

Dates set for Senior Bingo

Mark your calendars! Senior Citizen Appreciation Bingo in Durant has been scheduled for 2009. The four dates are:

February 19
May 21
August 20
November 12

OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance schedules events

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Inc., located at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City, is having its second Saturday Indian Taco Sale on February 14. Serving times are 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Also, on February 14, Perrin Deal will be teaching Southern Cloth Style and the Side-Step Style dancing from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A Wild Onion Dinner is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on February 28. Dinner will include traditional foods with grape dumplings for dessert.

Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership/CDIB Department will be at the center to assist with photo ID's on March 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is also the Indian Taco Sale day for March.

OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance member Stella Long will be appearing in a play with Rhythmically Speaking during the month of February. "The Under Water Bridge," directed by DW Williams is an adaptation of the award-winning book, "Crossing Bok Chito" by Tim Tingle. See Page 7 for times and locations.

WIA accepting Summer Youth applications

The Choctaw Nation Workforce Investment Act program is accepting applications through May 1 for the Summer Youth program. For more information or for an application, please the WIA office at 800-522-6170.

Bow shoot begins

The Choctaw Nation Bow Shoot begins February 14 and will be held each month through October, weather permitting. The shoot is held every second Saturday of the month in the village area of Tushka Homma and is open to all ages. Registration begins at 10 a.m. with the shoot starting at 11 a.m. Nine new targets have been added. For more information, please call the Cultural Events office, 1-800-522-6170.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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

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

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

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Council holds first regular session of 2009

The Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma met in regular session January 10. Seven items of new business were addressed and approved including several applications for grant funds:

- The Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department has applied for its 2009 NAG-PRA grant funds and the 2009 National Parks Service Historic Preservation Fund Grant.
- The U.S. Department of Justice for the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program which assists in eliminating some of the challenges faced by victims of domestic violence and child victimization.
- The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Violence Against Women for the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant, the purpose of which is to develop an innovative, collaborative project that provides quality representation to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

A Council Bill approving the contract to purchase the Oasis Casino Management System was okayed. The system, which will be placed at all Choctaw Casinos (not including those at Travel Plazas), provides modules for marketing, accounting and operations.

Several members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board attended the meeting. The youth are required to attend a Tribal Council meeting, a city council meeting and a school board meeting each year.



Members of the Youth Advisory Board join in the Pledge of Allegiance during the January 10 Tribal Council meeting. Pictured are Ashley Butler, sponsor Martina Hawkins, Alfredo Curiel, Maria Santian, Joshua Frances and Danielle Adams.

Westminster scholarship opportunity available

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) is currently seeking candidates for a well-funded scholarship at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

The scholarship could hold a value up to \$44,500. CNO students reviewing college options should look closely at this opportunity and contact SAP immediately if they are interested and meet eligibility requirements.

The Eliphalet Nott Wright (E.N. Wright) Scholarship, created by John Sullivan of Sullivan Insurance Co. in Ardmore, helps CNO students obtain an education at Sullivan's alma mater, Westminster College. Eliphalet Nott Wright, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, attended Westminster College from 1872-74, becoming a prominent CNO physician and political leader a little more than a century ago.

The E.N. Wright scholarship can

be used for expenses including room, board, books and tuition. Applicants must be members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, have a minimum ACT score of 25, and participate in Native American studies.

Founded in 1851, Westminster College is a private, co-ed, residential, undergraduate college with a curriculum based on the liberal arts. The student enrollment is just under 950, with a student/faculty ratio of 14:1. Winston Churchill delivered

his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster in 1946, and in recent years George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, and Lech Walesa have participated in the college's international lecture series.

For more information please contact Program Director Jo McDaniel, Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program, 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2547, or jomcdaniel@choctawnation.com.



Excitement growing over new community center

Tribal Councilman Ted Dosh and Chief Gregory E. Pyle told the Bryan County Senior Citizens about the new Choctaw Community Center that is opening in Durant this spring. Chief Pyle showed samples of the construction materials being used in the new center. The senior citizens were excited to begin planning the move for their weekly luncheons to the new facility in a few months.

Jones Academy students learn archery techniques

Jones Academy fifth-graders have not let the arctic blast keep them from shooting their bows and arrows. An indoor archery range has been set up in the new elementary gymnasium where the students work with an archery instructor to learn the safe and proper way to handle and shoot a bow.

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NAASP) builds responsibility, confidence and pride in our youth. Students learn to listen for the number of whistle blows that the instructor gives to get bows, go the to shoot line, shoot the bow, go to the wait line, and pull arrows from the targets.

Sound complicated? Ask any of the fifth-graders and they will tell you that it just takes good listening skills, patience and practice.

The students demonstrated their effective bow techniques to the third and fourth grade students at Jones Acad-

emy. Mrs. Martin asked her third- and fourth-graders to do a creative writing assignment on who helped them and what they learned from the activity. Mrs. Martin said that the students were eager to write and share what they learned.

The students were also encouraged to help each other across campus with objectives that are being taught in class and share ideas on how to solve problems. By working together, students can spread the wonderful ingredients of an education and success is in the making.



Cyrus Battiest gives Wilmer Guerrero a few tips.

Choctaw Nation hosting annual To Bridge a Gap Conference

The Choctaw Nation will be hosting the eighth annual "To Bridge a Gap Conference" at the Choctaw Casino Resort April 6-9. The conference is in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and is designed to strengthen government-to-government relationships between the USDA Forest Service and federally recognized Tribal governments with interests in the forests. The Forest Service and Tribal governments have a desire and obligation to establish government-to-government relationships where there are mutual interests in managing the cultural, natural, or social resources of the National Forests.

Through sharing of history, management practices, and natural resource interests, each party will be better prepared to participate in consultation activities on equal footing. This conference is an effort to work toward these goals. The theme for this year's conference will be "Preserving the past for future generations."

Some of the topics covered will be the farm bill and the Final Rule, 73 Fed. Reg. 79367, concerning the Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Special Forest Products and Forest Botanical Products presented by Alan Dorian, Tribal Relations Program USDA Forest Service, Southern Region and Tiajuana Cochauer, External Relations, USDA Forest Service, from New Ellenton, South Carolina.

Archaeologists in Indian Country will be presented by Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation Tribal Archaeologist, Dr. Joe Watkins, Director of Native American Studies at Oklahoma University, and Dr. Robert Brooks, Oklahoma State Archaeologist. Dr. Kent Schneider will be presenting on



The Ground Penetrating Radar and the Global Positioning System. Representatives from the Choctaw Nation, Creek Nation, Kaw Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, Caddo Nation and Absentee Shawnee will be giving a presentation on the Historic Cemetery Restoration Program. Dividing Responsibilities between Tribal Preservation Officers and State Preservation Officers will be presented by Dr. Bambi Kraus, President of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, along with Terry Cole, Official Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. James Bird, Chief, Tribal Preservation Program from the Nation Parks Service in Washington, D.C., will be presenting on the 101(d)2 status that allows tribes to assume duties of the State Historic Preservation Office and Dr. Richard Allen will be speaking on "Instilling Identity." There will be a number of break-out sessions throughout the conference.

The banquet will be Wednesday, April 8, with Doug Harris of the Narangett Indian Tribe, Charlestown, Rhode Island, as the key-note speaker. We are looking forward to another successful conference and another opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the USDA Forest Service and the federally recognized Tribal governments. For information concerning the conference, you may contact the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at 1-800-522-6170. Registration can also be made online at www.choctawnation.com.

The contact committee members of the Choctaw Nation will be Terry Cole, Director, ext. 2137, Caren Johnson, ext. 2133, Valarie Robison, ext. 2377, and Cyndi Houser, ext. 2559.

Cell Phones for Soldiers

The Choctaw Nation has been an official drop-off site for Cell Phones for Soldiers since May 2008. Thanks to the generosity of tribal members, staff and friends, the tribe has been able to send seven shipments of old cell phones and accessories to benefit our troops overseas. The last shipment included 300 items.

Cell Phones for Soldiers sells the donated items for recycling and in turn



provides phone cards for soldiers abroad. Drop-off boxes are located in Durant in the lobby of the Choctaw Nation headquarters, 16th and Locust. Donations may also be dropped off or

mailed to the Veterans Advocacy Office, 324 N. Washington, Durant, OK 74701.

For more information call Brent Oakes or John Lance, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2163 or 2160.

Joe Wesley rode with many of the greats of rodeo

Choctaw cowboy turns 95 years young

On a back street in Wright City, Oklahoma, a very humble man lives a quiet life but it was not always so. If you happened to meet him, there would be nothing noticeable to make him stand out. He wears a Stetson hat, cowboy boots and a western belt like a lot of other men in Southeastern Oklahoma but he can truly claim to be a cowboy, even if he is an Indian!

“People would come up to me and ask, ‘Are you Indian?’ and I would reply, ‘No, Choctaw!’” he relates. Such is the sense of humor which has been with him all of his life. That sense of humor and

a boatload of determination propelled him to the Rodeo Cowboys Association finals rodeo in 1946 at the age of 32 in bull riding.

“That’s all I ever wanted to do, ride bulls and barebacks,” Joe stated. That was all he dreamed of as a kid. He would hitch rides with stock producers like Clyde Crenshaw. And rode his first bareback horse when he was only 17 in Wright City’s first rodeo. He said that Chester Crosby had to fudge on his age and say he was 18 to be able to ride. But, boy, did he ride! He won first place on his very first ride and he was hooked on rodeo. He also tamed wild horses and bulls for Chester.

