

# Tribe funds endowment for pediatric diabetes research

Commitment made in addressing diabetes and its complications

The Choctaw Nation and Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) are establishing a \$2 million endowed chair in pediatric diabetes at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. This endowment includes a \$500,000 gift from the Choctaw Nation that CMRI will match with another \$500,000. This \$1 million gift will then be eligible for matching funds from the State Regents Endowment Program to create a \$2 million endowment for pediatric diabetes research. The Choctaw Nation Chair is part of the CMRI National Excellence Campaign that began in 2003 and is nearing completion of its \$15 million goal.



Kenneth Copeland, M.D., Ruth and Paul Jonas Chair in endocrinology/diabetes at the OU Health Sciences Center, is the principal investigator for

the children’s diabetes research program. “This gift represents a further cementing of the well-established partnership between the Choctaw Nation and the

CMRI pediatric diabetes program at the OU Health Sciences Center,” Copeland said. “These two institutions will make a profound commitment to ad-

dress the problems of diabetes and obesity and their attendant complications at an even higher level. Since Native Americans share a disproportionate burden of these diseases, and since Oklahoma is home to so many Native Americans, it is only appropriate that these great organizations share in finding solutions, cures, and treatments together. This gift will allow the recruitment to Oklahoma of physician scientists who have dedicated their careers to diabetes research and treatment, and is certain to pay great dividends to every Native American child, and in fact every child in the state afflicted with diabetes.”

Chief Pyle commented, “Diabetes prevention and treatment was identified as a priority for the Choctaw Nation about 10 years ago. We began a diabetes wellness program before we even had federal funding for

it. A Diabetes Task Force was formed and it has grown to become a Healthy Lifestyles Task Force.

“Much of the tribe’s plan for healthier lifestyles is a grassroots approach and must have community involvement to succeed,” Chief Pyle said. “Wellness and fitness centers funded with tribal resources show a commitment to improving the health and saving the lives of tribal people and those in the communities where we live.

“Diabetes is one of several diseases that the Choctaw Nation sees as a major problem for tribal members. We are thankful of the efforts of the Children’s Medical Research Institute and their staff,” he said.

The CMRI endowment will complement a second endowment of \$500,000 from the Choctaw Nation to the OU Health Sciences Center that will study diabetes in adults.



Thanksgiving fun on Pages 10-11

## Chief invited to State of Union

Chief Gregory E. Pyle has received the great honor of being invited to attend President Bush’s State of the Union Address in Washington, D.C., on January 23

“It is a huge milestone for our tribe to be included in this historic event,” said Chief Pyle. “The honor extends to all members of the Choctaw Nation and I am excited to be able to represent each and every one of you in our country’s capitol.”

## War Memorial documents to be returned

The Choctaw Nation Veterans Advocacy Program has several original photos and documents on file of veterans whose names have been included on the War Memorial at Tushka Homma. Copies have been made so the originals can be returned to the families. If you submitted the documents or are a descendant of one of the following, please call Brent Oakes at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 4163.

- James Beck
- Joe Ginn
- R.G. King
- Andrew Perry
- Frank Pittman
- Turner Turnbull
- Henry Walls
- Timothy Ontayabbi
- Dale Armstrong
- Gilmore Christy
- Forbis Durant
- Wallace Going
- Joshua Hickman
- Michael Warnick
- William B. Sittel

## Council session

The Choctaw Tribal Council met in regular session December 9, 2006. Budgets were approved for Tribal Operations, Jones Academy Operations and Maintenance and Project House. The Council also approved consolidating the employment and training programs to be administered in accordance with the 102-447.

# Project CHILD Program wins statewide award

“I Died, Who’s Next?” delivering a message with an impact

Chief Gregory E. Pyle joined Todd Baughman and Martina Hawkins of the Choctaw Nation Project CHILD Program when they accepted a statewide award for their unique anti-drinking and driving program, “I Died, Who’s Next?”. The Champion of Oklahoma Health award was given to the Choctaw program after consideration of more than 120 nominees from all across the state.

As part of the Project CHILD (Children’s Health Interventions and Lifestyle Development) initiative, “I Died, Who’s Next?” delivers a message with impact – the fact that alcohol-related vehicle crashes are the nation’s number

one killer of teens.

The program uses role-playing exercises and partnerships with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, school districts and local police, fire, ambulance and funeral services to recreate realistic vehicle crash scenes to illustrate the tragic results of driving under the influence of alcohol. Following the simulation, students gather for an assembly in which students hear from their own classmates about the emotionally charged issue of drinking and driving.

In 2006, the two-day education event was presented to more than 8,000 students in 14 schools throughout south-

eastern Oklahoma.

The award was sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Hospital Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and the Oklahoma State Medical Association. The Champions of Health awards were created to recognize individuals, health care professionals, legislators and for-profit and non-profit organizations that are working to make a difference in the health of their communities, and to facilitate community partnerships to work toward improving Oklahoma’s health status.



Todd Baughman and Martina Hawkins of the Choctaw Nation Project CHILD Program.



## Special flags are given to Code Talkers’ families

Presentation held during second annual powwow

More photos on Page 14

If you liked last year’s powwow at the coliseum in Durant, you were doubly pleased with the second annual powwow held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Twice as many dancers were entered in the competitions, more arts and crafts to catch the eye, and great food. Hundreds traveled from across the nation to be a part of the

See POWWOW on Page 14



## Bluff, Grant Fire Departments receive donations from tribe

Chief Gregory E. Pyle presents a check to the Bluff Volunteer Fire Department, left, and to the Grant Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured are Bluff Assistant Fire Chief Ray Jeffries, Secretary and Treasurer Teresa Jeffries, Fire Chief Handleman

and Chief Pyle. Receiving the donation from Chief Pyle for the Grant VFD are Mary Gregg, J.D. Osmer, Grant Fire Chief Martina Pulliam, Wilma Davidson, Jeff Hoyt and J.A. Campbell.





# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Native American Heritage Month observed in New York

Dear Editor,

I represent the American Indian/Alaskan Natives who are employed with the Department of Defense at Fort Drum, New York. I would like to take a minute to express my deepest appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for the support that was given to ensure the success of the Native American Heritage Month observation held on November 2, 2006.

It was extremely important to me to have the Choctaw Nation recognized in the observance, so my first phone call was to the Choctaw Nation Museum. After explaining my event to Regina Green, she was more than happy to send me some items to have on display. Two days later, I received a box full of items that best illustrated our heritage. As I dug through the box I was amazed at the quality of the workmanship. One item in particular stood out. It was a stickball stick set which was made by Ramsey Williston. I could see the pride he placed in each one. These sticks were a hit at the observance. I told the importance of stickball to the Choctaw Nation and that we still have tournaments today.

Sergeant Andrew Thompson, also a member of the Choctaw



very proud to be a part of the Choctaw Nation. It is inspiring how the tribe is so committed to preserving our rich heritage and culture.

**Sarah Smith**  
American Indian/Native Alaskan Committee Manager

Nation of Oklahoma, spoke of our tribe and the impact the Choctaw Nation has on the military. In his speech he told of our ancestry and the invaluable service as Code Talkers in World War I and World War II. We were also recognized by Dr. Laurie Rush, the guest speaker, stating that Native Americans understand the value of freedom, the value of a sovereign nation and the importance of defending that nation.

The Native American Heritage Month observation was a complete success. Especially for me, as I felt honored and proud to display our cultural items and educate others on our heritage. I wish to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Regina Green, and the Choctaw Nation Museum for aiding me in representing the Choctaw Nation in New York. I am blessed to be a part of such a wonderful tribe.

This act of generosity made me



### Hearing system helps

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for assisting with my new FM system. I can hear the teacher much better now. I am proud to be a Choctaw Indian.

**Michael Johnson**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

### Keota Schools building new fieldhouse

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The football program would like to express their appreciation to you for your donation to help build our new fieldhouse. We are currently in the process of the fieldhouse being developed, so your donation couldn't have come at a better time. This building will help the football team in so many ways. Also it will affect so many young athletes in a positive way. So once again, thank you for making Keota Schools a better place.

**Eric Henry, Head Football Coach**

### Keeping children focused on education

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my twin sons, my wife and I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for their help in purchasing school supplies this school year. The help that you provided enabled us to buy the items necessary to keep our children's minds on education instead of need or want for better.

My sons and wife are relatives of James Darneal, executioner for the Choctaw Nation in the 1880s. We are mindful of the great past our family enjoys and proud of our great heritage. Thank you, again.

**Jack James**  
Lavaca, Arkansas

### Nostalgic about family

Dear Editor,

I am Richard Lance Hagood, son of Ann Doss Hagood of Abilene and Richard George Hagood of Durant. My grandfather and grandmother were Floyd and Maude "Hadie" Hagood of Durant. In the past few years I have become more curious and perhaps nostalgic about family ... everyone's passed on now.

I never knew Grandpa Floyd, but knew Hadie up until her death in '77. I remember visiting Hadie in Durant as a youngster, going to the pecan orchard and what was left of Floyd's "model farm" just across the street from Southeastern Oklahoma University.

In recent years on swings back from Arkansas, we'd take the Winding Stair and end up in Durant and go look for traces of the old place. A number of great pecan trees still stand in precise rows, and fence work my Dad must have helped set in the '20s or '30s, concrete pads for what looked like chicken houses and the like. Beyond that there is what I recall was the "McCurtain" place, which was sited adjacent to Floyd's farm.

Ben McCurtain remains a mystery to me ... there really isn't much information on him on the web. I remember that he was my Dad's uncle.

I did know Doris Elizabeth Helander, Ben and Clara Hagood's daughter whom my mother adored and they kept in touch over the years. We used to visit her in Albuquerque. I am really curious as to the Hagood relationship there. Clara was born in Durant in 1913 and I wasn't aware that Floyd and Maude had a Durant connection until they moved there around 1920.

Recently I took my son across Winding Stair and down into the rich Choctaw lands to Durant. We explored what we could of the old place and even knocked on the door of the McCurtain place but no one was home. We truly wanted to explore and probably get chased by the cows. As it was, the Kansas-Oklahoma-Gulf tracks had been pulled up and we followed the trace to where Dad's old swimming hole was. The 50-foot-high cement pillars for the old rail bridge still stand. It was really meaningful ... a breeze came up and died ... Eric found a perfect hawk feather. Something passed there.

If you know of anyone who can give me some more information, I'd really appreciate it.

**Lance Hagood**  
Houston, Texas  
uplink@texasdata.net

### Veteran treasures jacket

Dear Editor,

It was my pleasure to attend the Veterans' Day celebration for the first time. I appreciate very much the kind words and recognition. I will treasure the jacket with the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation, and "Choctaw Veteran" stitched in. Many thanks to all involved in the organization of this event.

**Lonnie Green, MCPO, USN, Ret.**  
Grand Prairie, Texas



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Robert Champion and Maj. Gen. Leroy Sisco.

### Honor shown veterans

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your tireless work and dedication as our Chief of the Choctaw Nation. I would like to also thank the Tribal Council and Assistant Chief Bailey for the November 11 Veterans Day ceremony in Tushka Homma and express my appreciation for the honor you showed to all Choctaw veterans.

I never felt more honored as a veteran than I did that afternoon as speaker Major General Sisco spoke to the Choctaw veterans and their families. My wish is for all tribal veterans to experience that time together and share precious moments of our time.

**Robert Champion**  
Paso Robles, California



### Tribal members enjoy meeting

Dear Chief Pyle,

It was truly a pleasure to meet you in person during your visit in San Bernardino, California. Although my daughter, Breanna Douglas, and I arrived after the meeting/gathering was over and missed getting our photo for our membership cards, we were happy to be able to take our picture with you. I would also like to say that it was nice to meet Judy Allen and some of the Choctaw Nation staff. Everyone was very nice and gave us a warm welcome. Thank you.

**LaChelle Smitherman**  
Hawthorne, California

### Holiday meal enjoyed

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to say a special thank you to Councilman Austin and his staff. The Thanksgiving dinner was very good. The people who cooked the meal are very special and kind. Thank you for such a nice meal.

**The O'Banion and McCoy Families**

### Thanksgiving made special

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you, Mr. Austin, for the nice Thanksgiving food basket. It was greatly appreciated. We are very lucky to have you as our Councilman.

**C. Matthews**

### Assistance greatly appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

A lot of people say they have angels around them, Well, my angels work at Choctaw Nation – Ted Dosh, Charlene and Emma, Elaine Justice – may God have a special place for you. You have helped me so much. May you be surrounded by angels.

**Geraldine**



### Chad makes it to finals

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Lawrence family would like to thank you for your donation for Chad Lawrence. With your help, Chad was able to be part of the Sierra Junior Rodeo Association. Chad is 6 years old and participated in the Pee-Wee Mutton Busting event. Chad was able to make it to the rodeo finals in Springville, California. This was all made possible with the help of the Choctaw Nation. Thank you so much for your support.

**Richie, Leah, Callie and Chad Lawrence**  
Bakersfield, California

<b>Gregory E. Pyle</b> <i>Chief</i>	<b>Mike Bailey</b> <i>Assistant Chief</i>
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# Love of family is important

In the Choctaw Nation, our community and our tribe is our family. We honor our elders and teach and train our young people. At the same time, we all understand that on a much more personal level, we each have our own family who we cherish – our children, grandchildren, spouse, parents and grandparents, as well as our extended family of brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins.

My home is usually noisy with grandchildren, and I wouldn't have it any other way. My wife and I have been married for 35 years, and our two children have blessed us with six babies, now ages 21 months to 8 years. My wife, Pat, and I cherish each and every moment we have alone together, but it is even better when surrounded by the laughter of our grandchildren. We knew our marriage was happy, but with the arrival of our children, and then grandchildren, we found that our love was deepened to an intensity that we had no idea even existed. My pride in family was fathomless.

