



# BISHNIK

The Official Publication of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Serving 180,582 Choctaws Worldwide

BISHNIK  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant OK 74702  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PSRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Durant OK  
Permit #187

February 2007 Issue

## Shovels turn for Idabel Community Center

The beautiful area west of Idabel's Child Development Center will soon be home to a new Choctaw Nation Community Center. Tribal, city and county officials joined area Choctaws for lunch January 31 in the old center and then met at the new site on the U.S. 70 and U.S. 259 South bypass for a ceremonial groundbreaking.

"The new center will be something that Idabel Choctaws can be proud of," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "Their councilman, Hap Ward, has really pushed for this new facility and moving it closer to the Child Development Center and the new Choctaw Nation Clinic will benefit everyone."

The 7,800-square-foot facility will provide a large meeting room with ample space for gatherings, office space for tribal social programs and a state-of-the-art kitchen.



## State of the Union is once-in-a-lifetime experience

"Growing up, I never even dreamed I would one day be honored to attend a State of the Union Address by the President of the United States. When Congressman Boren called and said he would like me to be his guest, I was more than excited, I was absolutely thrilled!" said Chief Gregory E. Pyle of his recent trip to the United States Capitol.

After an early dinner, Chief Pyle and Congressman Boren were both enthusiastic to get through the security check-

points early so they could get comfortable and watch as people arrived for the evening. Chief Pyle said his ticket was for a seat in the upper gallery directly across from First Lady Laura Bush. "The magnitude of being present at this event was humbling as I watched the Supreme Court, Cabinet Members and the Joint Chiefs come in."

The Chief said he sat next to the husband of a newly elected Congresswoman. Chief Pyle said that excitement built as people came in, and when the

President opened his speech with "Madame Speaker," the crowd went wild. "I was pleased that Bush had a focus on health care in his speech, since the tribe places such an emphasis on health care, education and jobs."

Chief Pyle said after the State of the Union, President Bush cleared the room prior to anyone else being allowed to leave. Senators and Congresspeople were then permitted to leave the building, and finally the gallery was opened for guests to

depart. "The building is beautiful, with fabulous architecture, huge paintings and elaborate decorations, yet it is still an old facility, with very few elevators. In addition to being a security measure, it was just good exit strategy to empty the room slowly."

The Chief said three or four blocks surrounding the Capitol were cordoned off for security reasons, so there was quite a distance to walk before cabs could even be found, then there

See CHIEF on Page 2



Congressman Dan Boren and Chief Gregory E. Pyle

## Tribal Council holds session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council addressed six Council Bills during regular session January 13.

Approved were:

- a Tribal Operations Budget Modification for fiscal year 2007

- execution of a Quit Claim Deed to correct a title defect on lands in Choctaw County

- a limited waiver for a contract agreement for the new construction and expansion of the Jones Academy K-6 Academic Complex

- a grant proposal for the Family Violence Program

- application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for the Interpreting America's Historic Places: Implementation Grants

- and application to the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Violence Against Women for the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant.

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets on the second Saturday of each month at Tushka Homma.

## Weekend seminar

The Choctaw Nation Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Program is holding a Sweethearts weekend on February 17 at the McAlester Expo Center.

For more information, please call 918-567-3065.

## Head Start Pre-School begins spring recruiting



The Policy Council for the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program meets to assist the program in the decision-making process. Parent involvement is an important part of the Head Start program. Head Start staff work together with families and communities to provide a quality program, committed to the wellness of the entire family. Pictured are, back row, Head Start Director Rebecca Clapp, Paula Fails, Monona Dill, Brenda Ivie and Kyle Francis; front row, Lainey Hensley and Zazbet Stoltz.

The Choctaw Nation Head Start Pre-School Program is recruiting prospective students for the 2007-08 school year. Although the program accepts applications year-round, each year in the spring a concerted effort is made to identify children who might be eligible for the Head Start services. This program serves 3- to 5-year-old children of all nationalities, including children with disabilities. Indian preference is preferred. The Head Start Pre-School Program is directed primarily toward low-income families.

Families of children with special needs are encouraged to apply. The Head Start program assists in obtaining support services. Choctaw Nation Head Start provides families with assistance in their effort to obtain educational, health, nutritional and social services. The program provides a nutritionally sound breakfast and lunch each day. Extended day services are provided at nine of the sites.

For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Centers in Antlers, Atoka, Bennington, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton, and Wright City. You may also contact the Durant Administration office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2373.

## Dream of youth center is coming true

### Believers in Boswell offer Harbor of Hope

Since the beginning of their existence, the Believers in Boswell Community Coalition Inc. has had a dream to build a youth center in which to focus on programs that would promote safer neighborhood environments, improve academic and school performances, foster the development of leadership skills, and build self-esteem and pride in the Boswell youth.

With the help of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Tribal Council that dream is closer to becoming a reality. In December, the Choctaw Tribal Council voted to donate the generous amount of \$12,500 toward the Believers in Boswell's "Harbor of Hope Youth Center." This very charitable offering will be added to the money that has already been donated and raised for the center.

Believers in Boswell would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and everyone who has been so generous in donating to the youth center.



Members of Believers in Boswell recently met with Chief Pyle and graciously accepted the donation for Harbor of Hope. Pictured are Joyce Wells, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Director; Chief Pyle; Marilyn Pebsworth, BIB Chairperson; Gary Batton, Choctaw Nation Executive Director of Health; Carolyn Hansen, BIB Vice Chairperson; and Melissa Cress, BIB Secretary and Office Manager for Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles.

# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Vocational Development one of the tribe's great programs

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thanks to everyone in the Vocational Development Department. I appreciate everything you have done for me and my family. It's because of the great programs the Choctaw Nation offers that so many members are able to finish school and get a degree.

Krista McCurtain and family

## Excited about future

Dear Chief Pyle,

I do not know the words to truly express my sincere gratitude for the aid in having my service dog trained. Her finished work training has truly made her my partner. She and I can attend functions without having to have a family member go along. She has given me a sense of independence. We are learning every day how to work together.

I am looking forward to the Fall 2007 semester when we plan to return to the university to work on my pre-veterinary degree. From there, I plan to apply to a School of Veterinary Medicine to get my doctorate. It may take me longer than some due to not being able to take a full course load but I am sure I will get there in God's timing.

Thank you whole-heartedly for all your help. You and the Choctaw Nation have made a wonderful change in my life. I am finally excited about my future for the first time in years.

Erin O'Roark  
U.S. Navy Veteran of Desert Storm  
Doyle, California

## Family receives help in time of need

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Many thanks go to Choctaw Nation Councilman Perry Thompson and his family for helping us to have a wonderful Christmas during a time of need. My mother has fallen ill, leaving a single dad caring for four children under age 9 and an 86-year-old daughter of an original enrollee. We count the blessing every day that we were born Choctaw, and we owe it to great leaders like Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Mr. Thompson for making the Choctaw Nation one of the most prosperous tribes in the world. Again, many thanks for all your help.

The Maxwell Family – Kallan, Anoli, Miko and A.J.

## Sponsoring community blood drive

Dear Chief Pyle,

Thank you for supporting the community blood supply by sponsoring a blood drive. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life-saving gift. Choctaw Nation blood drive resulted in 56 people attempting to donate blood with 43 donations being made. The efforts of Freda Nixon and Choctaw Nation are greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward maintaining blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

Sue Sarratt, Blood Program Consultant  
Southern Oklahoma Blood Institute

## Fire department receives assistance

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to say thank you for the assistance with my EMT classes. This is something that I have wanted to do for a long time and just could not afford it. My great-grandmother walked the Trail of Tears and she was very proud of her heritage as an I.

I would also like to thank you for the donation to the fire department as my wife and I are both firefighters. We used the money to purchase new turnout gear. We were able to get 12 complete sets.

On behalf of the Coleman Volunteer Fire Department, thank you very much.

## Chief continued from Page 1

were so many people hailing them, it was hard to find an empty one. "Finally, a cabby yells and asks if I need a ride, I hop in out of the cold, then the driver calls to a woman walking down a sidewalk who turns out to be a Senator from Tennessee who needs a cab, then we also give a ride to another man who was at the State of the Union, so we all share a taxi and talk about the speech."

Speaking of Oklahoma's 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman Dan Boren, Chief Pyle expressed his gratitude for the recent visit by the Congressman to the Choctaw Nation after the ice storm hit in January. "Boren's site visits to let people know of his concern were greatly appreciated."

As for the trip to the State of the Union – Chief Pyle said that he has been to Washington, D.C. many times, but this trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience he will always treasure.

## Researching ancestry

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Our family is looking for descendants or history pertaining to our grandfather, William Isaac, born June 11, 1886, and his sister, Lela Isaac. Both were from Leflore, Oklahoma. We know our grandfather was a surveyor in the Oklahoma area in the early 1900s. Lela died in 1906 at a young age. We are hoping that we may obtain more history on these two family members.

If anyone can assist with any information, please contact G. Sympson, 309 Peninsula Ct., Granbury, TX 76048.

## Investing in our children

Dear Chief Pyle,

I deeply appreciate your donation to the Wister 4-H Club at Wister Public School. This contribution was a tremendous help. As you are aware, education and development to our children are vital to their success in their future. On behalf of the Wister 4-H and Wister Public School, I wish to thank you for your investment in the future of our children.

Francine Curnutt, Wister 4-H Leader

## Higher Education staff very helpful

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I wish to thank the Department of Higher Education for providing scholarships to college students. This program has provided me with scholarships to attend the University of Arizona. I graduated last December with a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation and management.

