

In support of our troops



Oklahoma Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Ron Richardson presents Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with gifts of appreciation for the support shown to soldiers. A recent donation by the tribe allowed the OK ANG to purchase food and snacks for the deployed soldiers while in training at Fort Bliss.

Operation Holiday Homecoming a success

“Home for the holidays” has a new ring to it for the 45th Infantry Brigade. Thanks to a statewide effort, the troops climbed aboard buses, left Fort Bliss and headed home to spend Christmas and see in the new year with their families before deployment to Iraq.

The Choctaw Nation donated 14 buses and the Chickasaw Nation supplied nine buses for transportation of the troops and the Cherokee Nation donated \$35,000. The remainder of the estimated \$600,000 needed was obtained through donations made to the Operation Holiday Homecoming account at BancFirst or to the American Legion of Oklahoma.

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



Leo Dowling, Commander of the American Legion Local Post 39; Jon Randall, Oklahoma Army National Guard; Brent Oakes, Choctaw Nation Veterans Advocate and a Specialist in the Oklahoma National Guard, and Kelly McKaughan, Choctaw Nation Director of Social Services.

GPR technology a big step in historic preservation

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (CNHPO) recently attended the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) training held in Pineville, Louisiana, November 12-15, 2007. The two attendees were Terry Cole, Program Director, and Skyler Robinson, Cemetery Restoration Project Administrative Coordinator. The BPR unit, along with the training, will be very beneficial to the CNHPO cemetery restoration project in locating lost burial sites of our Choctaw people.

Historically, Choctaw people marked the graves of their families with only a sandstone marker and once the land was taken out of restriction and sold, the farmers and ranchers who bought the land removed the sandstone markers to make room for pasture land. The burial sites were lost.

With the proper training and the GPR unit, the Cemetery Restoration Project could not only locate sacred burial sites of the Choctaw people, but other departments within the Choctaw Nation could also benefit from the use of the GPR in locating underground objects such as pipelines prior to any ground construction.

“This is an important program for the Choctaw Nation,” said Sue Folsom, Executive Director of the Historic Preservation Office. “We are contributing to and documenting our history while making history at the same time.”

The CNHPO meets regularly with Tribal Council Committee #2, keeping them updated on the status of the department. During the November meeting, information on the GPR was shared with the councilmembers and the committee strongly supported the department on its efforts to purchase the GPR unit. The CNHPO was commended on all of its efforts to better serve the Choctaw people in locating burial sites.

In addition to the Cemetery Restoration Project, the CNHPO



Historic Preservation Executive Director Sue Folsom, Director Terry Cole and Skyler Robinson. Cole and Robinson are both trained as Heritage Resource Technicians.

has a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) program which allows the Choctaw Nation to reclaim the Choctaw remains of our ancestors that are either inadvertently discovered during construction of a federal ground-disturbing project or the remains may be stored in a museum and notice given to the tribe for repatriation. There are also remains stored in museums of other countries such as England but unfortunately, even though there are known Choctaw remains in England, there are no international laws allowing tribes to repatriate them. Cole hopes that someday all Indian people will be able to travel across to other countries and reclaim the remains of their ancestors and bring them


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Breshears named Public Safety Professional of 2007

Dan Breshears, Executive Director of Choctaw Nation’s Public Safety Division, was recently recognized by the National Native American Law Enforcement Association Conference held in Memphis, Tennessee. Breshears was presented an award recognizing him as Public Safety Professional of the Year at the 2007 Native American Awards Banquet.

Joe Wicks, President of NNALEA, commented during his introduction and opening remarks for Dan that during the past six years they had observed Dan’s leadership and willingness to assist them in their needs for Indian tribes. Also, his participation and support for NNALEA has been outstanding toward improving information sharing between government and Native American tribes.

Dan has been a member of the association since 2001 and was a keynote speaker at the 2005 conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada. He also addressed the Native American Youth Powwow at the 2006 conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Tribe mourns passing of former Councilman


Former Tribal Councilman Ryman Hodges Battiest passed away December 26, 2007, at Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris, Texas. Battiest served two terms as District 1 Tribal Councilman for the Choctaw Nation from 1983 to 1991.

Ryman was born December 10, 1939, in Wright City, the son of Hodges Battiest and Rella Battiest. He was a member of Nanih Chito Methodist Church in Wright City.

He had worked for Dierks Lumber Company, Wright City, and Weyerhaeuser Paper Mill, Valliant, and retired in 2000 after 44 years. Mr. Battiest also served on the City Council at Wright City. He was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Austin Battiest and Joel Battiest; and an uncle, Simpson Battiest.

Ryman leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Mary Jane Battiest; two sons, Ryman Battiest Jr. and wife Darla, Wright City, Ryan Hodges and Bianca, Rowlette, Texas; one sister, Beatrice Battiest, Reno, Nevada; five grandsons, Scott Battiest, Brandon Battiest, Ryan Battiest Jr., Eric Battiest and Aaron Battiest; three granddaughters, Amber Battiest, Kayla McGovern and Cheá Battiest; two great-granddaughters, Mahala Battiest and Ayionna Battiest; one great-grandson, Ayden Dakota Battiest; and numerous other relatives and friends.



Not forgotten by the Choctaw Nation

Pursuing a college degree often involves struggle and sacrifice. However, through college setbacks, struggles, and physical challenges, Steven Butler has earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. This is his first graduation ceremony. Illness prevented him from attending his high school graduation.

Steven lost his father when he was 12 years old. Steven and his two brothers were raised by their mother, Dena, in Idabel.

One of his brothers, who passed away at the age of 34, was also a graduate of SOSU.

The first of Steven’s serious physical setbacks occurred at age 18 when his leg was caught between a truck and a loading dock. His injuries were so severe the leg had to be amputated.

Steven did not attend college directly after high school. Between the ages of 18 and 34 he had several different jobs. When he was not working, he depended on help and care from his mother.

In an effort to provide a better life for himself, Steven decided to enroll in college in the summer of 1999. Seeking scholarship assistance, he turned to the Choctaw Nation and met Charles Clark who guided Steven through the application process. Charles became a dedicated friend and advocate for Steven.

Steven began college by enrolling at the E.T. Dunlap Community College in Idabel where he took classes offered by Carl Albert College, Poteau, and Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton. His major was sociology and his minor was psychology. After two years, Carl Albert College awarded him an Associate of Arts degree.

Although he got a late start, Steven was an excellent student. At the end of his first two years of college he received two distinguished honor awards: the College All-American Scholar Award and EOSC’s letter “E” award for achieving academic excellence and being named to the President’s Honor Roll.



Photo courtesy Candid Color Photography

Interim President Dr. Jesse Snowden presents Steven Butler with his diploma from Southeastern Oklahoma State University as good friend Charles Clark looks on.

Steven had completed all but 12 hours of electives by the fall of 2004. However, the day before he was to enroll at SOSU, he was badly injured in a serious accident when a four-wheeler he was riding turned over on him. He suffered brain stem damage which affected the nerves controlling his body, voice, legs and arms.

For several months, he required a breathing tube. In addition to being left a paraplegic, he suffered a broken jaw and wrist and an injured knee. Today, he still cannot use his left arm or stand, although he has recovered some use of his right arm. He can feed himself and do other tasks with effort.

Steven has never given up hope and remains determined despite the struggles he has had to face.

Since he lacked only a few hours of electives, the Choctaw Nation Language Department, in partnership with SOSU, provided Steven with individualized instruction. He was therefore able to complete the requirements to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Steven has asked that we convey his deep appreciation. “Thank you to the people who have helped me reach my goal – Dena, my mother, who has always believed in me, encouraged me, and is so proud of me.

– See BUTLER on Page 3

NOTES TO THE NATION

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to thank you very much for the care package that you sent my husband, LCpl. Kyle McEnany. He is serving in Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps. I know it not only touched him but, it touched me as well. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Misty McEnany
spouse of a Choctaw soldier

Thank you for donating buses

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Cheryl Ritzman, wife of SFC Gregory Ritzman of the Oklahoma National Guard. After reading about your tribe's donation of buses, I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your gift. This has been hard enough already and knowing we will get to spend the Christmas holiday together will make it a little better. Again, thank you for your donation and God Bless.

Cheryl Ritzman
wife of SFC Gregory Ritzman

Fun family reunion

Dear Choctaw Nation,

On July 7, the Gardner, Fulson, and Thompson Family held a reunion at the Choctaw Recreational Center in Atoka. The organizers were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fulson, Julia Fulson, and their hard working staff. There was socializing with games, vidoes, and food. We were able to reunite with family that we haven't talked to in years. We would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Dunford and her family for traveling from California to meet the rest of the family. We also celebrated by recognizing the oldest relative, Caroline Thompson, pictured, who is the mother of four girls and four boys and all were in attendance. Caroline is 91 years old and loves to fish and keep us laughing. She was presented with some beautiful gifts by her nephew, Arthur, and his wife.