Each year of our lives together has strengthened our relationship, and the experiences we have dealt with together have given us opportunities to grow together. Just in the past few years, Pat and I have both lost fathers, and we have found that by leaning on each other, we can get through anything. Having her as a partner in life has allowed me to look forward to each and every day. I know with her by my side, any challenge can be met with enthusiasm and victory.

A happy family life is very important to a successful and healthy lifestyle for all people. The strength of a family is multi-generational. I hope and pray I am always able to show my love to my grandchildren and they will enjoy their own children and grandchildren as much as I have enjoyed them.



## Bailey is high point roper

Winning the average and setting the pace for the rest of the pack at the Golden Years Rope for the Cash & Prizes III in Athens, Texas, on November 10 was the drawpot team of Mike Bailey and Mike Collier, roping three steers in 23.94 and pocketing \$5,000, custom Gist buckles and USTRC National Shootouts. But Mike and Mike weren't done yet. They also roped together as pick partners placing ninth in the average. That is one team getting it done all day. That was enough for Collier to be the high point heeler, not winning the trailer, for an additional \$1,000.

When the dust settled on Friday afternoon, the man of the day and High Point Roper of the day was the Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Mike Bailey of Durant, winning a CM two-horse slant fully wrapped trailer. Congratulations to Mike and all our winners in the Golden Years Rope for the Cash & Prizes III.



## Jones Academy Christmas

Continuing an annual tradition, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey made a Christmas donation to Jones Academy. The residential center for school children has always been a special consideration of Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey. This year, 124 youth live in the dorms with first through sixth grades being taught on campus. Seventh through twelfth grades are bused to nearby Hartshorne School.

## Eastern

continued from Page 1

"We are very proud to be involved in acquiring this much-needed grant for Eastern. It has long been a focus of the Choctaw Nation to provide education and training for good quality jobs." The Southeast Oklahoma Workforce Investment Area Occupational Outlook for 2002-2012 indicates a 42 percent increase in demand for RNs in the region. A U.S. Department of Labor assessment of local hospitals, clinics, and other health care facilities reveals a severe need for nurses – 100 percent of the employers cited difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified nurses to fill their growing vacancies.

Eastern will partner with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, McAlester Regional Health Center, Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, the Workforce Investment Boards, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health to provide training. The program targets 11 counties – all of which have been designated by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as medically underserved areas.

### Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

This year the Choctaw Nation has decided to expand its annual livestock show so more students can participate. There will be two shows at two locations.

**WILBURTON SHOW**  
**EOSC Campus**  
**Saturday, February 3**  
Market Swine • Market Goats • Market Sheep  
**Sunday, February 4**  
Heifer Show • Steer Show

**DURANT SHOW**  
**North Arena**  
**Saturday, February 3**  
Market Swine • Market Goats • Market Sheep  
**Sunday, February 5**  
Heifer Show • Steer Show

For more information,  
go to [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com)  
to the Rules and Applications  
or call 918-297-2518

## Jones family among many whose history marks success and generosity

Choctaw families have long been an important element in the history of Oklahoma and of the entire United States of America. Just recently, I participated in a ceremony across the Red River that honored a Choctaw family who helped open a hospital for people in the north Texas area. The Wilson N, Jones Medical Center is named for a former Choctaw chief who was the benefactor for the 78-year-old facility.

This family's provision for health care has been so important that a key to the city of Sherman was presented to the Jones descendants from Mayor Bill Magers, and an historical marker was placed at the Essin Medical Building in Sherman.



Many Choctaw families have a heritage of achievement and generosity. In 1920, Wilson N. Jones donated more than \$100,000 for a community hospital, thanks to his success in ranching, farming, coal and

real estate. I was very proud to take part in celebrating with members of the Jones family, and look forward to meeting more great Choctaw families in my future travels.

### 2007 Labor Day Festival

#### Arts & Craft Vendors

Applications for the 2007 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival will begin being accepted on March 1, 2007. All applications must be submitted through the mail. All vendor spaces will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. For an application or more information, contact Debbie Damron at 800-522-6170.

#### Food Vendors

Deadline for food vendors for the 2007 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival is March 15, 2007. All vendors must submit application, proof of liability insurance, and reservation fee. For an application or more information, contact Cyndi Houser at 800-522-6170.

## God has made provisions

As we begin any New Year we think of the past year. We thank God for the wonderful things that we have been brought in our lives. We also remember our failures, but God cleanses us from our failures as we confess them.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

As we look forward to a New Year 2007 I want to encourage you from the Bible. If we did not have the promises of God we would be filled with fear as we face this New Year. What a glorious privilege to be assured that God knows every step of the way and has made provisions.

We do wonder about the question: Why do Christians waiver and fail in the Christian life? This is a problem that happens so often among any Christian today. What is the answer?

In the third chapter of First Corinthians we have the blueprint of a Christian life – of a Christian experience.

The foundation is Jesus Christ, and the building is built by the life of one who has trusted Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior. And today we are building with works of gold, silver, precious stone, wood, hay, or stubble on this foundation.

And there is coming a day when these works will be tested by fire. The builder will either receive a reward or he will lose his reward. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:15:

"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

The need for this teaching grew out of the fact that there was division in the Church of Corinth. Of course, division is nothing new to us. Whenever we go to church we find envy, strife, division, and carnality. In verse 16 Paul gave this instruction with these words:

"Know ye not that ye are the

temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

In this passage Paul was speaking about the temple of God as all the churches put together. All born-again believers everywhere become the temple of God. Paul was saying, "Don't tear the church apart!" When this happens, the whole building is weak. That is a picture of division in our day. One can hardly find a church today where there is not selfishness, strife, and trouble. People make divisions about things that are worldly and carnal.

Why do you think the Spirit of God is in the Church? One reason is to hold it together in unity. Jesus' last prayer before He left this earth was that His followers might be one – that they might present Jesus Christ to the world as Savior. But how can the world understand this when there is fighting, bickering, and backbiting among Christians? Under these conditions how can they understand that Jesus Christ, the Savior, unites hearts and that all believers belong to one body?

God also speaks of the consequences of division. He said in 1 Corinthians 3:17:

"If any man defile (destroy or corrupt) the temple of God (the Body of Jesus Christ, the Church), him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

You cannot escape the consequences of failure in this matter. God is also going to set aside the church whose effectiveness is destroyed by division, and it will be just another building where people go through a form of worship. God said that such churches will lose their power.

Paul spoke of stewardship in 1 Corinthians 4:1:

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."

Jesus Christ has entrusted to us the precious riches of His Grace and we are stewards of



The Rev. Bertram Bobb

that task. We are trustees of the secret of God.

Paul continued in verse two of 1 Corinthians 4:

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

If a man is entrusted with something, whether it is money or the ministry of salvation, it is necessary that he is trustworthy. His trustworthiness will be tested and found out.

We have been entrusted to us things of God, and God is going to call for an account from all of us. How will we stand in that day?

I believe that the greatest lesson which Christians need to learn today is that God will, in His day, reveal everything and properly judge our deeds. Even right now God knows your heart. We read in Romans 3:23:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God."

Paul writes again in Romans 6:23:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord."

You can trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior today by faith, and be born again into God's family.

Please continue to pray for the natives of Canada, our own Native Americans. Pray for our brave men and women in all branches of Armed Services. Pray for the Chief, Assistant Chief and the Tribal Council members as they lead our Choctaw Nation. May God bless you in a very special way is my prayer for you in 2007.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project shares a story about persistence

During the month of December we promoted our project in three Christmas parades. The first parade was in Talihina. The float was decorated and ready to go but the inverter blew a fuse.

The second was at McAlester. Now that parade was awesome with exquisitely decorated floats. Our float was number 35 in the lineup. We decorated it in 25-degree weather. The lights did work because we rented a generator. We persisted in the cold elements, gave out lots of candy and greeted many fami-

lies.

We decided to get expert consultation from one of our partners, to get ideas about how to portray 100 years of Christmas in Oklahoma on our float for Wilburton.

“A successful Chahta family may be roasting a pig!” was the comment but we could not find a way to roast a pig on the float!

The third float had more lights which were powered by a generator donated by Leflore County EMS. The Tullier family rode on the float.

The Choctaw Nation has graciously provided, through a grant, the Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids project. We are committed to building stronger Native American families within the Choctaw Nation. The goal is to promote a healthy home environment for Native American children by promoting healthy marriages among Native Americans.

Please call 918-567-3386 or 567-3065 to leave a message requesting information on upcoming Marriage Retreats and Sweet Heart events.



Strengthening our families

Dr. Hill, Choctaw Nation's Chief Medical Officer, shares some insight into strengthening families:

What are some things that we can do to strengthen selves and our families? Daily exercise and following a healthy diet will make us physically healthier. What about our spiritual and moral health? I would like to write a prescription to “Get involved in a church.” Churches are where God’s people gather to worship Him together, learn from the Bible, encourage each other, and welcome new believers into God’s family. Find a church near you that does these things and get involved.

If you already attend a church, get more active. Ask your pastor what you can do for your church. Invite friends, family and neighbors to come to church if they are not already doing so. Finally, set aside time to pray for those around you that they might be inspired to get involved in a church.

I will leave you with a few scriptures concerning faith and health.

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” – Proverbs 17:22

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” – Psalms 43:5

Fans don’t let fans drive drunk – Make the right play, pass your keys

Designating a sober driver should be on the top of everyone’s Super Bowl party list, but there are other ways you can help save lives ...

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America’s biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and families gather to socialize and watch the big game. Yet, it is also one of the nation’s most dangerous days on the roadways due to impaired driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 158 people, representing 51 percent of all traffic fatalities, died during the 2004 Super Bowl weekend due to impaired drivers with blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels of .08 and higher.

Please remember that “Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk.” If you plan on using alcohol while cheering your team on to victory, pass your keys to a sober, designated driver before the Super Bowl party begins. Follow the rules or law enforcement will penalize you for driving impaired. Be sure to make the right play before the big game.

Drunk driving crashes – and fatalities – can be prevented. Designating a sober driver should be on the

top of everyone’s Super Bowl party list, but there are other ways you can help save lives, too.

*If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:*

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in an impaired driving crash.
- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.
- Serve lots of food – and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
- Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert.
- Take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

*If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:*

- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself – eat enough food, take breaks and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and give that person your car keys.
- If you don’t have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a friend or family member to come get you; stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.
- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they

are about to drive while impaired. Remember, “Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk.”

- Always buckle up – it’s still your best defense against other impaired drivers.

Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime. In 2004, nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving an impaired auto or motorcycle operator with an illegal BAC level of .08 or higher.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk because the consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant.

Please act responsibly. Pass your keys to a sober driver before the big game begins. And remember, REAL FANS DON’T LET FANS DRIVE DRUNK.

This article was provided by NHTSA holiday planner 2006 and is sponsored by Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, injury prevention tips, or need your child’s car seat inspected, please call 877-285-6893 and speak with Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator or e-mail RMorris@choctawnation.com.

Getting in shape after the holidays!  
TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

By Anna Hamilton  
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board Member

Cookies, pies, cakes, dressing, turkey ... oh, the holidays! At my house the holidays are about a lot of things, but there is food involved in every event. So, January always means getting back in shape. Eating a well-balanced diet and exercising are very important.

**Why should I exercise?**

Exercise has many benefits. It can:

- Increase strength and energy
- Lift your mood when you feel down
- Make your body look better and more toned
- Help you maintain a healthy weight or lose excess body fat
- Help you sleep
- Improve how you feel about yourself
- Help keep your bones strong throughout your lifetime
- Prevent diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease

**How much should I exercise?**

In addition to being active every day, it is recommended that you spend 20 to 30 minutes of your exercise time doing vigorous aerobic activity at least three times a week. Starting slow and building up to this is just fine. Every little bit counts when you’re just beginning, so take time for a short walk or bike ride a few times during the day.

It is important to pay attention to how your body feels, such as getting really tired, out of breath or being too sore the next day. If you are unsure, ask your health care provider, coach, or physical education teacher.

Always drink water before, during and after exercise.

*\*Information taken from Adolescent Health – Michigan Children’s Hospital.*



Poteau exercise program continues

The Poteau Choctaw Senior Citizens’ exercise program is still on-going with many of them still participating at least twice weekly. In the front row are Edward Martin, Mabel Martin, Marcella Widmar, Virginia Johnson, Richard White, Patricia Caughorn, Betty Dixon, Wanda James and Christine Harris. Back row, Diann Massey, Camelia Lumen, Verna Barnard, Deloris Cox and Phillip James. Not pictured; Evelyn Harden.

Increasing Health Awareness



Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles was invited to participate in a community-wide Health Fair in November in Heavener. The purpose of this Health Fair was to increase health and awareness through education and prevention. This event was sponsored by Heavener Public Schools and Heavener Area Safe Schools/Healthy Students; Jovonna Fields and Bill Salter. Thank you to the parents in LeFlore County for bringing your children out and being a part of this educational experience.

HEALTH FAIRS AT COMMUNITY CENTERS

2007 SCHEDULE

Center	Councilmember	Date	Time
Coalgate	James Frazier	January 24	12 noon
Durant	Ted Dosh	January 31	11: 30 a.m.
Stigler	Charlotte Jackson	February 7	11:30 a.m.
Atoka	Anthony Dillard	February 21	11:30 a.m.
Hugo	Perry Thompson	March 7	11:30 a.m.
Wright City	Jack Austin	March 21	12 noon
Antlers	Jack Austin	April 11	11:30 a.m.
Spiro	Charlotte/Delton	April 18	11:30 a.m.
Idabel	Hap Ward	May 16	12 noon
Broken Bow	Mike Amos	June 6	12 noon
Bethel	Mike Amos	June 27	11:30 a.m.
Poteau	Delton Cox	July 11	12 noon
Talihina	Kenny Bryant	July 25	11:30 a.m.
Wilburton	Joe Coley	August 8	11:30 a.m.
McAlester	Bob Pate	September 12	11:30 a.m.
Crowder	James Frazier	October 3	11 a.m.