I have received several scholarships through this program that have allowed me to attend the University of Arizona. This program is a wonderful gift to many students that allows us to attend college and further our education. The staff have always been friendly and very helpful in providing information or help. It is always a pleasure to talk with them.

Thank you for making it possible for me to attend the university.

Rowena Humphrey

## Tribal flag received

Dear Chief Pyle,

I've received the tribal flag that you sent on behalf of Major Donovan Gaffney. We will fly it on one of our jets during a combat sortie prior to his presentation. Thank you!

Jonathan George  
55th Wing Commander

## NIHB appreciates support

Dear Chief Pyle,

It gives me great pleasure to personally thank you and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for the consistent, generous and tremendous support that you and your Nation have provided to the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). As its chairman, and on behalf of the NIHB, please accept my heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your contributions to this organization – and through that support – for your contributions to the health care of all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The consistent assistance of Choctaw Nation staff members has proven to be invaluable. As you may know, for the past year or so NIHB has been reorganizing and restructuring with the goal of establishing a strong financial footing and ensuring that we have the strongest organization possible to save the tribes. The assistance of Mickey Peercy's tireless dedication and service to the NIHB is a clear and positive reflection of your leadership, your commitment to this organization and of the Choctaw people. In addition, NIHB is extremely grateful for the assistance of Rhonda Farrimond and others of the Choctaw Nation staff who have assisted NIHB with administrative support for operations and for our Annual Consumer Conference. Thank you for this gift to NIHB.

As you well know, the success of NIHB is critical to realizing measurable improvements in the lives of all of this nation's Native people, and gifts like the support NIHB receives from your Nation are critical and necessary to advancing our mission. On behalf of the board and staff of NIHB, we are humbled and grateful for this gift. Thank you.

H. Sally Smith, Chairman, NIHB

## Memorable trip to D.C.

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance that allowed me to go to the Law Forum for Students in Washington, D.C. I had the chance to see so much of the D.C. area and many historical sites. Along with this, I participated in a mock trial and was introduced to many gentlemen and ladies in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Without your assistance, I would not have been able to have gone.

Alex Keeling  
Henderson, Nevada

## Pleased with Talihina health facility

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Although I just turned 65 years of age, through ignorance I had never availed myself of the Talihina Medical Clinic. My first visit was in July and I have had follow-ups in October and December. Dr. James Sisk is presently taking care of me.

Fortunately, my needs are few; i.e., I have asthma and take pills for blood pressure, and I have been extremely pleased and proud of your Talihina facility. Everyone is courteous. Dr. Sisk and the physician before him were extremely thorough and pleasant. I cannot recall being in another facility (with the exception of the Cancer Care Associates in McAlester) where you felt that the people were there to help you – and doing so in a very friendly manner.

Thank you.

Dan George

## Tribal membership is very important

Choctaw Nation Tribal members have grown from 35,000 in 1986 to over 180,000. If you have children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, please apply and obtain their CDIB and Tribal Membership cards now. Don't wait until you need them for health or education reasons because it takes approximately six to eight weeks *if we have everything we need in order to issue their cards*. A CDIB card is signed by the U.S. Federal Government/Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), not the tribe. If you can connect back to a direct ancestor who was enrolled, you can obtain a CDIB card – there is no blood limit.

If you have a CDIB and not a Choctaw Tribal Membership card, please apply today. The membership cards are issued from birth to your present age now. Each Choctaw/Mississippi Choctaw of Oklahoma should have a CDIB card and a Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership card – if at all possible a photo ID card. For those 18 and over, you are a voting member. No matter the age, you need to be a member. It is up to you once you reach the age of 18, if you choose to vote. Voting is a privilege in all elections – tribal, city, county or state. Let yourself be heard through voting. Your choice will always make a difference.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

March 2: Poteau (A-L) (warehouse closed for site).

March 6: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-1 (warehouse closed for site).

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

March 13: Poteau (M-Z) 9-2; (warehouse closed for site).

Warehouse open March 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28.

Closed for Inventory March 29-30.

### DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays March 1-28.

Closed for Inventory March 29-30.

### McALESTER

March 1: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed for site).

Warehouse open weekdays March 2-28.

Closed for Inventory March 29-30.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

### 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

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

**Bethel:** Choctaw Community Building

**Broken Bow:** Choctaw Family Investment Center

**Idabel:** Choctaw Village Shopping Center

**Poteau:** Choctaw Family Investment Center

**Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center

**Stigler:** Choctaw Community Center

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

<p><i>Gregory E. Pyle</i> <b>Chief</b></p>	<p><i>Mike Bailey</i> <b>Assistant Chief</b></p>
--	--

The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Judy Allen, Executive Director  
Lisa Reed, Editor  
Vonna Shults, Webmaster  
Brenda Wilson, Technical Assistant  
Melissa Stevens, Circulation Manager  
Janine Dills, Administrative Assistant

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

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

## Annual Frazier Memorial Singing

**Friday, March 30**  
Choctaw Community Center  
1636 S. George Nigh Expressway, McAlester  
MC: Joe Coley  
Singing starts at 7 p.m.  
Concession is available  
Everyone is welcome

## Chilocco Alumni Reunion

**June 7, 8, 9**  
Marriott Hotel  
2101 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM  
Rooms at \$75 plus tax;  
for reservations call 505-881-6800.

A bus will be available for a nominal cost for those wishing to ride the charter bus.  
Contact Jim Baker at 405-377-6826.

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

# Surviving the ice storm with help from our friends

From the desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

Thanks to lots of volunteer efforts, some of the hardest hit areas of Oklahoma's recent ice storm were helped through the Choctaw Nation. Two of our largest community centers, McAlester and Crowder, were turned into shelters, with volunteers, employees and Council people cooking for up to 400 people at a time, feeding them three meals a day. Huge generators were hooked up to run the two centers – the one at McAlester furnished by the tribe and the one at Crowder furnished by the National Guard.

When power went down at homes across the county, entire families moved into the centers so they could have heat and water. Volunteers pitched in with games, movies, and activities to make the time pass more enjoyably.

Electric companies from out of state used our McAlester manufacturing facility as a base, with close to 100 trucks parking there each night as they worked 16-18 hours a day to put poles and lines back up. I was impressed with their good organization as I watched them pull out before sunrise one morning, lining up for 35 minutes as they waited their turn at the stop sign

to pull out on Highway 69 to start the long day's work.

Downed power lines cut off electricity to Jones Academy, so a huge generator was moved in to operate the girl's dorm, and the boys were bused to Durant where they spent a few days in the wellness center. They at first thought they would be "roughing it" in sleeping bags, but they soon saw that the full basketball court, hot tub, spa, and big screen televisions at the resort's wellness center were not so rough. In fact, a phone call back to the girl's dorm after a trip to the resort buffet line had the girls wishing they had been the ones to volunteer to relocate

for the storm. I certainly appreciate all of the Choctaw Nations staff who went out of their way to make this displacement for the Jones Academy students as comfortable as possible.

Tribal Council members and staff as far south as Coalgate and as far north as Stigler handed out water, batteries, candles, flashlights, and other supplies during the disaster. Food was delivered to homes of residents who could not get out. Congressman Dan Boren and Governor Brad Henry each visited the devastated area to see firsthand what the citizens were dealing with.

Even as power came back to businesses and homes in the Pittsburg and surrounding counties, problems for families continued to be in the forefront. Many people had been without work because of the storm, which meant no paycheck that week and no way to replenish groceries. Both the Crowder and McAlester volunteers agreed to continue the free meal service for several days so that people would be able to have a place to get breakfast, lunch and dinner at no charge. Since



Seeking shelter from the storm are two families, Gloria Vasquez with children Diamond, Jada and Jaden and Alison and Leslie Nail, who are pictured here with Chief Pyle as they are getting ready to leave the McAlester Center more than a week after the ice storm hit. They are happy that electricity has finally been restored to their homes.

these workers had been arriving at the centers at 5:30 each morning and staying until 10:00 p.m. for more than a week, they had to be exhausted, yet they were willing to continue their good

work for people in need. I am very proud to work with such dedicated persons. A heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every person who helped others during this disaster.

## Family appreciates volunteers at memorial event

From the desk of  
Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

My brother, Billy, and I appreciate all of the volunteers and participants in the recent Randy Bailey Memorial Roping. Billy and I lost our brother, Randy, on Easter weekend in 2002 and have been honored with the opportunity to keep his memory alive in the minds and hearts of many people each year since with a roping event that raises money to supplement a scholarship program.

In spite of inclement weather



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

er this year, there were 1,100 teams in the four-day event. Randy loved all rodeo events, was a professional horseman, had a Master's of Science in Agriculture and had devoted his life to helping other people any way that he could.

A strong supporter of area youth, Randy was always help-

ing with special school projects and extracurricular projects. This memorial roping for scholarship funds is a very appropriate way for people to express their love for our very special brother.

Thank you again to all who helped make this year's event a tremendous success.

## Taking a trip into eternity

It has truly been a good 2006. I appreciate your friendship, your concern for our Nations and our Nation's leaders. Thank you for your prayers.

I pray for you and your loved ones a very happy, successful, and prosperous 2007.

I also pray for your safety, certainty, and enjoyment in this life and the next!

May I ask you a question? Have you taken a trip lately? Did you know where you were going? Or did you just get into your automobile or board a bus or plane hoping that your destination would be a pleasant place?

"What! That would be a foolish thing to do," you say.

But do you know that you are taking a trip right now – a trip into eternity? Do you know what your destination will be? If you do not know, you can. I want to help you.

Let's group into three kinds the people who are taking this trip.