When asked which was his favorite event. Joe replies, “Barebacks have one gear, bulls many gears! Horses easier ... go straight. Bulls make



too many turns.”

Joe recalls that he and Todd Watley started rodeoing together. He rode both bulls and barebacks on the local and RCA circuits in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. He did ride once in Utah and won \$0 so he never went back. He also won the saddle-bronc event at the Fort Worth rodeo. In 1934, he won first in

bull riding and second in bareback at the Wright City Rodeo. His winnings totalled \$25.

He rode with some of the “greats of rodeo” such as Jim Shoulders and his brothers and was on the fence when Freckles Brown rode Tornado. “Freckles ask me ... ‘Wanna take my place?’ I say, ‘Heck, no. I don’t want that bull!’” He did however really like to ride a good spinning bull. As long as you could get in the “rocking chair.”

For him, participating in professional rodeo ended in ’47. Joe says that today’s bulls are very well trained and much harder to ride. When asked about the most dangerous rides, he says they are the ones “after the rain.” That was the only time he was hurt, loosing a few front teeth on a bull.

The Wright City arenas have many fond memories for him

as he describes the first arena on Felker Ranch Road and later, across from EZ Mart. He will tell you stories of the one on the curve east of town (old Weyco Park) and the latest north of Wright City near Highway 3. He remembers them all. He has only missed the American Legion Rodeo once when he was too sick to come.

After getting off the circuit and marrying Delie Wilson of Antlers, Joe took up horse-shoeing and for the next 12 years he made his living this way. He got \$40 per head and that was a lot of money in those days.

Joseph Wesley was born on December 30, 1914, near Slim, Oklahoma, to Davis Wesley and Lottie Hauptabbi Wesley. He had one sister, Lucille Wesley, and one brother, Moses Wesley. They all lived

up north of Wright City on 360 acres and had rodeos on their place, killing a cow every 4th of July to feed the crowd. As a kid he attended school at St. Agnes Catholic School in Antlers. He never had any children.

When asked why he thinks he has lived so long, Joe replied, “I try to do right, treat everybody right and be friendly. If I had my life to live over, I would do the same again.”

Joseph is a very humble, sincere man who as he says, “rides his rocking chair now and does not get thrown, if ... he remembers to keep it level.”

We hope you had a very happy 95th birthday, Joseph Wesley, and you still look good in that cowboy hat that Dan Herndon beat you to paying for.

Reprinted, Valliant Leader

A piece of history ... Congressman William Grady Stigler of Oklahoma

Submitted by Jack Killgore

William Grady Stigler was a U.S. Congressman from the second district of Oklahoma, serving from 1944 to 1952. He led a remarkable life that began in the small town of Stigler, Oklahoma, to fighting the Germans in France during World War I, and later as a statesman in the Oklahoma Congress and eventually to Washington, D.C. He was truly a champion of American Indians. Being of Choctaw descent, Congressman Stigler was “faithful to his great Indian heritage for courage, faithfulness and duty.” Although I never met my grandfather, I knew from stories my mother, Denyse, and her sister, Elaine, would tell me that he was an extremely ethical man with a fine character and wit. Until I began to research his

life, however, did I realize his many accomplishments and how important they were for greater independence of Indians in Oklahoma and the United States.

W.G. Stigler was a quarter Choctaw and an enrolled member of the tribe. He served the Choctaws for seven years as national tribal attorney. As a congressman, Stigler was a “tried and true statesman” as his friends and colleagues would call him, and it was agreed that “even the Republicans liked him.”

This became obvious once you examine the legislation he brought forth to the floor of the U.S. Congress. He was co-author of many laws affecting Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes. In 1947, he authored a law to stabilize titles involving Indian estates. He



introduced measures that augmented funds for financial assistance to Indians. Along with other members of Congress, he obtained legislation for the government to buy coal and asphalt rights of the Choctaw tribe, the proceeds amounting to over \$8 million distributed among members of the tribes. He was author of a bill (HR

2040) which set up the Indian Claims Commission to settle multi-billion dollar claims from alleged violations of treaties and from “practices deemed unfair in distributing Indian lands among the white populace.”

Stigler described it as “emancipation for American Indians.” Stigler called for sweeping reforms in the Bureau of Indian Affairs, declaring “it is time for the Indians to tell their commissioner what to do.” Also, he said the “policy of the Indian Bureau has been to maintain tribalism and segregation and to perpetuate a system of bureaucratic domination. They (the Indians) should be given the opportunity to work out their own destiny.”

Stigler wanted the Indian Bureau to devote more time

to education and health, and in 1947 along with Sen. Carl Albert of Oklahoma, restored education and hospital funding cuts to the Indian Bureau. These are just a few of his significant accomplishments, and literally hundreds of archival materials produced during Congressman Stigler’s tenure can be found at the Carl Albert Center at the University of Oklahoma.

I visited Stigler many times during my childhood and early teen years to see my beloved grandmother, Ona Stigler, and other relatives. Stigler was my “Mayberry.” My two sisters and I were always amazed that we were in a town named after our great-grandfather, Joseph Simeon Stigler, who was the father of William Grady Stigler. J.S. was a pioneer in his own right, carrying mail in the

Oklahoma territory on horseback. He married Mary Jane Folsom who was 3/4 Choctaw, co-founded the town of Stigler, and raised his children there to become good, descent citizens. My great-grandfather probably never anticipated that one of his sons, William Grady, would become such an influential man. Congressman Stigler died at the age of 61 in 1952, but his legacy lived on through the many programs and legislation he initiated during his tenure in Congress. For me, I have come to not only respect the man I never met, but developed a sense of pride in my Indian heritage. Today I see the Choctaw tribe thriving in many ways and realize that my grandfather’s dreams and hopes for Indian independence and well-being have been realized in so many ways.

NOTES TO THE NATION

A special thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I received a total knee replacement in August. A special thank you to Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and staff at Stigler for helping me get the paper work and appointments in order. I want to thank you so much for providing this surgery. I’m recovering very well and without your gracious help I wouldn’t have been able to get this done. I am now pain-free and for that there are not enough words to say all I’d like to for this. May God continue to bless you in your work.

Sydney Mantooth

Reader enjoys ‘Chaplain’s Corner’

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am grateful to receive the Bishinik and read the articles of the many successes of our Choctaw Nation achieved by our Chief Pyle and staff. I especially enjoy “Chaplain’s Corner” and the wonderful sermons of the Rev. Bertram Bobb. I believe he is really a man called and used by God to deliver to our nation a message of hope, love and continued prosperity even if the things of the world look bad.

Anna Belle Crow Macomber
Hobart, Oklahoma

<i>Gregory E. Pyle</i> <i>Chief</i>	The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Judy Allen, Executive Director Vonna Shults, Web Director Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director Janine Dills, Executive Assistant Lisa Reed, Editor Karen Jacob, Assistant Editor Brenda Wilson, Administrative Assistant P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 (580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-4148 www.choctawnation.com e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com	<i>Gary Batton</i> <i>Assistant Chief</i>
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Youth Outreach coat drive

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach Program held a Coat Drive for the first time this year and we are proud to say that it was a great success. The program received several donations from several different departments and individuals that work throughout the Choctaw Nation. Our main goal was to provide coats to our Choctaw students who participate in our program throughout the year. We are proud to say that we have received about 167 coat donations and have distributed approximately 48 coats to clients that are Choctaw students who participate in our youth outreach program. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this project a great success. Yakoke.

Youth Outreach staff:
Randy Hammons, Executive Director,
Paul Roberts, Director,
Keosha Ludlow, Assistant Director,
Joey Tom, Youth Advisor, and
Christina Willis, Youth Advisor

Tourism impact

Dear Choctaw Nation,

During the annual Governor’s Tourism Conference in Oklahoma City, Robert Canton, analyst with Price Waterhouse, revealed the following information on the impact of tourism on the State of Oklahoma. In the 20 years from 1987 until 2007, travel-generated income has increased in the State of Oklahoma by 174 percent. That was broken down into the six counties of the state and it was found that the 10 counties of Kiamichi Country were well ahead of the rest with an increase of 800.73 percent.

I credit a large part of that increase to the Choctaw Nation with all of its events and attractions in which people take part in. We in Kiamichi Country are proud of that fact and are proud that we take in practically the same area of Oklahoma that they do. Full steam ahead!

Bill Grant
Executive Director, Kiamichi Country Inc.

Fifth-graders ‘go green’

Dear Choctaw Nation,


I am in the fifth grade at Holly Creek School in Broken Bow. I have been reading in the Bishinik about the employees of the Choctaw Nation and their efforts to “go green.” I applaud you. I would like to tell you about a recycling program our school started at the beginning of the school year. The members of the fifth grade wanted to do something to benefit our school and, at the same time, help our environment. We decided to start saving soda cans. We also wanted to involve the rest of our school in the program, so we with the approval of our superintendent, Mr. Harvey Brumley, sent out a note to every student informing them of the program. We let them know that any money we made by selling the cans would be used to improve our playground equipment. I am pleased to inform you that everyone is participating in the program and to date we have saved over 50 pounds of soda cans.

