

## Wilburton Head Start to get new facility

The Choctaw Nation Head Start in Wilburton topped their Christmas wish list with hope for a new facility and thanks to the generosity of Beyond Petroleum and the Arkoma Operating Center, their wish is a dream come true. Beyond Petroleum has donated 10 acres and a large building to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to be used for a Head Start in Wilburton.

When Head Start Teacher Deanne Rowe was asked by BP what her biggest dream would be if she could have anything she wanted, her answer was immediate. "A new Head Start building," she said. That is exactly what BP wanted to hear, because they had just the facility to suit the request.

A great location on the south side of State Highway 2, BP vacated the 10 acres and building when their operations center was constructed north of Wilburton. Not wanting to leave the previous office empty if it could be beneficial to someone else, the leaders of BP wondered if the local Choctaw Head Start could use it.

"It is a great Christmas present and we truly appreciate it," said Joy Cul-



Tribal Council members, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Choctaw Head Start staff join Chief Gregory E. Pyle and BP representative Mark Gates for the key presentation ceremony at the newly donated property.

breath, executive director of Choctaw Nation education programs.

"The Choctaw Nation Head Start program currently operates out of a building constructed more than 30 years ago that we were going to have to replace in the very near future," said Chief Pyle. "Funding for new facilities from the federal government has not been forthcoming in the Head Start program, so any new buildings

would be allocated from tribal dollars. Thanks to the wonderful offer of BP to donate their former location of 10 acres and office just north of our Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza in Wilburton, the tribe will be able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars."

BP staff have even offered to invest time and effort with planned work days in 2009 to assist with needed renovations.

"We are active members of our community," said Mark Gates, Arkoma Operating Center manager. "When we heard about the need, we knew exactly what we wanted to do. We live and work in this community and try to give back whenever we can. The fact that the kids are going to benefit is an added bonus. We look forward to a long relationship with this Head Start program."

"Community partnerships are a great way to share resources," said Tribal Councilman Joe Coley. "I am very excited that BP is such a tremendous asset to Wilburton, the Choctaw Nation and all of Oklahoma."

"There are 17 students enrolled in the Wilburton Head Start this year," Coley continued. "They and their parents are just as excited as the teachers at the prospect of a nicer center."



## American Indian College Day at EOSC

Jones Academy juniors and seniors attended the annual American Indian Day on October 24 at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton. Activities included breakout sessions to discuss information regarding college entrance requirements, financial aid and tribal assistance. About 50 Jones Academy students attended the event.

Youth Advisory Board members volunteer in their communities - See Page 9



## Council holds December meeting

Two items were on the agenda of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council's regular session in December.

The first Council Bill addressed was to relinquish ownership of a tract of property in Choctaw County to the City of Hugo.

The second bill was for a service line agreement in favor of Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. in Choctaw County.

Both were approved.

Committee reports included visits with several programs including the holiday baskets for families in need. Director of Community Based Social Work Linda Goodwin reported to Councilmembers that 2,200 baskets were delivered this year for Thanksgiving, up 700 from the 1,500 delivered last Thanksgiving.

Assistant Chief Gary Batton spoke to those in attendance, praising the employees' efforts in bringing Christmas in the Park to Tushka Homma. He reported positive feedback from both Clayton residents and business owners.

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets in regular session on the second Saturday of each month.

## Employees team up to help replenish food banks

The employees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma have had a great time this year while working to help others.

Every holiday season, the employees have bought "angel gifts" for the students at Jones Academy, foster children and for senior citizens. Every winter they donate outerwear for the Youth Outreach Coat Drive. This year, staff members have combined their efforts to make an even bigger difference in Southeastern Oklahoma.

Hearing reports that food banks are having a greater demand but fewer donations this year, tribal employees pitched in to gather non-perishable food items to help replenish the shelves. A dozen pallets hold the cans, bags and boxes of their labors. Containers were set up in the Event Center in which everyone dropped at least one non-perishable item as they arrived to attend the tribe's employee Christmas party on December 12. A few sites, like the casino in Pocola, brought their own large boxes filled to the brim.

Employees at the complex in Durant kept the drive going for an extra week with a friendly rivalry between the south building, the north building and the finance building challenging each other to bring in the most items. The competitiveness of the south building prevailed and they were announced the champions on December 29. Over 1,100 food items were donated at the complex alone.



Chief Greg Pyle, Gaming Executive Director Janie Dillard and Assistant Chief Gary Batton are pleased with the amount of items donated to the food drive.



Congratulations to the employees of the south building of the Durant complex! The group brought in the most food items to win a contest at the complex.