The first group are those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. They are born again, they are saved from the penalty of sin (on their way to heaven), they can have assurance – they know they have eternal life.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God. (I John 5:13).

Group one can be compared with the man who inquires about his destination, buys the correct ticket, checks carefully to see that he boards the right plane, and then thoroughly enjoys his trip.

The second group can be compared with a man who boards a plane and goes into a panic because he is not sure he is on the right plane that is going to where he wants to go.

Then there is the third group. Those who are not saved (they are not going to heaven), and

they are totally indifferent about it.

This group can be compared with the traveler who does not know where he is going and does not care.

In which group are you? Are you one of those who are indifferent about your destination?

We thank God that He has given to us a wonderful plan of salvation. "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."

Before spiritual victory can become a reality there are some preliminary steps which must be taken.

First, there must be the preparation of our hearts to receive the Word of God. Our heart attitude toward God's purpose and will must be right before God can reveal His will to us.

Second, we must receive the Word of God and pledge our willingness to obey His will.

Third, we must step out by faith in obedience – absolute obedience. We must move forward with complete confidence that He will go with us.

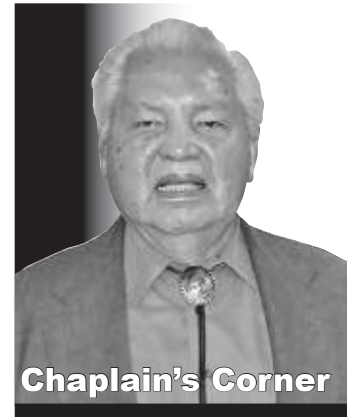
Fourth, we must continue to walk in fellowship with the Lord, seeking to know Him in a personal way. Then we will have assurance of His presence with us and complete victory in our lives.

In the Old Testament, Joshua 5:13-15, introduces to us the important step in living a victorious life.

(13) "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?"

(14) "And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, what saith my Lord unto his servant?"

(15) "And the captain of the



Chaplain's Corner

The Rev. Bertram Bobb

Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

Once inside the Promised Land, the children of Israel had many battles yet to fight. But these battles would be on an altogether different scale from those fought in a worldly fashion, for our weapons are not carnal; they are spiritual forces. The Israelites had to learn how to fight the Lord's battles.

Do you remember the evil report of the spies, Numbers 13, who had gone into the land when Israel stood on the threshold of Canaan 40 years before. They had seen the good of the land, that it flowed with milk and honey, just as God had said, but they also saw giants in the land. They had not seen God at all. In faithlessness they perished.

but the time had now come for the new generation to take their first step into the land by faith. And Joshua was confronted with another giant. Joshua, who had not all the personal experience with God that Moses had, was given the privilege of meeting the Captain of the host of the Lord, who would go before the Israelites and fight their battles for them.

Here is my challenge to you. If you want to go forward with God and live a victorious life, it is very important that you learn to know Him. (Philippians 5:10).

"... know him, and the power of His resurrection, ..."

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

# 12th Annual Gathering of Choctaw People

◆ May 5 & 6 ◆

Bakersfield, California

Bakersfield College (Practice Field), 1801 Panorama Dr.

Lots of fun is planned for the gathering.

A few of the things planned include:

### \*\* Visit with Chief Pyle and Councilmembers

\*\* Stickball Demonstration

\*\* Class on how to make traditional Choctaw food

\*\* Choctaw Social Dancing

\*\* Traditional Dance troupe to teach the social dances

\*\* Class to teach traditional games to children

\*\* Chanter Class – learn the Choctaw songs

\*\* Dress-making Classes \*\* Choctaw collar necklace class

\*\* Choctaw culture bearers to share the traditions and culture of our people

\*\* Bake-off Contest – Enter your best dessert!!

\*\* Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership – get family registered

\*\* Health Screening by Choctaw Nation CHR

\*\* Diabetes Information and Testing

\*\* Directors of such Choctaw Nation Programs as:

Housing • Higher Education • Health and more

\*\* Choctaw Church on Sunday – hymns sung in Choctaw

\*\* All classes will be repeated once after church

\*\* We invite all who have Choctaw Traditional Clothes to wear them

\*\* Choctaw Color Guard \*\* Choctaw Veteran's Association

We ask all veterans and active duty to

please participate in opening ceremony

\*\* ALL GIRLS and young ladies to 25 years

– get information to

RUN FOR 2007 PRINCESS!

It's so easy – contact Victoria at [princessvixeypooh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:princessvixeypooh@sbcglobal.net)

DRY ONLY CAMPING ON GROUNDS – RV AND TENT

– must register – small fee –

Please e-mail Theresa at [oklachahta@igalaxy.net](mailto:oklachahta@igalaxy.net) or call 661-393-6552

### Please e-mail or call to register for Gathering

Holiday Inn Select 661-323-1900 (must call local number)

Insist that you make reservations locally.

ask to be on the Special Choctaw Rate of \$76 (single or double)

Includes one free breakfast

[www.holidayinnbakersfield.com](http://www.holidayinnbakersfield.com)

Make your reservations NOW – rates go up April 15th – Ask for Choctaw rate

You MUST pre-register to tent/RV camp

661-393-6552 • [oklachahta@igalaxy.net](mailto:oklachahta@igalaxy.net)

## Pre-Register for the 12th Annual Gathering

Please pre-register for the FREE Saturday meal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a tribal member? \_\_\_\_\_

Those who are attending with you:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_

### Camping on Grounds of Gathering

Sign up now – limited # of spaces – THEY GO FAST – REQUEST EARLY FOR A SPACE.

YOU MUST REGISTER & PAY IN ADVANCE

If you cancel you must do so 2 weeks prior to get a refund so we can open to someone else

### I wish to register for camping

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Tent camping space \* how many tents \_\_\_\_\_ Fee \$10 one night (Friday or Saturday) or \$15 for both Friday and Saturday – fee is per tent charge

RV camping (size & type) \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 – Friday or Saturday or \$15 for Friday and Saturday fee is per unit charge all camping is dry no electricity, etc.

Please make checks payable to

Okla Chahta Clan of CA, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93380

All camping is for self-contained only. No hookups – No electricity

Information  
661-393-6552

RAIN or  
SHINE  
Event WILL  
be held!

Bring shade  
canopy & lawn  
chairs & enjoy  
the day

AMPLE  
Paved Parking  
close to site

Information  
[oklachahta@igalaxy.net](mailto:oklachahta@igalaxy.net)

TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

**Drinking and driving**

Submitted by Severt Dahl

We've all heard it before – "Drinking and driving don't mix," but yet there are still people who don't get it. Someone dies approximately every 30 minutes due to a drinking and driving related accident. That's a lot when you start to figure the total – two people every hour, 48 people every day, over 300 a week, and so on.

You may think that drinking and driving only affects you, but if you really think about it ... it doesn't. It not only affects you, it could affect the life of some innocent family, and speaking of family ... think of how it would hurt your parents and family members when they have a police officer show up telling them that you have died in a drinking related accident and then have to come identify your body.

Yeah, it's not as cool as it sounds anymore.

Choctaw Nation has a program called "I Died ... Who's Next?" which goes to the schools in the ten and one-half counties teaching the effects of drinking and driving. It's a two-day program that starts out with one person in the school taken out every 30 minutes. On the second day it starts about the same, but halfway through the day they set an extremely realistic crash scene. The people who set it up and help with it are people who actually have seen this sort of thing, only no one was able to get up after it was over, and tell their experience in the simulation.

That program may seem kind of fun at first, but it's the accident scene that really hits you and you realize, "This could happen to anyone." So with this knowledge, remember that drinking and driving not only affects you, it affects you *and* those around you. Remember ... "If you want to stay alive, Don't Drink and Drive."

**Parents who host, lose the most**

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds in America. In fact, young drivers between 15 and 20 years old account for less than 7 percent of America's licensed drivers, yet are responsible for just over 20 percent of the nation's annual traffic crash fatalities.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 7,884 drivers, ages 15 to 20 years old, were involved in fatal traffic crashes across the nation in 2003 – killing a total of 8,666 persons and injuring over 300,000 more.

Just as concerning, young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 are more often involved in alcohol-related crashes than any comparable age group. While all states and the District of Columbia have 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws, more than 20 percent of young people below the legal drinking age reported under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, or both, in the past year, according to the National Survey of Drug Use and Health.

In fact, nearly a third (31 percent) of the 15- to 20-year-old drivers who were killed in fatal crashes in 2003 had been drinking. Twenty-five percent of the drivers had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of 0.08 percent and above.

The fatality rate in these crashes is compounded because young drivers and their passengers are much less likely to wear safety belts after drinking. Sixty-five percent of 15- to 20-year-old drivers killed in all fatal crashes in 2003 were unrestrained. But 74 percent of the young drivers killed after drinking were not buckled up.

Where are these underage teens gaining access to so

**If you're having a party for your teens, keep it alcohol-free**

much alcohol? What they reported may be surprising. A recent survey commissioned by The Century Council, a national non-profit dedicated to fighting drunk driving and underage drinking, revealed that 65 percent of underage youth say they get alcohol from family and friends, meaning they get it from their parents, their friends' parents, older siblings or friends, with or without their permission.

Most troubling, some parents have become willing accomplices in planning teen parties and turning a blind eye to alcohol use in their own homes. Between graduation parties, end-of-school celebrations and the holiday seasons, parents can be tempted to host parties for their minor-aged kids and friends – sometimes with alcohol – with the mistaken belief that it is a safer option for their kids to drink at home than to drink somewhere else.