We would also like to thank Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Mike Amos for the donation of the basketballs.

Katelynn Hester, Fifth Grade Class President

February
SPECIALS


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STAR education incentive helping thousands

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

As of January 29, there are 2,260 school sites participating in the STAR (Success Through Academic Recognition) Program within the State of Oklahoma. In these schools, 7,281 Choctaw students have signed up and are eligible to participate in the incentive for good grades and perfect attendance.

The STAR program encourages youth grades 2-12 in participating schools in Okla-

homa to retain a good grade point average by rewarding them monetarily at the end of the semester. Students with all A's receive \$25 a semester from the Choctaw Nation and those with A's and B's receive \$10 at the end of the semester.

Perfect attendance is a bonus of \$25.

Students love the recognition and the reward. Many parents tell us their children don't want to miss school for fear of not receiving the \$25 for perfect attendance. It is great when the kids are anx-

ious to get up and get ready for school.

Others are telling us that students are striving to improve grades so they can qualify for the academic portion. Teachers at the schools are willing to go the extra mile to help the students. One from Jenks called the program "awesome" and loved the ease of the data entry to get students started on the program.

Enrolling the students in STAR is a simple matter of having the teacher log online to our database and input the

students' information on, then at end of semester, reporting back to the database and notifying the Choctaw Nation of the A students, B students and perfect attendance students. The program staff at the Tribal Headquarters then process the information so the reward incentives can be delivered to the schools for the individual students.

Thank you to all of the schools who are participating in the STAR incentive. This has been a great experience for our Choctaw youth.

Characteristics of faithfulness

To embark into a New Year is a challenge. One great challenge is one of joy. To lead a person into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is a joy in Christian service.

It is God's faithfulness to us that empowers our faithfulness to Him. The Bible reminds us that it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Four things should characterize our faithfulness to Him.

First is joy. Faithfulness without joy becomes difficult and exhausting. We read in Psalm 51:12-13:

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

"Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

Jesus said to His disciples in the Gospel of John 15:11:

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

God wants us to have full joy and why does He want to give us this joy? We read in Nehemiah 8:10: "For the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The joy of the Lord produced by the Holy Spirit, is supernatural joy that He gives

Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

us. It helps us to endure. What a joy in serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Second is compassion. This means to suffer with another. It means that when another person is in pain or sorrow we feel that pain.

Throughout the Gospels we read that Jesus was moved with compassion – compassion for the multitudes, for two blind men, for a leper, for a widow whose only son had died. He wept over the city of Jerusalem and at the grave of his friend, Lazarus, and He told of a good Samaritan who had compassion for a man who was stripped of his raiment, and wounded and left half dead.

It wasn't easy for the disciples to learn this type of compassion. While Jesus had compassion, they said in Luke 9:54:

"And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elijah did?"

Jesus said in verse 56 of Luke 9:

"For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them ..."

The place to learn compassion is here, right now. The Apostle Peter wrote in First Peter 3:8:

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

Third is vision. There is much that can be said of a pic-

ture of God's work of missions today.

But there is something more important than a vision of our work of missions, and that is maintaining a vision of the One we are serving. The writer of the book of Hebrews writes in Hebrews 12:2:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus was constantly trying to raise the vision of His disciples. He knew that difficult days were coming, and He knew what the disciples would have to go through.

Without a daily time of personal fellowship with Jesus Christ, it is likely that we will become a spiritual casualty.

Start the day with Christ. Let those first thoughts when you wake up be of Christ.

We need a vision – a vision of starving people around the world, a vision of terrible events – tornadoes, bombings. A vision of what racial prejudice does, a vision of the judgment in hell that awaits men and women who have rejected Jesus Christ, a vision of heaven and the joys and glories there. But most of all, we need a vision of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Read First Corinthians 15:1-4).

Fourth is commitment. In Mark 10 we read of Jesus' encounter with a man who has become known to us as the rich young ruler. Mark tells us in verse 17 that this man ran to Jesus and:

"... kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

Then Jesus said in verses 19 and 20:

"Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.

"And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth."

And we read in verses 21 and 22:

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: take up the cross, and follow me."

"And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions."

In keeping of the commandments the rich young ruler was faithful, but he was not willing to commit himself to Jesus Christ unreservedly.

What about you? Are you willing to serve Him wholeheartedly?

If you have never received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can trust Him today. Will you do that?

May God bless America. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our service men and women.



Jones Academy Administrator Brad Spears, Jones Academy Foundation Board of Directors member Jon Marshall and Choctaw Nation Executive Director of Education Joy Culbreath going over a Development Committee Report in the February Board meeting.

Jones Academy Foundation

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

The Jones Academy Foundation Board of Directors continues to work to ensure the continued success of the residential school at Harts-horne. There are about 180 students enrolled at Jones Academy this year. Grades 1-6 are taught on-campus in the fabulous new academic building that was opened last September. While a tremendous amount of financial assistance for administration and operations comes from the Federal Government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a large portion of the school's budget is from Choctaw dollars.

I am thankful to God for allowing the tribe to be a leader in economic development in Southeast Oklahoma so that businesses we create are profitable. These profits allow a source of money for the Council and the Chief to provide budget allocations to services, such as the academic, social and living needs of the students at Jones Academy. In



addition to the money allocated by the Chief and Tribal Council to the school, generous donations come from individuals, corporations and other entities to make life better for the youth at Jones.

I was thrilled to hear that the annual revenue from tribal employees donations is about \$74,000 a year to the Jones Academy Foundation.

It is vital that we are good stewards of every aspect of Jones Academy. I am very proud to work with the other members on the Board who have all invested their time and personal finances to ensure the long-term operation of the school.

Hugo Community Center hosts booksigning

Hosted by Councilman Perry Thompson, Phillip E. Payne conducted signing of his two novels, "Growing Up In The West" and "Becoming A Man," during the Hugo luncheon meeting on January 7.

Phillip is a member of the Choctaw Nation, a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering, a veteran of the USAF and as a former fighter pilot flew two tours in Vietnam. In 1965-66 he flew the F-105D and in 1969-70 he flew the F-4C/D/E on missions in North Vietnam. Retiring after serving 20+ years in the Air Force, Phillip was employed by an international company and worked in New Mexico, Saudi Arabia and California.

Since retirement Phillip and wife Sally live in Paris, Texas, and for the past few years he has been busy as an author. Currently he has two novels in print, and a serial called "The Adventures of Tom Turkey," a spoof of turkey hunting in Pushmataha County. Tom Turkey is currently being published in The Hugo Daily News and The Valliant Leader and it is currently placed on the web by the McCurtain Daily Gazette.

Phillip was born in Antlers and raised in Hugo, the eldest son of Edward and Nannie Payne's 10 living children. He began his writing career in response to his four grandchildren repeatedly asking, "Grandpa, tell us about the time - - ." Initially, writing eight-page letters telling of adventures and events of his life, quickly all of



his brothers and sisters also wanted copies. To provide better distribution Phillip published a large volume containing his family genealogy and 60 letters of personal history. This volume is available in the Hugo and Antlers Libraries.

Payne gives credit to his brother, R. D. Payne, who checks these novels for consistency, and his sister, Karen Lyles, who edits each novel. A third novel, "El Paso To Paris," is currently being edited and is expected to be available in March 2009. All of Phillip's novels are histrionically correct; that is, all of the events are real, they did happen, and his fiction characters are woven into the events.

The novels are available at www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/BookHome.aspx.

Signed copies can be obtained by contacting Phillip at pepparis@suddenlink.net.

Native American Bible Academy

Spring 2009 Class Schedule

April 6-10
"Il John"
Rev. James Harper, Ph.D.

...

April 13-17
"How to Teach the Bible"
The Rev. Rick Gilbertson

...

April 20-24
"How to Minister
to Children"
The Rev. Ray Chitwood

...

April 27-May 1
"Studies on the Tabernacle"
The Rev. Len Rascher,
Ph.D.

...

Director: Dr. Len Rascher
P.O. Box 812
Ringold OK 74754
580-981-7024

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp

Spring Retreat March 14-16

Ages: 7th through 12th grades
Registration: Friday 7-8 p.m.
(no meal served, but canteen is open)

Cost for weekend: \$10

Retreat ends: Sunday 10 a.m.

Staff will be from Moody Bible Institute,
Chicago, Illinois, and Camp Pearl, Reeves, Louisiana

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp is a year round Christian retreat and summer camp facility located in the beautiful foothills of SE Oklahoma's Kiamichi Mountains.

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp
P.O. Box 822, Ringold, OK 74754
580-981-2647

NURSERY NEWS

Lilly Marie Paddock

Jeffrey Dale and Tiffany Paddock of Ardmore are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lilly Marie Paddock, born January 6, 2009. Lilly weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and measured 18.25 inches long. Proud grandparents include Tina and Kevin Paddock of Ardmore and great-grandparents Emily and Richard George of Caddo.



Baby’s crying ... What should I do?

By Ashley Norris, AFL Technician

Your crying baby is trying to tell you something:

“I really want you to hold me!”

“I’m hungry!”

“I’m tired and want to sleep!”

“I have a dirty diaper!”

“I’m hot with all these clothes on!”