## Christmas in the Park at Tushka Homma

More than 2,000 people drove through Christmas in the Park at Tushka Homma, enjoying the lights and voting for their favorites. Overall winner, pictured above, was the display created by CHR and Outreach Services. More photos and a complete list of winners are on Page 12.

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# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Harvard presentation inspiring

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the tribe for sponsoring the Harvard Recruitment Conference in Durant. The graciousness of the staff and the princesses was outstanding. It made you proud to be a Choctaw. The Harvard group gave a very thorough presentation and inspired my granddaughter to apply. My grandfather was one of the first Choctaws to be selected to attend the Carlisle School in Pennsylvania and after graduation was able to finish graduation at Harvard, becoming one of the first Choctaw lawyers in Oklahoma. He was author for the language of many of the founding legislations that exist today for the Choctaws and Chickasaws. His name is Solomon J. Homer. It would be exciting to see my granddaughter graduate from Harvard in law also.

I appreciate what the Choctaw tribe is doing for the people.

Mary Homer-Ahtone, Ada, Oklahoma

## Strong interest in Choctaw horses

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We would like to extend a warm thank you to our tribe for allowing us to participate as a vendor at the 2008 Labor Day Festival. We met many people and had a wonderful time!

There was a strong interest from tribal members to find out more about the conservation effort to save the rare breed of horse, the Choctaw. These horses are a rare strain of Colonial Spanish horse that has a long history connected to our people. It is our hope that attendance at the festival helped further the effort to save these beautiful horses and spark interest in those who can help.

Please contact us or the American Livestock Breed Conservancy at [www.albc-usa.org](http://www.albc-usa.org) if you would like more information, can help with the effort to save this critically endangered breed or have something to share about the horses. We are looking for those tribal members who have family (past or present) involved with these horses. Old photos of past herds and tribal members are of high interest as well as stories from tribal members.

Please contact us if you have something to share and thanks to all who made our first year at the festival such a success. Yako!

Doug, Monique and Matt Sheaffer  
Choctaw Horse Conservation Breeder  
Windrider Farm  
1392 Hidden Valley Road  
Loysville, PA 17047  
717-789-4559  
[equinedivine@dishmail.net](mailto:equinedivine@dishmail.net)



## Four generations of Whitemans

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We have spent so many happy times together over the years. I grew up with a family who shared our love one for another. Mom and Dad demonstrated that love to us.

One of the fun things we did with Dad was going rock hunting. I remember he would take us boys all over Texas and Oklahoma just to find rocks. It was a lot of fun just to get in the car and go places out in the woods, creeks and hills. But most of all what we really enjoyed was to be with our Dad.

As the years go by, families grow up and we go our own separate ways but there is still that special feeling when we get together, where it reminds us of the good old times. As I look back on time and see where we are now, I thank God for the time we always share together.

The picture of four generations was taken October 25, 2008, at Mom and Dad's home in Beggs. We are holding pictures of our Choctaw ancestors. From left, I am holding pictures of Sophia Folsom Pitchlynn (Lk-lo-ha-wah - loved but lost) and Chief Peter P. Pitchlynn (Ha-chu-tak-ni - loggerhead turtle) whose sister was Elisa A. C. Pitchlynn Harris, my father's great-great-grandmother. My father, Henry H. Whiteman, is holding Mattie J. Harris Whiteman and his father, Henry A. Whiteman. My son and grandson, Tommy V. "T.J." Whiteman Jr. and Tommy V. Whiteman III, "Trey," hold Judge Henry C. Harris.

Tommy V. Whiteman, Fort Worth, Texas

Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief

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## Colbert FFA group attends National Convention



Colbert FFA officers Padyn Knickle, president; Dakota Smith, vice president; Josh Meade, treasurer; Colton Stout, secretary; Dillon Cummins, reporter; Steven Reese, sentinel; and Chris McGowan, advisor.

Dear Choctaw Nation,

On behalf of the Colbert FFA Chapter we would like to thank you for its contribution for our trip to the National FFA Convention.

This trip was very rewarding and life-changing for the Colbert FFA officers. Not only was the trip fun and exciting, it was also educational. National Convention is an experience that we hope every chapter gets to experience at least once.

Our chapter was amazed at all the different states on the back of the FFA jackets. From Alaska to Puerto Rico, and from New York to Iowa and Hawaii, each state had wonderful representatives of their states' organizations.

We would like to thank you and show our appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for being great sponsors of the Colbert FFA Chapter.