Other parents may regard high school graduation – or going off to college – as normal rites of passage or special occasions where it is fine for alcohol to be served. Others think back to their teens when the legal drinking age in many states was 18 and consider alcohol use just a normal part of growing up.

But the legal drinking age in America is now 21. Underage drinking is illegal in all 50 states and the

District of Columbia.

If your underage teen drinks and drives, you may be legally liable for any damage, injury or death caused by your child. This is especially true if you provided the alcohol.

The consumption or possession of alcohol provided by you is all the evidence needed for you to be criminally prosecuted or civilly sued. Specific laws vary by state, but parents who break these laws could be forced to pay all medical bills and property damages in the case of a crash, and could also be sued for emotional pain and suffering when there is severe injury or death.

In some states, the parents can even subject themselves to criminal prosecution. In one case in Pennsylvania, a parent was sentenced to a one- to four-year prison term for involuntary manslaughter after three teens died in a drunk-driving crash following a party the parent hosted. In that case, the parent did not buy the alcohol consumed at the party, but knowingly permitted the teens to drink the alcohol that was brought in by others. **"Parents who host lose the most!"**

*This article was provided by NHTSA holiday planner 2006 and is sponsored by Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. Parents who host, lose the most is a copyright of Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth, with funding from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction services for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. If you have any questions regarding this article, injury prevention tips, or need your child's car seat inspected, please call 877-285-6893 and speak with Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator, or e-mail RMorris@choctawnation.com.*

**Teens and eating disorders**



PART 1 OF 5

Think your kids are "immune" to developing an eating disorder? Don't be so sure. Our society is so obsessed with physical perfection, declaring war on fat and the slightest physical flaws. Our children are the ones who are typically most vulnerable to the message.

We need to create an environment in which our teens can see their value beyond their reflection. It is also important for us to teach our teens to be independent, think for themselves, and to resist messages conveyed by even the most subtle advertisements.

Media is only part of the problem. Anorexia and bulimia are not about food. They are about pain and disappointment. An eating disorder is much more than just a physical sickness; it is also an unhealthy way of using food to cope with stress.

Families cannot cause or cure an eating disorder; however, family can be a contributing factor but is also very crucial in the recovery.

Many people with eating disorders started out by just dieting, hoping to change their bodies and believing it would make them happier – something healthy turned destructive.

Next month's article will cover Part 2: Teens and Eating Disorders – Characteristics and Health Risks.

**Elder fall prevention**

Each year, thousands of older Americans fall at home. Many of them are seriously injured, and some are disabled. In 2002, more than 12,800 people over 65 died and 1.6 million were treated in emergency departments because of falls.

Falls are often due to hazards that are easy to overlook but easy to fix. The following is a checklist that will help you find and fix those hazards in your home.

1. Floors: Look at the floor in each room. Make sure there is a clear path, remove rugs or use double-sided tape or a non-slip backing so the rugs won't slip, pick up things that are on the floor, and coil or tape cords and wires next to the wall so you can't trip over them.

2. Stairs and Steps: Look at the stairs both inside and outside the home. Always keep objects off stairs, fix loose or uneven steps, have an electrician put in an overhead light and light switch at the top and bottom of the stairs, make sure the carpet is firmly attached to every step, or remove the carpet and attach non-slip rubber treads, fix loose handrails or put in new ones.

3. Kitchen: Look at the kitchen and eating area. Rearrange kitchen items that you use often to lower shelves (about waist level), if you must use a

step stool get one with a bar to hold on to. Never use a chair as a step stool.

4. Bathrooms: Look at all bathrooms. Put a non-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub or shower and have a carpenter install grab bars inside the tub and next to the toilet.

5. Bedrooms: Look at all bedrooms. Place a lamp close to the bed and within easy reach, put in a night-light so you can see where you're walking.

6. Other things you can do: get up slowly after you sit or lie down, wear shoes both inside and outside the house, avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers, improve the lighting in your home, put a phone near the floor in case you fall or wear an alarm device that will bring help when you can't get up.

*Information for this article was taken from Check for Safety, a Home Fall Prevention Checklist for older adults brochure, provided by CDC and MetLife Foundation and is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, other injury prevention tips, or the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program please call 580-326-8304 and ask for Beckie Morris, IP Coordinator, or e-mail RMorris@choctawnation.com.*

**Winter Hot Energy Savers**

**Instant Relief from the Cold**

**Let the Sunshine In**

Open window shades and curtains to let the sun heat your rooms.

**Drink Hot Liquids**

A hot drink will help you to warm up right away.

**Dress for the Temperature**

Wear layers of clothing, starting with a shirt or T-shirt and adding flannel shirts, sweatshirts or sweaters. Layered clothing helps trap body heat and keeps you warmer.

For example, if you are going to spend some time in a quiet activity such as reading or watching television, wrap up in a blanket or comforter.

**Close Off Rooms**

Closing off air vents and doors to bedrooms and other rooms not in use during the day, or shutting off an unused room entirely, can greatly reduce your heating bill.

**Don't Cover Vents**

Couches, chairs, or rugs that cover central heat vents restrict the flow of heat into the room.

**Use Ceiling Fans**

Turn on the ceiling fan. Running a ceiling fan slowly, in reverse keeps warm air circulating.

**Lower The Thermostat**

Reducing the room temperature to 65° while you're at home, and turning it down to 55°-60° while you're sleeping or away from home, will cut your your heating bill tremendously.

**Keep Filters Clean**

Heaters function *much* better and provide more heat with less energy when the filters are cleaned or replaced at least once a month.

**Lock Windows**

Locking windows tighten the seal and stops heat leaks.

**Caulk**

Use caulking on doors and windows to seal any cracks that allow warm air to escape.

**WINTER**

*When you turn the heat on, don't set it on the warmest setting thinking the room will heat faster ... it won't.*



**Why Bother With Energy Efficiency?**

Because it creates two important benefits for you and your family:

- It cuts your home utility bills so you have extra money to spend on other things
- It increases your comfort

**The Best Rural Health Care in America**

**Choctaw Nation Health Care Center**

One Choctaw Way • Talihina • 800-349-7026

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is proud to offer comprehensive health care service for Native Americans.

- ◆ **Hearing Clinic**
  - Hearing Aid Consults
  - Cleaning and Repairing of Hearing Aids
  - Dispensing of Hearing Aids
  - Orientation of Hearing Aids
- ◆ **Behavioral Health**
  - Mental Health/Psychiatry
  - Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
  - Emphasis on Pediatric/Adolescent Issues
  - Psychological Testing and Evaluation
- ◆ **Dental**
  - Emergency Care
  - Routine Dental Care
  - Oral Surgery
  - Dental Hygiene
- ◆ **Diabetes Wellness Center**
  - Diabetes Educators
  - Community Diabetes Educators
  - Exercise Equipment
- ◆ **Emergency Room**
  - 3 Cardiac/Trauma Beds
  - 2 Observation Rooms
  - 7 Examination Rooms
- ◆ **Family Practice**
  - Diabetic Care
  - General Illnesses
  - General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
- ◆ **Laboratory**
  - Urinalysis
  - Transfusion Therapy
  - Immunoassay
  - Microbiology
- ◆ **Nutrition**
  - Nutrition Supplements
  - Breast Feeding Education and Support
  - Medical Nutrition Therapy
  - Diabetes Education
- ◆ **Optometry**
  - General Eye Exam
  - Eyeglasses
  - Visual Screening Test
  - Eyeglass Repair
- ◆ **Orthopedics**
  - Acute Care
  - Chronic Care
  - Minor Soft Tissue Surgery
- ◆ **Pediatrics**
  - Ages Birth to 14 Years Old
- ◆ **Physical Therapy**
  - Sports Medicine
  - Neck and Back Pain
  - Inpatient/Outpatient Services
  - Dental Hygiene
- ◆ **Podiatry**
  - Diabetic Foot Care
  - Basic Foot Care
  - Diabetic Wound Care Management
- ◆ **Radiology**
  - Mammography
  - Teleradiography
  - Telemedicine
  - Spiral Cat Scan
  - Ultrasound
- ◆ **Respiratory Therapy**
  - Asthma Treatment and Education
  - Halter Monitor Testing
  - Smoking Cessation Education
- ◆ **Speech Therapy**
- ◆ **Women's Health/OB**
  - Gynecological Exams
  - Prenatal Education
  - Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and Postpartum

For a detailed list of services available at Choctaw Nation Health Care Clinics, call toll-free: 800-349-7026

# Protecting your toddler at home

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Toddlers are curious and love to explore, but they don't know when they're getting into dangerous situations. It's up to you to keep your little one safe. As soon as your baby starts to crawl, it is necessary to child-proof your home.

The following tips are a good starting point. Each home is different, so walk through yours with an eye to what will appeal to your toddler. If it's dangerous, do something about it! Put away valuable items you don't want damaged or destroyed, even if they're not dangerous. That will save you from saying "no" too often.

- Keep emergency numbers next to your telephone in case of injury, fire, poisoning, or any other situation requiring immediate assistance.
- Store medications and household cleaners on a high shelf. But remember closets and shelves aren't the only place to find these dangerous items. For example, medicine may be found in women's purses, and poisonous cleaners may be found in your garage.
- If you have stairs in your home, prevent falls by blocking them with safety gates.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children. Your toddler may play with them and accidentally start a fire.
- Never allow a young child to be responsible for your toddler,

even for a few minutes. Young children can't always tell what an active toddler will do.

- Putting small toys in wall sockets is tempting to toddlers. Keep the sockets covered with safety plugs.
- Keep electrical cords out of the way. Small children can pull the cord and be injured when something heavy falls on them.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to protect your child from burns. Fill the bathtub and turn off the water before you place your child in the tub. If the water is running, a toddler can turn the handle and be scalded even if you are supervising him or her.
- Be sure your child is never alone around water. Keep toilet seats covered. Children can drown in as little as a few inches of water.