Choctaws in Grand Prairie, Texas



Gail Clayton tells Chief Pyle how much she appreciates the Christmas ornament she received. She is a newly registered tribal member and enjoyed the December meeting at Grand Prairie.



Horace Middleton holds his newborn son, Maxwell.



Donna Taylor and Chris Wahnee at the gathering in Grand Prairie.



Larry and Sue Smith are also among the many who attended the Native American Awareness Expo hosted by the Dallas-Fort Worth Native American Chamber of Commerce.



# Shopping with your children

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Anyone who has shopped at a grocery store or mall with children, especially young children, knows that the experience can be trying, and sometimes, stressful! Here are some tips that may prove useful on your next shopping trip:

**Before you go ...**

- How is everyone feeling? Is your child too tired or hungry to shop? Are YOU? It's best to go when you are rested, don't wait until the end of a tiring day. If possible, postpone your trip or arrange for a sitter.
  - Have a talk with your child before you go shopping. Let your child know that it is a special outing to go shopping with you. You can go shopping and have fun, as long as you both understand your family's shopping rules.
  - Make your expectations clear. For instance, "Stay close to me," "Use your quiet voice," "When we leave, you can select a special treat if you remember the rules!"
  - One last thing before you go: wear comfortable shoes and clothes (you and your child). If the climate calls for a winter coat, you may want to remove outerwear in the store so that no one overheats.
- Now you're ready to shop. Just a reminder, keep your children

within sight in the store. Hold hands. Put them in the basket or let them hold onto the cart with you.

**At the store ...**

- Give your child some choices. When possible, allow your child to make some decisions. "Do you want red apples or green apples?"
- Give your child a responsibility. "Can you help me pick out the hardest apples?" or let your child steer the cart.
- Never leave your child unattended in a shopping cart!
- Reinforce good behavior. Say things like, "You are being so helpful!" Talk and play with your child. A hug can be reassuring and say more than words sometimes!

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

## NURSERY NEWS

**Reina Giselle Guzman**

Erica and German Guzman of Alpharetta, Georgia, are proud to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Reina Giselle Guzman, who was born on August 24, 2006, at Northside Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia. She weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Tereso and Lisa Estrada of Alpharetta and Maria Isabel Castro Tienda of Mexico. Reina is the great-granddaughter of Jimmy and Ruthie Jefferson of Bethel. We would also like to wish my mom and dad a happy belated anniversary on October 3.



**Kasten Milam Simmons**

Donna Bush is proud to announce the birth of her son, Kasten Milam Simmons. Kasten came into this world at 2:30 p.m. on August 29, 2006, in Mena Regional Hospital. He weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Curtis and Cari Bush and Vickey and Travis Sullivan. Great-grandparents include Mike and Silvena Bush, and also a proud aunt, Brittany Bush.



**Casey Doyle Angel**

Jeff and Kelly Angel of Durant would like to announce the birth of their son, Casey Doyle Angel, born October 10, 2006, at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant. He weighed in at 7 pounds 9 ounces. Casey is the grandson of Ellis and Juanita Angel of Buffalo Valley and Ronnie Richardson and Barbara Hyatt of Durant. Great-grandparents are Lola Kirkes and the late Robert Kirkes of Hydro, Oklahoma, and the late Vada Young of Durant. Casey is also the great-great-grandson of the late Eli and Rosie Potts of Yanush, Oklahoma.



**Charley LeeAnn Hilton**

Charles Hilton Jr. and Patricia Borgan are proud to announce the birth of their new little angel, Charley Leeann Hilton, born October 22, 2006. Pictured are Charles, whose birthday was January 2, and big sister Kelli whose birthday was November 13. All are from Tuskahoma. Congratulations, happy birthday and may God bless you all.



**Kaili Leilani Harrison**

Victoria Harrison would like to announce the birth of her beautiful daughter, Kaili Leilani. Kaili was born on October 24, 2006, in Bakersfield, California. She weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and measured 20 inches in length. Kaili was welcomed home by grandparents Bill and Theresa Harrison of Bakersfield, Uncle Billy Jr, Aunt Andrea and cousins Alyssa and Bryce, all of Bakersfield.



**Andrew Thomas Wall**

Andrew Thomas Wall was born at 9:16 p.m. on October 24, 2006, weighing 8 pounds 14 ounces. He was 21 inches long. Proud parents are George and Sabrina Wall of Anna, Texas. He has a big brother, Matthew, and a big sister, Rebecca.



## WIC Tips for using the food label

Most packaged foods have a Nutrition Facts label. Here are some tips for reading the label and making smart food choices: EVERYONE SHOULD BECOME A LABEL READER!!!



CHECK SERVINGS AND CALORIES. Look at the serving size and how many servings you are actually eating.  
– *Tip:* If you eat two servings of a food, you will consume double the calories and double the (%DV) of the nutrients on the Nutrition Facts label.

MAKE YOUR CALORIES COUNT. Look at the calories on the label and compare them with the nutrients they offer. Is it really worth it to eat empty calories?  
– *Tip:* When you look at a food's nutrition label, first check the calories, and then check the nutrients to decide whether the food is worth eating.

EAT LESS SUGAR. Foods with added sugars may provide calories, but few essential nutrients. So, look for foods and beverages low in added sugars. Read the ingredient list, and make sure added sugars are not one of the first few ingredients on the label.  
– *Tip:* Names for added sugars (caloric sweeteners) include sucrose, glucose, high fructose corn syrup, corn syrup, maple syrup, and fructose.

KNOW YOUR FATS. Look for foods low in saturated, trans fats, and cholesterol, to help reduce the risk of heart disease. Most of the fats you eat should be polyunsaturated and mono-unsaturated fats, such as those in fish, nuts, and vegetable oils.  
– *Tip:* Fat should be in the range of 20 to 35% of the calories you eat.

REDUCE SODIUM (SALT); INCREASE POTASSIUM. Most sodium you eat is likely to come from processed foods, not from the salt shaker. Limiting the amount of times a week you eat in fast-food restaurants

or choose processed foods at the grocery store will help lower sodium intake. Choose foods that are fresh such as fruits and vegetables, and fat-free and low-fat milk products.  
Good potassium sources are sweet potatoes, beet greens, white potatoes, white beans, plain yogurt, prune juice, and bananas. These counteract some of sodium's effects on the body.

*Dietary Guidelines for Americans - 2005 - Nutrition label - Easy ways to use the label for healthy eating.*

## Breastfeeding Classes Choctaw Nation WIC

Class One	Location	Class Two
Tuesday January 9, 2007	<b>HUGO</b> Choctaw Nation WIC Office Conference Room 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday February 6, 2007
Tuesday January 16, 2007	<b>ATOKA</b> Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday February 13, 2007
Tuesday January 23, 2007	<b>McALESTER</b> Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday February 20, 2007
Tuesday March 6, 2007	<b>DURANT</b> Durant WIC Office 1601 N. Washington 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 3, 2007
Tuesday March 13, 2007	<b>TALIHINA</b> Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 10, 2007
Tuesday March 20, 2007	<b>IDABEL</b> Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 17, 2007
Tuesday March 27, 2007	<b>POTEAU</b> Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 24, 2007

## Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

*Serving the Choctaw Nation at 15 sites*

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

## Booster seats save lives

### National Child Passenger Safety Week

~  
**February 11-17**



Every year children suffer needless injury. Children ages 4 to 8 who use booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a car crash than children who are restrained only by a safety belt, according to a study by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. According to NHTSA, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for ages 3 through 13.

It is of utmost importance that a child be properly restrained for their size and age. As children grow, how they sit safely in a car, truck, van, or SUV changes. For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers simply need to remember and follow the 4 Steps for KIDS:

1. Use rear-facing infant seats in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year of age and at least 20 pounds;
2. Use forward-facing toddler seats in the back seat from age 1 and 20 pounds to about age 4 and 40 pounds;
3. Use booster seats in the back seat from age 4 to at least age 8 – unless the child is 4'9" or taller; and
4. Use safety belts in the back seat at age 8 or older or taller than 4'9".

It is imperative to remember all children under age 13 should ride in the back seat. Many parents are under the false impression that children who have outgrown child safety seats can move right into regular safety belts, but nothing could be further from the truth. So this year on Valentine's Day and during Child Passenger Safety Week, February 11-17, we are working hard to remind all parents, grandparents, and child care providers to use a booster seat to raise their kids to the right height in the car. If they're under 4'9" tall, put them in a booster seat.

For more information about Child Passenger Safety Week and the proper use of booster seats, visit [www.boosterseat.gov](http://www.boosterseat.gov) or contact Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator, CPS Technician at 877-285-6893 or e-mail me at [RMorris@choctawnation.com](mailto:RMorris@choctawnation.com).

*This article was provided by NHYA CPS planner 2006 and is sponsored by Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, injury prevention tips, or need your child's car seat inspected, please call 877-285-6893 and speak with Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator, or e-mail [RMorris@choctawnation.com](mailto:RMorris@choctawnation.com).*



PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Happy birthday Edith

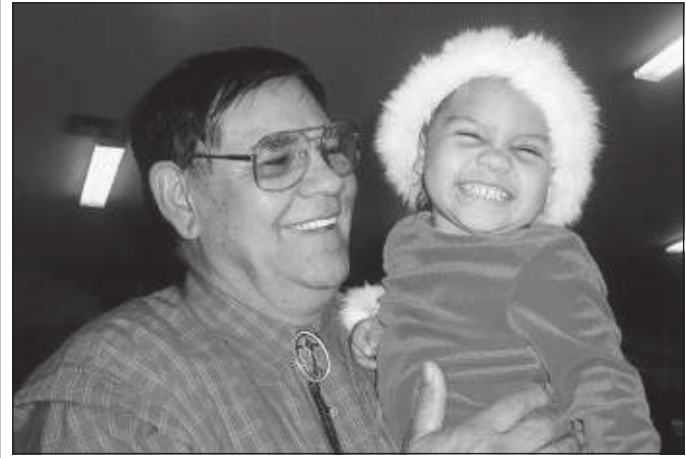
Chief Gregory E. Pyle wishes Edith McMinn a very happy birthday in November.



Former CHRs at Spiro

These four ladies, all who used to spend their time as Community Health Representatives, were at the Spiro Community Center for the November 29 dinner. Pictured are Juanita Noah, Linda Colwell, Margie Copeland and Councilperson Charlotte Jackson.

Merry Christmas from McAlester



Ariana "Fussy" Byington has fun with her "Uncle Bob," Councilman Bob Pate, at the District 11 Christmas Party in McAlester.



Adriana Byington has a talk with Santa Claus during the McAlester Christmas party. Over 300 children brought their parents to the community center and enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. Each child got to talk to Santa and received a gift.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with the program and especially our Councilman, Mr. Bob Pate, and his wife, Terri Pate, for helping us make this such a huge success.



Santa sings in Hugo

Hugo area children enjoyed a festive Christmas party with fun, food, presents and a special performance by Santa Claus. A big thank you goes out to Councilman Perry Thompson.

Happy 84th birthday

The family of Virginia Evelyn Moore would like to wish her a very happy 84th birthday on December 24, 2006. You are a very special person. Born in Blanco, Oklahoma, she now resides in Pittsburg, Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Cornelius and Mary Jane Ward. Her father, Cornelius, was one of the original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of Elias and Sena Ward, who were both full-blood Choctaws.



Birthday boys

Jake James Hanson turned 6 years old on November 27. Jake enjoys hockey, going to school and church.



Cole Dean Hanson turned 2 on October 17. He likes Winnie the Pooh and laughing.

Proud parents are John and Pamela Renchan Hanson. Grandparents are "Nana" Patricia Wright Ammann, Walter C. and Mona Renchan, and Reuben and Janet Hanson. Also, the Hanson brothers' many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends all wish them a wonderful birthday.



Party held for Winship

A surprise birthday party was held for Clifford Winship's 70th birthday at the Rattan Cafeteria. It was hosted by his wife and four children, all of Vernon, Texas, and other family members. Clifford was born and raised in the Rattan area. He graduated in 1955 from Rattan High School. Several classmates, his two brothers and four half-sisters all attended. Everyone enjoyed cake and coffee and listened to the good singing that Edgar and Hazel Taylor and Sol and Margaret Billy did for him.



Happy birthday

Darrell Jefferson would like to wish his dad a happy 67th birthday on January 12.



Happy 15th birthday

We would like to wish Cody Dwayne Taylor a happy 15th birthday on January 7. Cody attends Rattan School. He loves baseball, basketball, hunting and fishing. He has grown into a handsome young man of whom the whole family is proud. Cody's grandparents are William and Judy Taylor of Soper, Theda and Dodson Lamb of Hugo and Clifford and Judy Heady of Apple.



Wagers boys celebrate

A party was held November 18 at a park in Livingston, Texas, to celebrate Adain's seventh birthday and Gavin's first birthday. They lost their mother, Stacy, to an accident in June 2006. May God be with them. They are the great-grandsons of William and Esther Lee of Rye, Texas, and the great-grandsons of original enrollee Thomas J. Underwood.



Happy 80th birthday

Happy birthday to Norma Ruth Price who turned 80 years young on July 1. Mrs. Price celebrated her birthday with family which includes 60 relatives. She is very active in the American Indian Baptist Church in Oakland. She is active in other programs that keep her busy. All her family wish her well and send best birthday wishes. Happy birthday mom, grandma, auntie and great-auntie.



Happy birthday BIG sister

Derek and Ryan would like to wish their big sister, Khrystian, a happy birthday. She turned 12 on December 19. She is the daughter of David and Traci Rice of Greenville, Texas. Proud grandparents are Pat and the Rev. Virginia Espinoza of Boswell, Don Swatek of Floyd, Texas, Russ and Diane Jackson of Sherman, Texas, Phillip and Debbie Viles of Colbert, and many, many aunts, uncles and cousins.



Happy first birthday

Proud parents Heather and Phillip Crosby would like to wish their baby boy, Javen Lee Crosby, a very happy first birthday on January 10! Javen would like to send happy birthday wishes to his cousins, Mason, Ashley and Chelsea.



