chair. Get Emily a calender. Mom has already bought hers. Mom buys us food. – Hailey Morris

I want Santa Claus. I want cars to play with. I want a bicycle. – Tranden Morgan

I want the bumble bee transformer. I want a blue light saver and Ben10. I want the car and truck from Cars. I want a TV. Mom needs a new blue phone. Dad wants a purple phone. – Noah Joe

I want a Princess dress. I want a Dora headband. I want a pumpkin. Santa, bring Mom some candy corn. – Avery Green

I want make-up and I want a tent. I also want a game. I want eye shadow. I want a new house. – Lizzie Stotts

I want to deer hunt and I want a cap and a house. – T.J. Hurlburt

I want a baby doll, my Bubba wants a truck. I want a tent. – Jaylee Baker

I want toys, a Barbie toy. My Bubba wants baseball stuff. Mom wants a pink present. Zaiden wants baseball stuff, too. Daddy wants strawberry potato chips. – Jae’na Hunter

I want a present. I want a bus and I also want a tree. I have to think about it. – Kadence Lowrimore

I want a light sketcher. I want a snowman. I want a Christmas reindeer and a beanie penguin. I want a school bus. I want a Christmas house. Momma wants make-up. – Brylei Thompson

I want Santa Claus. I want a present. I want a toy box and a real cat. Mom wants Santa, too. – Kylie Smith

I want a green power ranger and a green light saver. The truck from the Cars movies. – Caleb Joe



Oklahoma Tribal Alliance Fall Festival
Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

The Oklahoma Tribal Alliance held its Fall Festival in Oklahoma City on October 27. The 2006-07 Junior Miss Choctaw Nation, Rachelle DiNardo, accepted our personal invitation early last summer. The Oklahoma Choctaws and an estimated 200 guests were delighted when Rachelle and her family performed Choctaw Social Dancing. Guests were intrigued with the Choctaw Social Dancers as some thought that Choctaw have only one dance, the stomp dance. The Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance appreciates the DiNardo family for attending our Fall Festival. Rachelle also passed out candy to the children who participated in the Halloween costume contest. Other visiting royalties were Miss Holly Factor who is the 2007-08 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma City; Miss Raven Morgan who is the 2007-08 Oklahoma Indian Bikers Princess; and Miss Aaliyah Haney who was the 2006-07 Oklahoma Indian Bikers Princess. We appreciate those royalties, past and current, who are still involved in community activities and representing their tribe. Yakoke Chief Pyle for the Choctaw Nation Princess program.

Perrin Deal
OCTA Secretary/Fall Festival Committee Member



Five generations celebrated by West Family

From left, Eric B. West, Ronald West holding Janson R. West along side Jeffrey D. West, and in the middle is Edith West of Stuart. The family took this five generation picture at a recent gathering. All are from Stuart, Oklahoma, except Ronald who is from Tulsa.



Five generations of Choctaws

From right is Wanda, Beth Ann, Walter Ray, Gevonna, and ten-month-old Baylor.

Notice to all restricted mineral owners

Please be advised:

There are many oil and gas leases going on within the Choctaw Nation. If you have any questions regarding restricted minerals please feel free to contact our office, we will assist in any way possible. Real Property Management Tom Williams, Director P.O. Box 1210 Durant, Oklahoma 74702 (580) 924-8280, ext. 2233.

Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Residential Opportunity Self-Sufficiency Grant (ROSS)

The Choctaw Housing Authority/Family Investment Centers are continuing to offer the Residential Opportunity Self Sufficiency Grant to the residents of Choctaw Housing Authority. The ROSS grant offers tuition assistance for college, university or vocational training. Mileage assistance will also be given to students traveling a distance for school as well as for those who have been employed 60 days or less. CHA residents residing in a mutual help home, rental units owned and operated by CHA or receiving rental assistance vouchers are eligible for this program. Other added benefits are ACT Waivers for high school students and reimbursements for child care.

Should you have further questions or need applications, please contact Liz Lee, ROSS Program Coordinator at the Broken Bow Family Investment Center at 580-584-6372 or Carolyn Cagle, ROSS Case Manager at the Poteau Family Investment Center at 918-647-9324.

Homecoming continued from Page 1

buses for transportation of the National Guard, the Chickasaw Nation is supplying two buses and the Cherokee Nation is donating \$35,000,” announced the Governor.

“This will be the last opportunity these soldiers have to spend with their families before they deploy,” Governor Henry said, “It is critical that we provide these soldiers and their families the chance to take advantage of the 10 days of leave to be together for Christmas.”

When asked by a reporter what is the contingency plan if the money does not come through, Governor Henry replied, “Failure is not an option. We are going to raise the money! We are going to get these great soldiers home!”

Michael Taylor, Commander of the American Legion of Oklahoma, said, “Many of the Guard members are earning much less than they were in their civilian jobs. This (helping obtain the needed 60 buses and providing meals to and from Fort Bliss) would be a great opportunity to help them get home to their families.”

Oklahoma Adjutant General Harry Wyatt commented on the importance of spending the holiday home with family. “All you have to do is talk to one child, spouse or family member to know what it means. It is wonderful that we have organizations such as the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and BancFirst to provide their support.”

Donations to bring the members of the Oklahoma National Guard home for Christmas can be made at any BancFirst branch to the Operation Holiday Homecoming account or to The American Legion of Oklahoma, Operation Holiday Homecoming, PO Box 53037, Oklahoma City, OK 73152.



Christmas gifts to needy children

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

My family has been blessed with abundant love and friendship and the Christmas season is always a special time for us. We are active with our churches and our jobs, and through the many people we interact with, we hear of needs in the communities. It is a tug at the heart-strings each time we find a child that is lacking in comfort or that

a family needs something. The past few years, the Choctaw Nation has been able to help some of these needy children at Christmas by providing them with a special toy – sometimes it is the only present they have.

There is also a seasonal program that provides a food basket to Choctaws who meet the income guidelines. These food items are basics for preparing a nice Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, such as ham, vegetables

and pie. To be eligible for the seasonal baskets or the toys, the families had to meet income guidelines and live inside the Choctaw Nation. We have kept the program inside the boundaries because it would not be viable for our outreach workers to deliver the items across the U.S.

The vision statement of the Choctaw Nation is “To achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud Nation of Choctaws.”

The many services and programs of the tribe, such as the education scholarships, head starts, career development, health clinics and job placement opportunities go a long way toward helping tribal members meet this vision. These special gifts to families during the holiday are just one more way the tribe can enhance Choctaw lives.

God bless you and your family.

Tribe experiencing vast growth

*From the Desk
of Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

The Choctaw Nation has experienced vast growth since I came on board in 1987. My memories of the Tribal Complex in Durant during that time are of partially filled offices housing less than 100 employees. Today, the Durant Tribal Complex has two additional office buildings, with all rooms filled to capacity.

When Chief Pyle took office in 1997, the total number of employees in the tribe was about 1,200. The Choctaw Nation has about 8,000 people on payroll in 2007 – a huge increase from 10 years ago!

Our membership rolls have also grown rapidly. The Choctaw Nation is close to 200,000 people strong. This rapid growth is due in large part to the pride that people have in their heritage and the desire they feel to trace the lineal ancestry that proves their bloodline.

The hope of a promising future for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a vision that is shared among tribal members regardless of where they live. Services that are now available to benefit Choctaws whether they live inside or outside the 10 1/2-county boundary include:

* BISHINIK, the monthly newspaper mailed free to tribal members.

* Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), a certification from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that shows the amount of blood quantum an individual has. This is the card that is received when proof is made of Indian descent. The Tribal Membership card is a second card that shows tribal affiliation.

* Chj Hullo Li – Women’s Residential Treatment Center for women suffering from substance abuse.

* Children and Family Services (this program is sometimes called Indian Child Welfare).

* Clothing Allowance fund that assists college students who are Choctaw tribal members, no matter where they go to school, with a one-time grant up to \$300. The amount of the grant is determined by the Grade Point Average



(GPA), and students must carry 10 or more hours to be eligible. Students need to apply after the first full semester.

* Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk when our ancestors are remembered with an annual event to commemorate the Trail of Tears.

* Higher Education Scholarships for eligible Choctaws anywhere in the

United States.

* Scholarship Advisement Program works with students to ready them for higher education and to help them stay in school.

* Career Development Program will provide funding for training institutes, technical schools, and vocational instruction in specialized jobs.

* Emergency Assistance for families and individuals in crisis situations.

* Extracurricular Youth Funds, a tribally funded program to help youth with expenses used for extracurricular activities.

* A Genealogy Advocate to advise on research methods and tools.

* Housing loans to purchase a new home, build a new home or mortgage an existing home.

* Jones Academy, a residential school for Native American students through grade 12. Academics up to sixth grade are taught on campus, and older students go to the local public school.

* The School of Choctaw Language provides classes in the tribal language and history to public schools, colleges, and universities and on the Internet, as well as certification of teachers and classes in communities across the nation.

* Veterans Advocate assists Native American veterans with filing claims for service-connected compensation and pension claims with the Veterans Administration. The Veterans Advocate can also assist with obtaining military records.

* Veterans Cemetery at the Capitol Grounds in Tushka Homma is a final resting place for any Choctaw veteran with an honorable discharge. Their spouse may also be interred alongside them.

Christmas in the Nation



A special program provides Christmas presents for Choctaw children in low-income families. Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton take time to check out the toys being sacked for the youth.

Gifts and rewards

May you have a Merry Christmas as we commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, during the Christmas season, during the rush, Christ is left out as many forget that it is His birthday we are celebrating. The meaning of that first Christmas is clear: God came to this earth in human form.

There will be exchanging of gifts. And this leads me to talk about two subjects, “Gifts and Rewards.”

First we will refer to the greatest gift we can ever receive, that is God’s gift of salvation. The gift of salvation is FREE, and rewards are EARNED. Salvation is obtained now, and rewards are for the future.

You cannot do anything to earn salvation, you could work all your life and yet you could not earn it.