For more information on child abuse prevention go to [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org). This article is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, other injury prevention tips, or the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program please call 580-326-8304 and ask for Beckie Morris, IP Coordinator, or e-mail [RMorris@choctawnation.com](mailto:RMorris@choctawnation.com).



## New Year Baby

Congratulations to parents Ronnie and Melissa Davis of Wilburton, Oklahoma, on the birth of Choctaw Nation Health Care Center's first baby of 2007. Ashton Davis was born at 12:25 a.m. January 2, 2007, weighing 6 pounds 11 ounces and measuring 20 inches long.

## WIC Can a child get too much juice?



Four to six ounces of fruit juice a day is plenty for a child. Many children drink large amounts of juice. But can your child get too much juice? Yes, they can.

Too much juice can lead to:

- **Tooth decay.** You should only give fruit juice to your child in a cup. NEVER in their bottle. The sugar in the juice can cause cavities.
- **Failure to thrive.** When you feed too much juice to your child, you are adding a lot of calories to their diet but not enough of the nutrients that they need for proper growth and development. Also drinking too much juice can cause your child not to be hungry enough to drink the amount of formula or food that is necessary for proper growth and development.
- **Diarrhea.** The excessive amount of sugar that too much juice gives can promote more water into the stool and lead to diarrhea.
- **Obesity.** Too much juice can lead to excessive calorie intake and weight gain. One cup of juice can have as much as 400 calories! When your children drink a lot of juice in addition to other meals and snacks each day the total calories can be much more than is needed daily.
- **Stunting of growth.** When your children drink a lot of juice and do not get enough foods that are good sources of protein and other nutrients needed for proper growth, they may not reach their full growth potential.

An easy way to curtail juice drinking is to only allow them to drink while sitting at the table during meal time. Offer water during the day instead of juice. Never allow a child to walk around with a sippy cup or glass for safety reasons.

*Eat Right Montana, Fit Kids Happy Kids*

## Breastfeeding Classes

### Choctaw Nation WIC

Class One	Location	Class Two
<b>DURANT</b>		
Tuesday March 6, 2007	Durant WIC Office 1601 N. Washington 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 3, 2007
<b>TALIHINA</b>		
Tuesday March 13, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 10, 2007
<b>IDABEL</b>		
Tuesday March 20, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 17, 2007
<b>POTEAU</b>		
Tuesday March 27, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 24, 2007

### Jaeger Leevi Ingram

Scott and Becky Ingram are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jaeger Leevi, on July 30, 2006. He weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.



### Zaya Rachelle Renfrow

Zaya Rachelle Renfrow was born September 12, 2006, in Lawton, Oklahoma, weighing 4 pounds 11 ounces. Parents are Chazaray Parsley and Eric Renfrow. Grandparents are Jackie Day and Charlie Parsley of Grandfield, Oklahoma, and Penny and Todd of Deirks, Arkansas. Great-grandparent is Rachel Amos Day of Grandfield. She also has many aunts, uncles and cousins from McCurtain County, Oklahoma, and DeQueen, Arkansas.

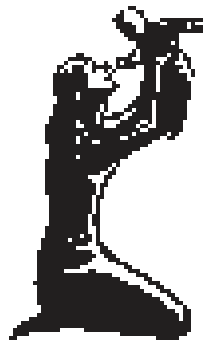


### Keavan James Edwards

Keavan James Edwards was born at 11:36 p.m. on September 26, 2006, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 9 pounds 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Bradley Edwards and Shawna Head of Talihina. Grandparents are Tommy and Debbie Edwards and Eva Jo Head and the late Travis "Bud" Head of Talihina. Great-grandma is Shirley McCale of Grandey, Missouri. Also welcoming Keavan are his uncles, Robby and Brian Edwards of Talihina, Aunt Sarah Braley of Barnsdall, Oklahoma, Uncle Travis and Aunt Staci Anderson of Kenefic, Oklahoma, and Uncle Curtis Head and Aunt Ashley Grammar of Talihina. Keavan would like to wish his Uncle Travis a happy 33rd birthday on January 11 and his Pokni a happy 50th birthday on January 27.



## Choctaw Nation AFL Project



The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teenagers, their child, male partner and extended family members. The AFL Program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and external agencies. Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, healthy relationship skills and parenting workshops. Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is the purpose of our program.

Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American. For more information or questions about eligibility, please call toll-free 877-285-6893 or 800-349-7026, ext. 6441.

### Eden Alexis Tlapak Simmons

Max and Valarie Simmons are proud to announce the birth of their new little precious, Eden Alexis Tlapak Simmons. Eden was born at 10:50 a.m. on September 1, 2006, weighing 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. Eden was welcomed home by her big brother, Caleb Max Tlapak Simmons. Eden is the granddaughter of Tom and Kathy Tlapak and Joe and Janis Simmons, all of Oklahoma City. She is the great-granddaughter of James Thomas Davenport (deceased) and Arthur and Merle Davenport Henry. She is the great-niece of Kitty Davenport Roark of Shreveport, Louisiana. She is the great-great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Thomas Ashford.



### Raynie LeAnn Tom

Raynie LeAnn Tom was born October 15, 2006, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital in Idabel. She weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 19.5 inches long. She was welcomed home by her parents, Joey and Hope Tom, and one brother, Konnor Dean Tom, of Wright City. Her grandparents are Jimmy and Betty Tom of Broken Bow and Charles and Marie Watkins of Wright City. Great-grandparents are the late Albert and Gennise Tom, the late Amos and Effie Taylor, Zeke and Faye Watkins and Robert and Melissa Bohanon.



### Kyrien Anli Hardy

Kenna and David Hardy of Horn Lake, Mississippi, joyfully announce the birth of their first child, Kyrien Anli Hardy. "Anli" is a Choctaw name meaning faithful. Kyrien was born at 11:51 a.m. November 4, 2006, at Baptist Women's Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee. He weighed 6 pounds and was 19.75 inches long. Kyrien's aunts and uncles include Carla and Ryan Sumner of West Memphis, Arkansas, Cara and Josh Blackmer of West Palm Beach, Florida, and Stephen Hardy of Durant. All immediate and extended family members give God the glory and praise for bringing Kyrien into our lives.



### Jenavive Nicole Delight

Born November 21, 2006, at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek, California, Jenavive Nicole Delight weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Proud parents are Carrie and Steve Delight. Jenavive is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Maisie Tubbee, great-granddaughter of Marie and William Moriarty, and granddaughter of Marilyn and Ted Christman. Paternal grandparents are Patti and Roger Delight.



### Mikayla Elizabeth Bird

Helen Bernice Burris Willis of Temple, Texas, and Emerson Willis of Tulsa would like to announce the birth of their first great-granddaughter, Mikayla Elizabeth Bird. She was born December 8, 2006, at Kings Daughter Hospital in Temple. She weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces and was 20 inches long. She is the daughter of Elizabeth and Andy Bird of Temple. Grandparents are Shar and Bob Flippo of Wimberly, Texas. She is also the great-granddaughter of Betty Flippo and the late Robert Flippo of Tulsa.



### Courtney Lynn French

Courtney Lynn French was born at 10:51 p.m. on December 16, 2006, at Mearian Medical Center in Santa Maria, California. She weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and measured 20.5 inches in length. Her parents are Sandra and Gregory Allen French.



### Kenzie Elizabeth Foster

Kenzie Elizabeth Foster was born at 1:15 p.m. on January 3, 2007, at Methodist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. Kenzie weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. Kenzie is welcomed by her parents, Cresta and Eric Foster of Spring Branch, Texas, and big sister, Kaylee, who turns five this month. Also welcoming Kenzie are her proud grandparents, Priscilla and John Stewart of Spring Branch and Bill and Connie Foster of San Antonio. She is the great-granddaughter of Ramona Jekes Coslovsky of Wasilla, Alaska, a Choctaw Nation enrollee, from which Kenzie received her Choctaw ancestry.



## Choctaw Nation WIC

### WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 15 sites

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

# PEOPLE YOU KNOW



## State FFA Greenhand Quiz Finalist

Blair Smallwood, Clayton Freshman FFA member, qualified for the FFA State Finalist Greenhand Quiz Contest by moving up to second place at the district level, competing in a written and oral exam. He then competed against 50 other state finalists at Oklahoma State University. He received a state finalist plaque presented by FFA State President Travis Schaithman and State FFA Advisor Eddie Smith. Smallwood currently serves as Clayton FFA Reporter.



## Happy birthday

Johnny Wallace Jr. celebrated his 18th birthday on December 22. Next to him is Sherie who turned Sweet 16 on January 18; Felicia who turned 19 on August 22, and Vanessa who turned 17 on January 6. They are the son and daughters of Sherry and the late Johnny Wallace. Uncle Mark and Auntie Jennifer Bohanan, cousins Megan, Logan, Chris, Cody, Taylor, Glen, Krystal and baby Jackson, sons-in-law Gary and Kenny, grandbabies Marissa and Kaylee, mom Sherry and JoJo all wish them happy birthday!

## Best wishes

Taylor Bohanan turned 9 on January 20. She is the daughter of Mark and Jennifer Bohanan who would like to wish her happy birthday. Her brothers, Chris and Cody, sisters Megan and Logan, Auntie Sherry and Jo-Jo, cousins Felicia, Gary, Marissa, Johnny, Vanessa, Kenny, Kaylee, Sherie, Glen, Krystal and Jackson also wish her a happy birthday. Everyone would like to wish Gary and Felicia a happy first anniversary on May 27, 2007.