If you’ve checked these out and your baby is still crying, try some of these things to find what works:

- Make the room quiet and dark
- Talk or sing softly to her
- Change her position
- Rock her gently
- Gently rub her back or stomach
- Wrap her snugly (but not too tightly) in a blanket
- Help her suck her fingers or fist or give her a pacifier
- Hold her close while you walk around the room
- Take her for a ride

Some things will work some of the time; but at other times, nothing may seem to help. Don’t give up – you will gradually learn what works for your baby.

Have you noticed that the longer your baby cries, the longer it takes to stop the crying? Don’t worry about spoiling your baby by responding right away. Responding to your baby quickly will eventually reduce the crying.

YOU CANNOT SPOIL A YOUNG BABY.

Choctaw Nation AFL Project

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

Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American Teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American. For more information or questions about eligibility please call Angela Dancer, Project Director, at 1-877-285-6893.

Wills Preparation Clinic

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. will be holding a Free Wills Clinic from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on February 27 at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma complex, corner of 16th and Locust in Durant.

To make an appointment, please call Norma Barnes at 1-800-658-1497.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma, funded principally by the Legal Services Corp.

For additional information regarding legal services, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. at 1-800-658-1497.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays March 2-26, except for:
March 4: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).

March 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).
Closed March 27, 30, 31 for inventory.

DURANT

Market open weekdays: March 2-26.
Closed March 27, 30, 31 for inventory.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays March 2-26, except for:
March 2: Stigler 9-12 (market closed).
Closed March 27, 30, 31 for inventory.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays: March 2-26.
Closed March 27, 30, 31 for inventory.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

Antlers: 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443

Durant: 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773

McAlester: 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

Poteau: 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.

10 ways to share your love


Loving your child is one of the most important and joyful parts of being a parent. By building a loving relationship, you can nurture your child’s healthy growth and development.

1. You are your child’s #1 role model. Children copy what their parents do. Listening to your child makes him feel important. Setting limits helps your child feel loved and secure. Say, “I love you” every day.

2. Show me your Smile. Baby tooth decay can lead to eating problems, poor speech, and crooked permanent teeth. Tooth-brushing with water should begin as soon as your baby’s first tooth appears. Switching from a bottle to a cup by the age of 1 helps to prevent cavities.

3. Make it wholesome. Whole-grain foods like cereals, pastas, and breads add fiber and other important nutrients to your diet. Whole-grain foods help lower cholesterol and control blood sugar levels. Whole-grain pastas and breads are only those made with 100 percent whole-wheat flour. Make half your child’s grains whole.

4. Tune in to your family. By age 70, most people would have spent 10 years of their lives watching TV. Children see up to eight unhealthy food ads for every 10 minutes of cartoons they watch. Kids who have a TV in their bedroom are more likely to be overweight. Children who are overweight at age 6 are 50 percent more



Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

likely to become overweight adults.

5. Play it up! Children need planned activities as well as free play time. Playing with your baby helps to build skills he’ll need for physical activities like sports, dance and exercise, as he grows older. Playing with your child helps him grow smarter, stronger, healthier and happier. Your child learns to get along with others by playing with them.

6. Eat your fruits and veggies. All fruits and vegetables are good for you: frozen, fresh or canned. Kids need at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day to grow healthy and strong. Eating a variety of

colorful fruits and vegetables can help reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease.

7. Serve up Safety. About 76 million people in the United States get sick every year from food poisoning. Bacteria can travel from raw to cooked meats so never let them touch. Hand-washing before preparing and eating food is your best defense against food poisoning.

8. Give your best! Breast-feeding creates a special bond between mom and baby and lasts a lifetime. Breastfeeding is not always easy at first; both mom and baby need to practice. Breastfeeding is great even for a few days, but the

longer you nurse, the healthier you and your baby will be!

9. Make a date for dinner. Family mealtimes are a time for kids and parents to talk. Family meals are a great way to teach children healthy eating habits and good table manners. Children whose families regularly eat meals together do better in school.

10. Pack a snack! Children can get as much nutrition from regular snacks as from regular meals. Smart snacking keeps you from overeating at the next meal. Kids have small stomachs and need small meals and snacks.

Courtesy National WIC Association

Choctaw Nation co-sponsoring Agricultural Outreach meetings

The Choctaw Nation is co-sponsoring meetings throughout the Choctaw Nation for anyone currently involved in, or interested in agriculture. Co-sponsors for the meetings are the Farm Service Agency, Eastern Oklahoma State College and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Any person interested in agriculture is encouraged to attend.

Eastern Oklahoma College staff (Leland Walker & Associates) will be speaking on cattle topics:

- Forest Management
- Adding Value and Reducing Risks
- Herd Health and Maintenance

Staff from the Farm Service Agency will address matters concerning farm bills:

- Risk Protection Programs – NAP (insurance coverage) and the Disaster Trust Fund
- Farm Loan Programs – Youth Loans, Farm Ownership Loans and Operating Loans

The Natural Resources Conservation Service staff will also be speaking on Farm Bill topics.

The program for each meeting is the same, but for your convenience they will be held at different locations throughout the Choctaw Nation. Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

Upcoming meetings include:

- February 17 – Idabel Choctaw Community Center, 2408 Lincoln Road
- February 19 – Hugo Choctaw Community Center, 408 North M St.
- March 3 – Durant Casino Resort, Hwy 69/75, south of

Durant.

The Choctaw Nation is providing a meal at each location. Please RSVP by calling 580-326-3655 (Hugo), 580-286-2574 (Idabel) or 580-924-4131 (Durant), if you will be attending since the meal is being provided at no charge and a meal count number is needed.

This is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge of cattle production and learn more about the USDA available programs.

Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth



Reduce costs while going green

Go ahead, be lazy; expending less effort isn’t always a bad thing.
– *Let the Laundry Pile Up*
If your laundry basket isn’t full, leave those dirty clothes alone. To maximize energy efficiency and conserve water, wait until you have a full load before using the washing machine (on the cold setting, of course). Stretch the interval between laundry days by stocking up on socks and undies and wearing jeans and sweatshirts several times before washing them.

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PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Pebworth descendants are baptised

Children of Versile and Shanna Johnson and Mike and Lindsey Pebworth Murray were baptised together on November 23 at the First United Methodist Church of Poteau. The children are distant cousins but all descendants of Henry Pebworth.

Pictured with Minister Gregory J. Tener are Adrianna Johnson, Waylon Murray, Nathan Murray and Versile Johnson.

Look who’s turning 70

Joel D. Harkins from Orange, California, son of George Eliot Harkins and grandson of original enrollee William Joel Harkins, turns 70 on March 8. Joel is the proud father of Jacque Rechberg and son-in-law Mark Rechberg. He has three grandchildren, Kiana, 16, Kallen Joel, 11, and Koral Marie, 9.



Happy birthday, Mom

Happy birthday on December 31 to Sophia L. Impson from her sons, Richard A. Gomez and Patrick J. Anderson. We just wanted you to know that we are very lucky to be your sons. Thank you for being there for us, even when we didn’t deserve you.



Happy first birthday

Jamaal was born to his proud parents, Oliver and Patty Hankins, on February 14, 2008. Wishing him a happy birthday and Valentine’s Day are grandmother, Peggy Tushka; great-grandparents, Nancy and Barrentine Tushka, and uncles, Mark and Eric.

Also wishing a happy birthday to his uncle, Eric Tushka, on February 17 and to his cousin, Chris Smith, on February 13. From Mom, Dad and family.



Congratulations

Vince Fulks recently received an invitation to fish ESPN’s Bassmaster Elite Tour. The tour is considered the #1 fishing tour in the world. The series is by invitation only and invitations are sent to the top 110 fishermen/women in the world. In the picture, Fulks is holding a 4 lb. smallmouth from the recent November Bassmaster Central Open on Lake Texoma. He finished the tournament in 16th place but more importantly, the season in 8th place from a three tournament schedule.



Happy 32nd birthday

Kaylee and Christopher Goodroe would like to wish their mother, Kelly Hilburn Goodroe of Winder, Georgia, a happy birthday. She turned 32 on January 7. She is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Mabel Puckett Hilburn.

Happy birthday

John Peasha would like to wish his little sister, Sydney Owens, a happy birthday. Her birthday was on January 3.

Also, he would like to wish a happy birthday to his daughter Jada Peasha. Her birthday was on January 28.



Happy 20th birthday

We would like to wish Dee Dwain Capehart a happy 20th birthday on February 17. His parents are Dennis and Helen Capehart of Catoosa. His grandparents are Jim and Louise Cauthon of Whitefield and Richard and Mary Thompson of Stigler.



Happy ninth birthday

Chance Ryon Wafford turned 9 on November 22. He celebrated his birthday with family and friends. He attends third grade at Fort Gibson Public School and is active in basketball, baseball and soccer. Birthday wishes from parents, Scott and Katrina Wafford of Fort Gibson; grandparents, Mike and Jo Ann Scantlen of Stigler, Martha Shipley of Fort Gibson and Dan Wafford of Muskogee.



Happy 90th birthday

Happy 90th birthday to our mother, Minnie Oxford of Martindale. She was born on January 27, 1919, in Wilburton. She is a granddaughter of an original enrollee. She is the mother of eight children, ages ranging from 67 to 48, with many grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.



