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February 2008 Issue

The Choctaw Nation Grants Department was instrumental in acquiring a Community Oriented Policing Services grant from the Department of Justice for the tribal public safety department. Six new police cars, complete with new lap tops, were delivered to tribal headquarters in January. Pictured are Grants Director John Jackson, Public Safety Director John Hobbs, Officer Mike Johnson and Public Safety Executive Director Dan Breshears.



NOTES TO THE NATION

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to say thank you Choctaw Nation for helping me and my kids with propane. We are very grateful to the Emergency Department for helping us.

Rhonda Ingram

Thank you for providing scholarship

Dear Chief Pyle,

I graduated with a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University in August, and I am now working for a company in Fort Worth, Texas. Many of you may not realize the amount of support our tribal leaders provide through the Choctaw scholarship program to students all across the country. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the entire Choctaw Nation and Chief Pyle, especially to the office of Higher Education and Director Larry Wade for the scholarship I received during my time at Texas Tech and all of the support they provided during that period of my life.

John P. Carroll
Fort Worth, Texas



Mrs. Onie White honored at two parties and a breakfast to celebrate her 100 years

On November 2, friends and staff at the Chickasaw Senior Site in Pauls Valley gave a birthday party for Onie White. Special guests were the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Bill Anoatubby, and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel who presented Mrs. White with a beautiful afghan depicting scenes from the Chickasaw Nation. Choctaw Chief Greg Pyle sent a plaque which commemorates her 100 years, along with a lovely Choctaw Nation afghan. Both will be treasured by Mrs. White who is a member of the Choctaw Tribe. A band made up of local retirees who often perform at various senior sites made a special appearance to play and sing for Mrs. White. Her grandson, Scott Mulford of Dallas, joined the band to sing for his grandmother. A beautifully decorated cake and punch were served to the large group of friends and family. The staff and friends at the site then gave Mrs. White gifts and a lovely album which will hold many of the pictures of this very special day. Mrs. White and her family are so very appreciative of the kindness shown to her.

On November 3, Mrs. White was honored for her birthday by her grandchildren. The party was held at the Donohoo-Collee Apartment Complex. The multi-purpose room was decorated with beautiful fall floral arrangements set in old buckets, watering cans, and kettles. Table runners were covered with pictures and memorabilia from the years 1907 to 2007. A huge banner which covered two walls depicted 100 years of history from the invention of the washing machine and electric fan to the space walks and computers. Miniature Oklahoma state flags and other centennial keepsakes honoring the 100th anniversary of Oklahoma statehood were scattered throughout the room. After her very large family gathered for lunch, Mrs. White's friends arrived to sing happy birthday as she cut the first piece of her birthday cake. The cake which was made and decorated by one of her granddaughters was a replica of the Oklahoma Centennial logo. Cake and punch were served to a very large group of friends and family. Mrs. White and her family were honored that so many came to help celebrate the momentous occasion.

On November 16, Mrs. White was one of a group of centenarians who were honored at a breakfast held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Special guest speaker was Willard Scott from NBC's "Today" show. The gathering brought together 25 Oklahomans born in the year 1907 or earlier to celebrate Oklahoma's Statehood Day. The group is being verified for a possible record by Guinness Book of World Records as the largest gathering of centenarians in one location. Mrs. White was accompanied by a daughter, Jimmie Church, and her husband, Riley, and a grandson, Brent Church. It would be difficult to say who most enjoyed the day.

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

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

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

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

BISHINIK® 2008

Looking for relatives

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am looking for information regarding my family ancestry. If there are any relatives or anyone who knows any information regarding the following names please contact me: Elfa Cole, Elsie Collins, Adam Lawrence, Edmund Collins. My contact information is Niketa Corley, 8770 Old Highway 70, Bokchito, OK 74726 or by telephone at 580-920-0386.

Niketa Corley

Looking for relative

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am seeking information on the whereabouts of Edwin A. Willie. His last known residence was in Tulsa, Oklahoma. If you have any information, please contact his sister, Naomi Willie, at 800-294-9343, ext 1135.

Naomi Willie

Thanks

Dear Chief Pyle,

The Board of Choctaw County Commissioners sincerely appreciates the positive working relationship we have with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The Choctaw Nation is our county's largest employer and in many ways, the Choctaw Nation makes a significant impact on the daily lives of every citizen in the county.

The Commissioners recognize, support, and commend the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Chief Greg Pyle, Councilmember Perry Thompson, and the other exceptional Councilmembers for their contributions to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Choctaw County.

Board of County Commissioners
Danny Antwine, District #1
Randy Robertson, District #2
Roger Vandever, District #3

Looking for recipe and poem

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for a recipe called Arkansas Caviar, that was printed in a publication called "Tyson Tips and Tidbits" in the late 1980's or early 1990's and a poem called "Black September."

Trish Dunn
Rt. 1 Box 617
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

Looking for family ancestry book

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am trying to find a book that was published by a family member about our Choctaw heritage. The book was written by Vivian Tobler in 1965. I have lost the only copy I had. I am unsure how to obtain another copy or if Vivian is still alive. I believe the book is titled "Our Choctaw Heritage," but I am not sure. The main surnames in the book are Cottingim, Ainsworth, McClain, etc. If anyone has a book they can give me, or can tell me where to get another one, please contact me. I am very upset and desperate to get a copy. You may contact me by email at cherrytemple@juno.com or by phone at 918-808-2272.

Cherry Temple
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Thanks from a soldier

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to let all who receive this newspaper know what a wonderful job the Choctaw Nation does to support our military personnel, mainly our local soldiers in the National Guard who are serving this great nation in a time of war. I was the battalion commander of the 1st Battalion 180th Infantry headquartered in Durant in 2006 when we mobilized for a year-long deployment in Afghanistan. The Choctaw Nation was there for us from the start allowing us to use the coliseum for our departure ceremony for free and feeding over 400 soldiers a BBQ meal. Then, if that wasn't enough, the Choctaw Nation provided 12 buses to bring the same soldiers home for 10 days of leave from Camp Shelby in May that year, saving the soldiers thousands of dollars in bus or air fare. The Choctaw Nation sent us care packages throughout the deployment, mailed boxes for our family readiness groups saving them money and providing over 200 benchmade knives to the soldiers on the ground. In 2007, the Choctaw Nation has stepped up again, providing buses to bring Oklahoma soldiers home for Christmas leave from Fort Bliss before they deploy to Iraq. In all, 38 buses brought these soldiers home with the Choctaw Nation responsible for almost half the buses. I cannot say thank you enough or say it often enough. The support that the Choctaw Nation has provided and continues to provide to our military makes me proud to say that I am a Choctaw.

LTC Bobby Yandell
BDE S-3 (Rear)
45th BCT

Thank you for Christmas ornaments

Dear Chief Pyle,

Thank you for the Christmas tree ornaments. The one with the seal from 2006 was pretty and this year with the Capitol at Tushka Homma was even better.

Mike cuts a tree from the piney woods here in Redland because his grandfather taught him that way. Sometimes the trees are not in very good shape but very special because of the memories and tradition.

Mike's grandmother, Nona Storey, told him about her years in Indian Boarding School, seems like the school was near where the Council House is now. She loved those years and learned a lot. She could read and had beautiful penmanship. She learned about nutrition and how to cook and can. She always prepared well-balanced meals. She lived to be 97 years old. She learned first aide and nursing skills. "The school doctor needed help, so I was his assistant," she said in her late life. She was the Harris, Pleasant Hill nurse for sick folks who couldn't get to a doctor. She learned sewing and tailoring and sewed for hire from a very young age. She loved the great works of literature she learned about at boarding school. Nona, or Mamaw to us, was an avid reader all her life from the head start she got at Indian School.

At the end of her life it was Choctaw who provided her medicine and health care. She looked down the road every day for the CHR to come.

The last thing Mamaw sewed was a crochet angel that sits atop our home grown tree. It is fitting that Choctaw ornaments hang just under the angel.

Chief Pyle you give so much to your tribe. Thanks!

Mike and Ambia Crain
Idabel, Oklahoma

What a blessing it is

Dear Chief Pyle,

My wife and I would like to thank you, the Council and the Choctaw Housing Authority for the beautiful house that was built for us in Coalgate. We are now enjoying the comforts of modern living and it couldn't have come at a more convenient time. The house we lived in was more than 100 years old, built on my grandmother's allotment, and heated by a wood stove. We are both in our seventies and cutting wood was getting to be a real chore. Also, I want to thank you for the beautiful veteran's jacket, it represents two of the things for which I am most proud, being a Choctaw and service to my country. We Choctaws are truly blessed to have such good leadership and a caring administration.

Jon G. Reading

In appreciation

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for assisting me with my college education. I am honored and proud to be a member of a tribe that has the best interests of its members at the heart of its leaders. With this type of leadership we can continue to better ourselves individually therefore bettering the tribe as a whole. My family and I will never forget the assistance the tribe provided for me. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. I graduated magna cum laude and as a member of the honor society for psychology students, Psi Chi. Thank you so much for helping me achieve the most significant accomplishment in my life so far. I hope to one day continue my education in graduate school.