## Ropes Course teaches teamwork

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton,

On the first day of practical nursing training at Kiamichi Technology Centers - Talihina campus, our class participated in the Choctaw Nation Ropes Challenge Course. Many of the students did not know each other and had only met our instructor a few times. Chad Goggans and Mary Ayn Tullier worked with us as a team to get to know each other. We were involved in many activities that encouraged us to work together as a team, to trust each other, and help us use critical thinking skills.

This practical nursing class will be together for the next two years. It is extremely important for us to overcome such things as one-way thinking, solitary learning and selfishness. The Ropes Challenge Course showed us ways to incorporate the activities in our learning processes. Teamwork, trust, cooperation and critical thinking are all imperative to our success in practical nursing class.

We would like to thank Choctaw Nation Challenge Course Coordinator Chad Goggans and Healthy Marriage/Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator Mary Ayn Tullier for taking time out of their busy schedules to encourage us as a team and to allow us to become better acquainted with our classmates.

We would highly recommend the Choctaw Nation Ropes Challenge Course. The benefits in our development of trust, communication and teamwork will also be used in our daily lives. It will allow us to step up and face our fears.

The Practical Nursing Class of Kiamichi Technology Centers - Talihina campus appreciated the time and effort of Mr. Goggans and Mrs. Tullier.

Christie Goggans, PN Class President

## Family receives help

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton,  
District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard and  
all of the Tribal Council,

My family and I would like to thank each and every one for your generosity and kindness. We recently received a new cook stove and refrigerator. Back in May and June, Mr. Anthony Dillard had helped me and my family after I had some medical issues. We would just like to say thanks for the programs you have provided to help families in need. Your help and programs are greatly appreciated.

Dimitria Dickson and family

## Thank you

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am sending you a letter of thanks for all of the financial help you have given all three of my children. Your help has been given through clothing allowances, financial aid and academic scholarships. Without all of this help my children would have done without many things. Thank you.

Jeri Don McCauley, Comanche, Oklahoma

## Seeking classmate of '59

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Looking for Broken Bow senior graduation classmate of 1959, Shirley Winship Macille. If anyone has any information, please contact Bob Christie, 17410 Edenwalk, Spring, Texas, 77379.

## Appreciates help with septic, water

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Environmental Health Offices of the Choctaw Nation. Your help in getting the septic tank and water installed to my home is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to the guys from Talihina who came out and did the work.

Loretta Bowers, Kinta, Oklahoma

## Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to send a special "Thank You" to Judy Petree and Ellen Cole for their many hours of food preparation and to the Big Lick Methodist Church for their support at the loss of our niece, Wynona Dry. I would also like to say how much we appreciate Pastor Lester Tims for officiating at the burial of our nephew, Johnathan Impson. Thank you so very much.

Mrs. Claudine Wheeler, Mesquite, Texas

## Family member receives help

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Taylor Family of Goodwater would like to extend their gratitude to Councilman Mike Amos and Director of Emergency Assistance Charlene Grunstad for going out of their way in our time of need.

Our sister, Karen Burt of Hugo, had an aneurysm on December 17. She was sent to the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina and then transported to St. Francis in Tulsa. There she had surgery to repair the aneurysm. She was released on Christmas day and was in desperate need of medication after the release. Councilman Mike Amos contacted Charlene Grunstad. They went out of their way during Christmas break to help her.

## A life-changing event

Dear Chief Pyle,

In October 2007, my daughter, Kearstin, was admitted to Talihina Hospital with flu-like symptoms and was quickly found to have a blood sugar count of 980. Kearstin was in DKA and approaching diabetic coma. The medical staff quickly responded by providing life-saving treatment to help stabilize her condition and by contacting OU Medical Center where she was then transported. After several days in Pediatric Intensive Care (Kearstin was 3 at the time), she was released from the hospital and we were sent home with the diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes.

It has been a year now since that trying time and my wife and I reflect upon this life-changing event for both our family and most importantly, Kearstin. We realize what a blessing the Choctaw Nation was during this time and we wanted to send a thank you to both the tribal leaders and to recognize those individuals and groups who went above and beyond.

- The emergency staff at Talihina Hospital including Dr. Brown who provided excellent emergency care and quickly made a diagnosis and to the ambulance staff who safely transported Kearstin and my wife to OU Medical Center.

- Debbie and the other ladies at IHS Contract Health Services for their excellent customer service and attitude in dealing with a mountain of medical bills and for helping to alleviate much of our financial burden.

- Sheila Stevenson and Evy Nunley who provided and continue to provide much-needed and timely information regarding our health insurance.