## Sherie is Sweet 16

Sherie Wallace celebrated her 16th birthday on January 18. She attends school at Ada Jr. High. She is known as ShereFa and Re-Re by family. Her mom is so proud of her. Jo-Jo would also like to wish her the best, as well as all her sisters, brother, uncles, aunt, cousins and friends.



## Tré turns 9

Happy birthday to Tré Harper, "a real charmer," from Mom and your family. Tré turned 9 years old on February 26.



## Sweet 16

Wishing you a very Sweet 16 birthday on January 30. Keep making us proud of you! From Mom, Vernon, Dustin, Grandpa and Grandma.



## Special birthday wish

A very special birthday wish to Van Richard Thomas who turned 20 on January 15. We wish you the best. There is not a day that goes by we don't think of you. We miss you. Take care of yourself. We will always be here for you no matter what. Happy birthday! - from Edna C. and the kids.



## Little cutie

Pictured are Merinda and 17-month-old daughter Kaitlin. Kaitlin's grandmother is Vickie Willoughby Holt; great-grandmother is Reva Sue Horton Willoughby; great-great-grandmother is Velma Bench Horton.

## Birthday greetings

Happy birthday to Ashleigh Renae Ruthstrom and Taylor Rhi-Ann Foster. Ashleigh turned 3 on January 23. Her parents are Jason and Heather Ruthstrom. Grandparents are John and Cristy Ruthstrom of Duncan and Joyce Scruggs of Marlow. Great-grandparents are Curtis and Peggy Scruggs of Rush Springs, also. Taylor turned 6 on January 29. Her parents are James and Melissa Foster. Grandparents are Bob and Shannon Foster, Anthony and Geraldine Jung of Sterling. Great-grandparents are Grandma Hale and Curtis and Peggy Scruggs. These are two of the family's greatest blessings!

## Cobbs earn top distinction from Reliv

Choctaw tribal member Rick Cobb and his wife, Donna, of Perry, Missouri, recently advanced to become Ambassadors for Reliv International Inc., a developer, manufacturer and marketer of nutritional supplements. The advancement recognizes the Cobbs' success as entrepreneurs in building an active sales organization dedicated to selling Reliv products.

"Rick and Donna join the cream of the crop of Reliv distributors," said Robert L. Montgomery, chairman, CEO and president of Reliv International. "As Ambassadors, they now are among the top 1 percent of our 65,000 sales people internationally. Rick and Donna epitomize a regarding facet of our business: Any distributors who take advantage of Reliv's extensive sales training and support, and who are willing to work hard, can become as successful as they are," Montgomery added.

## Happy birthday

Happy belated birthday to our grandson, J.D. Spaulding of Tucson, Arizona, from Grandma and Grandpa; mom, Angie, and dad, Jason; uncles Brian, John, Chris and Dylan; Aunt Jessie, Great-Gram Olamae and Grandpa Dennis.



## Turning the BIG 20

Happy 20th birthday to Jessica Cockrill on February 15 from Mom and Dad, Grenda and John; her boyfriend, Brian; brothers John, Dylan and Chris; sister Angie; Grandma Olamae; and numerous aunts and uncles. We wish you the best in life.



## Look who's 1

Isaiah Curtis Meashintubby turned 1 on December 12. He is the son of Anissa Meashintubby and Ramone Reed of Eugene, Oregon. His grandparents are Norval and Deleesa Meashintubby of Eugene and the late Debra Fite of Berkeley, California. He is the great-grandson of Emma and Arthur Smith and the late Curtis Feimster of Huntington, Arkansas, MaryLou Meashintubby and the late Norman Meashintubby of Talihina and the late Mary Washington of Berkeley.



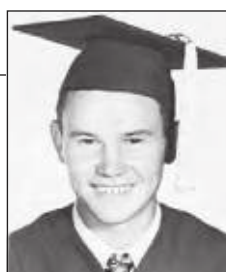
## Happy birthday Brianna

We would like to wish Brianna Spaulding a very happy birthday on February 21 - from Grandma, Grandpa, John and Grenda, Mom and Dad, Jason and Angie, uncles Brian, Chris, John and Dylan, Aunt Jessie, Grandma Olamae and Grandpa Dennis.



## Happy birthday to Amos brothers

Their sister would like to wish Rufus Amos and Anthony Amos a very happy birthday.



## Happy 75th birthday

Birthday wishes go out to W.T. "Dub" Powell on February 14 from his family and friends. He has been our Valentine for 75 years!

## Dillon has January birthday

We would like to wish Dillon Boehm a happy birthday on January 10 - from Mom, Dad, Dallas and Dalton Boehm and Carla Boehm.



## Look who's turning 1

Happy birthday wishes go out to Ryan Donald Rice from his big sister, Khrystian, and big brother, Derek. He turns 1 year old on February 13. He is the son of David and Traci Rice of Greenville, Texas. Proud grandparents are Pat and Virginia Espinoza of Boswell and Don Swatek of Floyd, Texas.

## Happy birthday to Taylor and Jordan

Candi Hadley would like to wish her sons, Taylor Jai Hadley and Jordan Ryan Scott, happy birthday. Taylor turned 8 years old on the 29th and Jordan turned 7 on the 3rd.

## Birthday girls

Happy birthday to Kalysta M.A. Fortune who turned 5 years old on December 27 and Trinity I. Fortune who turned 1 year old on January 19.



## Happy birthday

Birthday wishes are sent out to Jeffrey Lynn Cooper on December 29 and Alan Holt on December 4.



## Griffith becomes Valliant's 14th all-stater

Reprinted from the McCurtain Gazette

The Lady Bulldogs' long list of all-state softball selections has been extended.

Ashley Griffith, a three-year starter for Valliant, was named to the 2006 Middle East Fastpitch team. She is one of 18 players on that team.

The middle division is made up of players from Classes 3A and 4A. The large

is 5A and 6A, while the Small East is 2A through B.

Griffith started her freshman, sophomore and senior years. She missed her junior campaign while recovering from a knee injury.

Griffith is one of five pitchers on the squad. Coach Tommy Howard said she can also play first or third base.

Griffith is currently awaiting word on fastpitch scholarship offers from Murray State in Tishomingo and Eastern State College in Wilburton, Howard reports.

Griffith dominated on the mound this fall, striking out 238 batters in 182 innings. She carried an ERA of 1.15.

Opponents only batted .165 against Griffith. She compiled a record of 19-10.

Of the 64 runs that scored against Griffith, only 29 were earned.

Griffith yielded 112 hits and walked 29 batters.

When Griffith stepped to the plate, she batted .363 her senior season with six doubles and a pair of home runs. She collected 21 RBI and walked nine times.

Valliant has had players named to the All-State teams in either fastpitch or slowpitch a total of 14 times since the year 2000.

The All-State softball game, East vs. West, is scheduled for late June 2007 at the University of Oklahoma softball complex.

Other players named to the East team this season were from Mannford, Collinsville, Henryetta, Meeker, Grove, Bethel, Adair, Glenpool, Miami, Heavener, Morris, Prague and Oologah.

Ashley is the daughter of Jimmy and Paula Griffith. She is one-half Choctaw and very proud of her heritage. Ashley believes in hard work and dedication! You can achieve what you believe!

## Willis graduates from SOSU

Yvonne Willis of Broken Bow recently graduated summa cum laude from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood and Mild to Moderate Special Needs.

Mrs. Willis attributes her academic achievement to the TEACH Oklahoma scholarship made available to Oklahoma childcare providers through the Department of Human Services, as well as the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Scholarship Program. It was through the help of these programs that Mrs. Willis also obtained an Associates of Arts Degree in Child Development, graduating as co-valedictorian from Carl Albert State University in the spring of 2003.

Utilizing her early childhood training, Mrs. Willis will continue to provide the children attending her Three Star Family Child Care Home with a quality learning environment in which future learning success is built upon.



## Nottingham teaching in China

Good luck to Dr. Courtney Nottingham who is teaching English at Guangdong University in Guangzhou City, P.R. China. A 2004 graduate of the University of Southern California, Dr. Nottingham is the daughter of Dr. Marvin Nottingham and Gayle Harper Nottingham, formerly of Ada.

## Spring to lecture at University of Oklahoma

Joel Spring will be lecturing on global education policy at the University of Oklahoma on March 8, 2007. Currently a professor at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Spring received his Ph.D. in educational policy studies from the University of Wisconsin. His major research interests are history of education, globalization and education, multicultural education, Native American culture, the politics of education, and human rights education. He is the author of over 20 scholarly books with the most recent being "Pedagogies of Globalization: The Rise of the Educational Security State;" "How Educational Ideologies are Shaping Global Society;" and "Education and the Rise of the Global Economy." Joel's most important textbooks are "American Education" (now in its 13th edition); "American School 1642-2004" (now in its sixth edition); and "Conflict of Interests: The Politics of American Education" (now in its fifth edition).

Professor Spring is the great-great-grandson of the first Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory and his grandfather, Joel S. Spring, was a local district chief at the time Indian Territory became Oklahoma and founder of Hugo, Oklahoma.

## Beene earns English education degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Teri Michelle Beene on graduating in January with a M.A. in English Education from New York University.

## Top reader

Boswell Elementary student Dusty Belvin is the school's only student to earn a spot on the Accelerated Reader Program's 100 Point Club,



## Happy 34th birthday

Family and friends would like to wish a happy birthday to Manuel Carterby who will be 34 years old on February 26.