Sandra Farley



Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board spreading Christmas joy

The CNYAB was busy in December spreading Christmas joy. CNYAB members were busy doing all kinds of different activities from Toys for Tots to Marching in the Parade. CNYAB from Soper, Hugo, and Boswell partnered with Toys for Tots, and placed Toys for Tots boxes at their school. The CNYAB in Hugo, Boswell, Soper, were very successful in the efforts to collect additional toys for Toys for Tots, they collected over 200 Toys for Choctaw County. CNYAB from Bennington, and Soper made a visit to their local Pre-K/Head Starts where they gave out candy canes and read a Christmas story to the children. CNYAB not only spreading Christmas joy to the young but to the seniors in the area as well. CNYAB from Atoka, Haskell County and Hugo made a visit to the nursing homes in their area, where they each gave out goodies to the residents and sang Christmas carols. Other activities that the CNYAB did over the holidays to spread Christmas joy was to Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army, CNYAB in Coalgate and Wilburton Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army. CNYAB in Coalgate felt as the winters can be cold in this area and wanted to make sure that everyone had a coat so they held a Coat Drive in their community. The McAlester CNYAB helped to sell trees for Camp Plea in McAlester, and also participated in the McAlester Christmas Parade, the YAB road on the Camp Plea Float, and gave out goodies. CNYAB from McCurtain County, Wright City, Broken Bow and Idabel to march in the Idabel Christmas Parade, they each wore YAB T-Shirts and marched with the 2M2L banner and the CNYAB banner, and you could hear them coming. They each had bells on their shoes and lights on their shirts. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is outreaching to community members of all ages to increase youth involvement in positive community events and to prompt Healthier Lifestyles. To find out more about the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board or how to become a member, visit the Choctaw Nation Website www.choctawnation.com.

Choctaw Veterans Association
5th Annual Pow-wow
March 8, 2008

Hosted at the Talihina High School old Gym
600 1st Street, Talihina, Ok 74571

Head Staff

Master of Ceremonies	Tim Tallchief
Head Gourd Dancer	Willard Polk
Head Man Dancer	Harold Rogers
Head Lady Dancer	Kandace Folsom
Head Singer	Pat Oyebe
Arena Director	Bill Takeshorse
Color Guard	Choctaw Nation
Co-Host	Talihina Indian Club

and Native American Warriors Society of Texas

Schedule of Events

Gourd Dance	2:00 - 5:00pm
Supper Break	5:00 - 6:00pm
Gourd Dance	6:00 - 7:00pm
Grand Entry	7:00pm
Intertribal Dance	7:00 - 10:00pm

Contact Information

Oklahoma Contact:	Richard Adams	(580) 380-2692
Texas Contact:	Eugene Folsom	(214) 941-4702

Vendors please call Harry and Carol James (918) 567-2539

*Open to all Public *No Drugs, Alcohol, or Firearms permitted
*Not responsible for theft or accidents

Freedom Award possible for Choctaw Nation

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

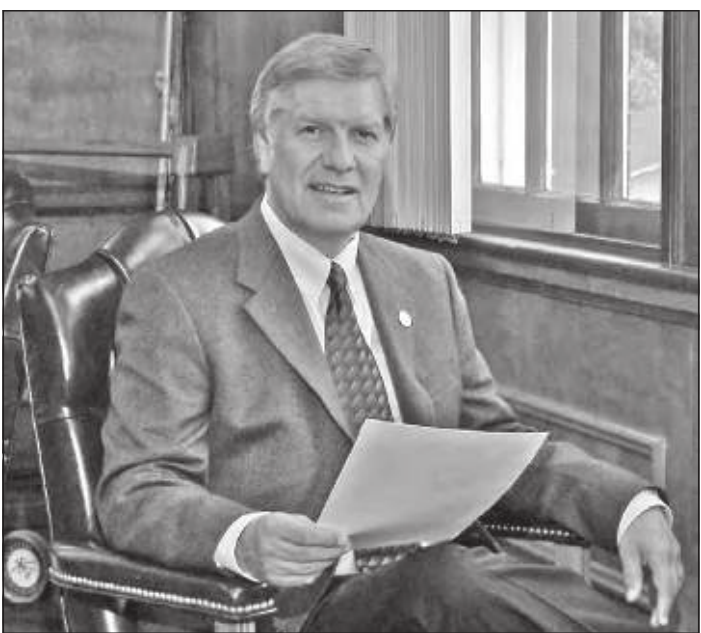
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has been nominated for the 2008 Freedom Award in the category of large employer. According to Walter Cross, the Executive Director of Oklahoma Employee Supports for Guard and Reserve (ESGR) of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Freedom Award is presented annually to only 15 nationwide outstanding employers of Guard and Reserve members and is presented at a banquet in Washington, D.C., by the Secretary of Defense.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is very proud of the men and women serving our country. A Veterans Advocacy program has been established as a full-time service, a huge ceremony is held annually at

our Capitol to honor veterans and active military, care packages are mailed on a regular basis to those who are serving, and the Choctaw Nation has provided transportation and meals on several occasions to the Guardsmen who are serving.

Just recently, the tribe was a major player in Operation Holiday Homecoming, along with Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry. The Choctaw Nation provided 14 of the buses along with drivers and fuel needed for the trip home to Oklahoma from Fort Bliss, Texas, and back again after Christmas.

The Choctaw Nation provides mailing service, complete with paying the cost of postage of care packages to Guardsmen, Reservists, or other military personnel on active duty overseas if family and friends



will bring the items to the tribal headquarters for packaging and disbursement.

On several occasions, a special need has been brought to

who needed a way to cut their vehicle hood harness quickly in case of emergency, as well as other uses; walkie-talkies for the 95th Reservists so that transport teams could talk to each other when their visibility was too low to actually see each other; and equipment to make Internet connections possible so that the active Guard could stay in touch with people here at home.

The Choctaw Nation has hosted send-off and welcome home gatherings for the 180th, which is headquartered here in Durant, funded phone cards for Guardsmen and Reservists as well as other active military and has sent an ultrasound machine to Iraq to check for shrapnel embedded in injured people.

The Veterans Advocacy Program of the Choctaw Na-

tion ensures that Guardsmen and Reservists get their jackets, hats and other gifts that are provided each year at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Tribal Capitol.

A Veterans Cemetery has been established at the Capitol Grounds of Tushka Homma. The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department is the contact for needs dealing with interment of Choctaw veterans at the beautiful cemetery.

The Choctaw Nation has been very willing to support those serving in the military, whether their role is in the National Guard, Reserves, or any other branch of armed services. Employees are highly honored for their willingness to serve and the tribe hopes to use this nomination as an opportunity to say “thank you” to each of them.

Choctaw Constitution provides strong, fair base for tribal government



*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

Our Choctaw Nation is governed by a constitution approved by a vote of the Choctaw people on July 9, 1983. This document was based on the historic constitution of 1860 and allows for a three-branch democratic government – Legislative, Judicial and Executive. There are 12 members of the Tribal Council, creating the Legislative body of the Choctaw Nation.

Each of the 176,000 tribal members who registers to vote in Choctaw elections has the opportunity to be represented by one of those legislators, in addition to being represented by their

choice of Chief.

Choctaws who live inside the Choctaw Nation boundaries are automatically affiliated with the district where they reside. For those members living outside the boundaries, the choice is up to them. They can select the district and councilperson they wish to be affiliated with.

Ballots are mailed through the U.S. Post Office to tribal members who live outside the Choctaw Nation boundaries. Members are able to mark their choice and mail their vote back to the election board. All elections are ran by an outside firm that handles major elections for states and tribes.

Each time I read our constitution, I am amazed

at the empowerment given to the tribe and the people of the Choctaw tribe. We should be thankful that the group of people who formed the Constitutional Committee were sincerely concerned with every aspect of fair government.

One of the signatures on the 1983 Constitution is Delton Cox, now the Speaker of our Tribal Council. Another member of the Election Commission who signed that original document is Frank Watson, a Navy veteran that I have admired for many years. Not all of the original signees are still living, but I am thankful to each of them for producing a working document that has enabled our great Nation to grow and prosper.

Native American general retires

Major General Rita Aragon, a Choctaw descendant, retired in December after nearly 30 years of military service. Aragon most recently served as Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services at the Pentagon. She served as the senior ANG officer responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of the military and civilian personnel management.

Aragon, a native of Dale, began her military career when she enlisted in the Oklahoma ANG in 1979 as an Airman Basic in the 219th Engineering Installation Squadron in Oklahoma City. She worked as a draftsman apprentice on her drill weekends. In 1981, Aragon received her commission through the Academy of Military Science at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Aragon became OK ANG’s first woman commander when she assumed command of the 137th Services Flight at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in 1989.

She became the first woman brigadier general in the OK ANG and the first wom-



Major General Rita Aragon shows off a copy of the book, “Crossing Bok Chito,” by Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle and an Indian purse at her retirement party in Oklahoma City. The purse was beaded by Choctaw tribal member Karen Boman.

an commander of the OK ANG, both in 2003. Her second star came in 2005 when she was promoted to the rank of major general. Aragon is the first woman of Native American heritage to reach the ranks of general in the U.S. military.

Aragon’s service includes mortuary officer for the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing recovery in 1995 and deployments for Opera-

tions Desert Shield/Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Aragon is also a retired teacher and principal from Oklahoma City Public Schools. She will begin a new career as the Director of Advanced Programs at the University of Oklahoma in February.

Aragon is a mother of six and grandmother of 11. She currently resides in Edmond.

The privilege of prayer

Thank you for your prayers. Continue to pray for our Nations, leaders, and for our service men and women. Prayer is the greatest privilege God has given to us.

In Luke chapter 18 verses 1 through 8 we read of a needy woman who would not go away. This is a parable about prayer, contrasting the selfish judge and the Heavenly Father.

In Luke 18:1 Jesus said: “... men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” Make prayer a part of your life.

Paul said in First Thessalonians 5:17: “Pray without ceasing.” Never stop.

If your experience is like mine, this is an area in our Christian life

Chaplain’s Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

in which we fail – our prayer life. Why does this happen? It’s not your doing. It’s Satan’s doing.

Satan doesn’t mind if you read the Bible, just so you don’t pray. Then it will never transform your life. But it may give you spiritual pride, because you know the Bible so well.

Satan doesn’t mind if you have faith, just so you don’t pray. Because he knows it is far more important to talk to God about men than it is to talk to men about God.

Satan does not mind if you become involved in your local church, just so you don’t pray. Because then you will be active, but you really won’t accomplish that much.

Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians how to live a heavenly life in a hell-like world. Paul ends this letter to the Ephesians in chapter 6 where he writes in verses 10 and 11:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

on earth through prayer.