The ONLY way is to be saved, that is what salvation means. To be saved or to be rescued from death, is to believe in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. To believe means to trust or to receive. Luke writes in Acts 16:31: “And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Over and over in the Bible we read that salvation is a gift. We read in Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8-9: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

If I gave you a present, you would not come to me and say, “Thank you for the gift, I want to pay for it.” If you paid for it, it would not be a gift anymore. So you cannot pay for salvation. All you can do is just to receive salvation. It is free, it is not of works. You are saved by what the Lord Jesus Christ did when He died on the cross.

You might even say, “When I get better I’ll become a Christian.” You can’t get better, I can’t get better, no one can get better. We read in the Bible in Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Salvation is only by the grace of God.

Rewards are just the opposite of salvation. Rewards are not a gift, they must be earned. Those who have been saved, born again, may earn rewards by the work they do for the Lord. Every time the Bible speaks of rewards it shows that the rewards are given for doing something.

Remember, salvation is a free gift, and that rewards are always earned by good works.

The other great difference between the two is that we have one of them now, but we must wait till we get to Heaven for the other one.

There are many verses of Scriptures that show us that we have eternal life right now. We

Chaplain’s Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

read in I John 5:11: “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

Because we have eternal life now, we can say that we are saved, not that we will be saved when we get to Heaven

Some would think that when a person says he is saved, he is boasting. When one thinks this way, it just shows he is relying on works to save him. This causes him to think that when a person who says he is saved is boasting

of his good works.

When a person says he is saved means he has placed his all on the finished work of Christ on the cross. He has trusted Jesus Christ and Him alone for salvation, and not in what he can do, or who he is, or what he has done.

We cannot have our rewards until we get to Heaven. They will be waiting for us. All of the verses that speak of rewards speak of the future. Paul writes in Colossians 3:22-25 NIV:

“Slaves, obey your masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

“Since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.

“Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.”

Notice the phrase in verse 24: “... you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.” Rewards are in the future.

It is wonderful that we can have salvation now. What a day of rejoicing that will be if we have been faithful and have earned rewards which we can receive at that great day.

We must be diligent now, and never forget that it is in these days that we earn the rewards; it is these days when we store our treasures up in heaven. When we get to Heaven it will be too late.

Today, I ask you, have you received the free gift of salvation? Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? This is the one thing, according to the Word of God, that will determine your eternal destiny.

If you don’t know Jesus as your Savior, you can trust Him even right now. You can pray something like this: “Dear Lord, I realize I am a sinner. I receive Jesus as my Savior.” If you prayed this prayer, write to me and I will pray for you, and I will send you some literature to help you to grow in your spiritual life. My mailing address is Bertram Bobb, P.O. Box 9, Antlers, OK 74523.

May God bless you and I pray you will have a happy and successful New Year 2008.

Pray for our nation and our leaders. Pray for our men and women in service. Pray for those who are sick and for those who are in hospitals.



Jones Academy students rewarded for hard work



On October 12, the Jones Academy Elementary Students who passed the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Test in Reading and Math from the the previous school year were treated to a tremendous day at Incredible Pizza in Tulsa. Some students said it was the best pizza they had ever eaten. They got to play all types of games, race go carts and drive bumper cars. The students took a picture in the lobby – Jeromy Barker, Stephanie Wallace, Saul Martinez, Roman Moore, Britton Williams, Billy Jo Nunn, Neosha Kauly, Alisha Picone, Cheyenne Neal, Constance Vanhorn, Jillian Hernandez, Jessica Sampson, Kendale Willie, Cyrus Battiest, and Rocky Novotny. The sixth grade teacher from Jones Academy, Mr. Dugan, and fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Martin, helped supervise the exciting adventure. Many students said the hard work and studying payed off and they plan to work hard to prepare for this school year’s state test that will be administered in April 2008. It is wonderful to

imagine our youth using the objectives and skills that they are learning to help them make positive and beneficial decisions for society.



First, second and third place winners in Bigfoot 5k.

Choctaw Nation Bigfoot 5k, Diabetes 5k and .5k

The third annual Bigfoot 5k was held October 6 in Honobia. The 5k run/walk and 1-mile walk drew 248 participants.

First place female was Jai Scott of Tulsa, second place was Karen Sumpter of Talihina and third place was Whitney Hall of Poteau. They each received a plaque and gift cards for \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively.

First place male was Tyler Rose of Rodgers, Arkansas; second place was Tim Wilbert of Tulsa and third place was Adam Jones of Broken Bow. They also received plaques and gift cards.

The 7th Annual Diabetes 5k was held October 27 in Talihina during the Fall Foliage festival. The 5k and 1 mile had a total of 172 participants. The winners in the overall female category was first place Karen Sumpter of Talihina, second place Casie Dees of Poteau and third place Tracie Maxwell of Talihina. First place in the male category was Keith Willsey of Mena, Arkansas, second place was Robert Brown of Mena and third place was Bryan Miller of Moyers.

The highlight of the day was the .5k, 8 and under run. There were 30 participants. First place female was Jaycee Russell and second place was Macey Rivers. First place male was Kelton Mathis and second place was Jaren Bloxam. All other runners received third place medals.

The events were sponsored by the REACH 2010/Wellness Department and the “Happy Heart” program from CNH-SA. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped work the event and to all the participants.



Diabetes 5k female division winners.



Diabetes 5k male division winners.



Winners in .5k 8-and-under.

Anumpuli: Talking our way to diabetes control!

Choctaw Nation now has a new way to beat diabetes. We are one of only eleven in the nation to get a very valuable award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to test a new way to improve diabetic health without drugs.

The way to do this is to have a CHR or Diabetes Educator visit a person living with diabetes. The CHR or DE and the diabetic will talk about the many ways of living with diabetes. There is no pushing to make someone change behavior. The person with diabetes will explain their way of dealing with it. Together, the CHR or DE and the person will search for parts of their way of dealing with diabetes that may stop them from getting better. Then, the CHR or DE and the patient will discuss the ways that such barriers can be changed, even if just a little bit.

The project is called “Anumpuli” because it is a visit used to talk fully about life with diabetes. It is not just a “drop-by and leave a brochure” approach. The person with diabetes will have the opportunity to teach the CHR or DE about what their life with diabetes is like. There would be eight visits over a year.

The point of the talking and teaching is to bring about good changes in the person’s life. By casually talking and thinking together

about how to reduce problems and improve health, a person’s diabetes can be improved.

Anumpuli is being done in the Idabel area and clinic for now. If Anumpuli helps people get better, it could be done across the Choctaw Nation. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation wants it to be an example of diabetes control that can be used in other tribes nationally.

The CHR’s helping with the Anumpuli project are Margaret McKinney, Darlene Noahubi, Carrie Ward, Bea Parker, and Dell Powell. Annette Choate is the Diabetes Educator. Program support comes from Norma Austin, CHR Associate Director, and Randy Hammons, Executive Director. Steve Young, Chief of Prevention Services, Choctaw Nation Hospital works directly with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to bring this project to the tribe, and David Wharton, MPH, is working to get the sample together.

The Choctaw Nation is collaborating with Dr. Carson Henderson and Dr. Neil Henderson of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Department of Health Promotion Sciences. Dr. Carson Henderson is the Principle Investigator. Dr. Neil Henderson is the Co-Principle Investigator and is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Miss Martyne continued from Page 1

Choctaw to enter the Miss America Pageant and was featured in the March 1941 National Geographic Society Magazine.

Martyne attended the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Georgetown, Maryland, and became the first Choctaw woman to obtain a degree in nursing.

Her skills as a registered nurse brought her in contact with dignitaries from all over the world, but she chose to use her skills to help other Native Americans and turning down service in the Army or Navy, went to work on a Navajo Reservation.

Born on September 24, 1918, in Hugo to Martin Woods and Dena Nelson Woods. Martyne grew up with Nelson relatives in the Tuskahoma and Hugo area, but kept close to



her father after her parents divorced. She remembers him as a soft-spoken, gentle man who spoke fluent Choctaw and sang beautifully. She still has his Choctaw Bible and several Choctaw books in her home, which she treasures.

Returning to her beloved Southeastern Oklahoma roots after working on the reservation in New Mexico, Martyne married Harry Caudell, the assistant to Chief Belvin.

During her marriage, she taught nursing to students at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton and worked for the State Health Department as a traveling nurse.

Her contributions to her faith, heritage and her people continue today as she encourages and mentors aspiring nurses in the Tuskahoma area.

Get Real!

You don’t have to knock yourselves out to prevent diabetes

Studies show that people at high risk for diabetes can prevent the disease by losing a small amount of weight by getting 30 minutes of physical activity five days a week and eating healthier. The key is: Small steps that lead to big rewards. Use these tips for ideas on moving more and eating healthier. Take your first steps TODAY!

Step 1 – Move More

Getting more physical activity every day will help you burn more calories and lose weight. Try to get at least 30 minutes of physical activity, five days per week. If you have not been active, start off slowly, building up to your goal.

Here are some ideas to fit more physical activity into your day:

- When shopping, park a little farther away from the store’s entrance. If it’s safe, get off the bus a stop or two early and walk the rest of the way.
- When watching TV, use the commercial break to take a quick walk around your home or do some exercises such as sit-ups, leg-lifts, marching in place, etc.
- Try to schedule walking “dates” with friends or family members throughout the week.
- Try to get a “workout” during the day. Take a walk during half of your lunch break. Deliver a message in person to a co-worker instead of e-mailing it. Take the stairs to your office instead of the elevator.

Step 2 – Eat Healthier

When it comes to eating healthier to lose weight, it all comes down to choices. Choosing foods that are lower in fat and calories and limiting portion sizes can help you to lose the weight you need to prevent diabetes.

Here are some things you can start doing today to eat healthier:

- Choose foods that are lower in fat. Grill

or bake chicken instead of frying. Instead of French fries or chips, slice a few potatoes, sprinkle them with a little oil, salt, and pepper, and bake them in the oven.