- Don, the head of pharmacy at Talihina, who makes the extra effort to supply Kearstin with part of her monthly diabetic supplies.

- The entire staff of the Diabetes Wellness Center at Talihina and Dr. Copeland and his staff at OU for Kearstin's on-going care and management.

- Dr. Greer and Tonya at Poteau Clinic for Kearstin's pediatric care who recognize the risk factors associated with diabetes when dealing with common illnesses and see her at a moment's notice.

Lastly, we want to thank you, Assistant Chief Batton, and the Tribal Council. We recognize the extraordinary compassion, service, and support throughout the many areas of the Choctaw Nation are due to the leadership and direction of the Choctaw Nation tribal leaders. You and other tribal leaders should be recognized and commended for establishing a level of health service for Native Americans that is unequalled. We also want to acknowledge the Choctaw Nation's dedication to the treatment and cure of such a devastating disease by being the first tribe to forge a partnership with the Oklahoma Diabetes Center and Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) Diabetes and Metabolic Research Program. With our most humble and deepest appreciation, thank you.

Kyle, April, Kearstin and Kaden Burch  
Spiro, Oklahoma

## Investing in future

Dear Choctaw  
Nation and the  
Department  
of Higher  
Education,

I was both surprised and honored to receive the scholarship from your organization. I am aware of some of the things you do for the tribe, as well as those outside the central community, particularly in support of education.

I appreciate your confidence in me and willingness to contribute to my future education. I am a recent transfer from American River College and look forward to completing my Bachelor's Degree at San Diego State University in the next two years. At the current time, I plan on majoring in Classics with an emphasis in Foreign Languages in hopes of studying abroad in Europe and continuing my education further in graduate school. I am honored to represent the Choctaws wherever I go, and the opportunity to participate in collegiate sports - cross country and track and field - at a university such as San Diego State is like a dream come true. Again, thank you for investing in my future.

Lyndsi Riley

## Outstanding care

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to express my appreciation for the wonderful care I recently received at the McAlester Choctaw Nation Health Center. I went to the clinic as a walk-in patient. I had no appointment but awoke one morning in need of seeing a doctor. I was admitted at the front desk in a timely fashion and went to the Primary Care area. Both of these ladies were very fast and efficient.

I saw a physician's assistant within a few minutes and she listened very carefully. She sent me to the lab for blood tests and they were also done in a timely manner. Soon, the lab results were read and the PA was able to prescribe some medication. The pharmacy filled and explained the appropriate dosage. I was on my way home in less than 1 1/2 hours, which is outstanding!

I can't express my appreciation too much. I am very grateful for the wonderful staff at the McAlester Health Clinic. Now, three days later I am feeling tip-top again.

Martha Gujda







# Choctaw Nation going green

*From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, along with many other tribes, has long had the reputation of being a protector of resources.

Practicing conservation is second nature to many of us, and employees and leaders of the Choctaw Nation are taking action to promote the attitude of "going green."

The project began upon the strong request of employees. Worried about the impact that we are having on the environ-

ment with habits at work and home, staff members began asking that proactive means be taken, including simple things like turning off lights and computers when not in use, unplugging chargers, recycling paper, using e-mail instead of printed documents whenever possible, and using washable plastic or glass coffee cups and beverage containers instead of Styrofoam.

A contest for a slogan for the "going green" initiative was decided with a vote among employees between three top slogans. They chose "Sustain-

ing our people, our traditions, our earth," submitted by Sharon Frazier, an employee in the Choctaw Nation Accounts Payable Department. This slogan was printed on cups that were given to all of the employees so that they will be able to keep them at their desk for hot or cold drinks instead of using disposables.

Scheduled trash pickup days have been well-attended to clean up the highways around tribal casinos and travel plazas, and plans are currently in the works to plant trees in counties across the Choctaw

Nation.

Recycle efforts are being made with phones, computers and other equipment and office supplies. The employees are very enthused about their ability to help protect the earth.

We have always been known as an advocate for the environment, and our tribe is excited to be a part of protecting Oklahoma and the world around us.

If you have suggestions or would like more information, please contact [gogreen@choctawnation.com](mailto:gogreen@choctawnation.com).

## Studying the book of Joshua

I wish you a happy and successful New Year 2009.

The word Bishinik means "when the little bird comes to your home it brings good news." I am happy for the privilege of coming into your home with good news from the Bible. Thank you so much for your prayers.

Today we are going to study lessons from the fourth and fifth chapters of the book of Joshua. The book of Joshua is a picture of the Christian and his enemy with whom he is fighting during all the days he is on earth.