Prayer changes our lives and it challenges me to be dependent solely on God. And I recommend this privilege of prayer life to you today. This is the greatest privilege God has given to us – prayer.

It all begins in the Gospel of Luke 3:21-22. This is when God the Father calls His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to a very specific ministry. Notice, it begins at His baptism.

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

“And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22).

Notice the order: He was loved. And He was well pleased by the Son’s work. It occurs three times in the Gospels (Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22), each time the heavens were opened we hear this remarkable statement, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” Why is that true?

We don’t know the answer till we come to the Book of Hebrews 10:7 where we are informed that before Jesus Christ came to earth He paused on the threshold of Heaven and said, “Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God.” God the Father found all of His pleasure in the Son because the Son found all of His pleasure in doing the Father’s will.

And in Luke 5:16 we read: “And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.” And in John 4:34, “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” This is the secret of His ministry.

There are two aspects of ministry. One is involvement with people and the other is isolation from people.

If you spend all of your time around people you no longer impact them because you lost the source of your power and you begin to depend on all kind of things but not upon the Lord. This is why in the Gospels Jesus takes the disciples apart 12 times to a solitary place and teaches them the importance of prayer.

Perhaps you are not a Christian and cannot pray. You can pray the prayer to trust Jesus Christ as your savior by faith. You can pray something like this: “O God, I realize I am a sinner, I trust Jesus as my Savior. Amen.” (Luke 23:42-43). When you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior you are born again into the family of God. (John 3:3; 3:16).

Pray for America.

Jones continued from Page 1

For secondary sites, dropout and graduation rates are also factored in as well as ACT scores and participation and Advanced Placement credit in reading and mathematics.

The bonus program, called the Oklahoma Academic Achievement Award (AAA) program, was expanded this year pursuant to House Bill 1593 of last year. The AAA program rewards teachers working in schools with the top four highest API scores based on all students.

“This is the kind of merit program that enjoys much support among school leaders across the state because it rewards teachers whose instruction efforts result in both top-caliber academic

performance and significant academic gains in one year,” State Superintendent Sandy Garrett said.

“I often share that teachers don’t become teachers with any expectation of making a big salary. However, they, like all professionals, definitely should be recognized and rewarded when they go the extra mile for their students.”

Jones Academy has been in operation for over 100 years. It began as a school operated by the Choctaw Nation. Years later, the school was lost. In 2003, Jones Academy resumed teaching school on its campus.

Spears said, “This recognition and reward show that if you work hard and have team

work and cooperation within a group, you can accomplish things that some people thought impossible.

“Our teachers at Jones Academy are the backbone of what we are able to achieve academically. But we also have tutors, teaching assistants, counselors and dorm staff all working together with the teachers as a team to achieve our goal of providing the best education possible for our students.”

Spears says that while it is gratifying to be singled out for this prestigious honor, he and his staff will not rest on their laurels. “We will continue to work hard to build even more successes in the future,” he said.

Use a pedometer for health and weight loss

Several recent research studies support the use of pedometers for weight loss, reducing blood pressure and resting heart rate – even decreasing waist girth. One study even reported that people take about 2,000 more steps per day just by knowing that they are wearing a pedometer. That’s about a mile more walking each day!

Getting started

A pedometer counts how many steps you take each day. Health experts recommend working up to 10,000 steps per day. You should start out by wearing the pedometer on a “normal” day to determine your present activity level (steps per day). That figure becomes your “baseline.” Then, begin gradually increasing your goal. For example, if your baseline is only 3,500 steps per day (which is the average), you may want to start with a goal of 5,000. After a few weeks of attaining 5,000 steps per day, try setting a new goal of 7,500. Increase your goal every few weeks until you are walking 10,000 steps per day. If you get to this goal you will be walking 5 miles per day! To stay motivated and accountable, be sure to keep a log of your daily step totals.

Walk more to lose weight

To lose weight, researchers recently discovered that 10,000 steps per day may not be enough. The table below shows the steps-per-day recommendations for weight loss.

Women ages	Steps per day
18-40	12,000
40-50	11,000
50-60	10,000
60+	8,000
Men ages	Steps per day
18-50	12,000
50+	11,000

Healthy Lifestyles Fitness Tip of the Month

Buy an accurate pedometer

A good, accurate pedometer will cost \$20-\$30. The “give-away” promotional pedometers are not accurate and may significantly underestimate your total steps. Some more expensive models come with MP3 players or talking functions to let you know every thousand-step plateau you achieve. Some of the most accurate pedometers are listed below.

1. Yamax SW-200
2. Yamax SW-701
3. New Lifestyles NL-2000
4. Accusplit AE170
5. Walk4Life models LS2000, LS6510 and LS7010
6. Omron HJ112

Ways to add more steps to your day

From About.com: Walking

- Park in the far back of the parking lot and walk further to the door
- Use the furthest entrance into your workplace from your parking spot and walk through the building to your work area
- Don’t stand, pace – when waiting for an elevator, etc.
- Circle the room when waiting for a meeting to start
- Use the restroom, copy machine, water fountain, break room, etc., that is farthest from your work area
- Take the stairs rather than the elevator
- When making a phone call, stand up and pace around as you talk
- Rather than phone or e-mail, walk to a co-worker’s office or neighbor’s house and talk to them in person
- Hide the TV remote and walk to the TV to change the channels
- During TV commercials, get up and walk around the house
- When doing errands, park in a central location and walk to your store destinations

Healthy Lifestyles Recipe of the Month

OVEN FRIED CHICKEN

6 – 5-ounce skinless and boneless chicken breasts
1/4 cup reduced-fat buttermilk
1 cup corn flakes, crushed
1 tsp. Reduced Salt McCormick’s Chicken Seasoning

Soak chicken breasts in fat-free buttermilk overnight in a covered container and keep in the refrigerator.

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Spray a large glass baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.

Combine the crushed corn flakes and the reduced salt seasoning. Roll chicken breast in the corn flakes to coat evenly. Place chicken in glass baking dish and cook at 375 degrees for 1 hour.

Nutritional analysis per serving:
226 calories; 32.93 grams protein; 16.80 grams carbohydrate; .49 grams fiber; 3 grams total fat; 0.6 grams saturated fat; 33.5 mg sodium; 49 mg cholesterol.

TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

Alcohol impairs adolescent brain function and memory

By the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Alcohol kills more young people than all other illegal drugs COMBINED. Underage drinking is no joke. There’s 2Much2Lose. 2M2L is a statewide project designed to raise community awareness about the underage drinking problem, deliver prevention messages and build a consensus among community leaders, law enforcement, health and prevention professionals, parents, educators, business leaders and those under 21. Our message is: “Underage drinking is illegal and unacceptable.”

Through public education, vigorous enforcement, training and community engagement, 2M2L strives to eliminate underage drinking in Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is currently partnering with 2M2L to help with this mission by holding community briefings to raise awareness. To become involved with these efforts or any other Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory activities contact: Joyce Wells at Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles at 580-317-9335.

Toll-free tip line to report underage drinking or anyone providing alcohol to those under 21
1-866-94-2much

2much2lose.com

What is meningitis?

Part 3 of 3

CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

Washing your hands really well and often is one way to defend against meningitis and other infections.

Although bacterial meningitis can seem scary, the chance of getting it is quite low. However, because it can be so serious, doctors now recommend that all teens get vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis (the type caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria). Many colleges actually require their students to get meningitis vaccines. It’s also sometimes recommended for people traveling to countries where meningitis is more common.

There are also vaccines for some other types of meningitis. If you have a medical condition that affects your immune system,

for example, a doctor may also recommend a vaccination against the *S. pneumoniae* type of bacteria. But vaccines don’t exist for all types of bacterial meningitis.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

If you have meningitis symptoms, call your doctor right away. Early detection and treatment of meningitis are very important to avoid serious health problems. If you’ve been in close contact with someone who has bacterial meningitis, see your doctor, even if you have no symptoms. The doctor might prescribe antibiotics to help prevent you from getting the infection. A fast diagnosis can also keep the infection from spreading to others.

Everyone is affected by meth! *There is a way out...*

Everyone is affected by meth! No matter your education level or income or if you are a mother, father, teenager, church member, or active community member ... you can become addicted to meth. Meth use is a growing problem across the country and we are drastically affected.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Atoka County has the highest methamphetamine use rate of any county in Oklahoma. The Atoka/Coal Partnership for Change Coalition is working on a grant through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse that will provide \$20,000 a year for three years to help prevent meth use in Atoka County.

Over the past few months the coalition subcommittee, along with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, has held several meetings to recruit new members from the Atoka area who might have interest in this issue and to complete a community readiness survey and a satisfaction survey.

The coalition subcommittee has been able to recruit several new members to help with the meth initiative. The District Attorney for Atoka County, Emily Redman, has been at several of the meetings and is willing to help out with the project. The law enforcement for Atoka County includes Atoka County Sheriff’s Department, Probation and Parole Officer, Atoka Highway Patrol and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Police.

Faith-based organizations are also willing to help out – Victory Life Church, God’s House, Church of the Rock and First Baptist. Several of the Choctaw Nation programs are lending a helping hand – Healthy Lifestyles, Youth Advisory Board, Elder Advocacy,



cy, Lifetime Legacy and Head Start. Other individuals who are involved – The OAKS APRC, Atoka County Department of Human Services, Atoka County Health Department, Anita Zurline, Earlene Fumby, Eastern Oklahoma Turning Point Field Consultant, Lane School, Atoka School and Tushka School. The Atoka/Coal Partnership

for Change Coalition would like to thank all who have been involved thus far and it is their wish that you continue to be a part of this great effort as well as other projects of the coalition.

Together we can work to prevent meth use and make Atoka County a healthy and safe place to live, work and play. As a concerned citizen,

there is a lot you can do to fight against this devastating drug.