In our hearts and prayers

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We would like to express our greetings to Ms. Margaret Billy and her family. We are keeping you in our prayers daily.

Bert and Leona Billy

Fond memories and a grateful thank you

Dear Chief Pyle,

One of my fondest memories was of being raised at the Riverside Indian School in Anadarko. My father, Smitty Williams, was a coach at Riverside. Our family actually lived on campus. The ball field was named after my father. Our home was constantly filled with Riverside Indian students.

My father died in 1976. Prior to his death one of the positions he held was an administrator with the Johnson-O'Malley Program, at the Sequoyah Building in Oklahoma City.

I am sorry it has taken me so long to thank you for all you have done for the Choctaw People/Nation. You are doing such a great job as Chief of the Choctaw Nation. Under your leadership, many needed services have been initiated and continued, to further help the Choctaw People/Nation. I receive many needed services through the Indian Health Services Program. It is such a blessing to have these services available.

I still have the polaroid picture taken with you several years ago when the Choctaw Nation came to Muskogee to provide resources for the Choctaw People.

Ted Smith Williams
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Seeking information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for anyone with info on Ethel Goins. The picture was taken when she was a child. Her mother was Gertrude Kelso Goins and her father was Thomas Goins, son of James and Zarahelle Goins. She was raised by her grandmother, Mima Lutman Kelso Cutshall, after her mother died in 1914. She later married a Knight. Please anyone with info on her and/or her family, contact us or pass on our contact information. You can email us at soarsister@clearwire.net or tedro@clearwire.net

Carla and Teddy Boehm
Ingleside, Texas



Congratulations Chief Pyle

Dear Chief Gregory Pyle,

Congratulations for your recent induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame! With your remarkable leadership of the Choctaw Nation and your passionate commitments to community development, education and heritage, you certainly deserve this distinguished honor.

You have had a tremendous impact on our state by admirably improving the quality of life for all members of the Choctaw Nation. I applaud your efforts, and I wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors.

Kathy Taylor
Mayor of the City of Tulsa

Looking for cousin

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am trying to locate my cousin, Sue Dennis Brown. The last information I have is that she resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Several years ago she and three friends published "The Three Sister's Cook Book" in Tulsa. Our grandparents were Mattie and Joseph Collins of Hugo. Her parents were Helen Collins Dennis and Leon Berry Dennis. She has one son, Michael David Brown, and one daughter, Diana Lynn Brown. I would appreciate anyone having any information to contact me at Joe F. Collins, 300 Cyberonics Blvd., Apt 1077, Houston, TX 77058 or email at cyb1077@tvmx.net

Joe Collins



Fires becoming more prevelant within the Choctaw Nation

Nearly every state has been devastated by wildfires in the last century. More than 155,000 wildfires occur on average each year. Since 1990, more than 1,500 homes have been destroyed by wildfire each year.

Wildfires are even on the rise within the Choctaw Nation. Our lands have seen several substantial rainfalls in the last couple of months, however the vegetation on top of the ground is still very dry and will burn if given the opportunity. Most counties have seen an increase of wildfires generally due to escaped debris burning, equipment-caused fires, and even arson.

You can protect your home and property from the damaging effects of wildfire by becoming "FIRE-WISE."

* Keep yards mowed and clear of debris, trash, and disabled vehicles, DON'T FEED A FIRE.
* Store unused firewood away from the home. * Keep trees and shrubs trimmed as to not contact the home's exterior roof, walls or foundation. These things can carry fire from the ground to your home. * Keep roof clear of debris (leaves, limbs, and toys). * Make sure your outside water faucet works and have a water hose attached just in case of a fire. * Make driveways assessable to emergency vehicles.
If burning debris in your yard, have a water hose, rake and shovel handy in case the fire gets out of control. Rake a clean line to mineral soil around the area to be burned to prevent escape.

In case of a house fire:
• Don't hide, go outside • Have a planned meeting place once outside • Go to a nearby home and call your local emergency number 911 • If inside the home and smoke is too thick to see and breathe, fall to the floor and crawl to the nearest exit. • If clothes catch on fire DON'T RUN! STOP, DROP, and ROLL • Never go back into a burning home until cleared by fire fighters.

REMEMBER
"LUAK LIBBI OKTABLI"
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES

For more information call: David Linton, Fire Prevention Officer, Choctaw Nation Forestry, Office of Fire Management, 1-800-509-4571 or 1-918-567-2321.



Master Artists of 2007 awarded

The Five Civilized Tribes Museum of Muskogee recently recognized and honored Master Artists for 2007, Choctaw artists, Norma Howard and Gwen Coleman Lester. Sue Fulsom was also there to congratulate the artists on their achievements. The honor is bestowed, "When an artist has studied and achieved acclaim from the world, is well-established in his career and has demand and sales for his work, he has joined the rank of Master." The 2007 edition is the thirty-fourth year the Masters Show has been presented.

Thank you for internship opportunity

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to personally thank you for the internship opportunity with the Choctaw Nation. Your contribution to my education has enhanced my learning skills and has better prepared me for my future career. I have been very privileged to be surrounded by such a great group of employees. Drew Jackson and the rest of the Business Development department have taught me so much during my internship, investing many hours and teaching me how to be the best employee I can be. I am greatly appreciative of having the opportunity the Choctaw Nation has provided.

Aaron Cacho

Puckett Family Reunion Announcement

Puckett Family Reunion to be held April 5 in Durant, Oklahoma. The children of James William Alexander and Liddy Puckett were Edna, Pearl, Mabel, Annie, and Willie Mae.

For more information please call Annie Standridge 214-926-5475, Carolyn Hall 469-955-2332, or Kathryn Standridge 580-924-2689.

Thanks for the blessing District 12

Dear James Frazier, Vickie Frazier, Louise Ott, Pat Mayer and anyone else I may have overlooked,

I wanted to take this time to thank you and to let you all know how much I enjoyed the Christmas Party with the children of District 12. When I was first asked to be Santa for the party, I must admit I had to think about it for a few days. After thinking and praying about it I took the job. I kept telling myself it was for the kids, little did I know that the biggest blessing of all would be mine. Sure I had to dress up and I really didn't know the kids but it was apparent on each of your faces that there was no place else you would rather be that night than right there helping the kids have a Merry Christmas. Seeing how much happiness each of you brought to the kids, I was grateful to have had the opportunity to experience part of that.

A very jolly Santa

Thank you so much

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The family of Shawn Tallant would like to say thank you so much for the assistance in the funeral arrangements for Shawn.

The family of Shawn Tallant



Sculptor Gary Henson poses next to a bronze sculpture of Native American ballerina Rosella Hightower, one of five dancers commemorated at the Tulsa Historical Society's unveiling of "The Five Moons." Hightower, a member of the Choctaw Tribe from Ardmore, was named director of the famed Paris Opera Ballet in 1980. She is also noted for founding Ecole Superieure de Danse, a distinguished French dance academy.



1945 Wheelock Eighth Grade Graduating Class

Anyone with any information regarding this photo please contact Wheelock Academy at 580-746-2139 and speak with Barbara Grant.

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

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

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BISHINIK® 2008



Fun family events scheduled in Durant

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The new Event Center at Durant will offer even better and more exciting entertainment venues than the Coliseum has done over the last three years. Thanks go out to all of the patrons who have supported the Choctaw Nation Coliseum during the past concerts and events. There are many awesome events scheduled for the

upcoming months at the Event Center, previously called the North Arena. Renovations are creating 4,000 comfortable seats and air conditioning/heating for the audience.

Scheduled at the Event Center the first weekend in February is the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show South, where young Choctaws bring in their cattle, swine or sheep to compete for ribbons and money prizes. There is a North Show at Wil-

burton that same weekend, but the entries are so numerous, having an arena on both ends of the Choctaw Nation enables the show to run much more smoothly.

February 22, 23 and 24, Clinton Anderson is having a Horsemanship Clinic at the Event Center, and on March 21 and 22, the Purina Coon Hunt is scheduled.

The last weekend of March features a Cowboy Gold Pro-

duction Team Roping. April and May have rodeo and roping events on line and June features concerts by Air Supply, Charley Pride and Marty Stuart. Looking even farther down the schedule, George Jones and Ray Price are taking center stage in August.

The Choctaw Event Center has convenient parking and comfortable amenities. Please plan to join us for some of the fun.



Tribal members attend Native American festival in Dallas

Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton, as well as staff members from several Choctaw Nation programs and tribal members who live in the Dallas area, attended the second annual Native American Awareness Festival at Eddie Deen's Ranch, Dallas, on December 8. Among the attendees were, top left, Lee Rockway who presented Chief Pyle with a certificate of appre-



ciation recognizing the assistance in helping her reach an important milestone. Lee graduated that morning from the University of Texas at Dallas with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. At right, Assistant Chief Batton says hello to Arnold Taylor who is originally from McAlester. The event was hosted by the DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce.