Happy birthday to James S. Berg

We would like to wish James S. Berg of Tulsa a very happy birthday on January 15. He turned 54 years old. James works as a dishwasher at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa.

Christmas Cheer

Betty Beaman of Oak Grove Manor and Leigh Fielder of Encompass Home Health (formerly Health Care Innovations) would like to wish their residents and clients a very happy holiday season. They also want to send an extra special holiday message to the Choctaw Senior Nutrition Centers in Bethel, Broken Bow and Idabel for allowing them to enjoy their company by playing bingo throughout the the year.



Happy 99th birthday

Mrs. Onie White was honored on her 99th birthday with a party given by staff and friends at the Chickasaw Nation Senior Site in Pauls Valley. The beautifully decorated tables held an array of finger foods, a delicious cake, ice cream and punch as well as gifts and birthday cards, including one from President and Mrs. Bush. A men's gospel group made an unscheduled visit to sing and play for Onie. "If living to be 99 can bring one so much love and attention, I am so glad I have," said Mrs. White. "This has all been so very special."

Onie is the daughter of the late John Houston and Sophie Virginia Kemp Givens.



Savannah Jo turns 3

The whole family wishes Savannah Jo Whitley a very happy birthday on January 26. She turned 3 years old. Her mom, Belinda, and dad, Steve, who is pictured with her, love their angel as we all do.



Look who's 3!

Wishes for a happy third birthday go out to Shiloh Eliza Bohanan on November 20 from her brothers, Mason and Tyler, and sisters, Mia and Macy. Her mom is Lois Bohanan and grandparents are Robert and Melissa Bohanan. Great-grandparents are the late Edd and Melcia Peters, all of Bethel. Also, belated birthday wishes go out to Mason Gage who turned 1 on September 20 and Papa Bohanan who turned 78 on October 15.



Canyon turns 6

Happy sixth birthday on December 20 to Canyon Lane Taylor of Hugo. Canyon is in kindergarten and loves to read and spend time with his brothers and sisters. He also loves going on the truck with his Daddy. Canyon is 1/4 Choctaw and proud of his heritage. His grandparents are William and Judy Taylor of Soper, Theda and Dodson Lamb of Hugo and Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson. His parents are William Dwayne Taylor and Becky Peters, both of Hugo.



November nuptials

Choctaws Patsy Jo Wall and Curtis "Gabby" Eyachabbe exchanged vows witnessed by friends and relatives in a marriage ceremony performed by Pastor Paul Foster, Jenks Baptist Church. The beautiful nuptials and reception were enjoyed by all. After a honeymoon in Branson, the couple reside in Tulsa. Mr. and Mrs. Eyachabbe send appreciation for all the blessings. Yakoke!



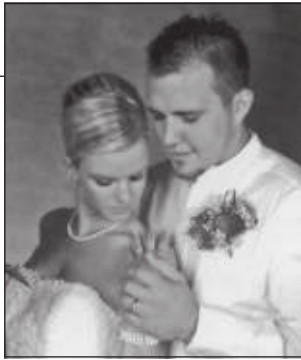
Smiths celebrate 57th anniversary

Congratulations to Troy and Pat Smith of McAlester on celebrating their 57th anniversary.



Sperlings celebrate Golden Anniversary

Everett and Donna Sperling celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 9, 2006. They were married in 1956 in Chickasha, Oklahoma. They have been members of the community for 35 years. Everett retired from the Community Action Agency in 1997 and Donna retired from the Butte County Building Department in 2000. Both are members of the Church of Christ and both bowl. The couple have two children, Susan Gist and David Sperling, both of Oroville. They have three grandchildren, Melissa, Jennifer and Bailee, and three great-grandchildren, Mateo, Adrian and Brianna. As part of their wedding anniversary, Everett and Donna took a trip to Oahu, Hawaii.



Turns 21 and marries – in the same week

Congratulations to Brandon Foster who turned 21 on November 6 and married Haley Crozier on November 11. The couple were married on shipboard on Carnival vessel M/S Ecstasy while docked at Progreso, Mexico. Brandon is attending college at San Antonio College pursuing a degree in physical therapy. Haley works with after-school programs at Stone Oak Elementary, San Antonio. The couple make their home in San Antonio. Brandon is the son of Bill and Connie Foster and grandson of Ramona Jelks Covlasky of Wasilla, Alaska, originally from Rush Springs, Oklahoma. Haley is the daughter of Mary Strome of Houston and Roger Crozier of San Antonio. The couple celebrated their wedding reception "Cowboy Style" on December 16 at the Tulsita Ranch near Beeville, Texas.



Happy birthday Clark

Happy birthday on January 4 to Bobby Clark Holder who turned 72. Clark lives in Dallas, Texas, and his Choctaw grandmother was original enrollee Minnie Forrest of Whitefield, Oklahoma. Clark has been married 53 years and raises his granddaughter with the help of his wife, Peggy.



# Reich wins National Johnson O’Malley Essay Contest

Wright City student Mick Reich has won the National Award from a Johnson O’Malley essay contest, “Why I Am Proud To Be Native American.”

The JOM Parent Committee and JOM students have established a Wright City school faculty supported “WISDOM Club.” The club is for junior high and senior high Native American students.

Mick accepted his award at the National JOM Conference in Albuquerque. He read his essay to the huge crowd:

“Being Native American was not always important to me. I thought, I’m an Indian, who cares? I didn’t understand how important my heritage is until a Choctaw language teacher, my grandmother, Lillie Roberts (known to me as “Gran”), told me about how whenever she was little, she only knew one language and that was Choctaw. However, when her Dad sent her to boarding school she was required to speak English. She said when she came back home in the summer she would have to speak Choctaw, but when she



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, JOM Association Board President Virginia Thomas and Mick Reich.

returned to boarding school, she was required to speak English. It was very hard on her because her family only spoke Choctaw, but at school, English was the only language she was allowed to speak. Several years later, when her Dad put her in a public school, she had already lost most of the Choctaw language. She was able to speak a little Choctaw here and there but not too much. In 1999, when my Mom moved to Durant to start working at Choctaw Nation, my Mom asked my Gran if she would move to Durant and help

raise me. My Gran said, “Yes.” Within a month, Richard Adams asked my Gran if she would like to start teaching the Choctaw language to the community. My Gran told him that she didn’t know that much but she would try. After being a community teacher for a few years, she was asked to be the first online internet teacher, as well as continuing to teach a few community classes, and she also began teaching college classes. I attended her community language classes for four years. When she told me this

story about her life that’s when I realized how important my heritage is to me. I’m glad that my Gran didn’t completely lose the Choctaw language and is teaching me and others how to speak Choctaw, so the language does not die. I’m proud to be a Native American because it’s my history, my inheritance and who I am.”

WISDOM is an acronym for Wise Indian Students Discovering Oklahoma’s Magnificence. The interest in starting this organization was to promote cultural ideas and fun activities for Native American Students. WISDOM Club allows Native American students to share cultural backgrounds with one another openly. The JOM Program encourages students to take a more active role in their education, to accept responsibilities and to volunteer in the activities of their community. The WISDOM Club provides positive and fun avenues to help obtain the goals of the JOM Program. The JOM Parent Committee and the Wright City School are very proud of and supports the WISDOM Club.

## Pittsburg County youth give back

The Pittsburg County Youth Advisory Board delivered an estimated \$3,000 in toys and non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army on December 20. The students from area schools chose this community service as their first project. They wanted to give back to their community and hopefully get other youth to follow in their footsteps. The youth advisory board would like to extend an enormous thank you to those who donated at their schools, the members of the Local Service Coalition and the Oaks Rehabilitative Services Center who made this experience a very successful one. The youth advisory board is a project of the Pittsburg County Local Service Coalition and includes students in grades nine through 12 from Crowder, Hartshorne, Kiowa, McAlester Christian Academy, Pittsburg and Savanna Public Schools. The board was formed in 2006 to give students a voice on issues that our youth are facing and to provide leadership opportunities to area youth. Thank you to the youth advisory board for their hard work and dedication to such a wonderful cause.

## Piedmont grad is continuing his education

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**  
We want to send our appreciation for the financial assistance you have provided for our son, Rily Sanders. Rily is a 2006 graduate of Piedmont High School and is continuing a higher education. He has been a resident of Piedmont all of his life. He is the son of proud parents Rick and Pamela Sanders. Grandparents are Richard and Bennie Edmonds of Mustang, Vic and Eva Daniels of Enid and Cecil and Immaculata Sanders of Yukon. He is the great-grandson of original enrollee Charlotte Isabelle Hampton. Rily is very blessed and proud of his Indian heritage.



## Choctaw girl crowned Lions Club Queen

Makaylee Wilson was crowned Lions Club Carnival Queen on October 7 for the first through the fourth grade division at Heavener. She is the daughter of Ed and Yolanda Wilson of Heavener, granddaughter of Raymond and Dorothy Wilson of Wister, great-granddaughter of the late Ed Wilson of Smithville, an original enrollee. Makaylee would like to thank Councilman Delton Cox for all his help.



## Heavener FFA/4-H club gets a boost

The Choctaw Nation, represented by Councilman Kenny Bryant, presented a check to Heavener Public Schools Superintendent Ed Wilson for the FFA/4-H Booster Club. The funds will go toward further work and paying off the Reeder Thornton Agriplex. Also on hand for the presentation were FFA and 4-H students, Vice President Eddie Blackwell, Eddie Bohannon, Jim and Joyce Langford, Olen and Wanda McRorey, Lena Munoz, Richard Gibson and Rick and Jan West.

## Gaines inducted into Phi Theta Kappa

Tribal member Sheena Gaines was inducted into the Theta Pi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Eastern Oklahoma State College on November 5, 2006.



Gaines, from Canton, Oklahoma, is majoring in elementary education. She is the daughter of David and Koreen Gaines of Canton.

Established in 1918 by two-year college presidents, Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious honor society serving two-year colleges around the world. The society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming.

## Hughes earns master’s from OU

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Bethany Ruth Hughes on earning her Master of Arts in Drama from the University of Oklahoma.

## Award-winning documentary

“Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire,” a 90-minute documentary written and narrated by LeAnne Howe, won the Silver Medal at the 2006 Remi Festival at the 40th Worldfest Independent Film Festival in Houston, Texas.

Howe, the 2006 John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi, spent four years working documenting the North Carolina homeland of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. “It’s a journey of trying to understand who we are, where we come from and where we are going,” Howe said.

The documentary has aired in Illinois, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Minnesota, and also aired nationally on PBS during November in conjunction with National Native American Month.

## Clarification

The December 2006 article “Choctaw Nation shares link between substance abuse and heart disease,” credited to American Indian Magazine is in fact an article from the newsmagazine American Indian Horizons, a publication of the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic.

CHOCTAW NATION  
YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD  
PRESENTS

# YOUTH EXPLOSION 3

Tree 63

KJ-52

Seventh Day Slumber

33 Miles

**Doors Open @ 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday, February 10, 2007**

**Choctaw Coliseum  
4216 S. Hwy. 69/75  
Durant, OK**

**\$5.00**

**Tickets at the Door**

For tickets and more  
Information, contact  
580-931-8645  
[www.choctawcoliseum.com](http://www.choctawcoliseum.com)

## Choctaw Nation GED Classes

### LATIMER COUNTY

Beginning February 5, 2007

Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center

515 Center Point Rd., Wilburton, Oklahoma

### CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning February 5, 2007

Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center

408 North M St., Hugo, Oklahoma

### McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning February 6, 2007

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center

Broken Bow, Oklahoma

### NORTH LEFLORE COUNTY

Beginning February 6, 2007

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Investment Center

Poteau, Oklahoma

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

## Mother, daughter honored for perfect attendance

Pam West and her daughter, Krystle Countz, recently received their perfect attendance bars for Sunday school.



They are members of the McAlester First Freewill Baptist Church. Their Sunday school teacher, Charlie Christian, made the presentation during the morning service. This marks West’s 42nd year of perfect attendance. She missed only two Sundays due to birth and the measles. During her 44 years she has had perfect attendance in elementary school, high school, college and five years of piano lessons. She has a master’s degree in elementary education. Krystle has 18 years of Sunday school perfect attendance. She also had 10 years of perfect attendance in elementary, high school and is in her second year of college. She is a student at the McAlester campus of Eastern Oklahoma State College, majoring in elementary education with coaching.

Pam’s parents are Buck and Frances Jones of Arpeler. She is the granddaughter of Mack and the late Vera Jones and Lorene and the late Edgar McClendon, all of Arpeler. She is the wife of Eric West. They live in Stuart. Krystle is also the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Countz, Indianola. Her brothers include Jeff West and Josh and Wesley Countz. She is the aunt of Janson Ray West. Her other grandparents are Sue Countz and the late Ora Lee Thomas, Shady Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Countz, James and the late Billie Dean Countz, Indianola, and Roger and Leonda Shields, Stuart.

## South Central American Indian Chamber of Commerce events

The South Central Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce meets on the third Wednesday of each month. February 21 will be at the Stargazer Restaurant in the Casino in Durant. March 21 will be at the Black Angus Restaurant on Broadway in Poteau. April 18 will again be at the Stargazer in Durant. On April 21 the chapter will hold its annual Regalia Fashion Show in McAlester. This is a gathering of sharing our tribal gear enabling us to understand ourselves and our sisters and brothers of American tribes. For more information check out their website at [www.alcco.org](http://www.alcco.org).

## Native American Day

Idabel Primary South Elementary



Presley Byington of Idabel performs.



Choctaw Nation Social Dancers from Broken Bow perform. Others performing were Emily Rowell of Broken Bow doing the sign language and Diane Hill of Idabel doing storytelling.





Joe Amos and son Lt. Col. Tray Ardesse visit with Chief Gregory E. Pyle at the tribal complex in Durant.