- Buy more fruits, vegetables, and whole grain foods every time you shop. Try a new fruit or vegetable each week.
- Lighten your recipes by using low-fat or light versions of ingredients such as sour cream, cream cheese, or mayonnaise.
- Make sure you always have a healthy snack with you in case you get hungry, like a piece of fresh fruit, a handful of nuts, or a low-fat yogurt.
- Serving sizes are often smaller than we think. Use this chart as a guide for portion sizes:
 - 1/2 cup of rice or pasta = an ice cream scoop
 - 1 1/2 ounces of cheese = four dice
 - 3 ounces of meat or fish = deck of cards or cassette tape
 - 2 tablespoons peanut butter = a ping pong ball

Step 3 – Start your game plan for preventing diabetes

The key to losing weight and preventing diabetes is to make long-term changes that work for you – **not quick fixes**. These tips are a great way to get you started on your way to preventing diabetes but are only the first steps.

To help you lose weight to prevent diabetes, the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) has created “Your Game Plan for Preventing Type 2 Diabetes.” Order your free copy of the Game Plan to learn how to set goals, track your progress, and get more tips to help you reach your goals. To get your free Game Plan, visit www.ndep.nih.gov or call 1-800-438-5383.

For more information call Choctaw Nation Wellness Education at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.

Health department awarded funding to eliminate health disparities

Oklahoma has received a \$4.25 million award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities among minority populations, as part of CDC’s “Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health,” or REACH, initiative. The funding was awarded to the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Chronic Disease Service, which is one of 40 organizations selected from 22 states across the country.

The REACH five-year funding will support local efforts to address and overcome the unique causes of health disparities among specific ethnic populations and in key health areas. Locally, the CDC funding will benefit residents in the Southern Plains Area of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. Funds will be used to address cardiovascular disease and diabetes among American Indians through training and policy changes focusing on

risk behavior reduction such as physical activity, nutrition, breastfeeding, and commercial tobacco use and cessation.

Along with the Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa, the project’s eight tribal partners include the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma.

“Despite improvements in the overall health of the nation, health disparities remain one of the most important health challenges of our time,” said Janet Collins, Ph.D., director of CDC’s National Center of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. “We are extremely excited about the new REACH award recipients because they offer a plethora of knowledge in addressing health disparities and their in-

novative approaches will help promote people’s health in our communities, health care settings, schools, and work sites.”

Through the REACH U.S. initiative, 18 national and regional Centers for Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities (CEEDs) and 22 Action Communities will be established throughout the country.

The CEEDs will serve as national resource centers with expertise in specific ethnic populations and will train other communities to spread the impact of REACH activities. The Action Communities will implement and evaluate successful approaches to impact population groups, rather than individuals, and focus on key health conditions that contribute to health disparities.

Since 1999, the REACH program has proven that fully including communities in health strategies to impact their social, economic, and cultural circumstances can reduce health disparities.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
JANUARY			1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2 Durant 10 am-12 pm	3	4 Idabel 10 am-2 pm
	6	7 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	8 Andlers by appt only	9 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	10	11 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm
	13	14 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	15 Wright City by appt only	16 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	17	18 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm
	20	21 Bethel by appt only	22	23 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	24	25
2008	27	28 Durant by appt only	29	30	31	

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

Stay active and minimize holiday stress

Increased spending, visits with extended family and hectic schedule all contribute to the one unwanted outcome of the holiday season ... STRESS! This holiday stress is inevitable for many – so rather than let it take a toll on you, plan for strategies to keep it at bay:

STAY PHYSICALLY ACTIVE

- Physical activity, such as walking, is one of the healthiest ways to reduce stress. Try the following:
- When hosting holiday meals, organize a group walk before or after dinner.
 - Simply add 10-minute walks, a few times each day, to your routine. Your dog will love you, and you’ll feel more relaxed!
 - Park in the farthest possible parking space when going to the mall ... this will also help avoid the tension associated with finding a parking space in a crowded lot!

Changing from a crib to a big-kid bed

By Brandi Smallwood
AFL Outreach Worker

Most mothers wonder when it is safe to move a child from a crib to a real bed. In general toddlers are ready to move between the ages of 2 and 3. Climbing out of their crib or looking uncomfortable and cramped, are two signs that your child is ready for the change. If you are expecting a new baby and will need the crib, this is another time that you may want to start easing your toddler into a new bed.

To make the change easier for your child, consider a toddler bed, which is the same size as a crib and uses a crib mattress. It is a safer choice than an adult bed as small children left alone in a large bed could become trapped between the mattress and the wall, headboard or bed frame. However, adult-sized beds can be safe if you follow these guidelines:

- Make sure the bed is sturdy. All joints should be set firmly in place and always check for loose fixtures such as nuts and bolts.
- Keep the bed low to the ground, preferably no more than two feet off the floor.
- Place guardrails along the length of the bed, and put a rug on the floor next to it to cushion falls.
- Do not place bed next to a window as a bouncing child could fall through. Avoid heating units, lamps, draperies, and blind cords.
- Make room on both sides of the bed so that your child doesn’t get trapped. It is okay to place the head of the bed against the wall.

To ease the transition for your child try these helpful hints:

- Get your child ready by letting them think it is his/her idea to move into a big-kid bed. Start by talking about how cool the beds are and taking your child shopping for new sheets for the bed. Show your child friends or older siblings who sleep in beds, then ask your child if they would like to sleep in a big bed. If the child resists, wait a week or two and then ask again. Your child may simply need some time to get used to the idea.
- Keep your bedtime routine the same. A little familiarity will help your toddler to feel safe and secure about her new sleeping arrangement.
- Try a bed rail. This can make the bed feel more like a crib to your child.

Always be aware when making a change in your child’s routine of anything else that is going on in their life. If they are having other major changes such as starting preschool or moving to a new house, then it may be better to wait a month or so before moving them out of their crib as to not overwhelm the child with too much changing at the same time.

For more information contact the Adolescent Family Life Program at 877-285-6893. Adolescent Family Life Program is a comprehensive and integrated program to assist adolescents under 19 years of age who are expecting a Native American baby. The overall goal of the program is to reduce repeat pregnancies, improve health outcomes, increase healthy parenting skills and increase healthy relationship skills.


WIC

- Identify a friend to be your stress reduction partner. You can support one another by taking turns being the motivator for walking throughout the holiday season.

OTHER STRESS REDUCTION TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Eat healthful foods. Minimize the amount of fat and sugar; make a daily goal of five fruits and vegetables.
 - Avoid drinking too many caffeinated beverages.
 - Avoid too much alcohol – excessive alcohol use can result in increased feeling of depression or hopefulness.
 - Get enough rest – shoot for 8 hours of sleep each night.
 - Don’t overspend. Money worries are a major holiday stressor.
- Make a detailed shopping list with a realistic budget. Pay with cash instead of credit; this helps to eliminate impulse buying.

Courtesy of Eat Right Montana



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs.
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.; 1st & 2nd Fri.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
		8:00-4:30	2nd & 4th Tuesday
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs.; 4th Tues.
		8:00-4:30	3rd, 4th Friday
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd week - Tues., Wed., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro	918-962-3832	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Monday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

PREP Couple’s Retreat

January 25, 2008
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Hugo Lake State Park - Cabin 22

Lunch and dinner will be provided.

Contact:
Healthy Marriages
Healthy Kids
Program
918-567-3386

What is meningitis?

Submitted by Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles

Part 2 of 3

Bacterial meningitis is a more severe form of the infection. If it isn’t treated promptly, it can cause brain damage and, in some circumstances, even death. The most common bacteria that cause bacterial meningitis in teens are streptococcus pneumoniae and neisseria meningitidis.

People can spread them through throat and respiratory secretions – for example, by coughing or kissing. After a person is started on antibiotic treatment for meningitis, the infection can still be spread to others for at least 24 hours.

One form of bacterial meningitis is related to Lyme disease. Lyme meningitis is generally less severe than other forms of bacterial meningitis and is not fatal.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS?

Viral bacterial meningitis can cause similar symptoms. Although it may be difficult to identify which type a person has, a doctor can often find out by doing tests. Some symptoms of both viral and bacterial meningitis are: fever, stiff neck, severe headache, sensitivity to light, vomiting, nausea, extreme sleepiness, confusion, seizure.

If you or someone you know has these symptoms – especially if you’ve been around someone with meningitis – be sure to talk to a doctor. Treating the infection early is very important.

Next month: Can it be prevented? And when to call the doctor.



CLEET training was sponsored by Project SAFE in October for tribal and local law enforcement.

Project strives for abuse-free environment

Choctaw Nation’s Project SAFE (Striving for an Abuse-Free Environment) is a rural domestic violence/dating violence prevention program funded by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. This grant made it possible for Project SAFE to meet the financial obligation of nurses to complete the certification of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training.

Nona Humphreys and Samantha Chandler-Herbert of the Choctaw Nation Health System recently attended the training with much success.

Project SAFE has also purchased digital cameras and hand-held voice recorders for each of the Choctaw clinics and the Choctaw Nation hospital. The equipment will better facilitate these nurses in their professional expertise.

The grant also allowed Project SAFE to host a CLEET training on October 24 for tribal and local law enforcement officers throughout the 10 1/2 counties of Choctaw Nation. The training was facilitated by Beth Stanford, education direc-



Kimberly Baca, program coordinator, BSW; Sandra Twaddle, social worker, Choctaw Health System; Debra Dill, RN, education coordinator, assistant human resource manager; and Nona Humphreys, RN, relief house supervisor and nurse for Dr. Rhoades in the Specialty Clinic.

tor of the Oklahoma Coalition Office on Violence Against Women.

This training provided a wealth of information and allowed Project SAFE to present the Choctaw Tribal Law Enforcement with digital cameras and handheld voice recorders to better assist in their investigative process and the overall fight against domestic violence.

Project SAFE also provided \$100 scholarships to the law enforcement departments who attended.

The training was a great success. Project SAFE would like to express their appreciation to all who participated in the training to better equip everyone in making communities a safer place for all families.

NURSERY NEWS

Michael Phillip Sheriff Jr.

Michael Phillip Sheriff Jr. was born August 28, 2007, at Eastern Oklahoma Medical Center in Poteau. Parents are Stephanie Holdman and Michael Sheriff. Grandparents are Tammy and Greg Allison of Poteau and Teresa and Tracy Sheriff of Poteau.