Tribe continues to grow

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

Construction plans for Choctaw Nation businesses and services are moving rapidly along. I was awed by a walk-through of the elementary building at Jones Academy that will house the grade school academic program. Grades kindergarten through six will begin the fall semester of 2008 in a beautiful new facility that is second to none in the entire state of Oklahoma.

The staff and children are all excitedly an-



Idabel, Stringtown and McAlester, all of which are getting improvements and expansions. Durant's will include a new casino/hotel complex.

The Choctaw Nation continues to grow and I am very thankful to be able to participate in the development of the businesses and programs that the tribe has.

EOSC maintains high graduation rate of Native American students

Dr. Stephen E. Smith became Eastern Oklahoma State College's 20th president earlier this year. He had been serving as Eastern's Dean of the McAlester branch campus since July 2005.

As a member of the Choctaw Nation, Smith says he is excited to extend the tradition of enhancing Native American education in Southeastern Oklahoma.

"Eastern has a long-standing traditional success rate not only in retention but graduation rate of Native American students," Smith said.

"The college remains in the top 10 schools in the nation with Native American success and graduation rates and we expect to maintain that record."

"Eastern now has 26 percent of its student population as Native American," he said.

As an administrator with 13 years experience in mid-sized and large public school districts as well as a technology center, Smith came to Eastern from Meridian Technology Center where he served as the director of full-time programs.



Dr. Stephen Smith

His duties there included teacher supervision, staff evaluations, personnel, program development, program budgeting, student supervision, recruitment, marketing and campus promotion.

Smith, who was originally from Quinton, also serves as the current president of the McAlester Chamber of Commerce.

He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in education at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, and his Doctor of

Education from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

When he completed his undergraduate program, he began working at Stigler Public Schools where he was the high school assistant principal, taught United States history and coached athletics.

From Stigler he went to Stillwater Public Schools as a high school assistant principal and later became director of full-time programs at Meridian Technology Center.

He and his wife Jennifer have one son, Garrett, who is eight years old.

GPR continued from Page 1

home for reburial. Folsom has had dealings with NAGPRA since it became law in 1990 and has knowledge of how the NAGPRA law works and the importance of the law allowing the tribes to reclaim their ancestral remains.

Another part of the Historic Preservation Office is Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Cole is the Official Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, appointed through the National Parks Service in Washington, D.C. The CNHPO also receives partial funding through the Parks Service for program operations.

As official THPO, Cole sees to it that all federal agencies comply with the federal regulations and laws pertaining to preservation and protection of historic and sacred sites of the Choctaw people not only within the 10 1/2 counties of Oklahoma but across six other states where Choctaws may be buried because of the Trail of Tears from Mississippi to what is now Oklahoma.

"Our mission is to preserve, protect, and defend the sacred and enduring legacies of our

Choctaw ancestors," said Cole.

The Historical Preservation Department consists of Sue Folsom, Executive Director; Terry Cole, Program Director, NAGPRA Coordinator, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; Olin Williams, Senior Heritage Resource Tech; Skyler Robinson, Cemetery Project Administrative Coordinator; Jay Parish, Cemetery Project Field Supervisor; Chris Shannon, cemetery restoration tech; Caren Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Valarie Robison, office manager; and Crystal Price, part-time Secretary. Dr. Joe Watkins, PhD, RPA, provides his expertise as the department's contracting archeologist.

"Tribal Historic Preservation officers provide leadership in the preservation and protection of cultural resources including sacred sites and beliefs, archaeological sites, cultural historic objects, traditional knowledge and tribal history," said Terry Cole. "Such preservation enables tribes to retain unique identity and cultural ways of life."

Butler continued from Page 1

"The Choctaw Nation has also faithfully remained with me in my struggles. Chief Gregory Pyle has cared about me and supported me with my education and injuries.

"A special 'thank you' to Charles Clark, educator for the Choctaw Nation, who guided me through several years of college work. Charles continues to care and to visit with me in the convalescent home in Antlers.

"Joy Culbreath, Choctaw Nation Executive Education Director, for all the support that she has provided through the Nation. Randy Hammons, Vocational Rehabilitation Center Executive Director in Hugo, has helped me when I needed it.

"I would also like to thank the administration, professors, the Board of Regents for SOSU for allowing me to graduate with the other graduates.

"I am so thankful and excited. I especially want to thank Tim Boatmun, Associate Dean, for planning a schedule allowing me to complete my bachelor of arts degree."

Steven was surely the most excited graduate to cross the SOSU stage on December 15, 2007. With great effort, he wrote a letter asking his friend, Charles Clark, to accompany him onstage.

Steven turned 44 years old the next day. Happy birthday and congratulations, Steven!

A glorious hope of Heaven

As we look to a New Year I want to encourage you from God's Word, the Bible. Today I share with you a message that tells us of a future home – Heaven.

We read in Hebrews 9:27: "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

There are many who are still living that has within him or her a fear of death, but for the Christian there need be no fear of death. To the Christian, Jesus Christ has taken away the fear of death and has given Hope.

Jesus said in John 14:2-3: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

And that place, according to Paul, is a far better place. Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23: "...having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better."

For the Christian, death is not the end. The Christian has a Glorious Hope of Heaven. But you wonder. "What is Heaven like and how can I go there?"

First, let's look at Heaven as home. Just as there is a home for the body here on the earth, there is also a home for the soul.

Jesus gathered His disciples in the upper room and talked about a home. He said: "In my Father's house are many mansions." (John 14:2). When Jesus spoke of Heaven as "... my Father's house," he was referring to it as home. Father's house is always home.

The soul is created in the image of God and the soul's house is in Heaven. The soul's temporary home is the body. The true home of the soul is with the Lord Jesus Christ. Your body soon goes to the grave, but your soul lives on. The Bible teaches when a Christian dies, he goes immediately into the presence of Christ. He goes home to a place the Bible calls Heaven.

Then we also learn Heaven is a home which is permanent. Houses which men build for themselves are not permanent. The homes we live in today will not last, but we have the wonderful promise of a home where Christians will live forever.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is preparing this home. You remember it took God six days to create the Heavens and earth with all of its beauty, and the Lord Jesus has been preparing a home for the Christian for nearly two thousand years. How beautiful Heaven must be. In Hebrews 11:10 we read concerning Abraham that: "... he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Not only will it be beautiful but Jesus will be there.

Paul said in I Thessalonians 4:17: "... so shall we ever be with the Lord." Our permanent home is not here on earth. Our permanent home is in Heaven.

Sometimes when things do not go right here on earth, or you are sick, suffering from a terrible disease, financial loss, or bereavement, there is a longing in your heart, you are lone-

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

some, you are homesick, you are longing for home. You are longing for Heaven, the home for your soul.

And the Bible teaches that Heaven is a home which is beautiful. Almost everyone likes to beautify his home. There is something wrong with the home where there are no flowers in the yard and no pictures on the walls. Very few people have their homes as beautiful as they would like to have them, but everyone in Heaven will find it beautiful beyond

every imagination. Heaven could not help but be so, because God is a God of beauty.

And nothing made by the hand of man has ever been so beautiful.

There is a description of Heaven given in the Book of Revelation chapters 21 and 22. The Bible tells us about the gates of pearl, streets of gold, river of Life and the tree of Life. John caught a glimpse of this place and the only thing to which he could compare it was a young woman on her wedding day. He said Heaven was like "... a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2).

The Bible teaches that Heaven will be a home which is happy. There are many beautiful homes today that are not happy, there is something wrong, there is something missing in those homes.

God's house will be a happy home because there will be nothing in it to interfere with happiness. Think of a place where there will be no sin, no sorrow, no quarrels, no misunderstanding, no hurt feelings, no pain, no sickness, no death.

There is another question that many people ask. "Will we know each other in Heaven?"

On the Mount of Transfiguration Moses and Elijah knew each other (Matthew 17:3). Remember the record that Jesus told about the rich man, after death, recognized Abraham and Lazarus (Luke 16:23-24). If you are a Christian you are going to see again those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. In Heaven families and friends will be reunited. God's house will be a happy home because Jesus will be there.

All those who know Jesus Christ as Savior are not afraid to die. The last enemy is death but not to the Christian. To the Christian it means going home.

Perhaps you are not a Christian. You have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. You have never been born again. You have never been converted. Someday you are going to die. To you, death will be terrible. You will be separated from God to another place that Jesus called "Hell."

But there is good news for you. Even today, right now, you can receive Jesus Christ who has paid the penalty for sin. Will you trust Jesus as your Savior? You trust Him by faith and you can start on the road to Heaven.

Will you continue to pray for our country and for our leaders? Pray for our service men and women.