## Ardese proud to be a Choctaw

After graduating Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1989 with a double major in history and geography, Tray Ardesse of McAlester joined the U.S. Marines. He completed officer candidate school in Quantico, Virginia, and was selected to be a naval flight officer, learning to be a weapons and sensors operator. He received his wings in December 1992 in Pensacola.

Trained in F/A 18s, Ardesse has close to 3,000 flight hours and has participated in 253 combat missions. He has been on two combat tours in Iraq, two in Bosnia, and one in Kosovo.

Near the end of his deployment last year in Iraq, Ardesse was hit in the left shoulder with shrapnel. He got up after the initial explosion hit him and kept fighting. He continued dropping 500-pound bombs from his aircraft during a firefight that lasted one and a half hours.

After the battle was over, he realized that he was hit pretty bad. Doctors packed his shoulder, but he had lost one to two pints of blood from the wound.

Surgery later removed a five-pound piece of metal and repaired his shoulder blade that had been broken in five places. A doctor told him that he it was the largest piece of metal he had removed from anyone who lived.

“I believe prayer had a lot to do with helping me heal,” Ardesse said.

Tray arrived at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Virginia, on the 4th of July, walking into the facility as the night skies exploded with fireworks.

“I am proud to be an American,” the Marine thought.

Ardesse says this is the fourth time he has had a brush with death but he is fully healed and awaiting a new set of orders.

He has three more years before completing his 20 at which time he will be up for promotion to “full-bird colonel.”

“I’d like to work on my master’s in the next three years as well,” Ardesse said.

After his military retirement, Ardesse would like to return to Oklahoma, back home to the Choctaw Nation. “I think more than anything, I am proud to be Choctaw,” Ardesse said.

A 1986 graduate of McAlester High School, Ardesse recently traveled to his home town for his 20th Class Reunion. He also spent time with his dad, Joe Amos, of McAlester, a veteran of Korea, and his mother, Raylene Ardesse of Krebs.

His daughter, Amanda, is a senior at McAlester High School. His four sons, Justin, Ethan, Brock and Tyler Ardesse, live with him and wife Tammy when he’s stateside.



Councilman James Frazier sent this Choctaw flag to the 1st platoon of Co D 1-180th Infantry Battalion in Afghanistan. It was signed by the platoon members and sent back as a token of their appreciation. Pictured are Dallas Wilson’s wife, Renee, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Glen Bonham.

## Soldiers send special symbol of gratitude

**Dear Chief Pyle,**

Sir, we thank you for taking the time from your very busy schedule to read this letter. On behalf of the soldiers of the 1st Battalion of Company D 1-180th Infantry Battalion of the 45 Infantry Brigade, I wish to give our most heartfelt appreciation to the people of the Choctaw Nation, the Tribal Council, the Assistant Chief, yourself and most especially Mr. James Frazier for all that you have done for the soldiers of this unit and the State of Oklahoma. The buses that were provided for us

to come home in was the most welcomed sight we had seen in a very long time.

The 45th is representative of many different Native American Nations and are just about every race and creed just as our Native Oklahoma is. Sir, you have no idea how much our hearts swelled with pride as we saw the colors of the Choctaw Nation on the buses round the corner of Camp Shelby to give us transportation back to our beloved Oklahoma. A resounding cheer went up from the crowd of those who knew those em-

blems and colors and those who didn’t know gave a robust cheer immediately upon learning the meaning of the buses and their colors. It was a moment which will forever be etched in my memory.

I know there was a lot of planning to get this off the ground and implemented and that there are so many people behind the scenes who may not have a prominent mention made of them. I wish to thank each and every one of those individuals for what their help was and for them to really know how much this gesture means to us.

I write this letter of appreciation to all those who were responsible for the soldiers to be able to travel home and visit their homes, loved ones, friends and their Oklahoma one last time before we all shipped to a foreign land.

I know it is but a small token, but please accept this flag of the Choctaw Nation signed by the members of the 1st platoon of Co D 1-180th Infantry Battalion as a symbol of our gratitude and sincere appreciation for what you have done for us. We pledge to defend the flag of the United States and the continued existence of the people of the Choctaw Nation with all being and to rank it as first and foremost in our prayers and hearts. We salute you and all your people for supporting us and the people we all strive to defend.

**Staff Sgt. Dallas Wilson**



### 2nd Lt. Brian Anderson

Brian F. G. Anderson graduated from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tennessee, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air National Guard.

The six-week, in-resident course curriculum is designed to prepare the officer candidate for initial assignment as a commissioned officer and to serve as a foundation to build a career in the Air Force reserve components. The major subject areas of instruction included military studies, physical training, academic studies, professional development, communicative skills, leadership and management, international security and defense studies.

After graduation, the lieutenant either attends further career development training or returning to his resident state unit of assignment. Anderson is a navigator assigned to the 137th Airlift Wing, Oklahoma City. He is currently attending further training in San Antonio, Texas.

2nd Lt. Anderson is a 1996 graduate from Talihina High School. In 2003, he received a bachelor’s degree in aviation from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. He is the son of Pam L. Anderson and the late Floyd G. Anderson of Talihina.

## From the war zone ...

**Happy Holidays Everyone!**

By the time you read this, Christmas will have come and gone and a huge crowd in New York’s Times Square (and in parties across the country) will have watched the descending globe as everyone counted down to midnight and the year 2007. The holidays will be over and it will be back to business as usual.

Until all of that comes to pass, there has been a huge surge in the mail. Small boxes, medium boxes, large boxes, and even larger boxes have arrived. Some are decorated with crayon or marker drawings of snowmen, Santa Claus, reindeer and Christmas trees. Some are heavily taped while others are secured with thick loops of twine. The boxes are pouring in from family and friends, and community organizations.

And when the boxes are opened there’s everything from toothpaste to toothbrushes to Baby Wipes to socks to checkers sets to Christmas decorations to candy bars, beef jerky, marshmallows, raisins, homemade cookies – and even a live Christmas tree from Maine! There’s blank Christmas cards we can mail back home and there’s signed Christmas cards addressed to “Any Soldier.”

As I type this, soldiers are opening several huge boxes that were delivered to a Maine soldier today. The soldier’s wife and others obtained giant Santa Claus hats and stuffed them with treats, a few small presents (including a small

stuffed animal), and a Christmas card addressed by name to the soldier and signed “Love, Maine Family.” There’s a Santa Claus hat for every soldier in our company.

But what really comes to mind when I look at the crude wooden porch in front of our company headquarters overflowing with boxes and bright red Santa Claus hats, is the people who took the time to do all of this. Most of us don’t know their names and never will, but someone took the time to not only gather and pack all of this, but to write a few short words in a Christmas card.

Webcams and e-mails are fine and telephone calls are great. At best those are fleeting touches. What lasts is being able to read again and again a card that someone took the time to choose and to personally write a few words in. You can put the card on your desk or tape it to your wall locker or even tape it to the frame of the bunk bed in your wooden-floored tent. A card is such a simple thing and at the same time such a great thing.

Thank you to everyone, whether you’re from Oklahoma, Maine, Nevada, or Arizona, for remembering us while we’re at war half a world away.

Take care and Happy Holidays to you and yours!



**SSG Stan Hampton Sr.**

## Dempsey awarded Medal of Valor

SPC Gary Dempsey, U.S. Army, has been awarded the Medal of Valor for heroically distinguishing himself in the face of our country’s enemies. A platoon sergeant’s humvee driver, SPC Dempsey and the members of Delta Company, 3rd Platoon (Blue), were stood up as the Battalion Quick Reactionary Force to assist in eliminating heavily armed anti-Iraqi forces near the town of Khan Bani Saad, which has become a part of the 4th infantry Division’s main effort in eliminating insurgent activities in the Baghdad area of operations.

On the afternoon of August 22, 2006, 3rd Platoon was stood up as the Battalion’s Quick Reactionary Force. It had been reported that the village of Al Sebbat near Khan Bani Saad had a number of heavily armed anti-Iraqi Forces conducting operations. The platoon was given the task of fixing the enemy and denying them ex filtration routes to the west and to the north. The company team consisting of 3rd Platoon and Delta 6 informed all elements that there were approximately 20 to 25 individuals heavily armed with RPG-7s, PKC and AK-47 assault rifles. SPC Dempsey was driving the Blue 4 crew as the third truck in the company assault force. The patrol was roughly 700 meters from the target location.

The lead vehicle reported men running, carrying RPG-7s and various machine guns. The lead vehicle immediately increased speed and the platoon instantly started receiving heavy weapons fire from the east, where the individuals had run. Alpha section moved across a drainage ditch so that Alpha and Bravo sections were separated on the different sides of the ditch. SFC Sherrill and SGT Bratton dismounted and began firing at the insurgents.

Meanwhile, SPC Dempsey immediately maneuvered the humvee to the best possible position. Five detainees were shortly brought over by SSG Ferrari to the Blue 4 truck. Dempsey, on his own, zip-cuffed the detainees and moved them to where they were out of harm’s way.

As fire turned on their position, pinning down the four dismounts, SPC Dempsey coordinated suppressive fire from the Delta Blue 4 vehicle

by helping the gunner and by personally dismounting and firing his M-16, the whole time in the face of enemy fire. Dempsey’s actions made it possible for CPT Turner, SFC Sherill, SSG Callahan and SGT Bratton to make it back to the safety of the Blue 4 truck unscathed.

His actions also resulted in 13 anti-Iraqi personnel being captured, as well as confiscating four RPG launchers, seven RPG-7 rounds, three PKC machine gun systems, 15 AK-47 assault rifles, six hand grenades, and numerous small arm ammunition, and magazines for different weapon systems.

SPC Dempsey’s valorous actions helped save the lives of five detainees and four Coalition Service members and preserve a better way of life for the people of Al Sebbat. He fully displayed all of the Army values and placed the lives and safety of his comrades before his own. SPC Dempsey reflects great credit upon himself, Destroyer Company, the Silver Lion Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, the Band of Brothers and the U.S. Army.

### PFC Jason Brannigan

PFC Jason Brannigan, 21, is assigned to the 4BCT, 1st CAV, B Co based at Fort Bliss, Texas. Brannigan has been deployed to Mosul, Iraq. He is the son of Patrick Brannigan and the grandson of Lucille Ott Brannigan.

He is the great-grandson of Roy and Carrie Keener Ott, deceased, of Coalgate. Jason was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and attended Glendale Community College. Jason’s wife, Arely, resides in Phoenix as well as his father and grandmother. We ask for your prayers for all our men and women in uniform. Jason, we are proud of you and love you. Stay safe!



## Choctaw colors fly in Camp Phoenix



The Choctaw Nation flag was raised at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving Day of 2006. Raising the flag are SGT Phillip Galan, CPT Clint Carman, SFC Dean Wyatt, SPC Dustin Johnson, 1SG Allen Robertson.





## Good Guys at Hugo

Dads ... grandparents ... uncles ... the Good Guys got together in Hugo planning activities to do with their children to show how important male involvement and role models are. The group would especially like to thank Home Depot for sponsoring and supporting the Good Guys program by bringing craft projects for the families to put together.



## ATTENTION

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) has partnered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Muskogee Regional Office, to probate estates and bring ownerships up to date on restricted Indian allotments. OILS has received a listing of estates covered in the grant with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Listed below are those names. If you or other members of your family are related to or know the family of those listed, please contact the OILS office to begin the probate process. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the family and there are no income or residency requirements. You may call toll-free instate at **1-800-658-1497** or if you live out of state, **1-405-943-6457**.

Robert Abbi  
Nina Alvarez (Thomas)  
Cecil W. Amos  
Everett L. Amos  
Evelyn (Wallace) Amos  
Wilma aka Ruth Amos  
Emmett J. Austin  
Lula M. Bohanan Baken  
Margaret (Amos) Baker  
Margaret Baker  
George D. Baker  
Wanda (Sam) Banta  
Gladys (Yearby) Baptiste  
Jerry L. Baptiste  
Lorencie (Wade) Battiest  
Catherine (Taylor) Battiest  
Ervin D. Battiest  
Helen (Shoemaker) Begay  
Ella (Farve) Bell  
Stephen Belvin  
Anthony Bohanan  
Kelsey Bohanan  
Catherine (Robinson) Bordeaux  
Louella Faye (Wisdom) Braswell  
Frank A. Brokeshoulder  
Selina (James) Brown  
Aaron Bully  
Hubert D. Bully  
Willie Byington

Lucille (Bob) Campos  
Lois A. (Bully) Carnes  
Johnny L. Carney  
Vivian (Daney) Carson  
Lizzie Clay  
Thelia M. (Jefferson) Clevenger  
Turner Cochnauer  
Nancy Cooper  
Richard S. Daney  
Dean Daney  
Joyce (Jack) Elmore  
Esther (Ameatubbee) Epperson  
Evelyn (Jefferson) Erickson  
Edmond Fobb  
Leona (Samuel) Francis  
Rayson Going  
Curtis Going  
Helen S. (Robinson) Gover  
Corinne (Lancaster) Halfmoon

Flora M. (Winship) Hankins  
Lucy (Bohanan) Hardy  
Herbert F. Harrington  
Luke Harris Jr.  
Amon C. Hayes  
Lucille (Wright) Henderson  
Raymond L. Isaac  
Emma (Davis) Jack  
Jim Jack  
Jonas Jackson  
Lee Jefferson  
Raphael Jefferson  
Theodore P. Jefferson  
Harry Jefferson  
Benita (Jones) John  
Lorene E. (Ludlow) Johnson  
Dixon Johnston  
Velma (Wilma) L. (Sockey) Knight  
Rebecca M. (Harris) Lester  
Oslin Delmar Lewis  
Myrtle (Wesley) Loman  
Nicholas Mambi  
William Mambi  
Bobby J. Mann  
Oliver A. Mansfield  
Michael L. Marris  
Robert R. Marris  
Nathan L. McGee  
Joseph Meashintubby  
Ezra R. Merryman Jr.