In the letter to the Ephesians, we learn of life, "in the heavenly place," not in heaven, but in the experience of being one with Christ and in His victory while we are on earth. We can have the fullness of God's blessings only in Jesus Christ. A study of this book of Joshua will open for us new secrets of the way of blessing.

The children of God had just crossed the river Jordan and there was panic among the enemy. Wherever there is supernatural power revealed in God's people, the enemy is panic-stricken.

Gilgal, on the western side of Jordan, had become a key place for the children of Israel, a place of learning. I believe this is where many of us fail. Some may say, "I have no education." Some Christians just don't have a desire to study God's Word to learn God's Will for them. They begin to read and when they don't understand, they close the Bible and say, "this is too hard for me."

I must say Salvation and knowing God's Will does not require formal education. Education does help but is not essential for a person to come into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to grow in His Word.

If you have a sincere desire to study God's Word, ask God to help you.

Why do we have to study the Bible? someone may ask. I answer this question by saying, "Why be satisfied with God's second-best when we can have first-best. There is something better than just salvation. Spiritual growth in grace and in the

### Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb  
Tribal Chaplain**

knowledge of Jesus Christ is more wonderful than salvation.

At Gilgal, in the fourth chapter of Joshua, we are to learn the lesson of the two memorials of stones. These two memorials are to remind us of the basis of our Christian life which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was only the shed blood of Jesus Christ that took away the sin of the world. Salvation is in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Secondly, we learn at Gilgal a lesson in the circumcision of the flesh that there must be death to ourselves and we must be completely yielded to Jesus Christ for victory. A completely yielded life is a problem to many Christians who want to hold on to a pet sin, a lust of the flesh, and will not turn this sin loose.

Gilgal was not only a place of remembrance and the yielding of our lives but it is a place of the revelation of God's faithfulness and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as the Captain of our salvation. We read in Joshua 5:11-12:

11. And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn on the selfsame day.

12. And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the

land of Canaan that year.

Notice there are three days activity mentioned in these two verses. On the 14th day they kept the Passover, the very next day they kept the Passover, the very next day they ate of the corn of the land, and the day after that the manna ceased.

This is how God responds when we are obedient to His Word. The manna was wilderness food, it was for their journey in the wilderness and this is continued until the corn was available. There is never any break between God's supplies for His children. Jesus fills the hungry with good things. He satisfies the longing soul, and He is yours for guidance, for discernment in spiritual battles.

Here at Gilgal the wilderness journey has come to an end. The people take a new life in the land of blessing. Just as a born-again Christian has new resources in our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

There is something else we learn here at Gilgal. The Israelites are almost ready for the battle. Joshua has gone out to look over Jericho. We read this record in Joshua 5:13-14:

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

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

This was a blessed truth that God himself had come to lead His people to victory. The Captain of the Lord's host is none other than that Great Captain of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

When Joshua worshipped before this great Commander and fell at his feet, He accepted His leadership in this attack on the enemy. If we would only accept the truth that God has won our spiritual battles in Jesus Christ, and as we make Jesus Christ commander then we would know the secret of victory. The battles that we face as Christians here now are the Lord's battle.

All the Lord asks from us is to take the Lord Jesus Christ into our hearts and make Him our Lord. Then as we do this God begins to work in and through us.

Perhaps this has been your desire, to be used of God. Jesus Christ is ready and willing to give you this peace of heart and victory in your Christian life, if you will only trust Him as your Savior and then by faith walk according to His direction in His Word, always remembering that victory comes only through Jesus Christ. You can receive Jesus as your personal Savior by faith even today.

## Jones Academy an excellent facility for the benefit of our youth

*From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief  
Gary Batton*

A highlight of my year is visiting the students of Jones Academy for their Christmas program. The students, grades 1 through 12, are equally excited, regardless of their age. Each year, the kids and adults gather in the community area of one of the dorms where a huge tree is decorated and visit with Chief Pyle and me before the holiday meal is served. This year, several of the students had digital cameras they were practicing with, so there was a lot of fun while their friends were posing for snapshots.

The Christmas party always includes gifts for the students, many of which are provided by employees of the Choctaw Nation. I am very appreciative of all the staff members who volunteered to provide presents for the Jones Academy youth. Administrator Brad Spears and his staff do an impressive job with the young people who reside there.

I am also honored to serve as Chairman for Jones Academy Foundation. JAF helps to raise funds so that the continuing success of Jones Academy is guaranteed for generations to come. We are very fortunate to have many dedicated and capable volunteers who serve on the JAF board. We are also thankful for the many people who have so generously donated time, money, and resources to help Jones Academy become better every day.