Meredith Brooke Mills

Rick and Bev Logan of Plano, Texas, would like to announce the birth of their very first grandchild, Meredith Brooke Mills, at 2:08 p.m. on July 18, 2007. Meredith weighed 9 pounds 8 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Proud parents are Bobby and Lela Nicole of League City, Texas. Proud great-Granny is Inez Logan and the late John Logan of Albion, Oklahoma. Proud great-Papa is Evert Cannady of Albion.



Brielle Cecelia Pearce

Brielle Cecelia Pearce was born September 21, 2007, at St. Joseph, Missouri, weighing 6 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 18 inches long. Parents are Doug and Jessica Pearce and big brother is Ethan. Grandparents are Allen and Deann McDowell of Spiro and Doug and Mary Cox of St. Joseph. Great-grandparents are A.J. and Allene Pearce of Porum, Eldon McDowell of Spiro, Charles and Thola Owen of Bokoshe, Don and Peggy Cox of Berryville, Arkansas, and Bill Browning and the late Donna Browning of St. Joseph. Sammy McDowell of Spiro is Brielle’s uncle.



Julia Faye-Dylan Burris

Charlie Burris and Stacy Stockton of Haskell proudly announce the birth of their fifth child, a daughter, Julia Faye-Dylan Burris was born at 7:55 p.m. on October 6, 2007, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. She weighed 9 pounds 13 ounces and measured 21 inches in length. Welcoming their baby sister home were brothers and sisters Tyler, 13; Lisa, 1; and Kyle, 6. Julia also has an older brother, the late Dylan Bryan. Grandparents are Dawn Stockton of Boynton, Allen Spivey of Boynton, Ruby Smith of Boynton and Charles Burris of Haskell.

The newborn’s maternal great-grandmother is the late Wanda Faye Evetts. Her paternal great-grandparents are the late Julia Tims of Smithville and the late Isaac Wilson and the late John and Bernice Burris, all formerly of the Choctaw Nation.



Youth Fitness Challenge

The Wellness/REACH department, in partnership with the Choctaw Nation Youth Center and staff from CNHCC pharmacy and physical therapy, held a 10-week-long fitness challenge for the youth at the youth center. The challenge was led by Jason Carter from the pharmacy and Richard Brantley from the physical therapy department.

Fitness testing was done at the beginning of the challenge. During the 10 weeks the kids were taught stretching techniques, engaged in agility drills, strength training with dumbbells, resistance bands, upper body strengthening, etc., as well as taught the importance of staying physically active, personal goal setting, etc. At the end of the challenge the kids were awarded gift cards based on the number of classes they participated in. A total of 38 kids completed the challenge.

We would like to say thanks to Jason and Richard for working with and teaching the kids, thanks to the CNYC staff for their assistance and thanks to the kids for their hard work.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

January 8: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).
January 10: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).
Tribal Holidays: January 1.
Warehouse open: January 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 28, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28.
Closed for Inventory January 29, 30, 31.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays January 2-28.
Tribal Holidays: January 1.
Closed for Inventory January 29, 30, 31.

McALESTER

January 3: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open weekdays January 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28.
Tribal Holidays: January 1.
Closed for Inventory January 29, 30, 31.

POTEAU

Warehouse open weekdays January 2-29.
Tribal Holidays: January 1.
Closed for Inventory January 29, 30, 31.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Michelle earns Law Degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Michelle Dawn Johnson for her recent graduation from Oklahoma State University with a Master of Science in Health Administration. Michelle would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the assistance while attending OSU. Michelle would also like to thank her family and friends for their support in helping make this dream a reality.



Phillips to deploy

Choctaw Member PFC Dan Phillips will join his only brother in Iraq.

PFC Dan Phillips, age 19, will be serving his first tour in Iraq, he will be leaving the first of November. PFC Phillips serves with the 3rd Cav, attached with the 1st Armored Division out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Dan is the only brother of DCFN Earl Phillips “Hoot”, who serves in the US Navy aboard the US Enterprise, Dan is the stepson of Jan Harkins and Nancy Harkins of Poteau and the grandson of the late Ella F. Gray Perkins.

God’s speed son, Come home fast and safe - Mom and Dad



Happy 29 Birthday Dustin

Dustin Dorrough pictured here with David Dorrough.



Rickey Lee Crain and Joe Jefferson display their World Championship Medals

Rickey Lee Crain of Shawnee and Joe Jefferson of Tishomingo competed in the 2007 AAU World Powerlifting Championships at Disney’s Wide World of Sport’s Complex at Disney World in Orlando, Florida on October 12-14.

Rickey Lee Crain won first place in 165 lb class of the Teenage 18-19 year old division with a 446 lb squat, a 220 lb bench press, a 446 lb deadlift, which gave him a total of 1112 lbs.

Joe Jefferson won first place in the Super-heavy weight class of the Teenage 18 year old division with a 678 lb squat (he barely missed a 716 lb squat-he holds the record at 710 lbs), 369 lb bench press, 579 lb deadlift, which gives him a total of 1626 lbs.

Joe also won first place in the single lift deadlift competition with his 579 lb deadlift.

Both lifters are Freshman and among the better college powerlifters in the state. Joe is presently attending Murray State College and Rickey Lee Crain is going to Rose State University. Both plan to transfer to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant next year.

Kai turns 7

Happy birthday wishes to Kai McClary Noble who will be turning 7 from her Papa and Mimi, Daddy and Sylvia, and Mommy and Chase.



Minon Gordon Frye earns Law Degree

Minon Gordon Frye graduated in August with a Juris Doctorate and Certificate in International Law from the University of Tulsa College of Law. Minon is the daughter of Don and Terri Chitwood and granddaughter of Joan Brown Cooper. Minon was a member of the Journal of International and Comparative Law, Vice President of the Christian Legal Society, and Historian for the Native American Law Student Association while in school. She plans to take the July 2008 Bar exam and practice law in Oklahoma. She would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial aid while she pursued both her undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Jeff and Krystle marry

Jeffrey R. Bennett and Krystle Countz Bennett were married September 21 at the McAlester S.E. Expo. They were married by Rev. Bart Patterson of Stuart. A western theme was used throughout the wedding.

Jeff’s dad, Danny Bennett pulled their one month old son, Payton Bennett, in a wagon in which he was carrying the couples rings on a satin pillow. He was placed on stage next to his parents during the ceremony.

Krystle is the daughter of Eric and Pam West of Stuart and Jimmy and Donna Countz of Savanna. Grandparents are Buck and Frances Jones of Arpelar, Sue Countz of McAlester, Taylor and Barbara Countz of Indianola, Roger and Leonda Shields, Edith West and Tommie Davis of Stuart, and Ronald and Becky West of Tulsa. Great-grandparents are Mack Jones and Lorene McClendon of Arpelar, and James Countz of Indianola.

Jeff’s parents are Danny and Karen Bennett. Grandparents include Johnny and Wathena Leird of Savanna and Wilma Corhn of Bugtussle, Oklahoma.



Derek turns 4

Happy birthday wishes go out to Derek Rice from big sister, Khrystian and little brother, Ryan. Derek turned 4 on November 25. The proud parents are David and Traci Rice of Greenville, Texas. Grandparents are Pat and Virginia Espinoza of Boswell, Oklahoma, and Don Swatek of Floyd, Texas. Happy birthday from all your aunts, uncles, cousins, puppies, and fishes.



Setting high goals

Kristen Lynn Turcheck is on her way to accomplishing great things. She is an outstanding student with hopes of going to Yale University. So far Kristen has been on the A/B Honor Roll and just finished her first volley ball season and was awarded the Most Valuable Player. She is now in the process of tryouts for the Liberty Junior High Blue Jay Basketball team for which is her next sport she would like to play. Good luck Kristen and keep up the good work!



Congratulations

Bruce Basura and Melissa Mitchell, both of Burbank, California, were married September 29 at the Golden Nugget Casino in Laughlin, Nevada. A reception with dinner and dancing followed on the patio of the hotel.



Choctaw girl

Makayla Danielle Sexton turned three on November 20. Parents are Daniel and Lisa Sexton from Hendrix, Oklahoma.



Birthday wishes

I would like to wish my sister, Lisa Estrada a happy birthday on December 16. She will be 44 years old. Lisa is seated with her sister standing behind her.



Happy birthday

Josephine Gilmore will celebrate her eighth birthday on December 30. Wishing Josephine a happy birthday is mom and dad, Joyce and Kenny Gilmore; Thomas Noah and Jimmy Wade; and Garfield.



My little man

We would like to wish our little man, Canyon Lane Taylor a happy seventh birthday on December 20.

You are growing up to be a fine you man, but you will always be mommas baby! Canyon is in first grade at Hugo Elementary, he is proud to be Choctaw. Proud parents are Becky Peters and Dwayne Taylor of Hugo. He has two big brothers and four big sisters. Canyon also has two little nephews who adore him very much.



Birthday celebration

Ethan and Allison Crane celebrated their birthday’s recently. Allison turned one on August 13 and Ethan turned four on September 29.

Proud parents are Adam and Kerri Crane of Oklahoma City where Adam is stationed in the Air Force.

Grandparents are Dwaine and Rachael Benedict of Garland, Texas. Lyle and Ginger Crane of Grove, Texas. Great-grandparents are Laureda Benedict and the late M.C. Benedict of Mead. Imogene Miller of Bernice. Peggy Massey of Tulsa.

Also a warm 60th birthday wish to “pappy” Dwaine Benedict.



Look who’s turning 3

Proud parents of Dylen Cotton would like to wish him a very happy birthday on December 14. Dylen is a ball of energy and a bundle of joy. Parents are Jeff and Karenda of Ada, grandparents are Gerald Ludlow of Durant, Kelli Ludlow of Ada, Allen and Susan Bauler of Bridgeport, Texas. Bruce and Gina Cotton of Payson, Utah. Great-grandparents are Kenneth and Karen Crouch of Sanger, Texas and Pearlyne Carnes of Durant.



Lailah celebrates birthday

Lailah Walton turned six on November 11. She is from Antlers, Oklahoma and likes to read, ride her bike, run, color, watch Hannah Montana and Disney Princess. Lailah’s parents are Fred and Teela Walton. Grandparents are Ron and Peggy Nichols, and Kathleen and Larry Walton; Great-grandparents are Buddy and the late Evelyn Taylor, Marie McIntosh, and Pauline and the Late Frank Fish of Blanco.