Florence (Stallaby) Muncy  
Leona M. (Burriss) Murphy  
Buster Ned  
Rosie M. (Lewis) Noah  
Stephen J. Noahobi  
Nelson J. Noahobi  
Patricia Overshon (Wade)  
Luther Bert Owens  
Elijah Parish  
Sham Parish  
Sampson Parish  
Noah Parish Sr.  
Stella L. Patterson  
Billy Dewayne Phillips  
William Phillips  
Vernon F. Pope  
Kent Postoak  
Francille Postoak  
Louisa (Bacon) Pulliam  
Pauline (Samuel) Reynolds  
James Robinson  
Aline (Johnic) Robinson  
Milton Robinson Jr.  
Donna E. (Watson) Robke  
Lena Romo (Willis)  
Teresa A. (Postoak) Rushing  
Leroy Sam  
Virgil Sam  
Raymond Samuel  
Rena (Roberts) Samuels  
Ada Shoemaker  
Dan Shoemaker  
Edmond Shoemaker  
Nellie (Gpison) Shomo  
Austin Smith  
Mary E. (Idlett) Smith  
Abbie (Postoak) Smith  
Roy Sockey  
James Stallaby  
Calvin R. Stallaby  
Luther Stephens aka Ontaiyabi

Naomi R. (Battiest) Stewart  
Joseph R. Sweeney  
Junia (Isaac) Taylor  
Owen Taylor  
Jencie (Tom) Taylor  
Wallace Bird Tekubie  
Stephen Thomas Jr.  
Susie Thompson  
Susie Marie (Polk) Thompson  
Jonas B. Thompson Jr.  
John Tom Jr.  
Harold H. Tomlinson Jr.  
Levicy (Jefferson) Tonihka  
Houston Totubbi  
Effie Tubbee (Johnson)  
Leroy Tushka  
Josiah Ward  
Ramsey H. Ward  
Luther Ward  
Jeffery C. Waters  
Norman Watson  
Effie L. (Samuel) Watson  
Wendell B. Watson  
Thedo T. Watson Sr.  
Sandra Webster  
Jerrie L. (Lewis) White Eagle  
Johnny Wilkerson  
Virginia M. Williams  
William Wilson  
Glenn R. Wilson  
Joshlin Wilson  
Paul A. Wilson  
Louie Winship  
Abe F. Winter  
Geraldine (Cusher) Woodard  
David Wright  
Bobby York  
Alfonzo Zelman



### 10-pointer

Congratulations to Caleb Peterson, 15, of Durant. He brought home a 10-point buck.

## Prescribed Burning and Firewise Landscaping Workshop

Ouachita Mountains RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) Inc. is sponsoring a Prescribed Burning and Firewise Landscaping Workshop near Fort Towson on February 6. Landowners who want to increase their knowledge about Prescribed Burning in Oklahoma and to improve the landscaping to protect their homes against wildfires are encouraged to attend this workshop.

The workshop is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. at the Ouachita Mountains RC&D Environmental Education Center which is located one mile west of Fort Towson, two miles north, and three-quarters mile west off US Highway 70.

At the workshop you can learn about:

- Controlling wildfires with firewise landscaping practices
- The effects of wildfire on timber, wildlife, and livestock that have been learned from 25 years of research on the oak-pine forests in southeast Oklahoma
- Prescribed burning methods

There will also be an afternoon demonstration in the field

on Prescribed Burning.

Workshop presenters include:

- Steve Mattax, Staff Forester/Firewise Coordinator with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, Forestry Division, Oklahoma City
- Terry Bidwell, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Stillwater
- Tom Lowry, Director of the Forestry Department for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Tahihina

Cost for the workshop is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required to ensure enough food will be available for lunch. For additional information or to register for the workshop, call 918-423-2479.

The workshop is being sponsored by the following:

- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- National Forest Foundation
- Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
- Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, & Forestry – Forestry Division
- Ouachita Mountains RC&D Inc.
- USDA Forest Service

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Weyerhaeuser Company of Oklahoma

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## Pebworth/Pebsworth Family Reunion

The Pebworth/Pebsworth Family Reunion is scheduled for July 13-15. Due to the Lake Texoma Resort being sold and remodeling going on, it has been decided to move the reunion into Durant. There will be a high demand for rooms in Durant, so please book early!!! We have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn, Durant. Reference Pebworth/Pebsworth Reunion. Excess rooms will be released March 31. No minimum night stay.

Please let us know your thoughts on lunch. Todd has called several of you and you all suggested to go to one restaurant, and also just to pair up and go wherever. We would like your input on this. Contact Todd and Robin Pebsworth, 505-309-6982 (cell) or e-mail [todd.pebsworth@brookeagent.com](mailto:todd.pebsworth@brookeagent.com).

For events, shopping, entertainment and additional lodging, visit the [www.durantchamber.org](http://www.durantchamber.org) or [www.choctaw-nation.com](http://www.choctaw-nation.com) websites.



### Bagging their first bucks

Congratulations to Tiffany Johnson, 19, and Cory Johnson, 14, for getting their first bucks! Tiffany's was an 8-point with a 15-inch spread weighing in at 138 pounds. Cory's was a 7-point with a 17-inch spread weighing in at 100 pounds. They were shot within one hour of each other. Way to go, guys!

## CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

FEBRUARY 2007	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.				1	2 Idabel 10 am-2 pm <small>Groundhog Day (Candaces)</small>	3
	4	5 Antlers by appt only	6 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	7 Durant 10 am-12 pm	8	9 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	10
	11	12	13	14 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	15	16 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	17
	18	19 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	20 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	21 Durant by appt only	22	23 Bethel by appt only	24
	25	26	27 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	28 Wright City by appt only			



# Thanksgiving Memories



Chief Greg Pyle, Christine Harris and Councilman Delton Cox are ready for District 4's Thanksgiving dinner.



Debbie Welker, Laurel Blankenship and Imogene Welch attend the Poteau Thanksgiving celebration.



Chief Pyle welcomes Josephine Harjo to the Poteau center.



One of the newest Choctaws on the block, Victoria Davis is Grandpa Sam Rivers' little Sugar Pie.



District 2 Councilman Mike Amos, left, speaks to the Bethel-area residents while Ashlyn Bond, above, listens intently.



Enjoying the holiday at Bethel are Lucy White, her grandson Jimmy Dale Billy, and Annie Noah.



Olin Williams of the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation office is among the many employees serving dinner.



It's time for turkey and dressing with all the trimmings at Antlers.



At the Antlers head table – Councilman Jack Austin, Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Antlers Mayor Brent Franks and Rep. R.C. Pruitt.



It was a full house for the holiday meal at the newly renovated Choctaw Community Center in Coalgate.



District 12 Little Miss Raven Ott helped Councilman James Frazier in drawing for door prizes.



Councilman Hap Ward and Idabel residents gather for their Thanksgiving celebration.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey greets Senior of the Year Carrie Bohanan at Broken Bow. It was a full house for the good food and fellowship.



Vicki Smith gets her flu shot while at Smithville.



Lindsey Rose looks happy to be there.



Smithville's Councilman, Kenny Bryant, visits with Con Cushner.





Ramona Baker, Carol Suggs, Chief Greg Pyle holding 2-year-old Aryor Lowe and Michell Lowe gather for Stigler's Thanksgiving luncheon. Happy birthday to Ramona on November 18!



Imogene Terrill and Joanna Davis at Stigler.



Executive Health Director Gary Batton says hello to William and Robbie Martin.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Alisha Hardy smile for a picture at Wright City.



Lawrence Battiest and Wright City's Councilman, Jack Austin.



Grandma Bertha is pictured with Whitney Jefferson, great-granddaughter Brianna Jefferson and Brock Jefferson.



At Wright City, four-month-old Kyra Franklin gives her Papa Timmy Franklin a big smile.



Mozelle Jefferson of Red Oak, Councilman Joe Coley, Ola Maye Draper of Wilburton, and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey gather for the Thanksgiving dinner at Wilburton.



Vernon and Carolyn Underwood visit with Assistant Chief Bailey at Wilburton.



Councilman Coley is pictured with Evelyn Prock, Audie Prock and Kylie and Rylie Mote.



Louise and Stan O'Banion of Clayton and Marie Wagoner of Talihina join in the Talihina Thanksgiving festivities.



Enjoying the sunshine at Talihina are Willis Melton, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Martha Comby, Benjamin Melton Jr., Johnny Melton and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.



Viola McCurtain and Dorothy Melton are pictured with Councilman Bryant and Assistant Chief Bailey.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Talihina resident Harry James.



Talihina Councilman Kenny Bryant and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey visit with Tony Hulbutta, Shyla and Mahala of Wilburton.



Assistant Chief Bailey, Councilperson Charlotte Jackson, Bill Coleman Sr. and Marilyn Mize are relaxed after their Thanksgiving meal at Spiro.



Anna Faith Curry, Brenda Lovejoy, Stella Thornburg and Connie VeeCamp at Spiro.



Elizabeth Impson, Roberta Anglen, Marie Yazzie and Mary Jones are among the Spiro-area residents gathering at the community center.



Assistant Chief Bailey and Dora Hansen.



Richard Adams and Osborne Kenieutubbe enjoy their visit during the community Thanksgiving dinner at McAlester.



Choctaw Nation employees pitch in at the McAlester center to help serve the delicious food.



Celebrating the holidays in McAlester are Councilman Bob Pate and Cordell Henry.



## OBITUARIES

### Samuel ‘Sam’ Hopkins

Samuel “Sam” Hopkins, 75, passed away November 27, 2006, in Silo. He was born on December 25, 1930, in Caney to Thomas O. and Dora Wade Hopkins.

Sam married Charlene A. Anderson on April 27, 1968, in Melissa, Texas. He was a member of the Silo Baptist Church. He worked for the Silo Schools, retired from Champion Color and then later retired from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, of which he dearly loved. Mr. Hopkins enjoyed being with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Charlene Hopkins; brother, Able Hopkins; and sisters, Lena Hampton and Jewel Pair.

Survivors include his children, Samuel Hopkins Jr. of Silo, Melody Reid and husband Robert of Mead, Byron Hopkins and wife Tally of Durant, Cindy Cloyd and husband Randy of Silo and Ricky Hopkins and wife Kathy of Blue; grandchildren, Becky Ray Hopkins of Durant, Melissa Wolf, Erin Cloyd and Kyle Cloyd, all of Silo, Daniel Hopkins of Blue, Brandon Crawford of Mead, Alexander Hopkins of Durant, Hayden Davis and Micaela Davis, both of Mead, Darlene Hopkins and Rachel Hopkins, both of Durant, Samuel Hopkins III and Alexander Charles Hopkins, both of Silo; six great-grandchildren; brothers, Thomas Lee Hopkins and Roy Paul “Frog” Hopkins, both of Caddo; sisters, Mary Seal of Wichita Falls, Texas, and Ruby McCurry and Rosie Fry, both of Durant; and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Edward Wilson Herndon

Edward Wilson Herndon passed away October 31, 2006, in Shawnee. He was born May 11, 1940, in Valliant to Edward Harrison “Buddy” Herndon and Toru Orvetta Wilson. Referred to as “Wilson” by his friends and family, he was raised by his maternal grandmother, Emma Bohannon Wilson, while his parents worked. His Choctaw lineage included Raphael Franklin Wilson and Emma Jane Bohannon, maternal grandparents, and Lucy Herndon and Edgar B. Herndon, paternal grandparents.

He grew up in the Valliant community, but graduated from Wyandotte High School where his mother taught school. His higher education included Eastern Oklahoma State and College of Sante Fe, New Mexico, and he earned a bachelor’s degree from Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

He was married in 1970 to Samarian Scott. He attended the Shawnee First Indian Baptist Church.

Edward’s career began as Boys Advisor at Riverside Indian School, Anadarko, in 1965. He then worked as a social worker with the Oklahoma Department of Public Welfare in 1968. He re-entered the federal service in 1970 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anadarko, in the areas of employment assistance and career development. He then moved on to become Tribal Operations Officer at the Shawnee Indian Agency in 1976. After working with the Pottawatomie Tribe for a short while, he retired in 1998 from the federal government. He returned to work in 2005 for the Absentee Shawnee Tribe as Realty Director where he was currently employed.

Widely known in the Indian world, Edward was consulted many times for his knowledge of Indian cultures and traditions, tribal government and law, and the ways of the Indian people. He was known as a loyal and compassionate man who not only cared about his friends and family, but had a place in his heart and home for the stray and lost animals that crossed his path.

He was preceded in death by his parents and, most recently, his sister, Ruth Austine Scott, formerly of Chico, California.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Samarian; two daughters and sons-in-law, Keena and Scott Harris of Alma, Colorado, and Kristi and John Holland of Frisco, Texas; grandsons Cody, Colton and Chance Holland of Frisco; sister Patricia Pound of Klamath Falls, Oregon; cousin Linda Saffel of Haughton, Louisiana; nieces, nephews, and many friends and relatives. In addition to the family, he leaves behind his beloved basset hound, Quinton.

Wilson’s family would be pleased to hear from readers who would like to share memories, genealogical information and the like. Please e-mail samarian1@sbcglobal.net.

### Engle Duane Southard

Engle Duane Southard passed away peacefully on October 28, 2006, with his wife, Shelley, and daughter, Emily, by his side. He was born July 3, 1933, in Clovis, New Mexico, the son of Engle Southard and Revel Crorey.

He graduated from the University of New Mexico with a B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering. He spent his dedicated career at Union Carbide and retired from DOW Chemical in 2002. Engle was known for his passion for life including his own Native American art, appreciation of nature, and his athletic ability. The passion he has inspired in others will be left as his legacy. He will be missed greatly. His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his son, Steven Southard; daughter, Paula Glaser; brother, Mark Southard; and sisters, Gaye Glaser and Mary Ann Koughl.



### Thelma ‘Pearl’ Campbell

Thelma “Pearl” Campbell, 79, passed away October 10, 2005. Born May 10, 1926, in Insipio, she was the daughter of original enrollee Ann Lowe.