Choctaw Nation Inter-Tribal POWWOW



A record number of entries participated in the dance contests as well as the Grand Entry at the Pow wow held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



Neal and Carson Henderson visit with Chief Greg Pyle at the powwow.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

February 5: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).
February 7: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).
Tribal Holiday: February 18.
Warehouse open: February 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26.
Closed for Inventory February 27, 28, 29.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays February 1-26.
Tribal Holiday: February 18.
Closed for Inventory February 27, 28, 29.

McALESTER

February 1: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open weekdays February 4-26.
Lunch-n-Learn:
February 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Stigler.
February 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McAlester.
February 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McAlester.
February 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McAlester.
Tribal Holiday: February 18.
Closed for Inventory February 27, 28, 29.

POTEAU

Warehouse open weekdays February 1-26.
Lunch-n-Learn:
February 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poteau.
February 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poteau.
February 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Poteau.
Tribal Holidays: February 18.
Closed for Inventory February 27, 28, 29.



CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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Distance Learning Technology GED Classes



Beginning date and time:
January 21, 2008
Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
**Choctaw Nation
Community Center**
Wright City, Bethel and Smithville

Beginning date and time:
January 21, 2008
Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
**Choctaw Nation
Community Center**
Talihina

Beginning date and time:
January 21, 2008
Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
**Choctaw Nation
Community Center**
Atoka and Coalgate

The class will meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class on January 21. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Healthy Marriages / Healthy Kids

This article is the first in a four-part series by OK Marriage Minute on the Choctaw Nation program Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids.

Lives have been changed and marriages strengthened through the Choctaw Nation’s recent marriage and relationship training efforts.

The tribe served 125 people through five marriage retreats it sponsored over a span of less than three months.

“It’s important for couples to communicate well and to have fun in their relationship,” said Mary Ayn Tullier, project coordinator for the Choctaw Nation’s Healthy Marriage/Healthy Kids Project. “It’s also important to have time away from children and have time together.”

Participants from all five retreats were invited back for a prom on December 7.

“A lot of our couples weren’t in high school together or they weren’t together at the time of the prom,” said Barbara Brown, marriage education specialist for Choctaw Nation. “Many of them never attended a prom. This gives the girls an opportunity to dress up and go to prom. We had a great response.”

The weekend retreats were free for participants. Most of the workers and parents of a lo-

cal Head Start program attended one of the Choctaw events.

“The children have benefited from their parents attending because they learned how to communicate better,” Brown said. “We also talked to parents about having a family business night where they turn off all distractions and talk about what’s going on in the family.

“With one family, the son had a hard time expressing himself. By using the speaker-listener technique, he was able to explain what was going on and what he was feeling. The relationship between the parents and the child has changed dramatically.”

The retreats also helped reconcile couples who were on the verge of divorce while encouraging couples who were already in strong marriages. Participants have ranged from newlyweds to couples who have been married more than four decades.

The Choctaw Nation has several more marriage retreats planned for 2008.

The first retreat will be a couples retreat at Hugo Lake Cabin Park on January 25.

Your New Year’s Event
PREP
Couple’s Retreat
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
January 25
Hugo Lake State Park - Cabin #22
Lunch and dinner will be provided.
Contact 918-567-3386 or fax 918-567-3917

Name

Spouse

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Cell

E-mail

Valentine’s Day Event
Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids
PREP Training
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
February 15
Choctaw Nation Hotel, Durant
Contact 918-567-3386 or fax 918-567-3917

Name

Spouse

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Cell

E-mail

To the youth of the nation

By Kirby Coffey, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Many young people’s lives have been affected by tobacco use. Each year in the United States one million young people become new smokers. Nine out of 10 smokers start smoking before the age of 20.

Tobacco is highly addictive and is a gateway drug that is directly related to other drug use. Kids can become addicted physically and emotionally. It is extremely difficult to stop smoking.

The nicotine that is in tobacco causes a short-term increase in blood pressure and heart rate. Using tobacco can also cause health problems such as chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, emphysema, gingivitis, gangrene and stroke, as well as cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, mouth and bladder. Smoking can also contribute to cancer of the cervix, pancreas and kidneys.

More than five million young people under the age of 18 will die prematurely from a smoking-related disease. Tobacco use is the single most important preventable cause of human disease and death.

If you are an Oklahoma resident who has a desire to stop using tobacco, call the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW and you will be on your way to a tobacco-free lifestyle!

2008 SCHEDULE FOR HEALTH FAIRS AT COMMUNITY CENTERS			
Center	Date	Start Time	Eat
DIABETES EDUCATORS			
Smithville	January 16	10:00	11:30
Coalgate	January 23	10:00	12:00
Durant	January 30	10:00	11:30
Stigler	February 6	10:00	11:30
Atoka	February 20	10:00	11:30
Hugo	March 12	10:00	12:00
Wright City	March 19	10:00	12:00
Antlers	April 9	10:00	11:30
Spiro	April 16	10:00	11:30
Idabel	May 14	10:00	12:00
COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSES			
Broken Bow	June 4	10:00	12:00
Bethel	June 25	10:00	11:30
Poteau	July 9	10:00	12:00
Talihina	July 23	10:00	11:30
Wilburton	August 13	10:00	11:30
McAlester	September 17	10:00	11:30
Crowder	October 8	10:00	11:00

Healthy Lifestyles Fitness Tip of the Month

We all know that we need to be more physically active, but how to begin and where to find the time are the questions most people ask. Here are some great ways to introduce exercise into your busy schedules. Try working three 10-minute walks into your daily routine. Here are some suggestions on how to accomplish this:

- Plan to arrive at work 10 minutes early and either walk the halls (and stairs if you’re able) of your work place *or* take a walk outside. This is a great way to greet your coworkers each day!
- After a quick lunch, work in another 10-minute walk.
- Instead of reaching for an afternoon snack at 3 p.m. or so, walk for 10 min-

utes instead.

- When you go shopping, walk the mall or shopping center for 10 minutes to plan your strategy, then begin shopping in earnest.
- Instead of sitting in the car or lawn chair during your son or daughter’s soccer practice, walk around the fields as you watch.
- Take your dog for a 10-minute walk in the evening.
- Stop by the Choctaw Wellness Center on your way home for a brief walk on the treadmill or indoor walking track.
- Take a walk around the neighborhood while supper is cooking.
- Brainstorm project ideas with a co-worker while taking a walk.

- Walk your kids (or grandkids) to the bus stop or to school in the morning.

The new recommendations from the American Heart Association call for accumulating 30-60 minutes of moderate exercise five to seven days per week for weight management. The minutes may be accumulated in 10-minute bouts throughout the day.

Although not necessary, you may be more likely to stick with it if you find a partner for some of your walks.

If you’ve been sedentary for a long time, are overweight, have a high risk of coronary heart disease or some other chronic health problem, see your doctor for a medical evaluation before beginning a physical activity program.

NURSERY NEWS

Camryn Marie Lahpor

Brady Lahpor is proud to announce the arrival of his baby sister, Camryn Marie Lahpor, on December 10, 2007. She weighed 8 pounds 12.7 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Parents are Kaci and Jan Jaap Lahpor of Austin, Texas. Grandparents are Vicki Andrews and Charles Clark of Austin and Jaap Lahpor and Marianne Pluymakers of Utrecht, The Netherlands. Great-grandparents are Irene Clark of Durant and Bill and Margie Andrews of Bennington.



Noah Christian Collins

Noah Christian Collins was born October 22, 2007. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Noah is the son of Shellee and Justin Collins who live in Hazleton, Indiana. He has three brothers, Aidan, Tristan and Lucas. Noah’s grandparents are John and Colene Hornbrook of Francisco, Indiana, and Ernie and Sandy Collins of Santa Clus, Indiana.



Katie Ann Tolman

Katie Ann Tolman was born at 5 p.m. on November 13, 2007. She weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and measured 22.75 inches long. Proud parents are Kristi and Clif Tolman. Katie’s grandparents are Ron and Kathy Maroney and Dave and Carol Tolman.



Lilly and Julia Wright

Lillium Anastasia Elizabeth Marie Adams Wright (Lilly), age 18 months, is very proud of her new sister, Julia Michelle Alexis Leona Adams Wright, who was born October 2, 2007. They are the daughters of Stacy J. Adams of Independence, Missouri. Proud grandparents include Craig Adams of Cameron, Missouri, and Enora J. Schafer of Independence.



Cooking with children

Helping prepare and cook foods is a great way for children to learn, have fun and try nutritious foods. What activities your child will be able to help with will depend on his or her age. Keep the following in mind when you are including young children in cooking activities.

TWO-YEAR-OLDS

Two-year-olds are learning to use the large muscles in the arms. Try activities such as:

- Scrubbing vegetables and fruits.
- Carrying unbreakable items to the table.
- Dipping foods.
- Washing and tearing lettuce and salad greens.
- Breaking bread into pieces.