## Amarillo, Texas



Jo Moore and Chief Gregory E. Pyle are pictured at the Community Meeting held January 16 in Amarillo.



Enjoying the gathering are Wayne Benton, Lu Benton, Roger Neal Benton, Gene Benton, Clay Dodson, Charlene Dodson and Chief Pyle.



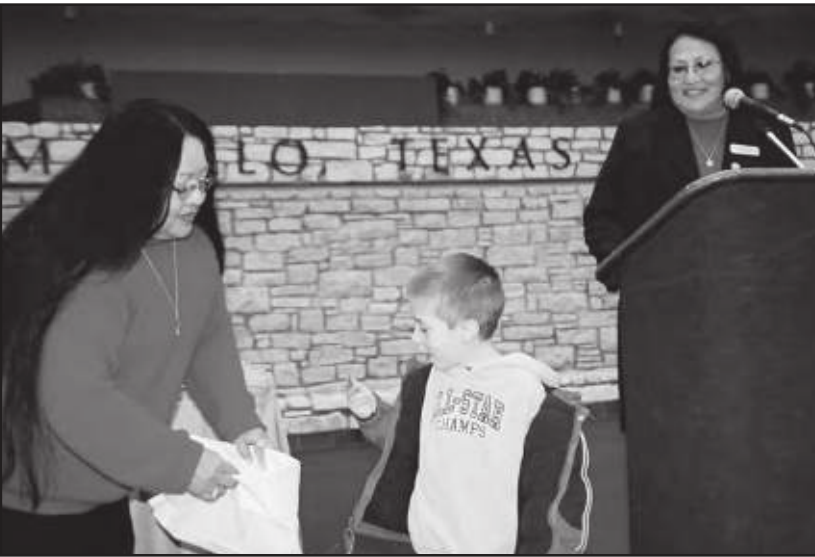
Leo and Janeice Jack are seated with their cousin, Richard Adams.



Brit Hammit with children Hayden and Hope.



Mary and Vance Oliver and Jim McKnight visit with Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.



Kaden Hutton helps Oneida Winship and Sue Folsom with drawing tickets for door prizes.



Charlie Sam is greeted by Gary Batton, the tribe's Executive Director of Health.



Chief Pyle and Karen Goforth pose in front of the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation.

## Albuquerque, New Mexico



Elisa, Noah, David, Brandon and Mikaela Venable are glad to see relatives Virginia and Randy Hammons during the Albuquerque Community Meeting.



Chief Pyle is interviewed by Danny Hernandez of KUNM Radio.



Chief Pyle presents Alize Ford with gifts after she drew tickets for door prizes.



Pictured in the photo above are Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Ryan Cork.



A line forms at the registration table during the January 17 meeting.

At right with Chief Pyle are Catherine Sharp and Marlin Swofford. They have recently moved to New Mexico from McAlester.



## Annual 2007 Folsom Scholarship funds available for Choctaw student

Datatrak Information Services Inc. annually presents a \$5,000 Folsom Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a member of the Choctaw Nation in recognition of his or her potential for success and desire to make a difference in the lives of others. The Folsom Scholarship is awarded in honor of Datatrak CEO Judy Burleson's Choctaw ancestor, David Folsom.

To apply, students must provide an official copy of high school transcript (or equivalent); must provide two letters of reference from some combination of the following individuals (only two will be judged): teacher/counselor; parent/guardian; community-based organization or personal reference (not a relative).

All applicants must include a statement of financial need (in their own words). This statement must address two elements: (1) Why does the applicant need these funds? (2) How has the ap-

plicant prepared for and envisioned meeting his or her college expenses?

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

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

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

All application materials must be postmarked by April 13, 2007.

The award decision will be made no later than May 25, 2007. The amount will be paid directly to the institution the winner will be attending.

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

Datatrak Scholarship Committee  
14120 Newbrook Dr., Ste 200  
Chantilly, VA 20151

Children of Datatrak employees, its teaming partners' employees, and/or Choctaw Tribal Council members are not eligible to participate in the Folsom Scholarship program.

## OBITUARIES

### Valgene Smith

Valgene Smith, 81, of Pauls Valley passed away November 16, 2006. He was born October 24, 1925, at Maysville, Oklahoma, to Thomas Jefferson and Onie Edith Givens Smith.

He grew up in Maysville until leaving in 1942 to join the U.S. Navy. Upon his return, he graduated from Maysville High School in 1946.

Valgene was married to Barbara Meek in November 1956 and moved to Yukon where he and his family lived for over 30 years. He worked for Johnson Larimer Co. of Oklahoma City for several years, then became employed by the Main Post Office in Oklahoma City. He later moved to the Yukon Post Office to become Rural Route 2's mail carrier for over 20 years. He retired in 1980 with over 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

He was preceded in death by his wife and the mother of his children, Barbara L. Smith, and his father.

Survivors include his wife, Nola Faye of Pauls Valley, and her three daughters and their families; his son, Val Thomas, and wife Kathy, granddaughter Kendall and grandson Kal Thomas; his daughter, Carol, and husband Ridge, granddaughter Valerie and husband Ed, all of Yukon; grandson Brian of Austin, Texas; his mother, Onie Smith White of Pauls Valley; three sisters, Jackie Mulford and husband Cleo of Wayne, Jimmie Church and husband Riley of McAlester, and Janice Downey and husband Joe of Harrisonville, Missouri; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.



### William Author Himonubbe

William Author Himonubbe, 94, of Hugo passed away December 18, 2006, in Hugo. He was born April 14, 1912, in Sawyer, the son of Larbin R. Himonubbe and Victoria Hemby Himonubbe and lived in the Hugo community all of his life.

He liked to go to church and to hunt. He was an excellent marksman. He worked hard all of his life. He worked with the WPA during the Great Depression and was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy.

He married Opal Brown on March 16, 1935, in Hugo. They were married 71 years. She preceded him in death on November 17, 2006. He was also preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Tom Himonubbe and a sister, Inez Meredith.

Survivors include two sons, Floyd Himonubbe of Hugo and Jim Himonubbe of Irving, Texas; three daughters, Marie Winters of Sapulpa, Ima Buchanan of Addielou, Texas, and Virginia Williams of Powderly, Texas; two sisters, Minnie White of Mount Vernon, Texas, and Linda Knight of Hugo; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren, along with a host of other family and friends.

### Loretta Lee McIntire

Loretta Lee McIntire, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away December 27, 2006, after a long battle with cancer. She was born October 19, 1929, in Seminole to Vernon, an original enrollee, and Naomi Grubbs.

Loretta worked for Loy Masters Oil Co. in Davis, Oklahoma, for over 20 years. She loved the Lord with all her heart and attended church faithfully at Crossroads Cathedral.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 44 years, Verl; a daughter, Carol Donaho; brother, Vernon Grubbs; sister, Bernice Grubbs, and her mother and father.

Survivors include her son, Rick and wife Theresa; brother, Lloyd Grubbs, and wife Juanita; two sisters, Ramona Capshaw and husband Louie and Lucretta Gwaltney and husband Jerry; four grandchildren, Stephanie Doss, Jason McIntire and wife Shannon, Amy Thomas and husband Kevin, and Jesse Donaho and wife Amanda; eight great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and close friends.



### Richard Dale Moran

Richard Dale Moran, 63, of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, passed away on September 22, 2006, at his home. He was born June 11, 1943, in Oklahoma City to E.C. 'Jack' and Johnnie Lee Ussery Moran.

Richard lived in Enid for many of his younger years before moving to Tecumseh where he graduated from high school in 1961. In 1962 he joined the Army Reserves, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major in 2003. After returning from basic training he went to work at Tinker Air Force Base as an aircraft mechanic where he retired after 39 years of service as a planning chief in 1999.

He was a great cook and he enjoyed the appreciation shown by those who sampled his food. One of the joys of his life was his two grandchildren whom he saw and cared for on a daily basis. He was so proud of each of their accomplishments from their first words to their first steps, keeping journals recording their daily progress. They both will cherish the memories of their grandfather.

Richard was married to Connie Shatto on March 27, 1965, in Tecumseh. They were constant companions, never seeing one without the other. They enjoyed camping, pottery and traveling together. Family was very important to Richard and he enjoyed raising his two children and this is reflected in the type of parents they have become.

He was an active member of the Downtown Pentecostal Holiness Church of Shawnee for the last 25 years.

His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of the home; Stace Moran-Davis and husband Cory Davis of Tecumseh; Richard D. Moran II and wife Sheri Moran of Tecumseh; three grandchildren, Richard Davis of Norman, Summer Nicole Moran of Tecumseh and Nicolas Drew Moran of Tecumseh; one brother, Jacque Moran of Checotah, Oklahoma, and many nieces and nephews.

He will be sorely missed.

### Alfred Lee Berry

Alfred Lee Berry, 84, of Modesto, California, passed away January 12, 2007, at Evergreen Rehabilitation Center. He was born on December 30, 1924, in Ardmore to Arba Alavina Thompson and Alvis Berry.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Mary; brother, Calvin Berry of Arizona; several other siblings; two sons, Ricky and Robert Berry; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### J.D. James

J.D. James, 46, of Watson, Oklahoma, passed away January 6, 2007, in Dallas, Texas. He was born April 3, 1960, in Mena, Arkansas, to Charlene James.

He was employed by Tyson Foods for over 20 years as a service operator and was an avid hunter and bull rider. He also enjoyed playing and coaching softball. He was a loving brother, nephew, cousin, and was loved by all his friends whom he regarded as part of his family.

His grandparents, Charles and Rhoda James, and his mother preceded him in death.