Choctaw celebrates 90th birthday

Moses H. Williams celebrated his 90th birthday at the Broken Bow Investment Center on February 15. The celebration and dinner was hosted by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy 80th birthday

Davy Graham of Alex celebrated his 80th birthday on January 21. The celebration in his honor was held at the Alex Community Center with a host of family and friends in attendance.



Congratulations

Jessica Brooks of Blanchard, the daughter of Greg and Stefanie Brooks, graduated from the William S. Spears School of Business with a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Management. She would like to say “Thank you to Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Higher Education Department for this priceless opportunity to achieve and exceed in today’s competitive environment.”



Happy 62nd birthday

I would like to wish my father, Edward Hilburn of Cleveland, Georgia, a happy birthday. He turned 62 on February 7.

He is the grandson of original enrollee Mabel Puckett Hilburn.

Happy third birthday

Arianna LaShay Williams is the daughter of Aaron and Maria Williams of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Wishing her a happy birthday are Grandmother Evelyn Miller and Great-Grandmother Lula Parker, both of Lone Grove; Uncle Alden Williams of Phenix, Arizona, Clarence and Auntie Angela Snyder of Anchorage, Alaska, Philip, Auntie Shauana, and Slade of Love County, Uncle Shay, Christy and twins Easton Yannash and Weston Nashoba Miller of Lone Grove, big brother Steven and big sister Philecia of Albuquerque and Chinook and Mi of Lone Grove.



Happy first birthday

Payton Bennett turned 1 year old on August 8. He celebrated his birthday in McAlester at the Jeff Lee Swimming Pool. He is the son of Jeff and Krystle Bennett of Arpelar. His grandparents are Eric and Pam West of Stuart, Danny and Karen Bennett of McAlester and Jimmy and Donna Countz of Savanna. His great-grandparents are Buck and Frances Jones of Arpelar, Johnny and Wathena Leird of Savanna, Wilma Kohnr of Bugtussel, Sue Countz of McAlester and Taylor and Barbara Countz of Indianola. His great-great-grandparents are Mack Jones and Lorene McClendon of Arpelar and James Countz of Indianola. Payton’s other grandparents are Ronald and Becky West of Tulsa, Edith West of Stuart, and Roger and Leonda Shields of Stuart.



Greene earns degree

Jennifer Rose Greene graduated from college on December 19, 2008, earning her bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education and Leadership at Arizona State University. Jennifer would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education department for its assistance throughout the past three years. The scholarship program and her high grade point earned Jennifer financial assistance. This helped her achieve her goal of becoming a teacher. Jennifer is the daughter of Todd and Denise Greene, granddaughter of Ann Tessman and great-granddaughter of the late Ollie Stowers Karr.

Happy third birthday

Happy birthday to Madelyn Jo Ryan. She turned 3 years old on January 25. Her parents are Shane and Stefanie Ryan of Owasso. Madelyn’s grandparents are Joe and Billie Allen of Collinsville, Gary and Bonnie Burden of Sperry and Larry Ryan of Collinsville. She is the great-granddaughter of the late William and Audie Byington.



Happy 15th birthday

Happy 15th birthday on December 25 to our beautiful Choctaw Christmas baby, Darrian. Birthday wishes from Mom, Dad, Nana, Papa, baby Annie, Jaiden, Todd, Uncle Joey, Aspen, Austin and Aly.



Happy first birthday

Miley Jo Wafford turned 1 on December 26. She celebrated her first birthday with her family and friends. She loves to read books, play with balls and likes to be entertained by her siblings and cousins. Birthday wishes from parents, Scott and Katrina Wafford of Fort Gibson; grandparents, Mike and Jo Ann Scantlen of Stigler, Martha Shipley of Fort Gibson and Dan Wafford of Muskogee.



50th anniversary

Walker and Charolette Davis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 20, 2008. The couple renewed their wedding vows at the church they attend. They have a daughter Gina Potts, son-in-law Charles and a granddaughter Charlee all of Idabel. Walker is currently the Outstanding Male Elder for 2008-09.



Brookey-Brasil Wed

Marcia Paterman Brasil and Edward Allen Brookey were united in marriage July 27, 2008, at Tulsa Garden Center.

The bride is the daughter of Helio and Beatriz Paterman Brasil of Petropolis, Brazil. She is the granddaughter of the late Henrique Paterman Brasil, the late Ana Bogomoletz Paterman Brasil and the late Antonio Dias Costa and Aurea Pires da Costa, all of Petropolis, Brazil. The bride graduated from Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and in 2008 with a master’s degree in communications.

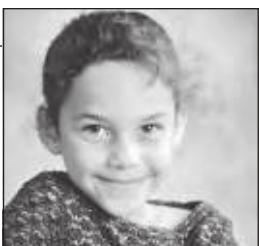


The groom is the son of Robert and Lauren F. Brookey of Tulsa. He is the grandson of the late Edward L. Brookey of Henryetta and Jane Adams Brookey of Jenks, and Sandra and the late Dr. Ralph Fairchild, of Manchester, Tennessee. He is the great-great-grandson of original enrollees Rachel Susan Harton Hunt and her mother, Matti Thompson Harton. The groom graduated from Jenks High School in 2004 and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in International Studies. He is employed by John Zink Company as an Account Manager for Brazil.

The couple will make their residence in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Happy ninth birthday

Savannah turns 9 years old on February 27. Happy birthday from Grandma, and brothers, Austin and Corey Lovewell.



Happy fifth birthday

We are wishing Katherine Beshears a happy fifth birthday on November 3. She had a Little Mermaid birthday and her family and friends were there to celebrate this special occasion with her. Birthday wishes from Mommy, Daddy, Gabrielle, Sarah, Aunt Rachael, Uncle David, Mimi, Papa, Grandma Grace and Granny B.



Happy 12th birthday

Happy 12th birthday to Dillon Boehm on January 10. Dillon is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Thomas Going/Goins.



Martinez recognized as Student of the Month

Rique Martinez was recognized as November’s Student of the Month by the Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month program. Rique has been a member of the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program for the last three years. He is very active in school and community projects. The program recognizes students who display good citizenship, are respectful to peers and program staff, participate in programs, leadership qualities, positive attitude, demonstrates responsibility, community service participation, cultural/tribal activities participation and demonstrates a positive academic work ethic.

Rique is the son of Misty McKee, formerly of Soper, and Enrique Martinez. His grandparents are the late David McKee, who would be proud of his grandson, and his Nana Nelda McKee of Soper. Although he is busy with school and work, he still finds time to take care of his mother and brother. After graduation, he plans to attend college and continue to care for his family.

Brookey in Tournament of Champions

Brian Brookey of Jenks High School was chosen second team All Tournament at the Tournament of Champions. Brian is a senior starting forward for the Jenks Trojans who won the 44th Annual Tournament held during December 29-31 in Tulsa. The Trojans are currently ranked #2 in Class 6A. Besides playing basketball, Brian is an Eagle Scout, member of Tulsa Youth Leadership and has been awarded the Tulsa Chapter of Sons of American Revolution Service Award. Brian’s latest accomplishment is to be awarded the George E. Tedford Memorial Scholarship Award from the Jenks Chamber of Commerce.



Brian is the son of Robert and Laren Brookey. He is the great-great-grandson of original enrollees Rachel Susan Harton Hunt and her mother, Matti Thompson Hunt.

Happy fifth birthday

Savannah Jo Whitley turned 5 on January 26. Her parents, Belinda and Steve, and her grandparents know she is a very special girl. She loves horses. So Cow Girl up!



Happy seventh birthday

Emma Rae Wafford turned seven on January 15. She celebrated her birthday with family and friends. She attends first grade at Fort Gibson Public School and is active in softball, cheerleading and basketball. Birthday wishes from parents, Scott and Katrina Wafford of Fort Gibson; grandparents, Mike and Jo Ann Scantlen of Stigler, Martha Shipley of Fort Gibson and Dan Wafford of Muskogee.





Learn and Serve Project changing community

‘Helping others one by one, greater deeds can be done!’

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world!” said Holocaust victim Anne Frank. Perhaps echoing that same emotion, the Learn and Serve Project is a national program designed to involve students in community and service learning projects as an alternative and means of prevention of the use of meth and other drugs.

Through the project, students involved volunteer their time and services to help improve the community surrounding them. Since the beginning of the Learn and Serve Project, students from Jones Academy have assisted with a Highway Cleanup in front of Jones Academy, helped serve food at the Hartshorne

VFW Veterans Day Program, and sang the National Anthem at the Hartshorne VFW Veterans Day Program. The fifth grade class from Jones Academy visited the local nursing home and read poetry to the residents there. Pictured at left is fifth-grader Kayelee Chatlin.

The students of the Learn and Serve Project are working to change their community, and during summer vacation, they hope to establish these same activities in their respective home communities all across the United States. Staying true to their motto, these students believe “Helping others one by one, greater deeds can be done!”

To the Youth of the Nation

Learning to Lead

By Chelsea Wells
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Each month I find myself in this solid old building built of rock with 30 kids, some older, some younger. I have been engaged in this experiment since eighth grade. It has been a struggle, but we now have an agenda and follow some contorted form of Roberts Rules of Order.

We have all been selected for different reasons – obvious leadership prowess, relatives influential in the tribe, the right age or sex of kid to round out the group. We are different heights, sizes, hair color, and personalities. We are not all obviously Choctaw.