Proud Grandpa

Lewis Hampton Jr. of Dallas is a proud grandpa. His grandson, Evan Curtis, is a member of the Lake Highlands Wildcat Wranglers. The Wranglers, a country and western dance and stunt team have been



invited to perform in London’s New Year’s Day Parade. Evan is also founder and President of the Native American Club at his high school. He plays varsity football and baseball. He has been selected by the Dallas Morning News as a “Good Kid”. Evan is the great-grandson of Mary and Lewis Hampton Sr. of Durant.

Once two and now one

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Langley wed on October 6 at the Historic Downtown YMCA in Fort Worth, Texas. Valerie is the daughter of Sam and Cindy Webster and granddaughter of Fannie White. Valerie is member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a descendant of Harrison Wood. Thomas is the son of Susan Langley and the late Larry Langley. Thomas and Valerie made home in Fort Worth, Texas.



Jeff and Ashley wed

Jeffrey Don West and Ashley Jo Compton were united in marriage on May 17 in McAlester by Judge Donnita Wynn.

Jeffrey is the son of Eric and Pam West, Stuart, Oklahoma, and Mike and Teresa McKinney, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He has one son, Janson West.

Grandparents are Leonda and Roger Shields, Stuart, Oklahoma, Ronald and Becky West, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dewayne and Iva Lowe, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Buck and Frances Jones, Mack Jones and Lorene McClendon all of Arpelar, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Edith West and Tommie Davis of Stuart.

Ashley is the daughter of Rick and Cathy Compton of McAlester. Her grandparents are J.C. and LaWanda Williams as well as Leon and Norma Compton all of McAlester.



A very happy birthday

Wilene Marshall was honored for her 80th birthday by her immediate family with a week-end celebration at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina. Wilene is a registered nurse and worked at the Talihina Indian Hospital in the late 40’s. Her husband of 57 years, Jimmie Marshall is the son of the late Virginia LeFlore Marshall, an original enrollee.



Chase turns 1

Chase Justin Weaver turned one on November 17. He is the son of Matt Weaver of Dallas. His grandparents are Mandy and Robert Weaver also of Dallas. Chase is the great-great-great-grandson of original enrollee Ben Hampton.





Onie White turns 100

A birthday celebration was recently held at Pauls Valley to celebrate the birthday of Onie White. She turned 100. Onie is pictured here with Monica Blaine as she presents Onie with a plaque.

Luis turns 18

Luis Sanchez will turn 18 on December 17. His mom and dad, sister, brother, family and friends would like to wish him a happy birthday.

Luis is the grandson of Wanda Robinson Mitchell of Oklahoma City and the great-grandson of the late Pearl Taylor Robinson of Rufe and the late Milton Lyman Robinson of Watson. Luis also loves to play sports.



Look who's 5

Anthony Robinson Jr. will turn 5 on December 22. His mom and dad, uncle Luis and family would like to wish him a happy birthday. Anthony also is a big brother to a little sister. Anthony loves to go to the ball park to watch his dad and uncle play ball.



Caddo graduates of 1935 celebrate being 90 with surprise birthday parties

Emogene Jackson Smith of Durant and Delphine Ellis Wileman of Ferguson, Missouri, had birthday celebrations recently.

Emogene was greeted by more than 80 friends and family members from as far away as Indiana, California, and Arizona.

Delphine had her celebration for her August 5 birthday in Ferguson, Texas, where more than 40 people congregated to wish her the very best. Her good friend, Ann, surprised her by traveling from Dallas for the event.



Jeff celebrates birthday

Jeffrey Keith Davis, Texarkana, Texas, celebrated his 12th birthday on September 14. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis. Grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis, and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Lane turns 12

Wyatt Lane Williams, Idabel, celebrated his 12th birthday on September 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Arvel Williams of Summerfield and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scott of Idabel.



Cody turns six

Grandma, mom, dad, and Kendall would like to wish Cody Cannady a happy birthday. Cody turned 6 on November 2.



Lil angel turns 3

Happy birthday to Bianca Genevieve Fuller who will turn 3 on December 17. Wishing their "Lil Angel" a happy birthday are parents Brian and Lacey, Nana and Papa, Meme and Pape, Uncle Brandon and Kate, and Granny Fuller.



Happy Birthday

Miko would like to wish his auntie Mary Kay a happy 28th birthday on December 27 and auntie Shell a happy 29th birthday on December 25. Happy birthday girls. Congrats to Jake also, he is going to be a big brother in January.



Scholarship opportunities

Scholarship Advisement Program has many scholarships available.

For more information regarding any of the scholarships or for a complete list contact Jo McDaniel at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2547.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University offers online courses to help you finish your degree

Southeastern has made it more affordable and convenient for you to finish your college education. Many short-term (8 week) courses are currently available online so you can take college credit courses anytime, anywhere, or anyplace. If you have access to a computer with internet connections at home, in your office, or as you travel, you can work to obtain your degree without giving up your busy lifestyle.

The Bachelor of General Studies degree allows you to design a course that suits your individual educational goals. The BGS is designed, primarily, for those students who have many credit hours but lack enough credits in a particular area to qualify for a major. The flexibility of the BGS program may help you to obtain a bachelor's degree without significant loss of time or academic credit.

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science degree may be another option to complete your degree. If you have an Associate of Applied Science or an Associate of Applied Arts degree from an accredited community or junior college in the U.S., you can obtain a BAAS from SOSU taking courses online or on campus.

For more information, contact Charles Hickox, Director, by email at chickox@sosu.edu or call 580-745-2858 or 1-800-435-1327, ext. 2858.

Janson West turns 2

Janson Ray West recently turned 2 years old on October 10. He celebrated his birthday with the Spiderman theme. His party was held at his home in Stuart. He is the son of Jeff and Ashley West and Christina Bristow, Canadian. His grandparents are Eric and Pam West, Stuart, and John and Kathy Bristow, Canadian. Great-grandparents are Roger and Leonda Shields, Stuart and Ronald and Becky West, Tulsa. Great-great-grandparents are Edith West, Stuart and Tommie Davis, Stuart.



Track star goes National

Erica D. Larson, a freshman at Plainview High School, is on the cross country and track team and has made great accomplishments. She has two ribbons, two trophies, one plaque, and 25 medals. She went to Florida AAU Nationals and placed 24. The Nationals this December will be at Virginia Beach. She is the granddaughter of Bill and Cheetah Townsend of Ardmore. She wants to thank the Choctaw Nation for supporting her in her travels out of state.



Lifetime achievement

The National Indian Education Association convention was recently held in Honolulu. During the awards ceremony Grayson Noley was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Noley is an associate professor at the University of Oklahoma. He is chair of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.



Soldier earns degree

Staff Sergeant Jason Detten graduated with honors on November 10 from Southern Illinois University. Staff Sergeant Detten currently serves as an active duty U.S. Marine and is stationed at Pensacola, Florida. He has worked on his Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Education and Development since he entered the service of his country in June 1997. He has currently completed combat duty tours in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and two tours in Iraq.



Child Care Assistance

The Child Care Assistance Program presently has funds available to assist eligible Indian families with their daycare expenses. To qualify for this program, the child must be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe and reside within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. Both parents must be employed or attending school. Eligibility is based on family size and income.

Call or come by our office to obtain an application
Child Care Assistance Office (at Tribal Headquarters)
Office Location at 1704 West Elm Street, Durant, Oklahoma
or mail P.O. Box 1210 Durant, Oklahoma 74702-1210
(580) 924-8280 or (800) 522-6170 ext. 2391

A call to all artists

The annual Self-Governance Conference will be held April 27 through May 1, 2008. The conference is seeking art work/designs to be submitted to them no later than January 4, 2008. The theme of the conference is "20 Years of Tribal Self-Governance: Celebrating Excellence." The art work/design will receive National attention and provide exposure for the artist throughout the year and will be spotlighted the week of the conference. The winning art will be featured on the cover of the program/agenda, on our website along with a brief bio about the artist and a link to the artist website, as well as on all advertising media for the conference.

For more details go to our website at <http://www.tribal-selfgov.org> and register your work of art to be considered.



Tribe is presented flag

Lt. Col. Bob Yandell presented Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton a framed Choctaw flag that had flown over the 45th Infantry Brigade's encampment in Afghanistan. The flag was presented back to the Choctaw Nation in a special box made in Afghanistan in appreciation of all the tribe has done for the soldiers who are serving in the military, especially the efforts made on behalf of the 45th.

Trooper Owens

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Clinton L. Owens completed his studies in Criminal Justice at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in December of 2006. Owens made his way through college by working for the Campus Police and part time for the Durant Police Department. Owens then was accepted into the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. He completed training at the 57 Trooper Academy in Oklahoma City. Owens has worked through his trial period of 90 days and will continue to work in McCurtain County. During this time Owens also served his country through the Arkansas National Guard, by spending a year patrolling the streets of Baghdad, Iraq and was awarded the Purple Heart. Owens is the son of Troy and Loretta Keiss of Watson and the late Preston L. Owens of Smithville. Congratulations Clint, we are very proud of you.



Phase I Language Class will begin January 7 at the Choctaw Communication Center in Atoka. Classes will be held at 6:30 PM. For more information call Ron Scott at 580-364-6755.

\$5,000 Scholarship for students pursuing ENVIRONMENTAL careers The Morris K. Udall Scholarship

If your interested in being plugged into a growing network of environmentally-committed students across the country, you should check out the Udall Scholarship.

The Udall Scholarship seeks to reward undergraduates with the commitment and potential to make significant contributions to the fields of the environment, tribal health, or tribal governance.