Jon Marshall, a longtime supporter of Jones Academy as well as a Foundation board member, has agreed to head the recently formed Development Committee for Jones Academy Foundation. After graduating from the U.S.



Military Academy at West Point, Jon went to work in the offshore drilling industry. Recently, he retired as President of Transocean Inc., the world's largest offshore drilling contractor. He also is active in several American Indian organizations. Needless to say, his leadership skills and dedication to American Indian people will be of great value as Jones Academy Foundation moves forward. Thank you to Jon and others like him for your dedication to the students of Jones Academy.

Also on the Jones Academy Foundation are Alan Lovesee, Brad Spears, Dana Bonham, Jim Baker, John Jackson, Joy Culbreath, Linda Powers, Mike Freeny, Paula Wingfield and Terry Ragan.

A special congratulations to Jones Academy for a great academic accomplishment! For the second year in a row, the faculty of Jones Academy has received a perfect Academic Performance Index (API) score, based upon several factors such as achievement test scores and attendance. There can be no doubt about the dedication of the Jones Academy staff to their students.

## Choctaw team attends leadership camp

A Choctaw team from District 11 Choctaw Center was chosen as one of the six tribes to attend an all-expense-paid trip to youth leadership camp "From the Four Directions: Journey to Leadership."

Adult team leaders were Dena Cantrell and Diane Woody. Choctaw teen youth selected to attend the camp were Tasha Meashintubby, Cherish Wilkerson, DaNetta Wilkerson and Faith Woody. From the Four Directions: Journey to Leadership was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Native American Programs. The leadership camp was held at Boulder, Colorado.

The Choctaw teen youth were chosen by their school, community and cultural involvement. Pittsburg County Youth Advisory Board, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, Band, Alla Himmita 4-H Club and Congressional Youth Leadership are a few of the different organizations they belong to.

Some of the community activities that they have shared their culture or helped with are Camp Plea, Choctaw Nation District 11 Thanksgiving Dinner, Choctaw Nation District 11 Children's Christmas Party, Cancer Relay, churches, performing at area schools, nursing homes and parades.

One of the central philosophies upon which the camp is based is that the adult leaders be active participants. The adult team leaders are looked upon as role models and upon returning home, provide support and guidance to help the youth accomplish the goals they have defined.

Program sessions held during the leadership camp included:



**Reclaiming your Voice** – Who we are, our history, what is happening to Native people, what are some of the issues in our daily lives, obstacles and adversarial conditions faced, how to gain victory/awareness from these things vs. how to become mired in a customary response that is not producing results, and appreciating and celebrating where we come from.

**Activities** – The teams learned hands-on about teamwork, communication, leadership, goal-setting and planning.

**Leadership/Entrepreneurship** – Participants learned what leadership is, what it means, how to make smart decisions for the future and how to plan and operate a business.

**Creating win-win solutions** – This session taught how to positively resolve conflicts.

Other sessions addressed building self-esteem, dealing with peer pressure, taking care of the mind, body and spirit, and planning for success and tracking the success of your programs.

Each tribe was required to do a cultural talent and dress in their tribal dress the last night of the conference. The girls presented the Lord's Prayer in Indian sign language and sang three Choctaw songs.



## Chief Pyle attends opening ceremony

Dr. Neil Henderson presents Chief Gregory E. Pyle with a gift of a blanket during the opening ceremony of the American Indian Diabetes Prevention Center October 30 in Oklahoma City. Located at 755 Research Parkway, the center focuses on discovering ways to reduce health disparities by preventing or delaying the onset of diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives.



# Feeding family foods to your baby

## WIC

"I'm tired of strained baby foods. When I'm sitting at the table with my family, the foods my family eats look much more fun!"

"I want to eat with my hands and I'm starting to take sips of juice, water, breast milk and formula from a cup that someone holds for me."

Does your child do what this child says? Then she is ready to eat the foods below.

**"Someone has to feed me these:"**

- Mashed potatoes, well-cooked mashed vegetables (like carrots and green beans), well-cooked, finely ground meats, yogurt, cooked egg yolk mashed with milk or water, soft mashed fruits (like bananas, peaches and pears) mushy rice – well-cooked,

mashed and soft.

**"I learn about my world by putting everything in my mouth and I can eat these by myself:"**

- Zweibach toast
- Arrowroot cookies
- Oven-dried toast
- Biter biscuits

**"Do not feed me these – These foods can cause me to gag and choke:"**

- Raw vegetables (like car-

rots or celery), large pieces of meat or hot dogs and sausages, chicken bones, nuts – including peanuts, potato chips, corn or tortilla chips, banana chips

- Fruits with skin or peel, like apples; fruits with a round shape, like grapes

**"These foods can cause tooth decay:"**

- Kool-Aid, soda pop, iced tea or other beverages with sugar.