We are united in our monthly mission to inspire our compatriots in the community and in the tribe. I must admit that we have done some awesome things in the last couple of years. This motley crew is known as the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. It is like a lab where we practice brainstorming, arriving at a consensus, resolving conflict, and divining solutions to our problems in rural Southeastern Oklahoma. It is a place and time to practice and develop leadership skills.

Hopkins receives bachelor’s

Congratulations to Philip W. Hopkins on receiving a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Architectural Engineering at the University of Miami Commencement, December 2008. Philip will be entering the Master’s Program in Architectural Engineering at the University of Miami in the spring 2009 semester.

Philip is the son of the late Phillip R. Hopkins and Margaret Subirats-Hopkins. The Choctaw family and friends wish Philip good luck with his studies at UM!



Hale is top academic achiever

Congratulations to Ramona Kay Hale on her outstanding academic achievements at the University of Oklahoma. Ramona Kay was recently inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society. “It is only fitting that a top academic achiever like Ramona Kay be recognized by Golden Key,” said John W. Mitchell, Golden Key’s Chief Executive Officer.

“Our members are inspired and motivated not only to achieve exceptional academic accomplishments, but also to make a positive impact on our world.”

Golden Key International Honour Society is the world’s premier collegiate honor society, providing academic recognition to top-performing college and university students world wide. To be inducted into the Golden Key a student must be in the very top academic standing in their university and also global wide. It is by invitation only.

The induction ceremony was held December 7, 2008, in the Oklahoma Memorial Ballroom at the University of Oklahoma. In attendance were Golden Key Society officers, faculty, students and parents. A reception, hosted by Golden Key, followed the induction ceremony.

Ramona Kay, a native of Norman, is a junior at the University of Oklahoma, majoring in education. She has been an academic honor student throughout her entire school years beginning with elementary school and now through college.



Before this experience, the leadership style I practiced on my younger brother was to yell at him. The YAB has allowed me to think about the audience with which I am trying to connect. How do I reach them? How do I remain true to my style and viewpoint while remaining respectful to my diverse, opinionated audience?

Given all of that, the greatest leadership experience in my life has been being a member and the current chair of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. This organization has not only molded me into the person I am today, it has given me definite leadership training and provided fodder for serving the community dear to my heart.

Surprisingly, we actually set goals and contemplate changing for the better. At first, we were a fairly small group, so I was a bit surprised we could make a difference. I learned quickly that our size was not going to be a limitation.

Initially our projects were small, and each of us served on virtually every committee. We made baby blankets for a local pregnancy care center, mentored second grade students in a domestic violence prevention project, planned a senior citizen dance, and created a program to combat negative teenage peer pressure. We did all of that by practicing the leadership skills that were made available to us by the tribal leadership in its wisdom.

Four years later, I am the chairperson of this Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. It now has 200 members who live across the 10 1/2 counties of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Just as I have seen the Chief and other tribal elders do, I listen to the opinions of others and I try to respond in a way that is helpful. Learning to listen like a leader has changed me. Hearing others has allowed me to change my world.

Whiteman moving forward

Congratulations to Tommy V. Whiteman who has completed requirements to earn his GED. He is pictured at right with Chief Gregory E. Pyle on December 2, 2008, at the Third Annual Native American Awareness Expo in Fort Worth, Texas.

Tommy would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping him with the finances on his education. He will be able to move forward in a new career and considers it truly a blessing.



New Hope Fellowship Church holding its 2009 Youth Rally

New Hope Fellowship Church is hosting its 2009 Youth Rally March 19-21. Everyone is welcome. Ministry for the whole family will be provided by the Rev. Elsion Bennett of Phoenix, Arizona, and the Rev. Rick Manus of Tulsa.

Music will be performed by New Creations, In His Gates, Visionary, Agopy, Trail of Tears, the Bennett Family, Steve Williams and Newchild.

Refreshments will be served nightly after the service. Lunch will be served on Saturday before the afternoon jam session at 1-5 p.m.

New Hope Fellowship Church is located 6 3/4 miles north of Wewoka on Highway 56; or 9 miles south of Wewoka/Cromwell exit on I-40.



Pinning Nathan Elwell’s officer bars to his uniform are his parents, Kenneth Elwell Jr. and Karen Long.

Elwell graduates cum laude, commissioned 2nd Lieutenant

Nathaniel David Elwell, son of Kenneth Elwell Jr., Oklahoma City, and Karen Long, Yukon, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the University of Central Missouri’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps commissioning ceremonies December 13. Close to 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students received diplomas at UCM’s Winter 2008 Commencement ceremonies in Warrensburg, Missouri, but only five were ROTC graduates. Immediately following the commissioning ceremony, a reception honoring the new officers was held where they were interviewed live on camera by local news media.

Elwell majored in human resources technology, with emphasis in hotel and restaurant management, minored in military science, and graduated cum laude with a cumulative grade point average of 3.7. He will undergo six months of Army Officer Basic Training before becoming a 2LT Platoon Leader in the Missouri National Guard as an Ordinance Officer.

Nathan received his first salute as an officer from his older sister, Sergeant Rachel Elwell Pizzi, U.S. National Guard, who just returned from Iraq on her second tour of duty in the Middle East. He is quick to point out how he has been inspired by his sister’s achievements.

“Nate” comes from a long line of military tradition. His father, Kenny, served in the U.S. Army; grandfather Kenneth Elwell Sr., McAlester, served in the U.S. Navy; uncle Alan Elwell, Blocker, served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and first cousin Skylar Elwell, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Marine, recently returned from his second tour of duty in Iraq.

2LT Elwell made national history in 2005 as the country’s youngest Native American ever to intern at the U.S. Department of Defense, where he worked at the Pentagon in Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics.

Officer Elwell is of Choctaw and Cherokee descent. He was one of only 60 nationwide to be selected by The Washington Center for placement at the DOD. The Washington Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan education organization established in 1975, in Washington, D.C., to provide gifted and talented students with opportunities to work and study in the nation’s capitol.

In 2004, Nathan graduated with a 4.0 total weighted grade point average from Putnam City West High School, Oklahoma City, where he played football, was a member of the power lifting team, competed all four of his high school years in the annual Leadership for Christ event, winning a gold medal for song leading his senior year, and together with four other members on his team, took third place in the Oklahoma State High School Bowling Championship.

Nathaniel is the grandson of Naomi Petty Elwell, the late Virginia Impson, and Hiram Impson, McAlester.

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes



Martha Childs gets ready to conduct Adult Education Classes over One-Net Distance Learning. Monitors have been set up in Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Bethel, Coalgate, Smithville, Talihina and Wright City so students in these rural areas will have an opportunity to take the classes and earn a GED.

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the above locations to students in the Choctaw Nation. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using the One-Net Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows students and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she helps you prepare to take the GED test. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. The class will meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. A CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) is required. For more information please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield, Choctaw Nation Adult Education, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319 or 2122.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MARCH	1	2	3 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	4 Durant 10 am-2 pm	5	6 Idabel 10 am-12 pm Broken Bow 1-3 p.m.	7
	8	9	10 Antlers by appt only	11 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt only	12	13	14
	15	16	17 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	18	19	20	21
2009	22	23 Crowder by appt only	24 Wilburton 10:30 am-1:30 pm	25 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	26	27 Wright City by appt only Bethel by appt only	28
	29	30	31	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.			



14th Annual

Okla Chahta Gathering

May 2-3, 2009 in Bakersfield, California

NEW HOTEL! The Doubletree Bakersfield

3100 Camino Del Rio Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308
1-661-323-7111

A block of rooms has been reserved for April 30, 2009 - May 4, 2009. The special room rate will be available until April 15, 2009 or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first.

Special plans include

- Visiting with Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Tribal Council.
- Choctaw Storyteller Tim Tingle
- Tribal Membership/CDIB Program and many other tribal programs
- Basketmaking demo/class
- Make and Take for the kids
 - Choctaw ponies
- Young Warriors Society

For more information, feel free to contact
Okla Chahta Clan of CA
PO Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93380
661-393-OKLA • oklachahta@igalaxy.net

Camping and other information can be found at www.oklachahta.org

Pre-Register for the 14th 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 _____

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.



Wheelock visitors

Alyssa Parker, 10, and sister Madalynn, 4, visited the historic Wheelock Academy recently along with their grandmother and great-aunt of the Wheelock area.

Alyssa is a history buff and is the great-great-granddaughter of Daniel Webster who sat on the last council of the Choctaw Nation in 1905.

NRCS announces opportunity to apply for EQIP conservation funds

Oklahoma NRCS State Conservationist Ron Hilliard has announced an extension of the EQIP ranking cutoff period to April 1, 2009. This will expand the opportunity for producers to apply for conservation payments under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for fiscal year 2009. New rules have been under development for the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or 2008 Farm Bill. With the publication of the interim final rule, 2009 program activities can now be initiated.

On January 15, 2009, Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced changes to EQIP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's largest conservation program for working agricultural lands. USDA published an interim final rule containing the statutory changes to EQIP in the Federal Register. USDA is seeking public comment on the rule through March 16, 2009.

USDA-NRCS administers EQIP, a voluntary conservation program that provides technical assistance and payments to help crop and livestock producers address environmental concerns through conservation improvements on agricultural and non-industrial private forest lands. Farmers and ranchers can use EQIP to farm in an environmentally friendly manner and still meet their agricultural production goals. It is designed to produce significant environmental benefits to the public, such as improved soil, water and air quality; and enhanced wildlife habitat. In addition, farmers and ranchers use EQIP to meet federal, state, tribal and local environmental regulations.