Eighty \$5,000 scholarships are available each year for

- Undergraduate sophomores and juniors in fields related to environment
- Undergraduate sophomore and junior Native American/Alaska Native students in fields related to health care, or tribal public policy

To be eligible for the Udall Scholarship, you must be nominated by your institution. To find your Faculty Representative and application materials, go to the "Our Programs" section of our web site: www.udall.gov

Put your application together over winter break (but contact your FacRep now) the receipt deadline for all materials is March 4. Email program manager, Melissa Millage at millage@udall.gov or contact Jo McDaniel at 1 (800) 522-6170, ext 2547

SOSU Honors Program Attention High School Seniors

Scholarship Advisement Program is now requesting all applicants that want to be considered for the SOSU honor program to contact Jo McDaniel. Seniors who have an ACT composite of 25 or SAT of 1130 or higher will be eligible to apply for the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Honors Program. Over 70 scholarships were awarded to students in the 2007-2008 academic year. To apply please call the office of Jo McDaniel by **January 24, 2008** at 1 (800) 522-6170, ext. 2547.

Intertribal Timber Council Scholarship Announcement

for Native American/Alaskan Natural Resource Students
Deadline: March 31, 2008, 5:00 p.m. PST

Award: \$2000 for college students

\$1,500 for graduating senior high school students

Purpose: The Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources.

For more information please visit www.itcnet.org or email us at itc1@teleport.com or call (503) 282-4296.



Choctaw Nation wins first place in Durant Christmas Parade

Choctaw Nation Tribal Events, Maintenance, Vocational Development, and Special Projects Department's put together this amazing float that earned them first place in the Durant Christmas parade held on December 6. Durant Head Start took a ride in the float around the complex and stopped for a picture in front of headquarters.

Jones Academy Super Students for first nine weeks



Super Students in first through fourth grades at Jones Academy are McGavyn Lone Elk, Kendale Willie, Tinara Walker, Shelby Tushka.



Jones Academy fifth grade Super Students are Saul Martinez and Chris Lone Elk.

MacGavyne Lone Elk and Shelby Tushka were named first/second grade Super Students for the first nine weeks by their teacher Lori Wells. Ms. Wells reports that McGavyne is an excellent student and leader in the classroom. He leads by example and continues to improve in academics. McGavyne is the son of Riva Little Hawk from Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Shelby, the daughter of Michelle Tushka, is from Broken Bow. She enjoys reading and likes to read to other students and help them with their assignments. Shelby is a great student to have in the classroom.

Third-grader Tinara Walker and fourth-grader Kendale Willie were chosen as Mrs. Martin's Super Students for the first nine weeks. Tinara is the daughter of Robert and Andrea Burris of Ponca City. This is her first year attending Jones Academy. Kendale is the son of Kennedy Willie of Helena. He has attended Jones Academy since the first grade and is an excellent student.

Mr. Sirmans' fifth grade Super Students are Chris Lone Elk and Saul Tristan Martinez. Chris's favorite subjects are math and P.E. He also enjoys basketball and playing with his friends. Chris is the

son of Riva Little Hawk of Pine Ridge. Saul is the son of Marshall Moore, Philadelphia, Mississippi. He likes the staff and teachers at Jones Academy. He also enjoys learning and expanding his vocabulary. This is his second year at Jones Academy.

Mr. Dugan selected Billie Jo Nunn and Lee Scott as Super Students in the sixth grade. B.J. is the daughter of Larry and Joyce Timmons of Keota. Lee Scott is the son of Michelle Tushka and big brother to Shelby Tushka. He also was recognized at the Elementary Boys' Dormitory for having the number one "Best Room" during the first quarter.

The JA Campus Alternative School Super Students are Katrece Cobb and Dion Roy. Katrece, a sophomore, is the daughter of Randy and Ann Cameron of Battiest. Katrece played on the Miners' softball team and is going out for basketball.

Dion Roy is in the 11th grade at the alternative school. Dion is the son of Elsie Howell of Lukachukai, Arizona. He is commended for his willingness to work and the good attitude he brings to the classroom.



Alternative School Super Students are Dion Roy and Katrece Cobb.

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board reducing youth access to alcohol

Each day 7,000 kids under the age of 16 take their first drink. Those that begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism. The average age that youth in Oklahoma take their first drink is 12 years old.

Region 6 Area Prevention Resources Centers, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach, Choctaw County State Department of Health, local district attorney, a district attorney's District 17 Drug Task Force agent, Hugo Assistant Chief of Police, and

a Pushmataha County sheriff's deputy with 22 students from the local Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board and Too Much To Lose clubs conducted compliance checks throughout Choctaw County to encourage responsible alcohol sales according to the laws of Oklahoma.

Compliance checks are an important part of reducing youth access to alcohol. When we reduce the availability of alcohol, we also help reduce the problems associated with underage drinking like car crashes, vandalism, assault, teen pregnancy and date rape,

just to name a few. Underage drinking is a factor in about half of all deaths from motor vehicle crashes.

On the evening of October 25, 22 youth under the age of 21 went into local businesses to attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages. Police as well as adult volunteers worked with these students to ensure their safety and to abide by the laws of Oklahoma.

These teams were not out trying to trick local businesses into selling. Students just tried to make a purchase as any underage youth might be doing. We conduct compliance

checks to raise awareness and educate students, store owners, staff and community. It is illegal to sell, deliver or furnish any alcoholic beverage to anyone under 21 years of age. Providing a teen with alcohol and/or a place to drink can be classified as contributing to the delinquency of a minor and can result in loss of license, fines, and/or jail time.

There were 16 stores checked for compliance, and two out of the 16 unfortunately failed their compliance check and sold to the minors both receiving citations. How-

ever, we had 14 stores that did not sell to the minors.

According to the Oklahoma Preventive Needs Assessment Survey the majority of our youth in this area are getting their alcohol from their home, a friend's home, or it is being provided to them by a friend/family member. Some believe that drinking is a right of passage and they do not want to feel hypocritical by telling their children not drink because they did.

But, we are a more educated society now and we know that alcoholism is a disease, that a child's brain develops until

the age of 25 and those brain cells that this "right of passage" is killing will not come back. It is the job of the adults in the community to protect our youth and to teach them that even though alcohol is legal, it is not legal until the age of 21.

It is not legal to provide it to them, it is not legal for them to touch it, it is not even legal for them to have an empty beer can in the back of the truck. We must teach the youth of our communities that the choice they make now to drink could be a decision they regret for the rest of their lives.

Can-or-Treat

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board groups from Clayton and Talihina used Halloween as an opportunity for a community project. Talihina's Kelbie Kennedy and Katherine Goodman and Clayton's Marvin Dahl, David Batton, Samantha Hutchinson, and Severt Dahl donned costumes and went house to house in their respective communities gathering canned foods and non-perishable items. The items they collected were donated to their local school for food baskets that are given out for the holidays. Way to go YAB'sters!



Car seats available

Nadine Billy of Rattan received the 150th car seat given away through the Injury Prevention Program. She will be using it for transporting a grandchild.

To receive a free car seat, call 877-285-6893 and request an application or you can e-mail RMorris@choctawnation.com. Requirements for the program include that a person has a CDIB and Tribal Membership from a federally recognized tribe and a copy of income.

Choctaw Nation

GED Classes

Boswell area
Beginning date and time: December 10, 2007
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Archiving
501 Hunter St., Boswell, Oklahoma

McAlester area
Beginning date and time: December 10, 2007
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
EOSC Campus
1802 E. College Ave., McAlester, Oklahoma

Stigler area
Beginning date and time: December 11, 2007
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Stigler, Oklahoma

Broken Bow area
Beginning date and time: December 11, 2007
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

The class will meet 2 days each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you wish to attend these classes please contact the Adult Education Program, Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

Our role in honoring veterans

**By Preston Wells
Choctaw Nation
Youth Advisory Board**
Our role in honoring veterans is a very important one. Many people beat down on our generation, saying that we're so lazy or not dedicated enough towards life. Others say that our generation is the worst and we will amount to nothing. I believe nothing these people say. I believe our generation needs only one thing – encouragement.

Encouragement is the key point. Without encouragement, who has strength to go on? As soon as I awake each morning, I have a great outlook for the day. I try to be the best I can at everything because if I mess up, it affects everyone around me. Veterans gave us freedom, so if we live our lives to the fullest capability that is an honor to them.

Each day when I recite the pledge while looking at the flag, my flag, I remember those who died for me. I smile because without veterans, I would not be here. Each time I recite the pledge, I feel a chill go up my spine. It is almost as if I can feel the hearts of those who fought for me. It's an

amazing experience, and I live it each day.

Yes, our generation is lazy, but what generation is not? Our generation cares about honoring veterans. Our generation loves to say the Pledge of Allegiance to our great nation's flag. A flag that is so prestigious and illustrious to all of our people. Our generation devotes time to do schoolwork, something that could be used to honor our veterans. If it wasn't for our veterans we would be forced to learn things of another nation. Veterans give us the freedom of learning our own history. When our students get up every morning and attend school – honoring our veterans. Our generation is proud of our veterans. We're proud to call ourselves Americans.

So I believe that everyone has a role in honoring veterans. Teachers, students, adults, and all citizens have a role. When we all live our lives to the fullest, veterans should be proud. We show affection to our freedom. Ask a person if they like freedom do you think they'll say no? The United States, a nation where I can voice my opinion, practice the religion I choose, and attend school

each day. Who do I thank for all of these things? God is the giver of all, so He is the first. Veterans fought for me, and died for me, so I thank them as well. Why take time to beat down our generation, what will be accomplished? Each day we should all encourage one another to live our lives. We shouldn't worry about anything, God is protecting us all. If a fellow American is down, go to them and encourage them to fight the pain. Being kind and helping others is not only honoring veterans, but is essential to life.

If I can say at the end of the day that I have changed someone's heart, then I'll truly know I've left a mark in this lifetime. Affecting the people around us and not just going through this life without changing anything is important. We need to keep our way of life going. A generation of honoring those who fought before us, a generation of helping one another, a generation who is devoted to living life, is what we are. We are not the "X" generation; we are the generation who lives. One person's encouragement to another can change the world, so why not do it?



A big Thank You!

The Chahta Villa preschool students and staff want to say a big "Thank You" to Mike and Vicky Amos for bringing Halloween candy and toy-filled pumpkins to them and taking a picture with them.



WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS



Major General Leroy Sisco presents Chief Gregory E. Pyle with a proclamation from the Governor of Texas congratulating the Chief on his induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.