THREE-YEAR-OLDS

Three-year-olds are learning to use their hands. Try activities such as:

- Pouring liquids into batter (you measure first).
- Mixing batter or other dry and wet ingredients together.
- Shaking a drink in a closed container.
- Spreading butters or spreads.
- Kneading dough.
- Washing vegetables and fruit.
- Serving foods.
- Putting things in the trash after cooking or after a meal.

FOUR- AND FIVE-YEAR-OLDS

Four- and five-year-olds are learning to control small muscles in their activities such as:

- Juicing oranges, lemons and limes.
- Peeling some fruits and vegetables (bananas and even onions).
- Mashing soft fruits and vegetables.
- Scrubbing vegetables (potatoes, mushrooms).
- Cutting soft foods with a plastic knife (mushrooms, hard-boiled eggs).
- Pressing cookie cutters.
- Cracking open/breaking eggs.
- Beating eggs with an egg beater.
- Setting the table.
- Wiping up after cooking.
- Clearing the table after a meal.

Courtesy of California WIC

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

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

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Twins turn 1 on January 10

The family of Abby Lynn and Cara Shea Sanders would like to wish the twins a happy birthday on January 10. Their parents are James and Jennifer Sanders from Sawyer. The twins are of Choctaw descent through their mother. Grandparents are Douglas and Carolyn Sanders of Wright City and Jerry and Inell Nation of Fort Towson.



The Bedford family

I would like to wish my son, Brian, a happy 18th birthday. He was born on January 9. Brian is pictured in the back row next to his father, Raeburn. In the front is Michael, Angela, and Anthony.



Four generations of Choctaws

From left is Bryan Schultz, Tami Williams Schultz, Michael Schultz, Bill Williams, and Chloe Janelle Schultz. Chloe arrived on July 26 and weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces.

The Schultz family lives in Chico, California, and Bill Williams lives in Santa Cruz, California. Bill's grandmother was an original enrollee.



Finally hitched

Donald Willie and Kimberly John exchanged vows on October 6 at the Comfort Suites in Idabel. Kimberly is the daughter of Teresa and the late James John of Garvin.

Donald is the son of the late Geraldine Jones and Edgar Willie of Broken Bow.

The couple would like to extend a special thank you to Sinsie John, Nancy John, Teresa John and Pastor Edgar Samuel for a beautiful ceremony.



Two brothers have birthdays

Choctaw brothers Robert and Kenny Davis, born and raised in Cushing, Oklahoma, now currently reside in southern California. Kenny just celebrated his 82nd birthday in October and Robert celebrated his 80th this past March. The Davis brothers are direct descendants of Major Reverend John Page, whose monument stands on Hwy 112 in Pocola, Oklahoma, attests to his lifetime achievements as a prominent member of the Choctaw tribe in his days. Robert and Kenny are thought of often by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy Anniversary

Mom and dad exchanged their wedding vows in Wilburton at the Justice of the Peace on December 22, 1954. They have shared so many wonderful years together. Dad always said how they made it all these years is to always work together. Mom always said how she made their marriage successful was to talk things over. It worked. Congratulations from your daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Dale.



Happy birthday

Landon Darryl Day Parker celebrated his first birthday on November 4. Landon is the son of Derrick Parker of Grant, Oklahoma, and the late Amber Day of Rattan. His grandparents are Tim Parker of Paris, Richard and Camilla Day of Rattan, and Dennis and Anita Lee of Grant. Great-grandparents are Caral Parker of Sawyer, Ethel Jackson of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Solomon and Margaret Billy of Rattan and Elizabeth Day of Palacios.



Choctaw Nation member honored by Texas schools

One of North Dallas, Texas' newest schools is named for a member of the Choctaw Nation and his wife. The Frisco, Texas, Charlie and Charlotte Mooneyham Elementary School features extensive computer and technological advancements available to over 600 students.

Charles Mooneyham received his Bachelor's in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1971. He began his career as a physical education teacher in the Richardson elementary schools. Four years later he joined the Frisco Independent School District where he and his wife, Charlotte, served as teachers and administrators for a combined 64 years before retiring.

Charles was a middle school football coach and high school assistant coach until becoming middle school principal for seven years. He finished as a physical education teacher with pre-school children in a school where Charlotte was principal for 11 years. He holds a master's degree and she has a doctorate from Texas Women's University at Denton.

Charles and Charlotte are busy with horses and donkeys on their 100 acres near Denton, but continue a close involvement with the nearby Frisco Schools. Charles announces middle school sports events as the Voice of FISD. He also serves as clock keeper.

Their daughter, Mari, is a teacher and coach in Frisco. She and her brother, Daniel, are Frisco graduates. He taught at Loyola and Tulane before being displaced by Hurricane Kartrina and is now pursuing theater interests in New York City.

Doctoral degree earned

Ann Frances Ellis earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Religious Studies from Sancta Sophia Seminary, Tahlequah, in November 2007. Her dissertation topic is "Profound Love as Revealed by Near-Death Experiences."

Dr. Ellis is the daughter of the late Clara Castles Ellis and Benjamin Franklin Ellis, of New Orleans and Washington, D.C. and the granddaughter of the late Mary Frances Moore Castles of Yazoo County, Mississippi. Mary Frances Moore was the great-great-granddaughter of Chief Nitakechi who was the nephew of Pushmataha and served as Chief of the Choctaw southern district in Mississippi from 1828 until removal in 1832, and as Chief of the Pushmataha District in Indian Territory until his death in 1845.

Dr. Ellis is the great niece of the late Dr. Anna Lewis who was professor of history at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and who wrote a biography of Pushmataha, "Chief Pushmataha: American Patriot." Dr. Ellis is interested in establishing contact with living relatives descended from Nitakechi and anyone with knowledge about Nitakechi or Horse Prairie, southeast of Hugo, where Nitakechi's homestead was. She can be contacted at ellisann@juno.com.



Happy birthday bubba

Keeley would like to wish her brother, Koda M. Hudson, a happy birthday on December 30. He turned 4. He attends Choctaw Nation Head Start in Hugo. He is the son of Dustin and Tasha Hudson of Hugo. His nana is Corinne Hudson of Smithville. His grandparents are Fred and Dimple Wickson of Hugo.



History repeats itself

Charles Webster Brown was sworn in as Judge in the Second Judicial District Court of Division XXVI in Bernalillo County, Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 10.

Judge Brown is the son of Naomi Thompson Brown and Charles Warren Brown Jr., originally of Wilson. His maternal grandfather, Gilbert Webster Thompson was County Judge in Scullyville County from 1880 to 1884 and Wade County from 1894 to 1896. In 1900 he was elected Judge of the Second Judicial District for a term of four years.



Birthdays

Mother and daughter celebrated birthdays in December. Crystal Battiest turned 28 on the 20th and Hallie Battiest turned 10 on December 11.



Also Crystal's niece, Brandi Baker, of Louisiana turned 9 on December 8 and Hillary Baker turned 12 on January 3. Also celebrating an upcoming birthday is Aunt Angela Kaulaity of Broken Bow who will turn another year older on February 27.

Crystal is the daughter of Presley and Serena Battiest of Wright City. Hillary and Brandi Baker are the daughters of Patrick and Cathy Baker of Elton, Louisiana. Grandparents are Bernita Baker of Elton and the late Cleason Baker Jr., and Presley and Serena Battiest of Wright City.



Eugene turns 8

Happy birthday wishes go out to Eugene Arthur Oswald, from Goodwater, Oklahoma. "Hounddog" as he's called by his friends, turned 8 years old on December 4. He celebrated with his Irish side of the family in Dublin, Ireland. Local Irish folk entertainer, Seamus O'Hallohan, sang happy birthday and performed magic tricks for the party. Hounddog is proud of his Choctaw and Irish heritage. He loves to climb trees and fly kites. A great time was had by all who attended. Happy birthday Hounddog from your cousins, Sambo, Burl, and Ryder.



Smallwood makes premium sale at Tulsa Fair

Blair Smallwood, Talihina FFA member, won third place with his heavy weight Duroc at the Tulsa State Fair. His pig was also selected for the Premium sale and purchased by the Choctaw Nation. Blair also won swine showmanship at the Leflore County Fair and was awarded a belt buckle. Blair is the son of Dusty and Karen Smallwood of Clayton and the grandson of Leo and Jane Smallwood of Rattan.

Two birthdays

On December 14, Putman turned 3 and his big sister, Jolie, turned 6 this past May. They are the grandchildren of Joe and Ruby Randall of Bokoshe. Putman and Jolie love spending time with their Nanny and Poppy.



James Wallace turns 15

James Tyrone Wallace turned 15 on November 21. He celebrated with mom and family. His grandparents are Truman and Bertha Jefferson of Idabel. Also a happy birthday to our mom, Priscilla, on December 20. From all your kids, Brock, Whitney, Ty, Grace, and your wonderful grandbaby BriAnna all of Idabel.