Under the amended EQIP, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as well as begin-

ning and limited resource producers are authorized to receive payments of up to 90 percent of the costs of installing or implementing a conservation practice.

The 2008 Farm Bill reduced the overall payment limitation from \$450,000 to \$300,000 for a six-year period, except for environmentally significant projects.

In order to be eligible to participate in EQIP, an applicant must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, have an interest in the agricultural operation, and have control of the land for the proposed contract period. If the applicant is a tenant, written concurrence of the landowner is required to apply a structural conservation practice. Legal entities that apply for the program must provide a list of all members of the legal entity and embedded entities along with members' percentage interest in the operation. Potential applicants are encouraged to update their USDA eligibility at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to making application for EQIP. EQIP applications will not be ranked or considered for funding until the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

"We are accepting applications for participation in the EQIP program on a continuous basis," adds Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist. "However, only applications received by April 1, 2009, will be ranked and considered during this expanded selection period." Evaluated applications will be grouped and selected for funding from a list of high priority applications until the funding allocation is obligated." Unfunded applications will be maintained for

future funding consideration if the applicant chooses to remain on the waiting list. Successful applicants with high priority resource concerns will be contacted to develop contracts to obligate the current funding allocation. Producers that have high priority resource concerns and are interested in participation in EQIP may apply at any time at a local NRCS office located in the county you reside. Anyone who has a grazing lease with Choctaw Nation may also apply. You can contact Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist, at 580-924-8280, ext. 5134, or by e-mail at ann.colyer@ok.usda.gov.

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to 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.

2nd Annual Career Expo

INSPIRE
YOUR CAREER
DEVELOP YOUR
DREAMS



Contact us
for transportation!
Deadline: March 23rd

March 31, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Southeast Expo Center
McAlester, OK

• Industry Professionals will be speaking on career opportunities.

• On-site Recruiters will be actively seeking to fill job positions. Come dressed for success!

• Meet with Recruiters from Ivy League Universities!



Guest Speaker: Jason White
2003 Heisman Trophy Winner

Presented by:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Career Development &
Scholarship Advisement
(866) 933-2260

The Under Water Bridge

Directed by DWe Williams. Adapted from the award winning book "Crossing Bok Chitto" by Tim Tingle.



Feb. 7 2:00pm Bethany Library, 3510 N. Mueller
Feb. 8 2:00pm Belle Isle Library, 5501 N. Villa
Feb. 11 6:30pm The Village Library, 10307 N. Penn
Feb. 15 2:00pm Downtown Library, 300 Park Avenue
Feb. 16 7:00pm Edmond Library, 10 S. Boulevard
Feb. 17 6:30pm Midwest City Library, 8143 E. Reno
Feb. 18 6:30pm St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 5700 N. Kelley Ave.

Feb. 19 1:15pm Capitol Hill Library, 334 SW 26th
Feb. 21 2:00pm Warr Acres Library, 5901 NW 63rd
Feb. 23 6:30pm Choctaw Library, 2525 Muzzy Street
Feb. 24 6:30pm Southern Oaks Library, 6900 S. Walker
Feb. 28 2:00pm Del City Library, 4509 SE 15th

Performances are free and are suitable for all ages. Seating is limited. Doors open 15 minutes before each presentation.



OBITUARIES

Robert Lee Tigner

Robert Lee Tigner, 41, of Olathe, Kansas, passed away September 15, 2008.

Robert was born February 3, 1967, in Olathe.

He went to school in DeSoto, Kansas, Class of 1985. Robert loved to go deer hunting.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Carol Tigner.

Survivors include his sons, Wade and Wesley; his father, Joe Tigner of Eudora, Kansas; and sisters, Susan Cotterill, Debra Bouse and Lisa Reed.



Ronald M. Hutchinson

Ronald M. Hutchinson passed away October 23, 2008. He was born April 4, 1939, in Durant to A.J. and Mildred Hutchinson.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Ronda Ann Hutchinson; his parents; several nieces and nephews.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Ann Hutchinson; son and daughter-in-law, Max and Karen Hutchinson of Owasso; grandchildren, Destyn Hutchinson and Cody Hutchinson of Owasso; brothers and sisters-in-law, Jim and Maxine Hutchinson of Kinder, Louisiana, and Gayle and Connie Hutchinson of Bixby; and sister, Sherry Fairchild of Bixby.

Hellen Neoma ‘Naomi’ Hickman

Hellen Neoma “Naomi” Hickman, 88, passed away January 15, 2009, in Hugo. She was born August 6, 1920, in Heavener to Sandy and Inez Hickman. Sandy, born Alexander Jackson, was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation and Inez (Benton) was the descendant of English immigrants.

Hellen spoke the Chahta language until she entered grade school at St. Agnes Academy in Antlers. She reacquired some of the language this past decade at Chahta classes in Hugo taught by Adeline Hudson.

She attended St. Agnes from 1926 to 1933, where the Catholic nuns never failed to rap her knuckles when she uttered the Choctaw language. She divided her summers between her Choctaw relatives in LeFlore County (especially Aunt Nancy Whistler, the Johnicos and Sockeys), and her mother’s home in Houston. She attended San Jacinto and Sam Houston high schools.

After spending her adolescent years in Eagle Pass, Texas, she returned to Sam Houston High School in downtown Houston, where she met Dewey Tracey Carnes. They were married in 1939.

In 1964, Hellen’s husband, Tracey, died of cancer. She moved to North Houston and took a job at the Greensheet newspaper, continuing a tradition of four generations of family members in the media. She married Willie Humphrey in 1970.

At the age of 65, she embarked on a 20-year adventure which took her to several jobs, homes and locations throughout Texas and Oklahoma. She retired in 1995 at age 75 and in 2000 moved to Hugo. She spent the last decade of her life exploring the Choctaw Way, attending Chahta language classes and Willie Nelson concerts, and travelling throughout the southern United States with her daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One of her proudest moments was visiting the Nanih Waiya Mound in Mississippi, the heart of Choctaw life, for the first time in 1996.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Arlene Bowling; husbands, Tracey Carnes and Willie Humphrey; and children, Sandra Carnes, Kerry Carnes and Karol Carnes.

Survivors include her children, Ken Carnes and Kelleyne Mackey of Houston; daughter-in-law, Merry Carnes of Houston; grandchildren, Zach Maxwell of Hugo, Amy Lott and husband Dallas of La Porte, Texas, and Keri Ann Ellison and husband Greg of Magnolia, Texas; great-grandchildren, Kalan Maxwell of Hugo, Anoli Maxwell of Houston, Miko Maxwell of Hugo, and Dallas Lott Jr. of La Porte. Three of Hellen’s seven great-grandchildren will be born in 2009 in Houston and on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian reservation.



Opal Lee West

Opal Lee West passed away November 20, 2008, in Guthrie. She was born April 16, 1927, in Dixie.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Francis Goings Williams; her husband, Jimmy Lewis West, and a son, Jimmy Ray West.

Survivors include six daughters, Trudy Bailes and husband Tom, Patsy Rogers and husband Tommy, Sandra Akright and husband John, Ginger McDaniel and husband Ford, Debbie Jones and husband Butch, and Brenda Turner and husband Bob; 22 grandchildren and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.



Truman Tate Welton

Truman Tate Welton passed away November 27, 2007. He was born January 15, 1932.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J.V. and Elizabeth Welton; wife, Jene; three sisters and one brother.

Survivors include a son, Truett Tate Welton of Irving, Texas; three sisters, Marcella Widmar Baziuk of Poteau, Eulema Moore Bossier of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Cordella Harrison of Blacksburg, Virginia; and one brother, William “Bill” Henry Welton of Arlington, Texas.

Mona R. Hagler

Mona R. Hagler, 85, passed away January 10, 2009, in Visalia, California. She was born October 4, 1923, in Scipio, Oklahoma, the daughter of Robert R. and Ida Marris Wilson. She was the granddaughter of original enrollee Elizabeth Jackson Marris.

Mona was a graduate of Stuart High School’s Class of 1941. A resident of Visalia since 1942, she retired from the Visalia School District as a teaching assistant for migrant children in 1993.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Lisle.

Survivors include two sons, Bruce Hagler of Berkeley, California, and Patrick Hagler of Reno, Nevada; a brother, C.B. Wilson and wife Lola of Krebs; sister, Jean W. McAnally of Elk Grove, California, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Lena Bishop

Lena Bishop passed away December 20, 2008. She was born April 4, 1923, in Spencerville.

“Mimi,” as she was affectionately known, will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. You were never a stranger at Lena’s house. The Lord blessed her life and all the lives she touched. Her hospitality and words of wisdom were shared with all who came to her home. She was a true confidant. She loved the Lord and taught all of us to love the Lord as well. Mother was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and made sure everyone knew it. She loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She supported and attended every event any of us participated in. You could always see her in the crowd with her red outfits. There was no better cheerleader.

She was an excellent seamstress, knitter, crocheter, cook, teacher and friend. Mom was always funny and witty. Good times or bad, she was always comforting, gracious and generous. Proverbs 31 speaks of a “wife of noble character” – our mother practiced what she preached and truly was a woman of noble character.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Charles Millard Knight and Edward Bishop, and her son, Denny Knight.