She married Monroe Campbell on August 29, 1943, and they had seven children – Peggy Sue, deceased, Sandra June, Vera May, Louise, Nyoka, Rick James and Roger Dean.

She worked at Knudsen’s Frozen Foods in Santa Maria, California, for 20 years. She loved church, going fishing and playing cards. She will be truly missed.



### Marie Orman

Marie Orman, 85, of Stigler, Oklahoma, passed away August 26, 2006, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was born November 18, 1920, in McCurtain, Oklahoma, to Wilburn and Lizzie Johnson James.

Marie was preceded in death by son Ramsey Lee Thompson Jr.; daughter Evylena Thompson, Wilburn James and Lizzie James, and her husband, Joe Orman.

Survivors include four daughters, Carol Doecha Harris and husband, Carson, of Star, Oklahoma, Betty Tanner and husband, George, of Eufaula, Rosetta Copeman and husband, Charles, of Stigler and Linda Nunn and husband, Bill, of Stigler; three granddaughters, Marilyn Bullock, Gwendolyn Leflore and Deborah Darrow; five grandsons, Lawrence Terrell, Billy Terrell, Sammy Copeman, Charles Wayne Copeman and Roland Nunn; three great-granddaughters, Ashley Marie Bullock, Cheyenne Darrow and April Terrell; and seven great-grandsons, Dane Bullock, Billy Terrell Jr., Arron Terrell, Tyler Terrell, Jacob Copeman, Lando Copeman and Alex “Precious” Nunn.



### Crandall Jay Ludlow

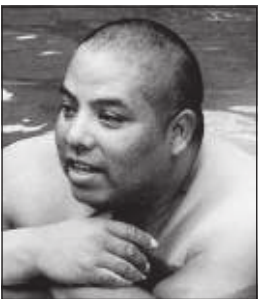
Crandall Jay Ludlow, 36, of Honobia passed away September 8, 2006. He was born on July 13, 1970, in Talihina to Lolin and Gladys Samuel Ludlow.

He married Teresa Pope on September 14, 2000, in Hatfield, Arkansas. He was employed by Tyson Foods Inc. in Grannis, Arkansas, for 18 years as a forklift operator.

He loved to play softball, horseshoes, fish and to go four-wheeling. He was a beloved husband and father who loved spending time with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Gladys Ludlow; brother, Marlon D. Ludlow; grandparents, Gardner and Marie Amos Samuel and Ray D. and Adeline Johnson Ludlow, and one uncle, Pat Joe Samuel.

Survivors include his wife, Teresa Ludlow of the home; sons, Brenden and Tyler Ludlow of the home; daughter, Ashton Ludlow of the home; three brothers, Darryl and Collette Samuels of Broken Bow, Ted and Denise Ludlow of Wickes, Arkansas, and Harlan and Geraldine Ludlow of Talihina; sister, Araina Rose and Robert Palmer of Ada; father, Lolin Ludlow, and stepmother, Jimmie Davis, of Talihina; numerous nieces and nephews who knew him as “Uncle Bird” and a host of friends.



### Christopher Wilson

Christopher Bryan Wilson, 18, passed away November 27, 2006, in Tulsa. He was born March 23, 1988, in Talihina to Diane Wilson and Mark Jordan.

Christopher spent most of his spare time working with car stereos and fishing. He was also excited about his unborn baby and his new job with Southern Disposal that he enjoyed working at.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Corena Wilson, and his cousin, Brandon Shane Fromme.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Diane Wilson and Lupe Renteria of Antlers; his father, Mark Jordan of Louisiana; one brother, Trevor Wilson of Antlers; grandfather, George Wilson Sr. of Antlers; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan of Louisiana; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Chris was glowing with pride and a beacon of light to us all.



### Sidney Wallace Sage

Sidney Wallace Sage, 77, of Talihina passed away November 20, 2006, at Talihina. He was born May 30, 1929, in Buffalo Valley to Clyde and Opal Watson Sage.

Mr. Sage served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of Talihina VFW Post and Talihina Round-up Club. He was a heavy equipment operator.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Delphia Foutch; two brothers, E.C. “Fat” Sage and Darrell Sage; and two grandchildren, Tara and David.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel Sage of the home; son, Ron and Karen Sage of Riverside, California; daughters, Sydney and Joe Montooth and Nita and Scott Neilson, all of Eufaula, and Wanda and Larry Headrick of Dutton, Alabama; brother, Bob Sage of Sacramento, California; sisters, Sylvia Sage of Miami, Oklahoma, Freda and Ted Higgason of Fresno, California, Clyda and Vern Hunter of Talihina and Claudean and Bill Erdner of Sand Springs; 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

### Opal Wilson

Opal Wilson, 70, of Idabel passed away November 27, 2006, at Tulsa. She was born April 24, 1936, in the Goodwater community, the daughter of Jakob McKinney. She married Caston Wilson in July 1968 at Idabel.

Opal enjoyed doing Christian work by handing out the little tract booklets for salvation. She collected pretty pins and what-nots of many kinds. Going to yard sales with her little pocketbook of change was a joy to her. Another person’s junk was a treasure to her. She was a simple person, nothing bright or flashy, just Mama. Those who knew her knew she was funny, smart and a Christian. She was just happy to be alive. She enjoyed flowers of all kinds, sewing and doing crossword puzzles. She just took life easy in her golden years and loved spending time with family and church friends. Opal was of the Baptist faith and a member of the Choctaw Baptist Church. She was a lifetime resident of the area.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband of 38 years, Caston Michael Wilson of the home; sons and daughter-in-law, Billy and Jill Murphy of Stillwater and Richard Wilson of Edmond; daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen Bibi of Virginia, Merry Murphy and Russell Parker of Dekalb, Texas, and Carol Murphy and Michael Loman of Idabel; seven grandchildren, Tyler, Carman and Cailee Murphy, Jasin and Joseph Bibi, Jessie Thompson, and Kelly Loman; one great-granddaughter; a special sister-in-law, Arlene Wilson of Lawton; her church family whom she cherished dearly along with numerous friends she made throughout her life.

### Mary Harkins Vogel

Mary Harkins Vogel, 52, passed away November 13, 2006, at Dallas, Texas. She was born February 9, 1954, in Talihina, the daughter of the Rev. David and Marie Gibson Harkins. She grew up in church, first in Talihina and then her parents moved to Dallas.

She married Kraig Vogel of Dallas on September 17, 1994. They were a loving couple. Mary was an active member of United Indian Methodist Church before her illness. She made Indian jewelry and other items of Native American culture. She had a big heart and a big smile for everyone she met. She will be missed.

Her parents; a sister, Quida, and a baby brother preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Kraig Vogel of Dallas; her cat, Bonny; aunts, Linda Newsom and Norma Embry, both of Denison, Texas, and Wynona Lawrence of Calera; cousins, Brenda and Charley Newsom, Ricky and Debra Embry, Gregg Newsom, Kenneth Norton and Mike Embry; and many nieces and nephews.



### Jerry O’Neil Riley

Jerry O’Neil Riley, 66, of the Paoli and Wayne area, passed away November 24, 2006, at Wayne. He was born April 11, 1940, in Pauls Valley to George Franklin and Mary Elizabeth Jarrel Riley.

He and Patsy Casey were married on June 21, 1988, in Yukon. Jerry was a skilled mechanic and truck driver. He was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, J.W. Riley and Don Riley; two sisters, Oleta Wells and Frances Chandler; and a stepdaughter, Gayla Watson.

Survivors include his three children, Rebecca Lynn Riley and Dale Dewayne Riley of Austin, Arkansas, and Jennifer Rose Riley of Corcoran, California; his stepchildren, John Kevin Casey of Paoli, Tammy Gerdes and her husband, Steve, of Oklahoma City and Shannon Lathrop and her husband, Kyle, of Blanchard; three sisters, Frankie Kile of Wynnewood, Mary Ann Fielder of Paoli and Ellen Kifer of Moore; two brothers, Robert Leon Riley and his wife, Norma, of Blanchard and Kenneth Riley and his wife, Myrle, of Sulphur; four grandchildren, Brandon Riley, Monick Riley, Benjamin Riley and Clayton Riley; six step-grandchildren, Kori Wilson, Amber Gerdes, Cinnamon Gerdes and Emily Lathrop, Christopher Wilson and Brax Casey; one great-granddaughter, Brook Riley, and one step-great-grandson, Braden Russell.

### Ella Hollowell

Ella Hollowell, 95, of Cooper, Texas, passed away November 29, 2006, at Paris Regional Medical Center. She was born August 26, 1911, in Oklahoma, the daughter of Alex B. Thompson and Annie Lee Williams Thompson.

She had lived in Delta County most of her life, was a seamstress and a member of the First Baptist Church in Cooper. She was the daughter of an original enrollee.

Ella married Frank Atwood in 1928 and he preceded her in death in 1937. She married Ted Hollowell in 1939 and he passed away in 1980.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Samuel, Lemuel and Clements Thompson, and a sister, Dora Sanders.

Survivors include a daughter, Frankie Hinsley of Cooper; five grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 21 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Jerry Don Wilson

Jerry Don Wilson, 71, of Dallas, Texas, passed away October 26, 2006, in Irving, Texas. He was born March 28, 1935, in Overton, Texas, to T.C. and Fern Berneice Lowery Wilson. He was a longtime resident of the Dallas area and was an accountant for Friendly Chevrolet for 21 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his son, Jim Wilson of Mountain View, California, and his former wife, Jonell Vicens of Las Vegas, Nevada.

### A.E. Beal

A.E. Beal of Kingfisher passed away on November 20, 2006. A former resident of Broken Arrow and Tulsa, he was born January 2, 1931, in Durant to Daisy and Andy Claud Beal.

At the age of four, his family moved to the Frederick, Oklahoma, area where he attended Weaver schools.

In 1952, during the Korean Conflict, he entered the U.S. Army and was a member of the U.S. Paratroopers 82nd Airborne Division as a T/Sgt.

He married Beverly Faller in Frederick in 1953. This was a very close relationship for all of its 53 years. Two children, Rodney and Shari, were born to the union.

A.E. worked for Mistletoe Express Service for over 20 years as a driver then as operations manager in the Tulsa office. He worked for Ford Motor Co., and then in the Tulsa Glass Plant for over 18 years where he retired in 1994. After retirement, A.E. and Beverly spent the winters in the Texas Gulf Coast area.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, D.C., M.P. and Robert Beal.

Survivors include wife Beverly of the home; son Rodney Beal and wife Terri of Owasso; daughter Shari Dean and husband David of Kingfisher; four sisters, Juanita Clark and Mona Hobbs, both of Bakersfield, California, Gracie Gilbert of Cabool, Missouri, and Annie and husband Glenn Peters of Modesto, California; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### Curtis D. McGee

Curtis D. McGee, 47, of Lawton passed away October 27, 2006, at an Oklahoma City hospital. He was born May 19, 1959, in Duncan to Richard and Jeannie McGee.

Curtis graduated from Duncan High School in 1977 and from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, in 1981. He was a member of Parkview Baptist Church, Duncan. He was a mental health technician at Parker Point Group Home, Lawton.

His father preceded him in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Amanda Sue McGee and companion Dylan Ballard of Moore; his mother of Marlow; former wife and best friend, Julie McGee of Lawton; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Pam Shelton of Yukon; an aunt, Linda Proveance of Edmond; four nephews; three nieces, and several cousins.





## OBITUARIES

### Lavada Washington Byous

Lavada Amelia Washington Byous of Arlington, Texas, passed away November 26, 2006. She was a longtime resident of Arlington. She was born September 14, 1929, in rural Summerfield, Oklahoma.

Survivors include two sons, John Cecil Byous and wife Lela of Midlothian, Texas, and Gary Byous of Mead; one brother, David Washington of Heavener; seven grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and four nieces. She will be greatly missed.



### Viola S. Melton

Viola S. Melton, 92, of Eufaula passed away on December 1, 2006, at the Wellington Hills Nursing Home. She was born on July 19, 1914, in Smithville to Jerry and Rosie Nell Mayabee Samuel.

Viola married Chester Melton in 1941 in Oklahoma. She loved being a housewife and mother. She was an outdoor person who loved fishing, making a garden, raising children, and picking up stray dogs. We could not pass a lost dog without picking it up and bringing it home. She was great at cooking chicken, the Colonel had nothing on her. She was a great mother and friend who will be missed so very much.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; four brothers, Wesley, Albert, Gilbert and Jerry Samuels; and one sister, Flora Lee Adams.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Louise Melton of Eufaula; one sister, Kathryn Thorpe of Hugo; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

### Faith Marie Allison

Faith Marie Allison, 82, of Phoenix, Arizona, passed away November 25, 2006, of complications resulting from a car accident. She fought hard but was unable to overcome the devastating injuries. She was born April 21, 1924, in Oklahoma City. She was adopted away from the tribe but was always proud of her Choctaw heritage.



Faith was first and foremost a loving mother and grandmother. She charmed all who knew her with her lively, upbeat personality and strong fashion sense. She was also an avid sports fan and split her time between watching sports, keeping abreast of current events through newspapers and “Regis,” enjoying the Arizona shopping and dining scene, tending to her home and flowers, visiting her children, taking care of her cat, and providing for the house mouse. She was loved by her family and friends.

Survivors include her husband, Dad; her daughters, Jean Sewell and husband Mike of Grand Junction, Colorado, and Kay Gustafson and husband Bill of Oklahoma City; her son, Buz Bainbridge and wife Janet of La Quinta, California; grandchildren Brooke Wehba, Tim Sewell and Pam Sewell-Waggoner; and her four great-grandchildren.

### Roy M. Folsom

Roy M. Folsom, 91, of McAlester passed away December 6, 2006, at a local nursing center. Born September 2, 1915, in Caddo, he was the son of George M. and Nannie Hopkins Folsom.