Happy birthday niece

Happy 10th birthday to my niece, Alaine Hudson. She turned 10 on December 18. She attends Smithville Elementary. Her parents are Shane and Tina Hudson. She has a brother, Tanner C. Hudson, who had a birthday on September 16. Her grandparents are R.E. Hudson, Al and Wanda Tunnel of Smithville.



Proud Choctaw birthday

Henryetta Moran McKenzie will turn 84 on January 26. She is proud of her Choctaw heritage and was taught by her father, Joab Moran. He taught her about the Trail of Tears and the hardships that Choctaws had as they entered Oklahoma. She would like to congratulate Chief Pyle for his induction into the Hall of Fame.



Happy birthday Sina

Wishing a happy birthday to Sina Oaks of Elk City, Oklahoma, on January 17. I hope you have a wonderful day - John.



Golden Anniversary

Lynn and Lou Jean Stephens of Del City were married December 20, 1957, in Duncan and celebrated 50 years together on December 20, 2007. A reception was held in their honor at the Del City Church of Christ on December 23. The couple has set a wonderful Christian example of commitment as seen in their three children: Kelly Trifiletti and husband Stephen of San Antonio with 26 years of marriage; Bob Stephens and wife Janet of Earlsboro with 25 years of marriage; and Chris Stephens and wife Shelly of Choctaw with 18 years of marriage. They also have six grandchildren: Robynne and Stephen Trifiletti, Andy and Matt Stephens, and Kennedy and Tayte Stephens.



Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board has Christmas party

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board Christmas party was held December 1 at the Choctaw Nation Youth Center in Talihiina. There were about 60 CNYAB youth who attended the party. They enjoyed lunch, exchanged Christmas gifts and played several games. One of the youth, Allen Nordmark, entertained with his special guitar-playing talent.

Along with all the fun, the Youth Advisory Board had a list of business that needed to be addressed. Each year, YAB elects a new chair, vice chair and secretary for the Choctaw

Nation Youth Advisory Board. Severt Dahl, who was the secretary of CNYAB, completed the day's agenda for the business meeting and promptly went on to the business of electing new officers. Officers for the Youth Advisory Board for 2007-08 are Chelsea Wells, chair; Severt Dahl, vice chair, and Preston Wells, secretary.

Other business included each representative sharing what they have been doing for their community. Representatives from all over the 10 1/2 counties of Choctaw Nation spoke to the group about their

activities. They included Tash Meashintubby of McAlester; Preston Wells, Hugo; Frankie Abboushi, Idabel; April Mock, Boswell; Easton Crow, Atoka; Monica Smith, Soper; Erin De-walt, Bennington; Shane Orr, Coalgate; Summer Durant, Howell; Chris Leflore, Heavener; Gabbie Brumm, Talihiina; Amber Pool, Antlers; and Severt Dahl, Clayton.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board reflected on a year of making new friends, making positive changes and promoting healthy lifestyles in their communities.



Members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board gather for a Christmas party.



Youth enjoy SOSU ballgame

The Outreach Services of Choctaw Nation took a group of youth to watch Southeastern Oklahoma State University basketball teams take on Abilene Christian on December 8. The youth participated in fun activities between games and at half-time as well as being invited to the VIP room.

Choctaw Nation Career Development Program is hosting a

Career Fair

for Choctaw and Pushmataha Counties

February 19, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
at the
Choctaw Nation Community Building in Antlers

For information or directions to the center, please contact
Kelly Brame or Jeanne Smith at 580-326-4910

Meet representatives from local training facilities,
colleges, business and industry.
Door prizes available for participants.

Head Start is recruiting now

The Head Start of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is recruiting prospective students for the 2008-09 school year. Although the program accepts applications year-round, each year in the spring a concerted effort is made to identify children who might be eligible for the unique services provided by Head Start.

This program serves children from 3 to 5 years of age. Our program serves children of all nationalities, although we do have a Native American preference policy. The Head Start program is directed primarily toward low-income families.

Families of children with special needs are encouraged to apply. The Head Start program

assists families in obtaining needed support services for your special needs child.

Choctaw Nation Head Start provides families with assistance in their efforts to obtain educational, health, nutritional and social services. The program provides a nutritionally sound breakfast and lunch each day.

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

Red Earth accepting princess applications

Red Earth Inc. will host the 22nd Annual Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival June 6-8 at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. In collaboration with this award-winning event Red Earth will select a 2008 Red Earth Princess whose reign will begin March 2008 and conclude with the selection of the 2009 Red Earth Princess. Applications for the 2008 Red Earth Princess are accepted through January 31.

Carrie Franklin, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, will relinquish her crown as the 2007 Red Earth Princess upon selection of the new Red Earth Princess. Franklin comes from a family of tradition dancers and began dancing at the age of 2. She has participated in the Red Earth Festival since age 7 and has placed in the competition nearly every year. She has an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor's of Arts degree in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in education at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Young women, ages 18-24, who are members

of a federally recognized tribe are eligible to apply. The application should include a cover letter, resume, an 8x10 photograph in tribal regalia and sponsorship letter from their tribe.

Applicants are encouraged to include honors received and education level attained in either the resume or cover letter. The sponsorship letter should specify monetary support the applicant will receive from the sponsoring organization during her reign as the 2008 Red Earth Princess. The applicant shall not be a current title holder of Princess for any other organization or tribe, should not currently or formerly be married and shall not have born a child.

The Red Earth Princess will be required to attend scheduled activities during the 22nd Annual Red Earth Festival scheduled June 6-8, 2008. She will promote the Red Earth Festival throughout the year and may be required to attend Red Earth events and activities scheduled throughout the region.

For more information on Red Earth Inc. and the 2008 Red Earth Princess contact Connie Hart Yellowman at cyellowman@redearth.org or 405-427-5228.



Tribal member co-authors book

Choctaw member Lenny Rice has recently co-authored a book, "Fondue," which is a collection of 50 recipes combining the fun of the '70s craze with the complex tastes of European tradition – all in one fondue pot. "Fondue" offers a fresh look at this timely party pleaser, sure to inspire many feasts of melty cheese, chocolate and caramel delights.

Lenny is the daughter of Dixie and the late Dale Hammons of Hugo and sister to Tammy Rangel of Hugo and Troy Rice of Soper. She and her husband, Christopher, have lived in the Napa Valley/Sonoma area in Northern California for the past 10 years. She graduated from New England Culinary Institute in 1997, which led her to Napa to work as a pastry chef for "Brix" restaurant. She then took a job as a wine educator at Robert Mondavi Winery, then a chef/food educator with co-author Brigid Callinan for "Copia."

Currently Lenny works as wholesale manager for Cowgirl Creamery. She was featured in "Wine Country" magazine last fall about her job for Cowgirl.

"Fondue" can be purchased at most book stores including Hastings, Barnes & Noble, Amazon and her publishing company, Ten Speed Press.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Hardy Labor who will be 58 years old on January 22. Hardy lives in McCurtain, Oklahoma. Pictured with Hardy are his two grandsons, Aiden, 2, and Brandon, 3. Happy birthday, Pawpaw.

Happy birthday

We would like to wish Bobby Kendrick a happy birthday. He turns 14 on January 14 – from his mom, dad, sister and brother.



Tribal membership department requires complete information

If you have applied for a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood card (CDIB) or a duplicate CDIB, we may need more information from you. Years ago, you or a family member applied for your CDIB and sent all information required at that time.

However, NOW we have to replace any information in your file that is missing. Therefore, we must send letters requesting that we receive readable copies of specified information. When applying for a new or duplicate card, please send us copies of all information that you have concerning your ancestors.

If you are applying for a new CDIB, we MUST have your state original full-form birth certificate. Once we have completed your file, we will return it to you. We must make our own copies. NO COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED WHEN APPLYING FOR A NEW CDIB (new, never had one before).

Remember, you and all children need both cards – a CDIB and a Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership card. A CDIB is issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). A Membership Card is issued by the tribe. A CDIB does not make you a member. It only proves you are of Indian descent.

Since this is a new year, please check to be sure that you and each family member, including minors, have both cards. Most BIA, IHS and tribal programs require both cards.

Please do not go online to obtain a state birth certificate. Contact this office. We have all applications to obtain the correct full-form state birth certificate that is required to obtain a CDIB.

The Tribal Membership Office is located in Durant. You may call 580-924-8280 or toll-free 1-800-522-6170.

Echoes of the past

The McAlester Archeological Society and the Tahlequah Archaeological Society will be hosting Echoes of the Past, an annual event held at Echo Ridge campground in the beautiful Arrowhead State Park. The goal of the event is to preserve the culture, arts, diets, shelters, clothing and entertainment of our ancestors and the ways of producing them.