For more information or to get involved please contact Melissa Cress, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, at 580-345-2230 or mcress@choctawnation.com

For information on getting treatment for you or someone you love please call 2-1-1.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

MARCH 2008	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.						1
	2	3 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	4	5 Durant 10 am-12 pm	6	7 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	8
	9	10	11 Antlers by appt only	12 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	13	14 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	15
	16	17 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	18 Wright City by appt only	19 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	20	21 Tribal Holiday	22
	23 Easter	24 Bethel by appt only	25 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	26 Durant by appt only	27	28 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	29
	30	31					

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

March 4: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).
March 6: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).
Tribal Holiday: March 21.
Warehouse open: March 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26.
Closed for Inventory March 27, 28, 31.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays March 3-26.
Tribal Holiday: March 21.
Closed for Inventory March 27, 28, 31.

McALESTER

March 3: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open weekdays March 4-26.
Lunch-n-Learn:
March 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McAlester.
March 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McAlester.
March 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McAlester.
Tribal Holiday: March 21.
Closed for Inventory March 27, 28, 31.

POTEAU

Warehouse open weekdays March 3-26.
Lunch-n-Learn:
March 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poteau.
March 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poteau.
March 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poteau.
Tribal Holiday: March 21.
Closed for Inventory March 27, 28, 31.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSE

Antlers: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: Warehouse, 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: Warehouse, 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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

Soothing a fussy baby

Many babies are fussy toward the end of the day. Some babies have colic when they cry for long periods for no apparent reason. It's very hard on you for your baby to cry so much, but it's important to do something when your baby cries.

HUNGER ... Have you fed baby within the last two hours? If so, she is unlikely to be hungry.

GAS ... Did you burp her during and after feedings? If not, try it now.

SUCKING ... Have you tried helping baby find her fingers or given her a pacifier to suck? Babies need to suck not only for food, but also for pleasure and learning. The happiest babies often suck the most.

OVERTIRED ... Have you tried rocking baby to sleep in your arms? Try swaying from side to side, holding the baby in different positions (on your shoulder, on your lap, football hold).

WET/DIRTY ... Have you changed the baby's diaper? Make sure tape or diaper edges aren't sticking or irritating baby.

TOO WARM/COLD ... Have you checked the room temperature? Adjusted baby's clothes or blankets? Try taking her out for some fresh air?

OVERSTIMULATED ... Are there too many people or too much noise for baby? Limit visitors and excitement, especially in evening. Try holding her in a quiet, darkened area.

NEED FOR TOUCH ... Have you tried holding baby close? Try holding her against your skin to give her a sense of security, or wrap her snugly in a blanket. A front pack can allow your baby to be close while freeing your hands for other things.

BORED OR UNCOMFORTABLE ... Try changing her position or moving her to a new place.

Calming yourself when baby's upset

- Take a deep breath.
- If you have someone to help, let them try to comfort baby. Get away from the crying for a few minutes to collect yourself.
- If you don't have anyone to help you, put baby down gently in a safe place and go to another room for a few minutes to try to calm down. Or go for a brisk walk with the baby – this may help calm both of you.
- Try to avoid trips to the store or stressful situations for baby during the time of day she usually fusses.
- Talk about it with your home visitor, your own mother, or a friend with children. It helps to know others have been in your shoes.

At the end of your rope

Most everyone hates to hear a crying baby, but sometimes it becomes more than you can bear. If you feel like shaking or hitting or harming your baby in any way, call for help immediately. Babies are fragile and can be hurt badly, even when you don't mean to hurt them.

This article was provided by Becky Clay, AFL Project Case-worker. The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teenagers, their child, male partner, and extended family members. The AFL Program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and external agencies. For more information contact the AFL Office at 977-285-6893.



New Year Baby

Congratulations to Katherine Martin and Richard Chadrick on the birth of their New Year Baby. Stormie Nicole Chadrick was born at 8:18 a.m. January 2, 2008, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Clinic, Talihina. She weighed 10 pounds 7 ounces and measured 19.9 inches long.

NURSERY NEWS

Ella Marie and Preslyn Kylar Munson

BJ and Lindsay Sumnerlin Munson proudly announce the arrival of their twin girls, Ella Marie and Preslyn Kylar. The girls, born at 5:09 a.m. on November 7, 2007, were 3 pounds 12 ounces, 17.5 inches, and 3 pounds 7 ounces, 16.5 inches, respectively. Big sister Hayden welcomed Preslyn home on December 17 and is anxiously awaiting the arrival of Ella, hopefully in February.



Garrett Lee Driver

Nathan and Robin Driver of Sims, Arkansas, proudly announce the birth of their son, Garrett Lee Driver. Garrett was born at 8:32 p.m. on September 7, 2007, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 9 pounds 7.8 ounces and measured 21 inches in length. Also welcoming her new brother was Natalie Kay, 5. Grandparents are Eddie and Susie Oliver of Wickes, Arkansas, the late Larry McKinney of Mena, Arkansas, and Bob and Odette Driver of Columbus, Arkansas.



Hayden Spencer Culbreath

Thomas and Grace Culbreath of Blytheville, Arkansas, are proud to announce the arrival of Hayden Spencer Culbreath. He was born at 6:31 p.m. on November 12, 2007, at Great River Medical Center in Blytheville. Hayden weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. Grandparents are John and Vicky Mayfield of Durant and J.D. and Donna Culbreath of Mead. Proud aunts and uncles are Sara Mayfield of Durant, Jim and Deanna Culbreath of Calera and Allen and Brande Serner of Calera.



Dylan Shane Rish

Dylan Shane Rish was born on September 28, 2007, in Tracy, California. He weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces. Proud parents are Chasity Carney and Kevin Rish of Tracy. Grandparents are Stephanie Goings of Tracy, Jerome Carney of Smithville, Oklahoma, and Karen Masters of Union City, California. Great-grandparents are Marvin Goings of Smithville and Elton and Rozetta Carney of Smithville. His great-great-grandma is Laura Carney of Smithville. We are very proud of the newest addition to our family!



Brooklyn Ruth Frazier

Brooklyn Ruth Frazier was born December 27, 2007, in Idabel, Oklahoma. She weighed 6 pounds 2.5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Proud parents are Micah and Andrea Frazier. Grandparents include Willard and Sandra Frazier and Willie and Lorraine Stewart, all of Broken Bow, and Leroy and Sharon Stewart of DeQueen, Arkansas. Great-grandparents include John and Julia McKinney of Broken Bow, Annette Jack, also of Broken Bow, and the late Joe and Ruth Frazier. She also has an auntie Reannon and uncle Keith of Broken Bow.



Healthy Marriages = Healthy Kids

The Choctaw Nation's Healthy Marriages = Healthy Kids Project comes from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and was developed to promote a healthy home environment for Native American children by promoting healthy marriages among Native Americans. Unfortunately, in Southeast Oklahoma, many Native American families are living in stressful situations due to divorce, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol addiction, and child abuse. With this project, the Choctaw Nation hopes to remedy as many of these problems as we can by raising awareness in regards to the benefits of having a healthy marriage not only among the tribe's members but within the communities in Southeast Oklahoma.

Coordinator Mary Ayn Tullier has been promoting the program and arranging for couples to have positive, fun experiences together bringing about new tools for communication. Mary Ayn and Barbara Brown hold weekend get-a-ways to help couples form new commitments and loyalties toward each other, giving them a better chance at a happy family life.

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) or Christian Prevention and Relationship (CPREP), which is the core of the Healthy Marriages = Healthy Kids Project, provides tools that will help couples talk safely without fighting, preserve fun and friendship, maintain commitment and identify dangers for their marriage that will lead to pitfalls. These same skills can be beneficial to other types of relationships, including parent/child, co-worker/co-worker, and unmarried parents. Additionally, these skills can be a way for single persons to discover what went wrong in former relationships and learn strategies for making different decisions related to future relationships.

The healthy marriage enrichment program trains couples, singles and anyone wanting to learn ways to improve relationships. After couples attend these activities and retreats, they return to daily life influencing co-workers and friends causing a community

Healthy Marriages = Healthy Kids COUPLES RETREAT

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 25

Talking Tree Campground & Spa

53157 U.S. Hwy. 59

Hodgen, OK 74939

Contact 918-567-3386 or fax 918-567-3917

Name _____ Spouse _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell _____
E-mail _____

spin from the whole program. After couples learn better tools to communicate, they learn and develop means to communicate with their children, the true benefactors of this program. As couples become healthier in their relationships, they tend to influence others in their churches, schools and communities.

To schedule a PREP or CPREP workshop, have five or more couples who can commit to attend the 12-hour workshop. Contact Mary Ayn Tullier or Barbara Brown at 918-567-3386 or e-mail matullier@cnhsa.com for questions or information.

Chĭ Hullo Li Residential Center ‘cares for you’

Chĭ Hullo Li fulfills its Choctaw translation, “We care for you,” by taking in young women and giving them a new beginning on life. The residential substance abuse treatment center in Talihina is staffed around the clock with behavioral technicians.

“I have been in treatment at Chĭ Hullo Li for six months and will be leaving in a few weeks. Chĭ Hullo Li has saved my life,” writes Tracie. “The following are some things the ladies and I have written. Thank you so much Choctaw Nation.”

“The first step to recovery is admitting that we as individuals have a problem and/or admitting that we are powerless over drugs and alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable. As we take this first step

(‘we’ being the individuals here at the present time) we also sought treatment either through the court systems or family or our own personal seeking. We had all sought help and help was only as far away as Talihina, Oklahoma.

“When we get here we all have new emotions, new ideas and thoughts and for the most part have no idea how to deal with them.

“Therein enters the staff of Chĭ Hullo Li. There are behavioral technicians here 24/7, 365 days a year. They help each person as an individual yet keep us in line with the center's rules and regulations. Then you have the nurse who keeps up with each of our health issues; not just ours but our children's as well, which takes a lot of

heart and patience. You then have the administration staff, who although they may not be here as support staff they interact with us all and do support us as well.