Washington State Department of Health

## NURSERY NEWS

### Madeleine Allen French

Madeleine Allen French was born March 18, 2008, at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.



Proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gregory and Sandra French. Also, happy birthday to Courtney Lynn French on December 16, 2008.



### Kyleigh Rene Willis

Kyleigh Rene Willis was born at 3:55 p.m. April 4, 2008, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Haven Ramirez and Thomas Willis of Temple, Texas.



She is the granddaughter of Shelia Willis-Reeves of Temple and Desiree and Rene Ramirez of Troy, Texas. She is the great-granddaughter of Emerson Benton Willis Sr. and Helen Berniece Burris Willis of Temple.

### Mariah Halley Flanagan

Mariah Homer-Ahtone would like to announce the birth of her first great-grandchild, Mariah Halley Flanagan. Mariah was born on September 9, 2008, and shares the birthday of her great-grandmother Mary. Mariah was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, where her mother, Amber, is stationed in the U.S. Navy.



Mariah's parents are Amber and Branden Flanagan of Hawaii. She is the great-great-grandchild of the late Lucille Ahtone and a direct descendant of original enrollees Wesley and Lizzie Jackson Wesley and James and Winnie Tims Wesley of Oklahoma and Nicholas Noah and Sach-Ta-Ma of Mississippi.

### Sue Elizabeth-Talina Hunt

Seth Maytubbie and Jathon Hunt would like to proudly announce the birth of their sister, Sue Elizabeth-Talina Hunt. She was born at 12:18 p.m. on November 12, 2008, at Deaconess Hospital, Oklahoma City, weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces. She was delivered by Dr. Joe Merritt. A special thanks to his excellent care and staff.



Proud parents are Darius and Jodie Hunt of Midwest City. Grandparents are Melvin Doug and Donna Maytubbie of Midwest City, Jay B. and Gwynne Hunt of Blanchard, and Larry and Susan Green of Corning, Arkansas.

Great-grandmother is Mattie Sue Hines of Corning and she has a great-aunt Peggy Sue O'Kelly of Afton.

### Ariana Richelle Smith

Ariana Richelle Smith was born November 14, 2008, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces.



Proud parents are Katherine and Cody Smith of Durant. Grandparents are Neil and Patricia Harvey of Princeton, Texas, Steve and Brenda Smith of Broken Bow, Glenda Ward of Broken Bow, Steven Smith of Texas; and great-grandparents include Barrentino and Nancy Tushka.

## Choosing a good caregiver

It's hard to leave your baby to go back to work or school. Knowing your baby is in good hands gives you peace of mind.

Begin your search well before you actually need the care. The Child Care Resource and Referral Office (800-424-2246) can help you find a child care center or family child care home in your community and also tell you whether you qualify for assistance with your child care expenses.

Before you leave your baby in someone else's care...

**Be sure they are responsible.**

Are they at least 18 years old and mature enough to take responsibility seriously?

• Are you sure they will not smoke, drink, or do drugs around your baby?

• Will they know how to get help in an emergency?

• If you don't know them personally, have you asked other parents who have used them if they were satisfied?

**Be sure they can feed and care for your baby.**

• Have they had experience with babies around this age?

• Have they had their own children or worked with children?

• Do they know what to do when baby cries?

• How many other children are there?

• Too many others for your baby to get the care he needs?

**Watch how they interact with your baby.**

• Are they careful and gentle?

• Do they seem comfortable holding and talking with baby?

• Do they smile and look into baby's eyes?

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teens, their child, male partner and extended family members. The AFL program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and other agencies. Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, relationship enhancement programs, and parenting workshops. Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is our program goal. Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American. For more information or questions about eligibility please call: Angela Dancer, project director, at 1-877-285-6893. This article was written by Ashley Norris, AFL Technician

## Choctaw Nation WIC

### WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs. & Fri.
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
			8:00-4:30 2nd & 4th Tuesday
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., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
		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 - Mon., 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 & 3rd Thursday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday



## Project Fallvmmichi takes message to Tupelo

Project Fallvmmichi is going strong in Tupelo High School. Mentors teach their second grade friends about domestic violence and bullying. Their message is "Hitting is not cool." Both mentors and students enjoy their lesson and time together each month. Mentors, pictured from left, are Chesna Henry, Eric Carrell, Shanna Davidson, Felicia Hunter, Tyler Griffin and second grade teacher Mrs. Jones. Students, from left, are Phillip Dagggs, Lillie Reed, Blaine Ake, Mercedes Parker, Katie Sliger, Dayne Bowerman, Ethan Adams, David Napier, Robert Rhodes and Jayden Looney.