This year's event will be a two-day affair to make it easier for those artists who have long distances to travel for it. It will be held May 17 and 18. There will be artists with items for show and for sale. On Saturday, some amateur competitions will be held with prizes for the winners. The competitions will be the ATL throw, blow gun shoot, bow and arrow shoot, and a contest for period dress. There is no charge for setup for your items. We only ask they be items used from around 1860 and older.

For more information or if you would like to set up a booth, please call Connie Masters at 918-339-4226 or Thomas Purdin at 918-456-1977 no later than May 1.

Scherf graduates with honors from Arkansas Tech

Shauna Scherf of Mena, Arkansas, graduated December 15 from Arkansas Tech University with a Bachelor of Liberal and Fine Arts in Rehabilitation Science. Shauna received the degree with an honors distinction of Magna Cum Laude. Proud parents are Arthur and Vicki Smith; sister, Olivia; and brother, Jordan. Grandparents are Richard and Leona Samuel of Smithville.

Shauna would like to express her deepest appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for their financial support and a special thanks to Kenny Bryant and Lauren English.



Annual Livestock Show February 2-3

The 17th annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, February 2-3, 2008, with Saturday the day for market swine, market goats and market sheep. On Sunday, the heifers and steers will be shown.

There will again be a north and south location for the show. In Wilburton, the show will be held at Eastern Oklahoma State College's Goddard Show Barn. In Durant, it will be in the Choctaw Nation arena north of the East Travel Plaza.

The show is open to all 4-H and FFA members who are 9 to 19 years of age at the time of the show and have a CDIB. There are no boundary guidelines. Participants do not have to live or go to school within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. For more information call Jones Academy at 888-767-2518 or log on to www.choctawnation.com for rules and applications.

OBITUARIES

Susan McCarty

Susan McCarty, 32, of Atoka passed away November 16, 2007, at Atoka Memorial Hospital. She was born July 21, 1975, in Woodard to Larry Dean Adams and Marjie Coleen Airington.

She was married to Frank Edward McCarty on January 23, 2003, in Denison, Texas. She was employed by Med-core Home Health as a certified nursing aide and performed secretarial duties. She was affiliated with Grace Hill Baptist Church, Stringtown.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Robert Eugene Douglas; sister, Cynthia Ann Douglas; and grandparents, Clarence and Agnes Airington.

Survivors include her husband of the home; nephew, Britt Douglas of Durant; nieces, Makayla Douglas and Ashlyn Douglas, both of Durant; sister-in-law, Stacey Douglas of Durant; mother- and father-in-law, Tom and Earlene Taylor of Olney; an aunt, Carolyn Bates of Durant; uncles, James Garland Airington and wife Patsy of Durant, Johnny Airington and wife Wilma and Bobby Airington and wife Rita, all of Woodward; several other nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and a host of friends; and a special friend, Tammy Woodson.



Shirley J. Miller

Shirley J. Miller, 71, of Durant passed away November 19, 2007, in Durant. She was born November 19, 1936, in Bennington to Claude and Mildred Beames Cleveland.

Shirley attended and graduated from Capital Hill High School in Oklahoma City and later moved to Houston, Texas, where she worked for Curtis Industries until her retirement. While in Houston she was very active in the Methodist Church and choir. In 1996, she moved back to Bryan County. She was very involved in the Choctaw Nation and loved to participate in all of the Choctaw activities. Shirley will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Buzzy Cleveland; a nephew, Cory Cleveland; and a niece, Diana Lynn Cleveland.

Survivors include her daughters, Lyndy Riley and husband Charles of Coleman and Micah Knight of Durant; grandchildren, Amanda El-Kurd and husband Tayseir of Euliss, Texas, Derrick Knight of Round Rock, Texas, and John Riley and wife Tara of Coleman; great-grandchild Reagan Riley of Coleman; brothers, Jerry Cleveland and wife Jackie of Tennessee Colony, Texas, and Bobby Cleveland and wife Barbara of Lexington; sister, Mildred Cleveland of Oklahoma City; and numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Mildred Darneal Parent Gibbs

Mildred Darneal Parent Gibbs, 84, of Spiro passed away November 4, 2007, in the Peachtree Hospice in Fort Smith.

She was a member of the Baptist faith, a proud Choctaw and the granddaughter of lighthorseman James Darneal.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Clifford Parent and Garland Bud Gibbs; her daughter, Myrna DePierne; and great-grandson, Zachary James.

Survivors include her son, Ronnie and Jane Parent of Spiro; one grandson, Brandon Parent of Spiro; four granddaughters, LeAnn Parent of Spiro, Stacey DePierne of Barling, Shelley and Jack James of Lavaca, and Serena and Bob DeMent of Oklahoma City; eight great-grandchildren, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb and Noah James of Lavaca and Olivia, Rachel, Katie and Ian DeMent of Oklahoma City. She also leaves many friends and extended family.



Matthew A. Taylor

Matthew A. Taylor, 52, of Broken Bow passed away December 4, 2007, at Broken Bow. He was born May 9, 1955, in Antlers, the son of Joseph and Helen McCurtain Taylor.

Matthew worked many years for the Eaton Corporation in Shawnee as a machinest and was currently employed at the Choctaw Casino in Broken Bow. He was an avid OU football fan and Yankees baseball fan and enjoyed fishing and hunting. Matthew will be dearly missed by his family and friends for his special laugh, quick wit, and wonderful smile.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include his mother of Broken Bow; three sisters, Ruby Choate and husband Lyman, Broken Bow, Priscilla Coleman, Broken Bow, and Sandra Denton and husband K.A., Blanchard; two brothers, Perry Taylor, Oklahoma City, and Kim Taylor and Gloria, Oklahoma City; two daughters, Cassidy Tolleson and husband Jess, Prague, and Ashley Hall and husband Jess, Shawnee; special friend, Donna Brinkley of Broken Bow; several nieces, nephews and friends.

Linda Lou Scott Coursey

Linda Lou Scott Coursey, 62, of Detroit, Texas, passed away November 9, 2007, at her residence. She was born on November 25, 1944, in Loma Linda, California, a daughter of Neil Carter and Ida Lee Self Scott.

She married John D. Coursey on March 27, 1964, in Mesquite. She was Paris Rodeo and Horse Club Queen in 1963 and was Cowboy Sweetheart Representative at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show. She was retired from Campbell Soup Company where she was a Campbell Soup Quality Circle Member, on the Safety Committee and received the Circle of the Month achievement award. She contributed to the Campbell Soup Newsletter.

She was a winner of the Choctaw Labor Day Festival Art Show and was the Heritage Award Recipient. She was a member of Chisum Trails Cowboy Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, James Russell Scott.

Survivors include her husband, John D. Coursey; daughter, Vickie Lee Chapman and husband, Jeff, of Faight; grandchildren, Jessica Lee Chapman and Jordan Dale Chapman of Faight; sisters, Onlee Mower of Oregon and Edie Belew of California; nieces and nephews, Wendy Moore and Jennifer Roshala, both of California, Richard Mower of Oregon, James Scott of California, Gena Iglehart, Christy Miller, Greg Coursey and Chad Coursey, all of Paris, Jeremiah Coursey of Tyler; Aunti Henryetta Arriola of California; her very, very special cousins, Ginger Rodrigues, Candace Saporito and Stevie Arriola, all of California; and brother-in-law, Gene Coursey.

Robert Dudley Stephenson III

Robert Dudley Stephenson III, 49, of Canyon, Texas, passed away November 7, 2007. He was born December 31, 1957, in Dennison, Iowa, to Robert Dudley and Ann Martin Stephenson.

He graduated from Borger High School and attended college at Oklahoma State University, Texas Christian University, and West Texas State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in General Studies. He played football for Oklahoma State University and Texas Christian University.

Not only was Dudley an amazing father to his children, but he also gave countless hours of service to the younger generation of the panhandle. He was a father figure to every person he was involved with. His love for service through coaching radiated through the community. Not very many athletes went through Canyon High School without being trained by Dudley at some point in their life and he had an amazing gift of being able to see the hidden potential in every child. He was the perfect husband, father, son, brother and friend.

Survivors include his wife, Tammy Stephenson of the home; children, Robbie Stephenson of Los Angeles, California, Laci Waner and husband Chris of San Antonio, Texas; Caleb Stephenson and wife Natalie of Canyon and Dana Stephenson of Canyon; a grandson, Kylan Waner; his mother, Ann Stephenson of Canyon; his father, Robert Stephenson and wife Melinda of Amarillo; a brother, Douglas Stephenson and wife Kenna of East Texas; sisters, Sarah Black and husband Charles of Amarillo, Valenica Muniz and husband Alvero of Amarillo, Elise Heil and husband Shaun of Meridian, Idaho, Tracy Dodd and husband Eric of Lake Meredith, Allison Stephenson of Amarillo and Meridith Stephenson of Amarillo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert Douglas

Robert Douglas, 42, of Durant passed away September 14, 2007, at Medical Center of Oklahoma. He was born October 12, 1964, in Mooreland to Gene and Marjorie Airington Douglas.