“And now comes our individual counselors. We are, as are our children, assigned a counselor and ‘my oh my’ what to say but that they have their work cut out for them. They are great and they help us with such grace and lots of love. They wipe our worn-out, tangled-with-all-kinds-of-webs slates clean and give us fresh new starts. That is what we need and long for in our lives.”

In the words of the clients:
“If it weren't for this place, I would be dead. Now it is hope and inspiration.” – Tracie

“It is what we have been

looking for – that something to help us, something to welcome us in as well as hope and inspiration.” – Leaona

“Teaches us a lot of knowledge and the tools of life.” – Ginkina

“Very good practice for when we get out there.” – Barbara

“An opportunity to grow and to change defective behavior.” – Jane

“Chĭ Hullo Li has given me my life back. I have hope for the future. It has saved my life and my children's lives. This is the best choice that I could have ever made. Thank you!” – April

How to cook with young children

1. Decide on the area of the kitchen where you will be cooking.
2. Gather stools or chairs that will allow your child to stand or sit comfortably while working.
3. Wash hands.
4. Get out the recipe you will be using.
4. Read the recipe with your child. Explain that you will be following the steps in the recipe to prepare the food.
6. Set out:
 - The equipment and supplies that you will need (such as a mixer, blender, bowls, pans, measuring cups, knives and spoons)
 - The ingredients that you will be using.
7. Have your child participate in cooking activities (such

WIC

as washing fruits and vegetables, adding ingredients, and kneading dough).

8. Clean up with your child.
9. Eat what you have prepared.

Safety tips for cooking with children

- Prevent food poisoning by:
- Always washing hands before cooking.
 - Not eating raw eggs or raw meats.
 - Waiting until the food is cooked before sampling it. Do not sample uncooked foods.
1. Have children stand at the

level of the activity. Use a stool if necessary.

2. Use cooking supplies that will not break (such as plastic measuring cups and stainless-steel bowls).

3. Use plastic knives or butter knives for cutting.

4. Provide constant supervision.

- Always watch children when they use knives, mixers, or the stove.
- Supervise the use of ovens, stoves and other kitchen appliances.
- Remind children that stoves, ovens, pans, and dishes can be very hot.

Cooking can be wonderful family time and also teach responsibility to our children.

Courtesy of California WIC



Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

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

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Happy birthday to Pearl Thelma Cook Derrick

Four generations from all over the United States met in Calvin, Oklahoma, on September 22 to celebrate the birthday of Pearl Thelma Cook Derrick of Calvin. Pearl was born September 21, 1917, in Stoney Point, Oklahoma, to Luis Cook and Tupie Goleman Cook. She was married April 6, 1935, to Vernon Derrick of Hilltop. Vernon was born October 12, 1910, to George Gordon Derrick and Nelia Jane Low Derrick. Nelia is an original enrollee. Pearl had two children, Gary Vernon Derrick of Calvin and Karen June Derrick Roberson of Claremore. Both of Pearl's children, along with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, one brother, some cousins, friends, nieces, and nephews, joined together at the Calvin High School cafeteria for a surprise birthday party planned by her daughter, June. June told Pearl that they were going to Ada for lunch, but that she had to stop in Calvin first. All the grandkids and great-grandkids had called Pearl previously to wish her a happy birthday and let her know they wished they could make a trip to see her, so when she walked in she had told all of us that she had raised a house full of liars, while giggling of course. The party included a buffet, a large cake, and everyone was to write a memory they have of Pearl. A few of them were read at the party, the rest read later at Pearl's home.

Only three of the four generations are pictured: from top left are Thomas, grandson-in-law; Ashley, great-granddaughter; Karen, granddaughter; and Michael, step-grandson. Middle row from left are Richard, grandson; Joy, step-granddaughter; Sarah, great-granddaughter; Pearl Derrick; Jerry and Sydney, grandson and great-granddaughter; Derrick, grandson. Bottom from left are Austin, great-grandson; Jeremy, great-grandson; Ronnie, step-great-granddaughter; and Elizabeth, great-granddaughter. Not included are Karen June, Gary, and several others who were taking pictures. On behalf of all that attended we would like to wish Pearl a very happy birthday.

Mick headed overseas

Miles "Mick" Reich has been selected to participate in the People to People Student Ambassador Program. The select group of students will travel to England, Ireland and Wales this summer. Mick is the son of Jay and Melissa Reich, and grandson of Lillie Roberts of Durant, Sequoyah Roberts of Wilburton; and Brenda Reich of Wright City.



Mick is a Choctaw/Cherokee member of the Choctaw Nation. He is a junior at Wright City High School. Mick, an honor student, is the Vice President of the WISDOM Club, Treasurer of the Music Club, a member of the Art Club and the Prom Committee. Mick is a member of the First Baptist Church of Wright City.

Wright City Masonic Lodge and Wright City First Baptist Church will be co-hosting a fundraiser on Friday, February 8, at the Wright City Community Building to help off-set the cost of the trip.

An account has been opened at the Idabel National Bank, 1201 S.E. Washington, Idabel, OK 74745, 580-286-7656. The name on the account is Miles Reich Student Ambassador. Donations may be made directly to this account. You may also contact the bank online at www.idabelnational.com.



Joseph Dick celebrates 90th birthday

Joseph Dick of San Jose, California celebrated his 90th birthday on August 7. Pictured from left to right is Joseph Dick, Joseph's nephew, Curtis Dick, of Oklahoma City, and Joseph's son, Billy Wayne of Las Vegas.

Happy birthday

Sara Faith Battiest turned 13 on December 3. She attends Victory Christian School in Duncan and is an honor roll student. Her parents are Richard and Amy Wilkinson of Duncan. Grandparents are Debbie Battiest, the late Allen Battiest, the late Elmer and late Margie Wilkinson, all of Duncan.



Sara's mom, dad, "nanny," Uncle Walker, Aunt Jamie, cousins Kathleen, Carson, and Maddie all wish her a happy birthday!

Bailey turns 2

Bailey Reid Thorne celebrated his second birthday at Disneyland with parents Mike and Kristy and brother, Ryan, on November 29.

His grandparents, Gene and Lahoma Murphy Crauthers, and other Oklahoma relatives wish him a happy birthday.

Bailey is the great-grandson of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Happy birthday to our lil panda bear

Nana and Papaw would like to wish Amanda Howland, great-great-great-great-granddaughter to original enrollee Joe Nail, a very happy second birthday!

Rachel graduates from Trinity University

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Rachel Sara Brannan for her recent graduation from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She earned her degree in international economics.

Happy birthday to Bobby Holder

Bobby Clark Holder turned 73 on January 4. Bobby worked 44 years in the transportation business before retiring 10 years ago. Mr. Holder is now a member of the Texas Civil Defense Unit and is raising his 13 year old granddaughter. Both are proud members of the Choctaw Nation.

Happy birthday Lucy

Lucy Fronterhouse Johnson celebrated her 95th birthday on July 10 with a family party in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was born in Tushka, Oklahoma, in 1912 to George Richard Fronterhouse and Maude Carey. George was an original enrollee. Her grandparents were William Fronterhouse and Lucy Folsom. Lucy resides in Little Rock where she and her husband, James F. Johnson, deceased, operated a dairy farm and raised their family of four children. She is very proud of her Choctaw heritage.



Happy first birthday

Noah Wayne Baker of Wright City celebrated his first birthday on February 6. Proud parents are Shandi Duke and Bobby Baker Jr. of Wright City. Grandparents are Bobby Sr. and Pearlina Baker of Wright City and Olene Duke of Hobart. Great-grandparents are the late Alice Baker of Broken Bow and the late Lester and Adeline Noah of Wright City. Proud Auntie is Paige Baker also of Wright City. Noah has one big brother, Braden, and one big sister, Madison. He celebrated his birthday with his many family and friends. You truly are a blessing. Happy first birthday.



Miss Haworth 2007-2008

Charlee Potts was crowned Miss Haworth 2007-08. She attends Haworth High School, where she is a junior and honor student. She also attends evening classes at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is an officer in FFA. Charlee is the daughter of Charles and Gina Potts, granddaughter of Walker and Charolette Davis and the late Jarden and Ruth Potts.



Happy anniversary

C.O. and Shirley Houston celebrated 35 years of marriage on January 12. Wishing you many more years together - Connie.



Happy birthday

Savannah Jo Whitley turned four on January 26 and her daddy, Steve, turned 42 on November 2. Savannah Jo is an angel to all her family. She is the daughter of Steve and Belinda Whitley. She is truly a blessing. Happy birthday our Little Jo.



W.E. Boback to turn 80

My husband, W.E. Boback will be turning 80 on February 21. He is a veteran of the Navy. Mr. Boback was born in Bohoshe to Gertrude and Rudolph Boback. Gertrude was an original enrollee. W.E. now resides in Claremore with his wife.

Wanda, children Eddie and Pam, and grandson James all wish him a wonderful birthday.

SOSU graduate

Crystal Faith Williams graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University on December 15 with a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design. A reception was held for her at the Choctaw Nation Community Center with family and friends in attendance. A special video tribute was played, which was produced by her brother, Mark. Crystal is employed with the Choctaw Nation Finance Department as the Time Management Coordinator. She began working in the Finance Department after her graduation from Bennington School in 2000. Crystal is the daughter of Olin and Bernice Williams. She has four siblings, four nieces and one nephew who all wish her the very best in life.



Arnold earns master's

On December 15, Jimmy Arnold, grandson of the late William and Ollie Jones Isaac, and son of the late Archie and Mildred Isaac Arnold, graduated with a Master's of Science degree from Texas A&M University in Texarkana. He plans to use his master's degree to teach history, government and other subjects at the community college level. He began his teaching career at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas in De Queen, on January 16. He is an alumnus of numerous honor societies including, Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Chi, and Phi Alpha Theta. In addition to teaching he plans to serve as a faculty advisor to the Beta Beta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges at Cossatot. He would like to thank his family and friends, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and most especially his wife, Virginia Arnold, for their continued support, encouragement and most of all their prayers.