Major General Rita Aragon, a guest speaker, meets Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb.



Captain Teri Scroggins is home from Iraq after serving overseas one year in the Arkansas National Guard.



Myadd Greenwood of Antlers is an Army veteran. His son, Charles Greenwood, is a former Marine. His brother, Justin, was unable to attend but is a Navy veteran.



A plaque is presented to Major General John Furlow from the Bobb family in appreciation of his efforts with the Choctaw Code Talker exhibit at Camp Mabry's Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin.



John Hooser walks through the war memorial on the capitol grounds.



Visual impact artist Richard Hight uses chalk to create a patriotic drawing of an eagle.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Folsom White.



Linda Burleson and granddaughter Maggie are pictured with General Leroy Sisco.



Oscar Lee Gardner, originally from Bokchito, drove down from Lawrence, Kansas, for the Veterans Ceremony.



Chief Greg Pyle says hello to R.W. Norad.



Navy veteran Ray Hawkins and son, Army veteran Nick Hawkins.



Councilman Delton Cox talks with area citizens at the Community Center in Poteau.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Kenny Bryant are pictured with Gilbert Smallwood and Wanda McRorey of Talihina.

A Time To Give Thanks

Thanksgiving celebrations are held each year in the Choctaw Community centers throughout the 10 1/2 counties. Photos from the dinners are continued through Pages 10 and 11.



Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman Bryant stop by to greet Sylvester Moore in Talihina.



Kara Taylor, District 4 Senior Princess, and Councilman Delton Cox.



Amanda Sotelo, Alicia Sotelo, Austrena Ludlow and Noris Meashintubby, Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman Bryant.



Chief Greg Pyle finds a handsome young man to hold at Wright City. He is a practiced hand with babies. Chief Pyle and wife Pat have six grandchildren.



Chief Pyle visits with Willis and Delia Wesley and Bertha Jefferson while at Wright City's Thanksgiving dinner.



Coalgate festivities are enjoyed by Councilman James Frazier and A.J. and Hazel McLellan.



It was a full house for Durant's Thanksgiving celebration.



Jesse and Eva Frederick attend the Coalgate center's Thanksgiving luncheon. Councilman Frazier stops by to say hello.



Vignon Ford, Willodyne Smith and Councilman Perry Thompson are pictured in Hugo.



Olen and Maude Durant are pictured with Councilman Jack Austin at Antlers' Thanksgiving dinner.



Betty Chaney gets her blood pressure checked by Roberta Parker of Tendercare Home Health and Hospice.



Tushka Homma is part of Councilman Jack Austin's District 7 area. The dinner there is much-anticipated by everyone.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton says hello to friends from the Clayton/Tuskahoma area.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton is pictured with mom Dolly Batton at Tushka Homma.



The first Thanksgiving meal was held in the new Idabel Center on November 7. All ages gathered to enjoy the fellowship and good food. While there, Sue Willis gets a flu shot from Wayla Fields, Community Health Nurse. Lawrence Obe shows off his grandson, Sevind Anna, center photo; and at right, Councilman Hap Ward visits with citizens from his district.



Congratulations to Andrew and Juanette James who were married on November 3 in Wilburton. The newlyweds are among those attending the District 6 Thanksgiving Dinner in Wilburton.



Councilman Joe Coley welcomes James Noley to the Wilburton's center's holiday celebration.



Nicole Mote holds daughters Kylie and Rylie. The twins turned 3 years old on December 12.



Chief Greg Pyle enjoys visiting with Ellen Beathard of Bokoshe after lunch at Spiro.



Councilperson Charlotte Jackson says hello to Wanda James, Rotha Adams and Daniel Adams at the Spiro center.



Council Speaker Delton Cox visits with Allen Holden and John Casey at Spiro.



Councilman Anthony Dillard welcomes everyone to the center in Atoka.



Romona Baker, pictured at Stigler with Assistant Chief Gary Batton turned 68 on November 18. Happy birthday!



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Herschell and Romona Prentice attend Stigler's lunch.



Lloyd B. Morrison of Eufaula attends the Crowder Thanksgiving luncheon. He is pictured with Councilman James Frazier and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Alvie Carney talks with Councilman James Frazier and Assistant Chief Gary Batton at Crowder.



Sisters Jean Cameron of McAlester and Laura Lucille Jameson of Crowder, Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman Frazier.



Chief Pyle and Councilman Mike Amos have a picture taken with Jasney Wade and Melissa Bohanan at Bethel.



Brothers Seth and Josh Steve of Wright City have fun at the Thanksgiving dinner held at Bethel.



Chief Pyle, Lucy White of Bethel and Councilman Amos smile for the camera.



Assistant Chief Batton attended the Thanksgiving dinner at Broken Bow.



Broken Bow's Choctaw Community Center is full of Choctaw families enjoying the fellowship and food.



Charles and Marie Watkins show off granddaughter Raynie Leeann Tom.



Chief Pyle is welcomed to the McAlester center. More than 400 people attended the luncheon.



Merle Kirkland, Ruth Cummins and Hester Gardner examine the new type of lids on the medicine bottles furnished by the clinics.



Cecil and Winona Berry and Councilman Bob Pate are at McAlester for the center's Thanksgiving celebration.



Councilman Kenny Bryant, Evelyn Ludlow and Christine Ludlow are ready for the Thanksgiving meal at Smithville.



Councilman Bryant and Tanner and Maureen Hook of Smithville.



Marvin Going, Councilman Bryant and Minnie Edward.

OBITUARIES

Patsy Ruth Baken Johnson

Patsy Ruth Baken Johnson, 68, passed away November 2, 2007, at the Four Seasons Nursing Home, Durant. She was born April 4, 1939, in Talihina to Deseth J. Baken and Lillian Columbus Baken.

She attended the Chilocco and Wheelock Indian schools and later received her associate's degree in computer science from DQ University in Davis, California. Patsy moved to Johnston County in 1991 from California and had been working as the deli supervisor at the Choctaw Travel Plaza in Durant.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Bobby Lee; and five brothers, Sam, Joe, Nelson, Jesse and Tommy Baken.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Suzanne Johnson of Coleman; daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Randy Wade of Ravia; two brothers, Layman Baken of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Billy Joe Baken of Valliant; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Anthony Denetclaw

Anthony Fobb Denetclaw passed away October 1, 2007, at the L.D.S. Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah. He was born January 31, 1968, in Brigham City, Utah, to Elizabeth and Raymond Denetclaw. He grew up in Brigham City.

He was working for Iron Workers Local #732. He also worked for the Sho-Ban Firefighters (wildfires).

He was preceded in death by his grandparents and an aunt.

Survivors include a daughter, Molly Bullcreek of Ibapah, Utah; a brother, Raymond Denetclaw Jr. (Carol) of Brigham City; his father, Raymond Denetclaw Sr. of Sheep Springs, New Mexico; his mother, Elizabeth Joy LaVatta (Ray) of Fort Hall, Idaho, and numerous nieces.

Donald Earl Kidd

Donald Earl Kidd of Edmond passed away July 17, 2007. He was born December 20, 1936, in Poteau and held residence in Durant for 21 years before marrying his beloved wife, Sharon.

A charter member and deacon of Henderson Hills Baptist Church and Waterloo Road Baptist Church, Don knew his faith and lived a life the way a Christian man should. He was well-respected and loved by many as he used his gift of teaching and his ability to relate Christian principles to everyday life. He taught adult Bible studies, Sunday School, and with his wife, Sharon, mentored boys at the Boys Ranch Town.

Don was a hard worker and dedicated in supporting his family. His field of expertise was computer systems analysis and marketing. He was a computer pioneer in the State of Oklahoma and trained many companies on IBM and Honeywell Mainframes and Information Systems.

"Pa Pa," as he was commonly called, loved his grandchildren deeply. He spent most of his retirement days as an excellent caregiver playing games, doing crafts, guiding and teaching, gardening, and laughing with them. Many days found him mentoring his grandchildren, whether it was repairing an old lawn mower or teaching them to plant a garden. He had a quick wit and always enjoyed a good joke to bring a smile to those around him. As an avid gardener he loved the outdoors and generously shared his garden fruits and vegetables with family and friends.

As a proud Choctaw he enjoyed making Indian art with his skilled hands. He enjoyed painting, drawing, crossword puzzles, woodworking, and being with his family. Don and Sharon shared their 50th wedding anniversary this year. He was the most faithful and dedicated husband who loved his wife with all his heart. He shared a close and special relationship with his daughter, Sharyl Brimacombe and her children. He was always there for his family to help in any way. He had a servant's heart and honored his Holy Father in heaven. Those who follow Christ will see him again.

He is survived by his loving wife; loving daughter, Sharyl Brimacombe and son-in-law Thomas Brimacombe; his son Danny Kidd; his foster sons, Rusty Prandy, Mike Prandy, and Stacy Stookey; his brother, Ron Kidd; and 13 grandchildren.



Johnie Spencer Woods Jr.

Johnie Spencer Woods Jr., 65, of Alex, Oklahoma, passed away November 11. He was born July 17, 1941, in Alex to Johnie and Dortha Agnes Woods.

He lived in Alex all his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother and an infant sister, all of Alex.

Survivors include two daughters, Peggy Lin Woods-McBride of Minco, Oklahoma, and Linda Garcia of Oklahoma City; a brother, Jo Dell Woods of Maysville; and an ex-wife, Mona Mills of Chickasha.

Johnie was loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Brenna Jane McKinney Garrison

Brenna Jane McKinney Garrison, great-granddaughter of original enrollee Ervan Barnett, was lost to her family and friends in an auto accident on November 4, 2007, in Athens, Georgia. She was born August 12, 1981, in Bryan, Texas.

Brenna was a 2005 graduate of the University of Georgia and was employed as an accountant in the External Affairs Division at the University of Georgia.

She was a letter athlete in high school and enjoyed music, theater and the outdoors. She left many friends who will miss her ready smile and sharing nature. She was proud of her heritage as a Choctaw.

Survivors include her two children, Kelsey and Hunter; husband, Steve Williams; her parents, Ginger and Ervan; and her brother, Ian.