Survivors include his aunts, Sue James of Watson and Genda James Coatney and husband James of San Diego, California; cousins, Jerry James and wife Melinda of Antlers, Dan James and wife Kim of Waynesville, Missouri, Doug James of Mena, Johnnie Hartin and wife Sherrrie of Mena, and Shelly Taylor and husband Mike of Watson; half-sisters, Betty Noah and husband Lester of Broken Bow and Ruthie Lee and husband Mangus of Dove Creek, Colorado; the Going family of Watson; many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

### Jesse Carl Hall

Jesse Carl Hall, 79, passed away December 17, 2006, at Amarillo, Texas. He was born January 23, 1927, in Bennington to Jesse Albert Hall and Dovie Guice Hall.

Mr. Hall was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a farmer in West Texas for years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Silverton, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

Survivors include his wife, Stella of the home; two daughters, Carolyn Braddock of Silverton and Diane Wright of Sulphur; three sons, David Hall of Plainview, Texas, Michael Hall of Silverton and Jesse Hall of Soper; two brothers, Cletus and George, and three sisters, Grace, Margaret and Inez; 22 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren.

Jesse will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



### Sylvester Amos

The Rev. Sylvester Amos, 86, of Hobart, Oklahoma, passed away November 3, 2006, in Lawton. He was born September 23, 1920, in Duncan to Anthony and Sarah Foster Amos. He grew up and attended school in Eagletown, near the Kiamichi Mountains.

He entered the Army and served during World War II. He fought in the European Theatre and upon his honorable discharge in September 1945 he was awarded several awards, including the Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, EAME Service Ribbon and one Silver Service Star.

He married Nova Janet McNulty on December 21, 1949, in Tulsa. He attended Haskell College in Kansas, Bacone College in Muskogee, and Northeastern College in Tahlequah, where he received a bachelor's degree. He then attended the University of Oklahoma, Norman, receiving his master's degree. He taught at Fort Sill Indian School for several years.

The Rev. Amos moved to Michigan for the ministry. He served in home missions for the United Pentecostal Church and worked among the Indian communities. He began new churches. At that time, he also began work for the railroad. He was transferred to Baltimore, Maryland, and continued working until his retirement after 20 years with the railroad.

He continued to work as a bi-vocational pastor and he began three new churches during his time in the Northeast. He returned to Oklahoma, starting new churches in Saddle Mountain, Frederick and Hobart. He also pastored Apostolic Faith Church in Frederick. He continued his civil service, working for the post office in Hobart and Oklahoma City, retiring in 1996. He retired from the ministry at the age of 81.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Abel Thomas Amos and Raymond Amos; and a sister, Marie Amos.

Survivors include his wife of the home; four sons and daughters-in-law, Stanley John and Jackie Amos of Cool, California, Winston Anthony "Tony" and Annette Amos of Burleson, Texas, David Allen and Debbie Amos of Rapid City, South Dakota, and Nathan Keith and Sherry Amos of Rowlett, Texas; a daughter, Sarah Janette Amos of Hobart; a brother, Josiah "Doc" Amos of Oklahoma City; seven grandchildren, Randy, Krystal, Aaron, Ashley, Amy, Stephanie and Zachary, and a great-grandchild.

### Royal Locke

Royal Locke, 83, passed away December 24, 2006, in Hugo. He was born July 25, 1923, in Messer, Oklahoma, to Jess and Cora Caldwell Locke. He lived his entire life in the Hugo area and was raised by his aunt, Bertie Helen Locke.

Royal was a member of the 4th & Jackson Church of Christ where he worked for many years as the church custodian.

He is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

### Seth S. 'Pete' Smith

Seth S. "Pete" Smith, 89, of Tamaha, Oklahoma, passed away September 9, 2006, in Tulsa. He was born August 13, 1917, in Crowder, Oklahoma, to Theodore and Hazel Smart Smith.

Mr. Smith was a World War II veteran and served in the South Pacific. He lived in the Tamaha area for 53 years and was a retired farmer. He loved hunting and fishing and was a longtime member of the Tamaha Free Will Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary; two brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, Loretta Burge and husband McArthur of Tulsa and Charlotte Smith of Stigler; three sons, Dick Smith of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Larry Smith and wife Linda of Tulsa and Charlie Smith and wife Marcia of Poteau; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



### James 'David' Price

James "David" Price, 64, retired engineer and devoted family man, was killed instantly on December 21, 2006, in an automobile accident. He was born January 19, 1942, in Hartshorne to Garret H. and Sarah Willis Price.

David was equally proud of his Choctaw heritage and his academic achievements, including a B.S. from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree from the University of San Francisco. David's family moved to Antioch, California, in 1947 when he was 5 years old. After graduating from Antioch High, he attended Diablo Valley College and eventually transferred to UC Berkeley. After graduating from Cal, he was offered a position at Westinghouse in Newark, New Jersey, where he met his wife, Ellen.

After a successful career at Westinghouse, David decided to seek greener pastures back in California. In 1979, the Price family, now sporting two children, landed in San Ramon, where they stayed for 20 years. During their time in San Ramon, David became heavily involved in his children's activities, including many years as an accomplished baseball coach, producing one championship season yielding multiple trophies.

When not going to Giants, Forty Niners, Cal Bears and New Jersey Devils games with family and friends, David enjoyed playing poker and Mexican horseshoes, brewing beer and barbecuing.

After many years dedicated to providing for his family, David retired to enjoy helping his children with various engineering projects and babysitting. David was always eager to help anyone needing his assistance without hesitation. His humble nature, gentle demeanor, strong sense of humor and modesty were his defining characteristics. David truly lived each and every day of his life, upon waking he thanked God for another opportunity. Anyone who came in contact with David is a better person for doing so.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Ruth Price Mayer.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Ellen Nixon Price, who survived the crash; two children, Sarah Price McCormack of Winnetka, California, and David Hahklotubbe Price of Napa, California; three sisters, Norma Price Petko, Geraldine Price Stephenson and Rosemary Price Dugger, all of Antioch, and four grandchildren, Ethan, Adeline, Grace and Clare.



### Thelma M. Brownen Hooker

Thelma M. Brownen Hooker, 88, of Chickasha passed away September 27, 2006, in Chickasha. She was born January 2, 1918, in Tuttle, Oklahoma, the daughter of George and Maggie Conley Wampler. She lived in Grady County all of her life.

Mrs. Hooker was a hairstylist and beautician. She owned and operated Thelma's Beauty Shop in Chickasha from 1947-2004. She was a member of the Alex United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Clifford Brownen in 1967; second husband, Gus Hooker; and two brothers, George Wampler and Hart Wampler.

Survivors include a son, Bob Brownen of Chickasha; four grandchildren, Marty Brownen, Sheryl Rodgers Brownen, Chuck Brownen and Shelly Knox; five great-grandchildren, Chad Brownen, Kyle Brownen, Krayton Rodgers, Katie Knox and Alex Knox; one great-great-grandchild, Braeli Brownen; four sisters, Helen Joslin, Dorothy Baker, Pauline Martin and Margueritte Novotny; and one brother, Lon Wampler.



### Opal Fay Robinson England

Opal Fay Robinson England passed away October 13, 2006, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. She was born March 14, 1940, at Doyle, Oklahoma, to Alex Edmond and Opal Ilene Walker Robinson.

Fay graduated from Fox High School on May 22, 1958. She accepted Christ as a young girl and followed those beliefs all of her life. After graduation, Fay moved to Duncan where she met Buddy England, who became her husband on December 23, 1959. They shared nearly 47 wonderful years of marriage and were blessed with one daughter and two sons.

The family moved to Fairview in 1976. Fay was employed by the Major County Fair Board as secretary and then as a legal secretary for Vic and Mary Bailey. For the past seven years, Fay had been employed at the Fairview Fellowship Home as a dietitian and also in the housekeeping department.

Fay was very proud of her Indian heritage but much more proud to be called a Choctaw. She spent the past 20 years researching her family name and her Choctaw roots.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Preston and Ricky; and one nephew, Wayne Lyn Collins.

Survivors include her husband of Fairview; daughter Robin Gilbert and granddaughters Shelby and Skyler of Norman; son Christopher England and grandsons, Michael and Joshua of Fairview; son Robert E. "Eddy" England, wife Lori, and grandsons Brock and Cale of Bison; brother Roy Robinson of Velma and nephew Alex of Ada; sister Mildred Work and husband Joe of Norman, nieces Traci McDaniel and Carla Walker, both of Norman, and Shari Carter of Seminole; sister Johnnie Grundy and husband Temple, nephew Temple Lee and niece Misty Lewis of Velma; sister Jennie Cox of Marlow; sister Audene Davis and husband Jimmy, nieces Tammy Davis of Loco and Melissa Davis of Duncan, and sister Pam Orum and husband Larry of Oologah.

### Willie John Fryar Sr.

Willie John Fryar Sr. passed away December 6, 2006, at his home. He was born September 20, 1922, in Spencerville to John Henry and Ida May Fryar.

Willie married Lily Green on August 3, 1946, in Geronimo, Oklahoma. W.J. was a World War II U.S. Army veteran, receiving many medals and decorations including the Purple Heart. He retired from Tinker Air Force Base as a sheet metal mechanic.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his wife of the home; three sons, W. John Fryar Jr. and wife Cleta, David Lee Fryar and wife Teresa, and Larry Fryar; five grandsons, Randall Fryar and wife April, Christopher John Fryar, Bear Fryar, John Charles Fryar and wife Stephanie, and Derrick Lee Fryar; one granddaughter, Krystle Fryar; two great-granddaughters, Mackenzie Cheyenne and Kaylee Delayne Fryar; and many other relatives and friends.