Surprise birthday

A surprise 80th birthday was given on December 22 for Grady Adams. Grady is the son of Sam and Irene Adams of Short Mountain. This event was given by Grady's wife, Mary Jo, and daughter, Pat. It was attended by many of Grady's family and friends. Everyone enjoyed the food and had a great time. It was great to see everyone and hear the stories of Grady and his brother's childhood memories and the stories of their grandmother Adams singing and talking to them in Choctaw. We would like to thank everyone that attended and celebrated this event with us.



Eagle Scout

Brendon Moran was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, at a Court of Honor on May 21. He received his Bronze Palm this fall.

He began scouting as a Bear Cub with Pack 236 and continued as a member of Anchorage Troop 232, participating in winter camping, white-water rafting, rock climbing, and orienteering. During his Scouting career, Moran earned 26 merit badges, went on a historical trip with his troop, camping from Yellowstone to the Black Hills. He served as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Historian, and Chaplain's Aide. For his Eagle Scout project, Moran planned, designed, raised funds and supervised expansion of the Kid's Kitchen downtown drop-off center including a furnished study center and new shelving for food storage. The son of Duane Moran and Karen Wood-Moran of Anchorage, Brendon is 16 and a junior at Bartlett High School. He attended Steller Secondary where he served as student representative to the Anchorage School District and maintains a 4.0. Brendon is on the soccer team, enjoys basketball, snowboarding and traveling. He is the grandson of Mary Wood of Chickasha, grandnephew of Donald Norman of Duncan, and nephew of Norman Wood of Verden. Brendon is proud to be Choctaw.



Congratulations

James Stephens graduated from Muskogee High School on June 6. He is the son of James and Shirley Stephens of Muskogee. James is now a student at The Arts Institute of Atlanta where he is majoring in video and audio productions. His parents are very proud of him for his accomplishments.



Birthdays

Happy belated birthday goes out to Melissa and Destiny. Melissa had her birthday on January 8 and Destiny had hers on December 30. They are wished a happy birthday by their Mama G, Papa G, Monty, Michelle, Markus, David, Sheena, Silvia, Sabrina, Alex, and Muffins. Happy birthday girls!



Gaines earns Honor Roll

Sheena Marie Gaines, a college Junior and daughter of Billie and David Gaines, has been named on the President's Honor Roll for the Fall 2007 semester at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. This is her first year at a university since graduating with an Associate in Arts degree from Eastern Oklahoma State College and we are very proud of her. We wish her many more accomplishments in the future - Mom, dad, brothers and sisters.



Tiffany has birthday

Tiffany Brianna Hamill turned 22 on February 3. She is a graduate of Hugo High School and is currently attending Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Tiffany is the daughter of Roger Hamill of Bells, Texas, and Elette Hamill of Hugo. She has one sister, Courtney Hamill, and one brother, Matt Hamill, both of Hugo. Her grandparents include Jack and Blenda Branton of Hugo, the late Carl Hamill of Durant and Lillian Hamill of Bennington.



6th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair

Open to all students Pre-K - 12th grades

"Language Lives in Laughter"

Monday, March 31 and Tuesday, April 1, 2008

March 31 is Pre-K - 5th & April 1 is 6th - 12th Contest

Registration deadline is March 5, 2008

Contest Categories:

Each category is divided by age group

Poster Art

Individual or Group Language Performance

Individual or Group Language Performance with Music and Dance

Film/Video/Multimedia

Book and Literature

Language Advocacy Essay

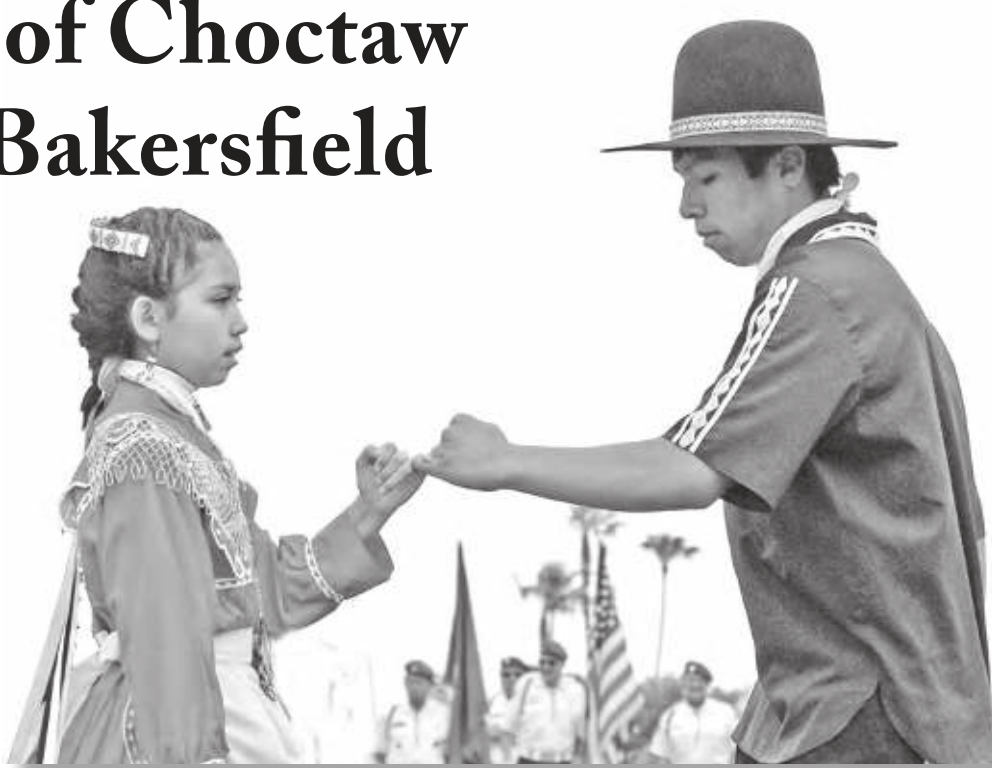
New for 9th - 12th grades - Language Masters Performance Category

For more information visit <http://www.snomnh.ou.edu> or contact Candessa Tehee Morgan, ONAYLF Coordinator, at 405-325-7588 or via email at onaylf@snomnh.ou.edu.

Event will be held at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History located on the OU Norman campus. To contact the museum call 405-325-4712.

Annual Gathering of Choctaw people planned in Bakersfield

Two-day event set for May 3-4 at Bakersfield College



REGISTER FOR GATHERING

You must pre-register to tent/RV camp. Please e-mail Theresa Harrison at oklachahta@igalaxy.net or call 661-393-6552.

SPECIAL RATE AT HOTEL

A special Choctaw rate is available at the Holiday Inn Select in Bakersfield. Please call 661-323-1900 and insist that you make reservations locally. Ask to be on the Special Choctaw Rate (single or double) which includes one free breakfast. Rates will go up April 15, so make your reservations as early as possible. The website for the Holiday Inn Select is www.holidayinnbakersfield.com.

Lots of fun is planned for the 13th annual gathering of Choctaw people in Bakersfield held by the Okla Chahta Clan. The event will be held on the soccer field at Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield. There is ample paved parking close to the site. The gathering will be held rain or shine so bring plenty of shade, lawn chairs and enjoy the weekend.

On tap this year will be Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle and numerous demonstrations and classes on how to make traditional Choctaw food, dresses and necklaces as well as social dancing and learning the Choctaw songs. Staff from the Tribal Membership Department in Durant will be on hand to help family members register with the tribe or to assist with new photo IDs or change of addresses. The importance of being a registered member of the tribe cannot be

emphasized enough. Many Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma programs require both a CDIB and tribal membership cards.

Choctaw Nation health officials will be providing health screening, diabetes information and testing. Also, representatives of several Choctaw Nation programs will be on hand to help with questions on housing, health, higher education, genealogy, and veterans assistance, to name a few.

A Grand Entry opens festivities on Saturday with the Choctaw Nation Color Guard and all veterans leading the way into the circle. All veterans and active-duty military personnel are invited to participate in the opening ceremony.

This is the first year for the “Young Warriors Society” for young men age 6 to 18 years old. Contact Ryan MacKay for more information at ryanmackay@earthlink.net.

The annual Okla Chahta Princess crowning will be on Saturday as well and all girls and young ladies up to 25 years of age are eligible to run for 2008 princess. For more information please contact Victoria at princessvixeypooh@sbcglobal.net.

On Sunday, church services will be held with hymns being sung in Choctaw.

All classes will be repeated once after church. Everyone who has Choctaw traditional clothes is invited to wear them.

Pre-Register for the 13th Annual Gathering

Please pre-register for the FREE Saturday meal.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
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 number 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 _____ \$10 one night (Friday or Saturday) or \$15 for both Friday and Saturday. Fee is per tent charge.

RV Camping (size and type) _____ \$10 – Friday or Saturday or \$15 for Friday and Saturday. Fee is per unit charge. All camping is dry – no electricity.

**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.**

**For information:
661-393-6552 or www.oklachahta.org**

Burn Ban in effect in Oklahoma

A Burn Ban is in effect for the State of Oklahoma. If the use of fire in contracting, welding, cooking or for any other purpose results in a wildfire, the individual conducting such activity is responsible for the immediate suppression of the fire, and for damages which might occur from such fire.

For more specific information on guidelines and exemptions, contact the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Division at 405-522-6158.

Senior Bingo

Dates for this year's Choctaw Nation Senior Appreciation Bingo have been set. Mark your calendars for:

- Tuesday, February 19
- Tuesday, May 20
- Tuesday, August 12
- Monday, November 10

Wild Onion Dinner in OKC

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Inc. is hosting a Wild Onion Dinner on Saturday, February 23, beginning at 11 a.m. A Bake Sale will also be held at the center.