He was married June 21, 1989, in Durant to Stacey Eads. He was a foreman for McCoy Tree Service.

Rob loved to playing guitar, telling jokes, fishing, hunting, and helping friends and neighbors when they needed it. He enjoyed his job and co-workers. Rob loved his family and spending time with them.

He was preceded in death by his mother; a sister, Cynthia Douglas; a daughter, Shania Douglas on November 11, 1997; grandparents, Clarence and Agnes Airington; and an uncle, Charles Bates.

Survivors include his wife of the home; son, Britt Douglas, and daughters, Makayla and Ashlyn Douglas, all of Durant; sister, Susan McCarty and husband Ed of Atoka; aunt, Carolyn Bates of Durant; uncles, James Garland Airington and wife Patsy of Durant, Bobby Airington and wife Rita and Johnny Airington and wife Wilma, all of Woodward; brothers-in-law, Jason Eads and wife Rachel of Arkansas and Brian Gray of Durant; and father-in-law Tommy Eads and wife Donna of Yukon.



Willie Ward

Willie Ward passed away December 7, 2007. He was born October 6, 1934, a few miles east of Honobia to Ramsey and Magdilene Ludlow Ward. Born a humble beginning, he died a valiant man in whom there was no evil or wickedness.

After his mother's death, Willie was sent to Goodland Boys Home. He was placed on a train in Talihina and traveled all alone to Hugo at the age of 6. While at Goodland, Willie learned to work and save money. He bought his first guitar and taught himself to play. He also learned to play the fiddle.

After graduating from high school he entered the Army, which turned out to be the biggest influence in his life. He served over four years of duty overseas – Germany, Korea and Vietnam. He earned a good conduct medal, 1st through 4th medals, Vietnam service medal with four bronze stars, Armed forces expeditionary medal - Korea, and Vietnam cross of gallantry with palm. He was discharged from Fort Carson, Colorado, after 23 years, 8 months and 24 days. Willie flew the American flag every 4th of July, Memorial Day and Flag Day with true patriotic pride. The United States has lost a great American and a true friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew.

Survivors include a sister, Jane Napier of Washington; half-brothers and sisters, Jerry Ward of Talihina, Dora Edith Ward of Honobia, Eva Nell Kaydle of Tulsa, Mina Collins of Florida, Dale Ward of Honobia; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Josiah Amos

Josiah Amos, 89, passed away December 10, 2007. He was born October 3, 1918, in Duncan, Oklahoma.

A beloved father, grandfather and friend, Josiah lived a long and a good life. He touched many hearts. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Mae; his sons, his mother and brothers.

Survivors include his children, Dorothy, Rufus, Naomi, Truman and Louise; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends.



James Edward Dyke Jr.

James Edward Dyke Jr. of Seattle, Washington, passed away on November 23, 1970, in Seattle. He was born September 29, 1950, in McAlester.

James was preceded in death by his father, James Edward Dyke Sr.; a sister, Phyllis Kaye Dyke; and two brothers, Richard Dale Dyke and Donald Ray Dyke.

Survivors include his daughters, Shannon of Washington State and Kimberly Barnes of Panama City, Florida; a son, Jason King of Bakersfield; his mother, Lois Alene Dyke of Bakersfield; two brothers, Gary Wayne Dyke of Seattle, Rickey Leroy Dyke of Bakersfield; three sisters, Carolyn Beth Clarke of West Sacramento, Cornelia May (Connie) Hudson, Lawrence, Kansas, Belinda Lois King, Bakersfield; sister-in-law, Sharon Dyke, Bakersfield; and many nieces and nephews and friends.



Mildred Nail Miller

Mildred Nail Miller passed away November 24, 2007, after a long and productive life. She was born November 29, 1906, in Caddo to Jennie Lynn and Ishtoyopi Nail.

She married Stephen D. Miller on June 25, 1932. They had one daughter, Marilyn Miller Roskelley. Stephen passed away May 21, 1971.

Mildred was very proud of her Choctaw Indian heritage. She adored her grandfather, Joel Henry Nail, who owned considerable property around Nail's Crossing (Indian Territory on Blue River), and was a lawyer, a rancher, and owned thoroughbred racehorses. He built a bridge across Blue River for the Overland Trail. Mildred also loved her maternal grandmother, Mary Armstrong Lynn, who raised her after she and her two sisters were orphaned by the death of their parents at age 5.

Mildred was educated at Goodland, Wheelock Academy, and Oklahoma Presbyterian College. She earned a B.A. from South-eastern State University, a master's degree in education from the University of Oklahoma, and only lacked a thesis to have earned a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

Mildred was a very dedicated teacher and educator, and taught for 39 years, 30 of which were spent at Robert E. Lee Elementary School in Durant. She loved her students and was determined that all would learn!

As a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, Mildred had the distinction of being the oldest member for the last few years. She was also a member of Ohoyohoma Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, Kappa Delta Pi, Oklahoma Education Association, and the American Association of University Women.

Mildred enjoyed teaching, reading, music, cooking, walking, swimming, traveling, crocheting, and needlepointing, but most of all, she enjoyed her life with Steve and Marilyn, and her adored grandchildren, Amy and Mark Roskelley. She was also a great Oklahoma Sooners and Dallas Cowboys football fan.

Mildred is survived by her daughter, Marilyn Roskelley of Salt Lake City, Utah, and her grandchildren, Mark Roskelley of San Francisco and Amy Andrus of Salt Lake City. They have always affectionately called her Nene and she was very influential in their lives. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren, James Erik Andrus, Carolina Bailey Andrus and Ava Camille Andrus.



Susie Jane Wilson Noahubbi

Susie Jane Wilson Noahubbi, 78, passed away October 22, 2007, in Dallas, Texas. She was born January 11, 1929, in Hochatown, Oklahoma, the daughter of Phillip and Bitney Wade Wilson. She had three brothers and two sisters.

Susie attended both Wheelock school for girls and Haskell Indian School. She and Nelson Noahubbi were married in 1961 and were married for 40 years until Nelson's death in 2001.

Susie was a longtime seamstress from which she retired in 1990. With her talent as a seamstress she made many garments for her children and grandchildren.

She was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks and Texas Rangers. Most of all, she enjoyed watching her husband, sons, daughter Lulu and grandchildren play softball, basketball, football and bowl.

She was a member of the Dallas Indian United Methodist Church, being baptized by the Rev. Jerry Byrd on June 24, 2001. Susie was a true blessing and a friend to all. She loved spending time with her husband and family. She will truly be missed by all here on earth, but the angels are rejoicing because one of their own is now at home.

She was preceded in death by her husband; five sons, Russell, Carl, Joe Benny, Danny Osage and James Noahubbi Sr.

Survivors include two daughters and their husbands, Thomas and Wanda "Lulu" Osage Smithson of Garland, Texas, and Bobby and Gail Ann Noahubbi Plunkett of Mesquite, Texas; 12 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson.

Iona K. Battles Ellerbee

Iona K. Battles Ellerbee, 80, a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away November 30, 2007. She was born in Ashland, Oklahoma.

She was a member of the Family Worship Center and a mother to all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J.V. Yancy; her parents; and brothers, Ted and A.T. Battles.

Survivors include her husband of 38 years, Jake Ellerbee; daughter, Debria Wagnone and husband Charles; son, Pastor David Yancy and wife Kim; sisters, Sue Gragg and husband Jerry, Ruth Morris and husband Johnny and Clara Luker; brothers, Claude Battles and wife Earline, Bill Battles and wife Ramona and John Battles and wife Mary; grandchildren, Eugene Wagnone and wife Tamara, Jake Yancy and wife Crystal and Michelle Yancy; great-grandchildren, Savannah Yancy, Karley Yancy, Kamaro Yancy, Jeff Yancy and numerous nieces and nephews and a multitude of friends and loved ones.



Orin Billy Ludlow

Orin Billy Ludlow, 67, of Nashoba passed away November 20, 2007, at the Renaissance Hospital, Terrell, Texas. He was born July 24, 1940, in Honobia, the son of Ray Ludlow and Adeline Johnson Ludlow.

Mr. Ludlow was a self-employed laborer and a member of Rock Creek Presbyterian. He loved being outdoors and he loved animals. He was a kind, gentle and loving husband, father and grandfather who was loved by all.

Survivors include his wife, Sandy of the home; sons, Chris Ludlow, Robert Ludlow, Michael Ludlow and Timmy Joe Ludlow; grandson, Nathan Ludlow-Warner; sisters, Mary Jane Jefferson of Broken Bow and Sarah Ann Ludlow of Broken Bow; brothers, Lolin and Jimmie Davis Ludlow of Talihina; stepson, Jeff and Michele Crawford of Terrell; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.