Survivors include Donna Newman and her children, Scott and Tina McWhorter, and Robbie McWhorter, Jenee and Matt McCaleb; MyLena King and her children, Rance and Missy Grigsby, Laine and Dustin Douglas, Rena and Bradley Marton, and MyKayla King; MyLissa and Darren Isaacs and their children, Hailey and Ricky Ishida and Paige Isaacs and Robert Garza; Denny Knight’s children, Jenna, Kali and Ben Knight; great-grandchildren, Simone and Soleil McCaleb, Andrew and Tinley McWhorter, Jordan Foster, Hayden and Danielle Grigsby; two great-grandchildren on the way, Logan Edward Ishida and Grayce Elizabeth Douglas.

William Henry ‘Bill’ Welton

William Henry “Bill” Welton passed away December 17, 2008. He was born October 11, 1927, in Hodgens.

Bill was a beloved father, friend and dancer. He was a member of Knights Templar, VFW and Woodman of the World. Bill was a veteran of World War II, earning the U.S. Army World II Victory Medal and Army Occupation (Japan). He was a quality engineer at Vought Aircraft for 32 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J.V. and Elizabeth Welton, three sisters and two brothers.

Survivors include daughters, Billie Jean and Craig Johnson and Elizabeth Ann and Brent Dodson; grandchildren, Spencer and Betsy Cearnal and Elliot and Cambell Dodson; three sisters, Marcella Widmar Baziuk of Poteau, Eulema Moore Bossier of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Cordella Harrison of Blacksburg, Virginia.

Edward A. Smith

Edward A. Smith, 82, of McAlester passed away January 21, 2009, at a local nursing center. He was born December 5, 1926, in Blanco, the son of Joe Martin and Sarah Elizabeth Mary Dufford Smith.

He attended school in Cooper and later received an associate’s degree of Arts and Sciences from Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. Edward married Doralene Anderson on June 21, 1947, in Van Buren, Arkansas.

Edward began his military service in the U.S. Marines, later serving with the 45th Infantry division of the Reserve National Guard. On September 1, 1950, the division was activated during the Korean War. Edward returned home on June 6, 1952, receiving the Japan Army Occupational Medal, Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, United Nations Service Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. He continued to serve with the National Guard Reserve until he entered the Naval Reserve. He retired after 28 years of combined service as a Master Chief.

While he was in the National Guard, he began working for Civil Service at the Naval Depot as a sheet metal machinist. He retired in 1978, after working for two years in Adak, Alaska. He returned to McAlester and worked a few years as a McAlester reserve police officer.

He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and watching OU sports. He also was an avid bowler. He was a member of South McAlester Masonic Lodge #96, a 32nd degree Mason with the McAlester Scottish Rite, a member of the Robert B. Thomas Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1079, the Harrison-Powers Post #79, American Legion and the McAlester Elks Lodge #533.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, R.L. Smith.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Eddie Smith of Poteau and Albert and Linda Smith of McAlester; six grandchildren, Scott Joe Smith and Andy Smith and wife Tammy, all of Amarillo, Erika Gilliam and Slade Smith, both of McAlester, and Sayer Smith and Addison Smith, both of Poteau; numerous great-grandchildren including Courtney and Clinton Gilliam; a brother, Joe Martin Smith of Hobbs, New Mexico; nine sisters, Josielu, Jean, Winnie, Dorothy Jean, Brenda Sue, Phyllis Ann, Colena, Dawn and Vicki; numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Jimmy ‘Ray’ Adams

Jimmy “Ray” Adams, 41, of Wilburton passed away January 24, 2009, in Oklahoma City. He was born December 20, 1967, in Talihina to Daniel and Rotha Mackey Adams.

Ray graduated from LeFlore High School in 1986. He married Stacci Curtis on January 10, 2009. Jimmy Ray worked as a core bander for Franklin Electric. He enjoyed golfing and spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, David Adams and Thomas Dale Adams.

Survivors include his wife of the home; his parents of LeFlore; brothers, Danny Adams and wife Kim of Broken Arrow and Doyle Adams and wife Crystal of Red Oak; sisters, Brenda James of LeFlore, Carolyn Hotella and husband Butch of Talihina and Renee Adams of LeFlore; six aunts; five uncles; six nieces; four nephews; one great-nephew and a host of cousins and friends; his mother- and father-in-law, Pat and Jim Stone of Kansas City, Kansas, and three brothers-in-law and families of Kansas City.



Mary Lewis Wallace

Mary Lewis Wallace, 84, passed away October 10, 2008, in Ardmore. She was born May 29, 1924, in Ravia to Mac D. Lewis and Ore Sweeney Lewis.

Mary was a Christian and served her Lord in many ways. Being a foster grandparent for the last 40 years was just one of those ways. She enjoyed playing bingo and dominoes and going to pow wows. Mary’s focus was always on her family and she will be remembered for being the center of her family’s lives.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jewel Wallace; son, Winston Mose; and daughter, Yvonne London.

Survivors include sons, Joe Mose of Minneapolis, Joel Mose, Jerry Lane Wallace and David Lee Wallace, all of Ardmore; daughters, Mary Jaimes of Plano, Texas, and Wanell Perry of Ardmore.



Sauline Elizabeth Isaac

Sauline Elizabeth Isaac, 76, of Talihina passed away January 5, 2009, at St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa. She was born June 19, 1932, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, the daughter of the late Saul Dennis and Maggie Billy Daney.

She was the wife of Joe Charles Isaac. They were married 55 years.

She was a proud Choctaw woman and she attended Dewight Mission Indian School. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who worked hard raising her children and helping raise her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Jeannie Marie Short; son, Bobby Wayne Isaac; grandchildren, Denny, Denise and Joe; three sisters, Vivian Carshall, Navada Daney and June Daney; and a brother, Harrison Daney.

Survivors include her husband; four daughters, JoAnn Rutherford of Talihina, Deborah and Denny Mangrum of Mounds, Rhonda Isaac and Johnny Duree of McAlester, and Lisa Isaac of Talihina; son, Dennis and Amy Isaac of Manford; grandchildren, Tonya, Talitha, Trista, Cara, Keith, Shannon, Sydney, Mark, Clay, Ashley and Amber; great-grandchildren, Nikolas, Gavin, Chevy, Rodie, Morgan, Rachael, Chase, Brook, Shelby, Makayla, Ryan, Trey, Kobe and Allie; sister, Inez Shockley of Talihina; two brothers, Monte Daney of Utah and Billy Joe Daney of Eufaula; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tommie L. “Granny Tom” Davis

Tommy L. “Granny Tom” Davis, 95, of Stuart passed away January 3, 2009, in McAlester. She was born June 8, 1913, in Milton, the daughter of Greenwood and Mae Ferguson Daniels. She lived the majority of her life in Stuart and Ashland.

She married P.R. Davis on May 5, 1929, in Holdenville. She worked as a seamstress for Seamprufe and Elsing Manufacturing Company until retirement in 1975.

She then began her career of babysitting for the people of Stuart and her families. She attended the Bohannon Church and enjoyed sewing and cooking.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband on August 15, 1986; two daughters, Margaret Hull Ray and infant Mildred Louise Davis; a granddaughter, Margie Kay Littrell; a son-in-law, Clyde Capehart; and three brothers, Green, Bo and Willie Daniels.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Dolores Davis of Stuart; two daughters and sons-in-law, Marian and Rex Goode of McAlester and Leonda and Roger Shields of Stuart; 12 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; and special friend, Lillie McKinney of Stuart.



Tommie Jean Harrison

Tommie Jean Harrison, 81, of Roland passed away December 27, 2008, in her home. She was born March 5, 1927, in Poteau.

She was of the Pentecostal faith and a member of the Rose Garden Gospel Church in Jenny Lind, a homemaker, singer, loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She and her late husband, the Rev. Herman Harrison, pioneered and pastored many churches in the surrounding areas. She was loved by all who knew her.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Midgley of Wister; two sons, Bob Ryburn and Gen Ryburn, both of Poteau; four sisters, Minnie Hamm and Permelia Lowe, both of Poteau, Molly Larson of Tulsa and Virginia York of Downey, California; a brother, David Brown of Franklin, Kentucky; 10 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; and her friend and caregiver for 10 years, Delila Bates.

Charles ‘Denny’ Knight

Charles “Denny” Knight passed away suddenly of a heart attack on October 19, 2008. He was born November 16, 1950, in Bakersfield, California.

Denny was a great teacher and the only wrestling coach Kern Valley High School has ever had. He was the winningest coach in the Desert Inyo League in dual matches. Denny was a man’s man, smart, straight-talking and quick-witted. He was a master crossword player and excellent storyteller. His passions, however, were his kids, roping and hunting. He was happiest outside with his kids, horses, mules, dogs and guns.

Denny was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He could read and talk in the Choctaw language. He was looking forward to becoming a grandpa (amafo).

Survivors include his mother, Lena Bishop; his loving partner and better half, Sandy Smith; his children, Jenna, Kali and Ben Knight, Jess Montgomery, and Chase and Jamy Smith; sisters, Donna Newman, MyLena King, and MyLissa Isaacs and husband Darren; eight nieces and four nephews, and too many friends to mention who will miss him dearly.