Lunch menu will include wild onions with scrambled eggs and a choice of mashed potatoes, pashofa or corn, a choice of fried chicken or salt pork, pinto beans, banana, fry bread, iced tea and grape dumplings.

Price is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 and under.

The center is located at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73119.

For more information, call Myrtle King at 405-634-6786 or Stella Long at 405-949-2147.

Language Class in Boswell

A Choctaw Language Class begins in Boswell on February 4. Classes are held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Choctaw Nation Archiving Building with Instructor Virginia Espinoza and Assistant Cindy Robinson. Everyone is welcome.

For more information call Cindy at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2487.

Language Class in Durant

Phase I of the Choctaw Language Class will begin February 12 in Durant. Classes will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, 1705 W. Locust. For more information, contact Richard Adams at 580-924-8280.

New Creations Youth Rally

Mark your calendars for the New Creations ninth annual Youth Rally at New Hope Mission Church in Wewoka, Oklahoma. It will be held at 7 p.m. March 20, 21, and 22.

Everyone is welcome – come and enjoy contemporary, hip-hop, hard rock, blues, praise and worship and southern gospel music. Special groups will perform nightly.

Ministers will be the Revs. Larry Harrison, Thursday; Mike Ward, Friday; and Rick Manis, Saturday. Pastor of New Hope Mission Church is T.J. Fixico.

For more information call Helen or Phillip at 405-584-1551.

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

BRYAN COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

March 24, 2008

Mondays and
Wednesdays

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Choctaw Nation
Tribal Complex

South building, downstairs
Durant, Oklahoma

LATIMER COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

March 24, 2008

Mondays and
Wednesdays

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation
Community Center

515 Center Point Road
Wilburton, Oklahoma

McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

March 25, 2008

Tuesdays and
Thursdays

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

SOSU McCurtain

County Campus, Room 202
Idabel, Oklahoma

NORTH LEFLORE COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

March 25, 2008

Tuesdays and
Thursdays

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation

Family Investment Center
Poteau, Oklahoma

The class will meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Livestock, crop disaster programs available

Farmers and ranchers throughout the area are reminded that disaster funds through USDA are available for 2005, 2006 and 2007 crop disasters, livestock feed losses, and livestock deaths due to natural disasters. According to Kevin Dale, the Bryan County Farm Service Agency (FSA) director, any agriculture producer with a qualifying loss is eligible to apply at your own local FSA office. In the Choctaw Nation these offices are located in Atoka, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester and Poteau.

The sign-up period for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) began on September 10, 2007. The signup for the Crop Dis-

aster Program (CDP) began October 5, 2007. Ending dates for the sign-up periods have not yet been determined.

In addition, the eligibility for 2007 livestock and crop year losses has been extended for farmers who suffered recent livestock and/or crop losses caused by natural disasters. On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act 2008. The 2008 Act amended the previous February 28, 2007, date and now allows for crops planted prior to December 31, 2007, for the 2007 crop year, to be included for loss purposes under CDP. Similarly, under LIP and LCP, the 2008 Act extends the date livestock

and livestock feed losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous county named in a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to December 31, 2007.

“This date change does not make 2008 crops planted in 2007 eligible for CDP, however it does benefit farmers in that it extends the eligibility date for crops planted in 2007 that were intended for harvest in the same crop year, and it adds 10 months to the amount of eligible time livestock losses can be considered for the new programs,” said Dale.

Producers should visit their local USDA Farm Service Agency office to apply for benefits under these new disaster assistance programs, added Dale.

Choctaw Nation Veterans Cemetery

The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department has assumed the responsibility of operation and maintenance for the Choctaw Nation Veterans Cemetery, located at Tushka Homma.

For more information contact:

Terry Cole

**Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
Call: 800-522-6170, ext. 2137**

Council continued from Page 1

- Application to the Department of Justice Office for Violence Against Women for grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program.
- Application to the Department of Justice Office for Violence Against Women for a Legal Assistance for Victims Grant.
- A modification to the 2008 Tribal Operations budget.

OBITUARIES

Isom Patterson ‘Pat’ Thompson

Isom Patterson “Pat” Thompson, 74, of Anadarko, formerly of Talihina, passed away January 6, 2008, in Oklahoma City. He was born November 15, 1933, in Muse to Jonas and Sally James Thompson.

Pat and his family moved from Talihina to Anadarko in 1974. He raised his family to know the Lord. He was a little league coach for baseball and football in Talihina and Anadarko. His team won the city league football championship. He coached baseball in Talihina in the 1950s through the 1960s. He was influential in many young lives. He was a great supporter of his children who were active in Anadarko and Riverside athletics. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was an inspiration to his children, grandchildren and many who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Geneva Morgan; brothers, James Willis and Jonas Thompson Jr.; a niece, Raenella Sue Boren; and an uncle, Homer Thompson.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn of the home; nine children, LaVerne Parker of Macy, Nebraska, Robert and Karen Thompson of Hinton, Oklahoma, Stephanie and Nick Gomez of Anadarko, Cordelia and Eli McHenry of Claremore, Oklahoma, Pat Thompson Jr. of Lawrence, Kansas, Laura Thompson and Darrell Horse of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Carmen and Dale Klinecole of Henryetta, Oklahoma, Embry and Saloma Thompson of Oklahoma City, and Cheryl Thompson and fiancé Kenny Newell of Chickasha; 38 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren; close relatives, Iola Beever, Raymond Thompson, Donald Thompson and Mary Ann Holman, and many nieces and nephews.

Buddy Leo Wall

Buddy Leo Wall, 68, of Springdale, Arkansas, passed away January 8, 2008. He was born December 21, 1939, in Talihina to David and Patsy Doyle Wall of Whitesboro, Oklahoma.

Buddy married Jerline Bacon at a young age and worked at a sawmill in Leflore County. As part of the BIA Relocation program, he worked for Time Magazine in Chicago, moved on to the swimming pool business in Hollywood, California, and eventually settled on a longtime career as a steel fabricator/welder in Tulsa and Springdale. In 1974, he was the President of the Choctaw/Chickasaw Alliance, an organization involved with the Oklahoma Clean Water Act. He was most fulfilled as an alcohol/drug counselor at Decision Point in Springdale which contributed to his being clean and sober the last 17 years of his precious life. He enjoyed watching sports on television, a good hamburger and Elvis.

We will miss the twinkle in his eye, his baritone laughter, and encouraging words. His hero was Jesus Christ and a prayer chapel will be erected as a memorial to his work for the Lord.

Survivors include his mother, Pat Presfield of Springdale; children, Patsy Jo Eyachabbe and husband Curtis, Buddy G. Wall and wife Annette, and Ted L. Wall, all of the Tulsa area; three grandsons, two great-grandchildren, seven brothers, two sisters, two aunts, two uncles, many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Faye Patsy Brdecko

Faye Patsy Brdecko, 94, passed away June 10, 2007, at The Pavilion in Casa Grande. She was born August 21, 1912, in Allen, Oklahoma. She was a homemaker and loved her dog, Toy. She enjoyed fishing, sewing, yard sales and gardening, and she did all well.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Bub Yoakum and Henry Brdecko; sons, Robert and Don Yoakum; and brothers, Bill, John and Claude Stanfield.

Survivors include two sons, Paul and Leon Yoakum of Florence; three daughters, Pat Carlson of Wickenburg, Shari Burklow of Coolidge and Sami Abbott of Casa Grande; her twin sister, Paula May Hartwig of Portland, Oregon; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Wanda J. Ford

Wanda J. Ford, 75, passed away September 25, 2007, at Central Kansas Medical Center, Great Bend. She was born February 15, 1932, in Allen, Oklahoma, the daughter of Raymond J. and Daisy Goodman Beams.

A resident of Hoisington for 45 years, moving from Russell, she was a medication aide and nurses’ aide for various health institutions in Barton County. She belonged to Hoisington Bible Church. On June 19, 1950, she married Kenneth Ford in Great Bend.

She was preceded in death by a son, Steven Lowell; a daughter, Joyce Marie Ford; and a brother, Byron Beams.

Survivors include her husband; son, Kenneth R., Great Bend; daughters, Jacqueline Ford, Hoisington, and Melissa Tittel and husband Richard, Ellinwood, Kansas; brother, Alva R. Beams, Green Bay, Wisconsin; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Corinzo Ben Smith

Corinzo Ben Smith passed away December 3, 2007. He was born March 6, 1923, in Vian where his mother, Callie Smith, lived with her parents, Ben and Elbie Smith. He professed faith in Christ at an early age, was baptized and united with the First Baptist Church in Vian. Corinzo enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country honorably during World War II.

In 1941, he met and married Flora Mae Critten. From this union, 10 children were added, four preceding him in death. He worked to provide for his family as a concrete finisher in the construction industry for many years.

Survivors include his mother, Callie Gladney of Muskogee; three sons, the Rev. Larry H. Smith Sr. and wife Delores and Corinzo Ben Smith Jr., all of Muskogee and Benjamin Smith of Sacramento, California; three daughters, Wyvette Anderson and husband Walter, Penny Smith and Loraine Smith, all of Muskogee; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; three brothers, Charles Gladney and wife Barbara and Donald Gladney and wife Dorothy, all of Muskogee, and Raymond Gladney and wife Janice of Kansas City, Missouri; three aunts, Frances Finny of Vian, Gladys Hood of Camden, New Jersey, and Della James of Tulsa, along with a caravan of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Wendell Holder

Wendell Holder of Petaluma, California, passed away September 22, 2007. Born on September 30, 1934, in Hoyt, Oklahoma, Mr. Holder was the eldest son of seven children born to Rolf and Ora Gideon Holder.