He graduated from high school in Quanah, Texas, attended Murray State College in Tishomingo for two years, receiving his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry. He later completed post graduate work in animal science and economics and management at Texas Technological University.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on January 7, 1943, and was discharged on November 5, 1945, at the rank of private first class. He received the American Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and three Overseas Service Bars. He was the U.S. Indian Service Farm Agent for the Cherokee Nation in Tulsa and Stillwell. He was an instructor in animal science at Midwestern University at Wichita Falls, Texas, after which he spent several years at Sheppard Air Force Base as an instructor in maintenance management, aircraft and missiles. He served as a VA agricultural training specialist at Muskogee and Durant and in the Dallas area for junior college level and vo-tech school. He was a licensed real estate broker and appraiser since 1974 in Oklahoma and Texas. In addition to having a ranch and raising commercial cattle, he was active in the construction business in the Dallas area.

He married Joyce Lakey Owens on December 3, 1983, in McAlester. He was a member of Frink Baptist Church and served on the school board at Jones Academy. He was a Masonic member of the Blue Lodge in Tyler, Texas, a 32nd Degree Masonic member of the McAlester Scottish Rite, and Shriner with the Bedouin Temple at Muskogee.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, Roy M. Folsom Jr.; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Nell and Ray Willis; his first wife, Roberta Folsom, and his second wife, Dorothy Folsom.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Folsom of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Leigh and Richard Kuhlmann of Edmond and Leslie and Pete Hampel of Palmer, Texas; five grandchildren, Timothy Hampel and David Hampel, both of Palmer, Heather Hampel of Atlanta, and Jonathan Birdwell and Jason Birdwell, both of Moore; and a nephew, George Willis of Carlsbad, California.

### Thomas D. Dobson

Thomas D. Dobson, 84, passed away December 10, 2006, at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Cassy Dobson. He was born December 22, 1921, in Cartersville, Oklahoma, the son of Albert and Tennie Brewer.

He attended school in Keota and was a member of the graduating class of 1939. Later he would continue his education at junior colleges in Warner and Poteau. He married Nora Mae Masterson on December 31, 1941, in Poteau. Shortly after their marriage, T.D. was called to serve his country. He served in the Army Air Force as a gun operator on the B29 Arkansas. They made their home in the Rogers area before moving back to Oklahoma in 1950. He began working as a mechanic for American Airlines until he retired in 1983. As an active member of the Inole First Baptist Church, he spent many hours volunteering his time. He was a true leader who devoted himself to his family and to God. His hobbies include gardening and spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nora Mae Dobson.

Survivors include his oldest son and daughter-in-law, Lawrence Wayne and Cassy Dobson, and his youngest son and daughter-in-law, Donald Edward and Betty Dobson; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### Thelma Lee Vanriette Johnson

Thelma Lee Vanriette Johnson, 53, of Talihina passed away November 28, 2006, in Talihina. Born November 10, 1953, in Talihina, she was the daughter of Dave Vanriette and Ola Jacklee Bryant Vanriette. She married Jack Johnson on November 27, 1999, in Talihina.

She was a homemaker and a huge Elvis Presley fan.

She was preceded in death by her mother; her sister, Carol Sue Vanriette; and her grandmother, Della Rose.

Survivors include her husband, Jack Johnson of the home; a daughter, Myria, and Bo Wilson of Wister; her father, Dave Vanriette of Talihina; sisters Julie and Frank Rose of McAlester, Florence Toniva Vanriette of Poteau, Melinda Houser of Heavener, and Sherry and Eric Shankel of Fort Smith, Arkansas; brothers David and Penny Vanriette of Poteau, Robert and Louise Vanriette of Muse, Oklahoma; grandchildren Michael and Tosha Hansen; and many nieces, nephews and friends.



### Laurine Maryline Nievar

Laurine Maryline Nievar, 84, passed away on November 22, 2006. She was born May 8, 1922, in McMillan, Oklahoma, to Camille and Katie Carrie Ladner Jack.

She and Lewis F. Nievar were married on February 15, 1948, in Oklahoma City. He preceded her in death on September 24, 1999. She was also preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Billy Boyd Jack and James Jack; a sister, Jouisa Elmore; and a granddaughter, Estelle Bianca Nievar.

Laurine was the third of five children born into the Jack family. She attended school at Liberty and graduated from Mount Washington School, north of Ardmore. Laurine enlisted in the WAAC on May 22, 1943, and received an honorable discharge on March 2, 1948. She retired from Carter Seminary after 25 years of employment. Laurine was a longtime member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Survivors include a son, Billy Wayne Nievar, Denton, Texas; three daughters, Sharon Groomer and Leanna Williams, both of Ardmore, and Rebecca Layous, Potomac, Maryland; a brother, Haskell Jack, Ardmore; 15 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, and a special daughter, Kelly Martin, Westville.



### Ishki illi tok

Mary Louise Wilkinson nitak ai iksho Nofimba 10, 2006, inchuka akinli ai illi tok, Hochatown, Oklahoma. Nitak toba Akus 8, 1935, Idabel, Lylie Colbert micha William Battice, imoshitek atuk.

Kulli Tuklo Presbyterian Church aiachvfa tok, Watson. Tom Wilkinson auaya tok, vfammi pokoli tuklo akocha untuklo.

Ima Oklushi pia kvt hvshmioma ant hvsh taloa, hvsh anumpuli, pishki ai ima pin kania tok kvt, kana hosh inkana micha alla yomi inkana imi ishki mia tok.

Imi afammi ishtayopi okchanya ma, vttanaha ia kvt mako inhulo tok micha imi kana inshahli vlheha ibai achufa bieka tok. Illa chin kvt nokshompa keyo tuk micha imi ipok alla vlheha mako okla hafanti pisa bhanna tok. Vba yakni vntta micha pin pahanya hon mako ilit tafamachi, himonasi hokano pin cholosa.



### J. Leon Ward

J. Leon Ward passed away December 13, 2006, at Wilson N. Jones Hospital, Sherman, Texas. He was born June 28, 1936, in Oklahoma City to Leon Coleman and Ruth Brummitt Ward, the third of four children. He was the grandson of original enrollee Coleman Ward of Smithville.

He attended school in Smithville and Broken Bow, Oklahoma, then graduated from Vega High School in Vega, Texas, in 1954. He received a Bachelor of Science in English and History from Texas Technical University, Lubbock. He later earned a Master of Education degree from Southeastern State University, Durant, Oklahoma.

Leon taught public school in Bledsoe, Texas, Broken Bow and Colbert, Oklahoma, as well as Murray State College in Tishomingo. His longest tenure was as a teacher of English at Grayson County Community College, Denison, Texas. In addition to professional teaching organizations, Leon was a Life Master in the American Contract Bridge League.

He married Donnie “Suzie” Mowdy on December 20, 1969, in Durant.

Survivors include his wife; his sons, Travis Leon Ward and his wife, Margaret Gordon, and an expected grandchild, and Victor Kelly Cooper and fiancé Sandra Kenney; his brother, Joseph Ward; his sisters, Felicia A. Ryan and Marie Dunn and husband Lyndon, and many nieces and nephews.

### Doyle E. Cariker Sr.

Doyle E. Cariker Sr. of Maysville, Washington, lost a courageous battle to cancer on September 30, 2006, with his loving family by his side. He was born October 5, 1936, in Bokoshe, Oklahoma, to Beulah and Turner Cariker.

Doyle relocated to Washington from Texas after his service in the Marine Corps in 1959 and worked for Washington Natural Gas, crab-fished in the Bering Sea, and then settled down at Seattle City Light as a journeyman lineman where he retired. He loved his 13 years as a coach for Richmond Little League in Shoreline where he touched the lives of many young ballplayers. He loved his horses, dogs, cats, and newest pet, Cletis the goat. He was loved by all who met him and was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. His witty humor and contagious smile will be embedded in our hearts forever. Singing country songs with his family and friends was one of his biggest pleasures.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Marilyn; son Doyle Jr. and Wendy; daughter, Dawn and Bob Mosteller; grandchildren Brittainy, Michael, Courtney and Briana; brothers Irby, Frank, Ace and Donald; and sisters Dot, Thelma, Jane and Gail.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers T.A. and Butch.



### Louise Paddock Branscomb

Louise Paddock Branscomb passed away November 21, 2006, in Redding, California, after a long illness. She was born July 3, 1936, in Oklahoma City to John C. and Geraldine Rogers Paddock.

Survivors include a son, Victor L. Kountz of Alexandria, Virginia; cousins Nat and Gerry Baker; and many friends.



### Sam Marion Austin Jr.

Sam Marion Austin Jr. passed away December 7, 2006, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was born in Rufe, Oklahoma, and grew up in Valliant in a loving family of three brothers and three sisters. A descendant of Choctaw chiefs, Sam was a genuine native of Oklahoma, a state he loved and considered his home no matter where he lived.

After serving his country faithfully in the South Pacific during World War II, he earned an engineering degree at Oklahoma University. There he met Glowrine Herth, who became his wife of 39 years. After Glowrine’s death in 1990, a fateful London double-decker bus ride introduced him to Leah Meyer Lefstein, who brought him great joy as his wife for 14 years.

Sam’s early career began in Indianapolis. After two years of working at RCA, his home state drew him back to a civilian position at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, where he was the Chief of the Engineering and Planning Division of the Air Logistics Command.

Sam’s spirituality and deep Christian faith were reflected in his devotion to Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City, where he was a founding member. He was also an active participant in many volunteer activities in the communities in which he lived.

Sam lovingly expressed his deep commitment to family and friends through the time he spent playing with his children, the infectious laughter that permeated the household and family gatherings, the many humorous stories shared and repeated over the years, and the adoration he showered on his grandchildren. Throughout his life, Sam had a love of words, poetry, and quotations from great literature. A man who could connect with any fellow human being, Sam had a favorite quotation: “Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.”

He is survived by his loving wife, Leah; his daughter and son-in-law, Lynn and Dennis Gimlin, and their children Matthew and Amy; his son, Richard Austin; his son and daughter-in-law, David and Cynthia Austin, and their children, Sam and Henry; his stepchildren and their spouses, Lisa Berusch, her husband, Russell, and their children, Elana, Maggie, and Joseph; Adam Lefstein and his wife, Sharon Gilad; Susan Pretsky and her husband, Joshua, and their children, Moriah and Sarah. He is also survived by his loving brother, Jack Austin, and his wife, Norma, and his sister, Hiahwana Kimzey, and her husband, Robert.

Sam was predeceased by his father and mother Sam and Maggie Austin and his brothers Frank and Wilson Loman and sisters Malacha Gaddy and Wauhillaau Gale.

### Jerry Wayne Krause

Jerry Wayne Krause, 62, of Carbon, Texas, passed away September 7, 2006, at an Abilene hospital. He was born August 21, 1944, in Brady, Texas, to Reinhardt and Margie Foster Krause.

He married Sam “Helen” Davis on July 2, 1970, in Lovington, New Mexico. He was a retired maintenance supervisor for Birdsong Peanuts, having worked there for 13 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and two brothers.

Survivors include his wife of Carbon; four sons, Rodney Krause of Bettendorf, Iowa, Gregg Krause of Lubbock, Texas, Jerry Krause of Comanche, Texas, and Chuckie Martin of Midland, Texas; three stepdaughters, Belinda Bingham of Seguin, Melody Brown of Kenedy, Texas, and B.C. Henkes of Cuero, Texas; one stepson, Buster Schmidt of Alabama; two brothers, Dennis Krause of Marble Falls and R.J. Krause of Mt. Pleasant, Texas; two sisters, Cleo Newsom of Marble Falls and Mary Jo McFadden of Kingsland; 21 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



### A.F. Robinson

A.F. Robinson “Junior,” 83, of El Centro, California, passed away August 10, 2006, in his daughter’s home in Virginia after battling cancer for the past two years. He was born in Durant. His family moved to El Centro when he was 3 years old and he remained an Imperial Valley resident until 2003.

Junior was a graduate of Central Union High School in 1941. He was attending junior college and majoring in agriculture when he was drafted by the Army Air Corps to serve as a B-17 tailgunner instructor in World War II. Following the war, he took up employment with the Imperial Irrigation District as a lineman and later as general foreman. He retired in 1988 after 41 years of service.

Fred often had hundreds of birds, usually pigeons and chickens, on the farm that he and his father had built as well as horses and other animals. He spent many years as a member of the American Legion and was a supporter of 4-H. Fred was a passionate football fan and an emphatic Oklahoma Sooners supporter. He was very proud of his Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian heritage. Fred was a member of the First Christian Church in El Centro.

He was the beloved husband of Faye LaBelle Robinson who preceded him in death in 1995.

Survivors include his two sons, John Aldon Robinson of San Jose, California, and David Phillips Robinson of Imperial; five daughters and two stepdaughters, Kathryn Anne Galios of Morgan Hill, California, Rosemary Mavis Robinson of San Jose, Sarah Dee Ashton of Fairfax, Virginia, Sonya Lee Trochez of Moscow, Idaho, Lisa Jean Green of West Hills, California, Elizabeth Ann Sparks of Moore, Oklahoma, and Marie Jeanette Kerrigan of Imperial; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and many extended relatives in Oklahoma and California.

### Esther Cooper Duke

Esther Cooper Duke passed away December 7, 2006, in Yucca Valley, California. She was born December 24, 1916, in Kenta, Oklahoma. Her father was Norris Henry Cooper. She married Reno Ira Duke in Stigler, Oklahoma, moved to California and stayed.

Survivors include her son, Jack Duke; daughters, Pattye Nickell and Betty McCoy; several relatives in Oklahoma and grandchildren in California.





# Durant’s 2nd Annual Inter-Tribal Powwow

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rich culture and tradition of the Choctaw Nation as well as to honor their own heritage.  
A special presentation was included with the evening’s grand entry. Family members of the Choctaw Code Talkers were invited to participate, following the Color Guard, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and Councilmembers into the circle. Eighteen United States flags, each flown for a day at the Choctaw Capitol in honor of a Code Talker, were ceremoniously presented to a member of each family.