Lee Anthony Winlock

Lee Anthony Winlock, 56, of Wilburton passed away November 5, 2007, in Tulsa. He was born February 6, 1951, at Idabel to James and Lavina Stewart Winlock.

Lee worked as a general laborer and was a member of the Seventh Day Sabbath Assembly.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Victor Winlock, Jimmy Winlock and Larry Winlock.

Survivors include his longtime companion, Margaret, of the home; brother, Virgil Winlock of Dallas, Texas; sisters, Dorothy Ann Davis of Oklahoma City, Shirley Bonaparte of Red Oak, Jerri Sumka of Glenpool, Karen Winlock of Dallas, Janice Winlock of Tahlequah, and Ruthie May Smith; aunts, Millie Chapman of Tahlequah and Loretta Rice of Ada; numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and other family members and friends.

Kenneth Norman Manning Sr.

Kenneth Norman Manning Sr., 85, of Norman, passed away August 20, 2007. He was born February 9, 1922, in Durant to Charley Harrison Manning and Amy Bryant.

They lived on his mother's Choctaw allotment land at Bryant. The town was named for Kenneth's grandfather. Kenneth attended Wayne High School where he met his one and only darling, Wilma Jean Crouch. They were married December 20, 1941, in Purcell.

The couple farmed at Bryant and Kenneth helped build aircraft hangars at the Naval Center in Norman before enlisting in the U.S. Army in November 1942. Kenneth was trained in reconnaissance and forward observation. He became a member of the 419th armored field artillery battalion of the "Tiger" division which was the first of General Patton's divisions to enter Germany. As a part of Patton's Third Army he was involved in several combat campaigns and following the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, he was awarded the Bronze Star for "heroic achievement" on December 21, 1944, in Luxembourg. The citation says, "His courage, determination and outstanding performance of duty under fire reflect great credit upon himself, his organization, and the military forces." He was also awarded the European Campaign Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Kenneth worked in civil service at Tinker Air Force Base on air transportation. He retired in 1975 after 28 years of federal service.

He was a member of the Church of Christ and had served as chaplain for the American Legion and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He and Jean enjoyed traveling in their RV. They loved to square dance which they described as "friendship set to music" with the Norman Buckaroos and Silver Spur Clubs.

Survivors include his sister, Janie Wilson; daughter, Letitia Manning; daughter-in-law, Cleo Manning; son-in-law, Chuck Daignault; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, three nieces and one nephew.



Zack Florence

Zack Florence, 92, of Oklahoma City passed away October 18, 2007, at Oklahoma City. He was born August 2, 1915, in Pauls Valley to Zack and Mayme Ida Kelly Florence.

Zack grew up in the Pauls Valley and Paoli areas and is a graduate of Florence Chapel. He and Carol Shockley were married in Clovis, New Mexico, on May 16, 1955. They lived in California for about 30 years and have made their home in Oklahoma City for the past 16 years. He was a cattle rancher and a member of the Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, R.C. Florence; and three sisters, Opal Duke, Juanita Vawter and Sue Forehand.

Survivors include his wife of over 52 years, Carol of the home; three children, Rowena Jo Britt and husband Harold of Shawnee, Judy Carlton and husband Jerry of Oklahoma City, and Linda and her husband, Allan, of Prescott Valley, Arizona; one brother, Eugene Florence of Houston, Texas; four sisters, Hazel Boren of San Diego, California, Marguerite Thrasher of Oklahoma City, Nadine Thrasher and husband Jake of Kingston, and Mayme Jo Guest of Oklahoma City; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



John Carl Culver

John Carl Culver passed away August 17, 2007. He was born November 10, 1937, in Pryor to Nancy Voncille Sumpter and Leonard "Brandy" Culver.

After high school he enlisted in the Navy and in 1960, while stationed near San Francisco, he met and married Judy Jewett. They had four children. Later in his life he established a domestic partnership with Christine Johnson of San Ramon, California.

As a Navy pilot, he flew A-4 and A-7 fighter jets and retired in 1978 from the Naval Reserves after 23 years of service. John graduated from San Jose State University and subsequently the University of California at San Francisco's School of Dentistry. He maintained private practices in San Francisco's east and south bay areas until his retirement. John's professional relationships were deeply important to him and he regarded his associates and employees as extended family.

John loved to fly and over the years he owned a number of private planes – most recently a "Skybolt" open-cockpit biplane he flew as frequently as possible. He was curious about indigenous cultures, traveled often, and in 1997 earned a second bachelor's degree in archaeology from San Jose State University. He loved listening to Dixieland jazz and reading pocket novels. He was an avid moviegoer. He had a lazy streak and a relaxed sense of humor.

John's accomplishments were many, but most importantly he was part of a big family that stretched from Oklahoma to California and most states in between. We all loved him and wish we had more time with him. He will be deeply missed.



Shawn Tallant

Shawn Tallant, 44, of Joplin, Missouri, passed away July 20, 2007. He was born February 21, 1963, in Bakersfield, California, and had lived in the Joplin area most of his life.

He owned and operated TNT Asphalt Construction Co. and previously worked in security in Tulsa. He was a member of Central Christian Center.

Shawn and Connie Ashley were married August 17, 1992, in Joplin.

He was preceded in death by a son, Rocky Don Walker; his father, Bill Tallant; a sister, Billie Jean Tallant; and a grandmother, Jessie Mae Tallant.

Survivors include his wife; six children, Justin Danielson of Joplin, Teila Tallant and Cruise Tallant, both of Kellyville, Oklahoma, Shawn Tallant Jr. of Miami, Oklahoma, Eric Tallant of Oswego, Kansas, and Andrew Tallant of Joplin; his mother and stepfather who raised Shawn, Janice and Carl Walker of Duenweg, Missouri; stepmother, Ann Tallant of Bakersfield; four brothers, Harold Walker and Robert Walker, both of Joplin, and Vince Tallant and Timmy Tallant, both of Bakersfield; four sisters, Joyce Tallant of Joplin, Shandra Walker of Joplin, Roberta Elliott of Lamar, Missouri, and Lucinda Tallant of Bakersfield; grandmother, Inez Duncan of Bakersfield; and five grandchildren, Nicole, Rocky, Kelly, Noah, and Preston.



Alfred L. Peters

Alfred L. Peters, 80, of Tulsa passed away October 25, 2007, in Tulsa. He was born October 15, 1927, in Glover, Oklahoma.

He grew up in Glover and had lived in Tulsa since 1985. He and his wife, Glenda, were married in Harrison, Arkansas, in 1996. Alfred was a precision welder by trade and of the Pentecostal faith. He enjoyed fishing and traveling.

He was preceded in death by a son, Keith Peters; a brother, Jack Peters; and a sister, Viola Barnett.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Roy Peters of Coweta, David Peters of Great Falls, Montana, and Steve Peters of Conway, Arkansas; four daughters, Sandy Molash of Kiefer, Teresa Powell of Owasso, Leslie Calderin of Broken Bow, and Suzy Peters of Tulsa; two stepsons, Rodney Cantrell of Valliant and Clint Henderson of Tulsa; a brother, Isom "Bootsie" Westbrook of Clover, South Carolina; 18 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Billy Dean Noah

Billy Dean Noah, 61, of Warf Road, North Carolina, passed away September 28, 2007, at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, after a sudden illness. He was born November 27, 1945, in Talihina to Theodore E. Noah and Edith Daney Noah.

Mr. Noah was retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service, during which time he served two tours in Vietnam, one tour in Korea and several tours in Germany. He retired from Lexington Home Brands. He was a warehouse manager at PGT and attended Lighthouse Baptist Church. He enjoyed swimming, fishing and hunting.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Everett Lee Noah and Elton Wayne Noah; and two sisters, Diane Noah and Gloria N. Noah.

Survivors include his wife, best friend and soul mate of 41 years, Brenda Hill Noah; a brother, Troy E. Noah and his wife, Sarah, of Silver Valley; a nephew, Glendal Noah of Columbus, Ohio; and a niece, Helen McGill of Texas.

Julia Stella Tims

Julia Stella Tims, 95, passed away October 23, 2007. She was born December 24, 1911 to James Brown and Viney Davis Tims.

She was married to Isaac Wilson Sr. in 1933. They had 10 children together before being divorced.

Julia was of the Methodist faith for the biggest part of her life but converted to the Baptist faith in her later years. She was truly devoted to her church and continued attending until she wasn't physically able. Another devotion of hers was all her children, grandchildren, and all the other people who came into her life. She loved to make a garden for her vegetables which she did until just two or three years ago. The gardens became smaller every year until she gave it up.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Edgar and James Tims; sisters, Dora and infant Dela Tims; a half-brother, Rufus Tims; a half-sister, Martha Jacob; stepdaughters, Mary Jane Samis and Anna Mae Wilson; a stepson, known as "Big Junior;" sons, R.B. and Lester Ray Wilson; and an infant, Charlie Wilson.

Survivors include her sons and daughter-in-law, Leroy and Richard Wilson of Smithville, Isaac Wilson Jr. of New Caney, Texas, and Robert and Paulette Wilson of Tahlequah; daughters and sons-in-law, Dora Wilson of Haskell, Ruby and Dale Smith of Boynton and Opal and Eugene Ludlow of Smithville; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, some great-great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends from all over the United States.

Life without her will be difficult but she has finally gotten the peace and rest that she so greatly deserved. She made a big difference in a lot of lives and will be dearly missed by all.



Mona Rae Smith

Mona Rae Smith, 71, of Battle Ground, Washington, passed away August 14, 2007. She was born November 23, 1935, at Fort Davis, Texas, to Otis Utah Halliburton and Julia Mae Carr, an original enrollee.

Mona honored truth, honesty and strong work ethics above all and diligently instilled these traits in her children.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Helen Maureen Gibson.

Survivors include children, Karla J. Branch, Julie S. Clayton of Alaska, Kelly D. Haifley of Washington, John D. Smith of Idaho, and Michael D. Smith; 10 grandchildren and two wonderful sons-in-law, Gary Clayton and Bob Haifley.

Mother passed as she lived, with quiet strength and grace. She was very much loved and will be greatly missed.