Retired from Interbay Lumber Company of Marin, he enjoyed many pastimes. As a member of the Choctaw Nation, he kept in touch with Choctaw news and events throughout Oklahoma. He took nearly annual driving trips to visit family and friends from the Midwest to the East Coast. He was a passionate auto enthusiast who not only enjoyed watching televised and live car races of all kinds, but who throughout his adult years, owned more than 60 cars. In recent years, he volunteered numerous hours per week maintaining the buildings and grounds at Eastside Baptist.

Mr. Holder will be remembered for his generosity and willingness to help others whenever he could. To his children and grandchildren, he demonstrated a life of integrity through his strong work ethic and compassionate heart.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jeanette Eddy, whom he married in 1955; a daughter, Michelle, who died in 1963 at age 1; and a sister, Helen Jean Wyatt.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Reynolds Holder; daughters, Sheryl (Vanderburg) Holder and Cathy Ball; son, Scott Holder and daughter-in-law Patricia; grandchildren, Brett Vanderburg and Kelli Vanderburg, Julie Ball Meyer, Miranda Holder and Brittany Holder; Mary’s four children and their spouses, Kevin Reynolds and wife Jeanette, Tim Reynolds and wife Theresa, Laurie Gibson and husband Mike and Sue Rogers, and their children, Jeff, Steven and Nicholas Reynolds, Tabitha and Tiffany Reynolds, Michael and Joshua Gibson and Anthony Custer and Kris Rogers; and siblings, Ramona Allen, Nadine Read, Elaine Bigger, Reginald Holder and James Mitchell Holder.

Carrol L. Draper

Carrol L. Draper, 64, of Noble passed away April 16, 2007, in Shawnee after a battle with cancer. He was born January 3, 1943, in Blanchard to Ernest and Oma Melton Draper. He was proud of his Mississippi Choctaw heritage. His grandmother, Rosie Karr Draper, and great-grandmother, Nancy Pebsworth Karr, were original enrollees.

Carrol attended school at Lakeview, Washington, and Norman. He owned his own construction company for several years in Noble before going to work for the Citizens Potawatomi Nation as their OEH Director.

Carrol served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Janet of the home, and seven children, Sheila, Tony, Debra and Rebecca, all of Texas, from his marriage in 1963 to Wanda Chambers, Shelly and Kisha of Kansas from his marriage to Vada Bergen in 1971, Chad and Noble from his marriage to Janet Henderson in 1976; one brother, Doyle of Noble; two sisters, Joyce Hewitt and Dorothy Sharp of Noble; 16 grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and friends.

Ed ‘Red’ Wilson

Ed “Red” Wilson, 63, of Smithville passed away September 25, 2007, at Sparks Regional Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born October 30, 1943, at Talihina, the son of Ed and Myrle Romine Wilson.

Ed was affiliated with the Octavia Baptist Church and had lived in Smithville since 1983. Ed was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served as a medical technician during the Vietnam War era. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and making knives. Ed loved spending time with his family and friends.

Ed and Judy were married June 5, 1965, in Arkansas City, Kansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, A.C. and Calvin Wilson.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Dianne and Tony Graham of Garvin and Myrl and Mike Jarvis of Ponca City, Oklahoma; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond and Dorothy Wilson of Wister, and Gerald and Rosemary Wilson of Quapaw; four sisters and one brother-in-law, Earneine and Jetter Norwood of Oklahoma City, Charlene Adams of Oklahoma City, Earleene Factor of Broken Arrow and Edna Kent of Arkansas City; three grandchildren, Tory Wilson, Bryce Ludlow and Randa Ludlow; seven step-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Paul McClure

Paul McClure, 60, of Tongaxonie, Kansas, passed away January 15, 2008, at Tonganoxie Nursing Center. He was born November 17, 1947, in Goodwater, Oklahoma, the son of John and Elanore McKinny McClure.

Mr. McClure graduated from Haskell University. He worked at the university for 18 years in food service where he retired in 1992. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era.

Mr. McClure married Pat Whitesitt on August 3, 1974, in Lexington, Missouri.

He was preceded in death by his twin sister and one brother. Survivors include his wife of the home; one daughter, Jennifer McClure of Lawrence; one son, Curtis of Topeka, one brother, Preston of Wichita; two sisters, Wilma Walker and Donnie Belle McClure, both of Oklahoma.

Rodney Smith

Rodney Smith, 43, of Hugo passed away January 9, 2008, at Choctaw Memorial Hospital in Hugo. He was born September 19, 1964, in Hugo, the son of Sampson Smith and Hazel Rodriguez Smith. He lived all of his life in Hugo.

He was preceded in death by his mother and a brother, Joel Smith.

Survivors include his father of Hugo; two brothers, Eddy Smith and Michael Smith, both of Hugo; five sisters, Terri Frost, Shelley White, Lisa McClour and Rhonda Smith, all of Hugo, and Janie Mitchell of Millerton; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.



Pearl Allen

Pearl Allen, 101, passed away December 16, 2007, in Yukon, Oklahoma. She was born October 21, 1906, in the Arch Community of Indian Territory to Wesley Pryor and Maggie Mae James Richardson.

Pearl and her husband, Jay, had maintained a home in Harts-horne and a farm in Atoka where they raised cattle. During World War II, Pearl worked at a naval ammunition depot in McAlester.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Arthur Jay Allen; son, Kenneth Wesley Lance; grandson, Benny Lance; sisters, Marie Lyles and June Collins; brothers, Bud Richardson and Robert Hargis; and a son-in-law, K. Hudson Jr.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law, Alone and George Monks of Yukon and Geneva Hudson of Yukon; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Betty Jean Curtis

Betty Jean Curtis passed away January 3, 2008, in Monrovia, California. She was born August 25, 1925, in McAlester, the daughter of the Rev. Homer Everett Cacy and Gelia Sirmans Cacy. Her mother was an original Choctaw enrollee.

Betty married Charles Curtis on July 21, 1947; their marriage ended in divorce in 1965. She worked for Richfield Oil and Southwestern Bell in McAlester, was an avid reader, and enjoyed crossword puzzles and Bingo.

Mrs. Curtis moved to California in 2003 to be near her son, William Reppert Curtis of Monrovia. Her daughter, Carol Lynn Grisham, lives in Lake Havasu, Arizona.

Survivors also include her brother, Jerry Don and Loyleta of Ada; and sisters, Mary McWaters and Anna and husband Clifford Polk, all of McAlester, and Eva Sue March of Palmer, Texas, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; former husband; a sister, Frieda Lavada Cothran; two brothers, H.E. “Junior” Cacy and Daniel W. Cacy Sr.



Billy Ray Johnson

The Rev. Billy Ray Johnson, 72, of Van Buren, Arkansas, passed away December 12, 2007, in Fort Smith. He was born August 21, 1935, in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, the son of James and Hazel Johnson.

He was a retired Freewill Baptist minister, a member of River View Fellowship, a reserve deputy for the Crawford County Sheriff’s Department, former chaplain for Van Buren Police Department and Crawford County Sheriff’s Department and was a former pastor in Idaho, California, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Survivors include his loving wife of 50 years, Bentrena; daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Tim Wood of San Jose, California; son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Sally Johnson of Van Buren; sister and brother-in-law, Martha and Frank Vowell of Van Buren; two grandchildren, Alison Wood and Brian Wood and wife Katie of San Jose.

Delores Ann Miller

Delores Ann Miller passed away August 2, 2007, in Oklahoma City. She was born June 15, 1946, in Madill to Green and Ona Norris Gardner.

Delores attended First Missionary Baptist Church, where she was a very active member. She also enjoyed playing softball in her teenage years and early adult life. She is said to have been an outstanding player and coach.

She attended Madill High School, graduating in 1964. Upon graduation, Delores later moved and settled in San Francisco, California. While there she met and married A.J. Miller Jr. on July 23, 1972. From this union Sharlette was born.

Delores graduated from business school. She continued her education at Murray State College, graduating in 1980. She went on to complete her bachelor’s degree at East Central University in 1982. Delores was a fun-loving and caring person whom many people enjoyed being around ... she loved to laugh and make others laugh. She enjoyed good friends and was a good friend as well as a confidant. Delores will be missed but not forgotten.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Billy, Bobbie and James Gardner.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharlette Miller-Samuels, son-in-law, Roderick Samuels I, and step-grandson, Roderick Samuels II, all of Del City; her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and A.J. Watson of Altus; brothers, Richard Gardner of Omaha, Nebraska, John Gardner of Madill and Cecil Gardner and wife Susan of Wichita, Kansas; and a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and many close friends.



Jason Ryan Ludlow

Jason Ryan Ludlow, 34, of Broken Bow, passed away December 12, 2007, at the Paris Regional Medical Center. He was born November 28, 1973, in DeQueen, Arkansas, the son of the Rev. Joel Dean and Isabelle Cleo Maytubbi Ludlow.

Jason graduated from Battiest High School in 1992. He enjoyed spending time with his niece and nephews and was a member of the Goodwater Presbyterian Church of Broken Bow.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, David and Mary Ludlow and John and Christie Maytubbi; uncles, Quincy Maytubbi and Gary Burch; and an aunt, Gladiola Burch.

Survivors include his sister and brother-in-law, Jennifer and Abbe of Broken Bow; a brother, Marsill Jacob Ludlow of Broken Bow; aunts and uncles, Joyce Maytubbi, Gale Amarez, Floyd Maytubbi, all of Broken Bow, Ann and Randy Cameron of Pickens, John Wayne Maytubbi of Idabel, David and Gerri Ludlow of Oakcliff, Texas, Paul and Francis Ludlow of Arlington, Texas, Geraline and Phillip Rowell of Hochatown, Rozella Boyter of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Samuel Ludlow of South Dakota; a niece, Pillar Christine Noah of Broken Bow, nephews, Kobi Joel Noah, Gabriel Shane Noah of Broken Bow and Jonathan Reed Battiest Jr. of Wright City; other relatives and a host of friends.