## Overweight, obesity prevalent in Oklahoma

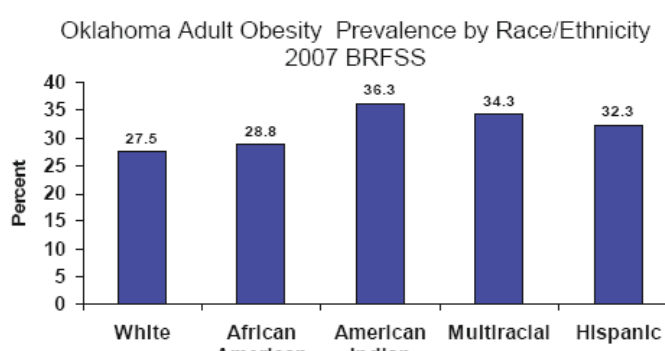
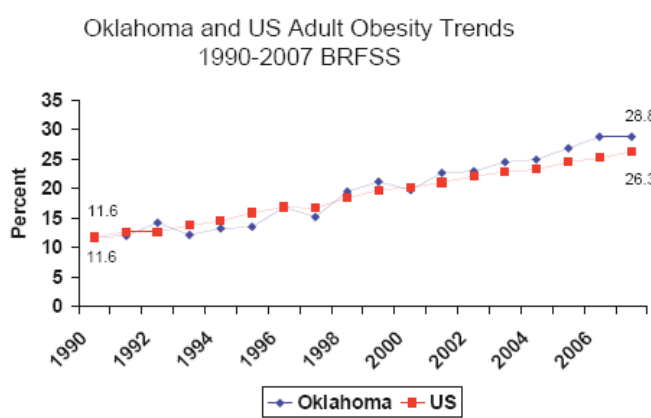
In 2007, Oklahoma ranked eighth in the nation (28.8 percent) and was above the national median of 26.3 percent for prevalence of obesity among adults.

More than six out of 10 Oklahoma adults are overweight and more than one out of every four is obese.

The prevalence of obesity among Oklahoma adults has more than doubled since 1990; however, the prevalence did not increase from 2006 to 2007.

In 2007, approximately one in seven Oklahoma high school students (14.7 percent) were obese and an additional one in seven (15.2 percent) were overweight. In 2003-2004, 15.4 percent of Oklahoma children/youth ages 10-17, were obese.

*Be Healthy Be Strong*  
Wellness Education/REACH US  
800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958



**Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline**  
**1-800-QUIT-NOW**



## Quality time

Some Bryan County Youth Advisory Board members spent quality time with residents at Reunion Plaza, an assisted living facility in Durant. The YAB members helped the residents with a Christmas craft after the entire group sang Christmas Carols. Everyone had a great time.

YAB, left to right, are Kerwin Moore, Kira Moore, Andrea Lomoe, A.K. Harris and Hailie McGinnis. Other YAB members who participated at another site are Randy Thomas, Blaine Ellett, Justin Jernigan, Jake Allen, Gillette Thomas, Dylan Cook and J.D. Anteau.

## RECIPE of the month

We are off to another new year and I hope every one had a wonderful holiday season. Now comes all of those New Year's resolutions. Just remember, with a New Year's resolution try to be very specific, such as drink water in place of sugary soda, walk at least 30 minutes every day, eat foods with less saturated fats by baking, broiling and grilling instead of frying. This month's recipe will not only help with a resolution to eat less saturated fat and cholesterol, but it will also help to warm you up from the cold January winds.

### White Chili

- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp. low-sodium chicken bouillon crystals
- 1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chilies
- 1 Tbsp. instant minced onion
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. oregano leaves
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- cooking spray
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast, cubed
- 1 (19 oz.) can white kidney beans (cannelloni)

In a large saucepan, bring water to a boil; stir in bouillon. Add next 5 ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes. Meanwhile, coat non-stick skillet with cooking spray. Sauté chicken over medium-high heat 5 minutes or until no longer pink; set aside. Add chicken and beans to bouillon mixture; cook 5 minutes or until heated through. Garnish with sliced green onions and shredded reduced-fat Monterey Jack cheese, if desired.

Makes 4 servings. Nutrition information per serving: Calories 245; Total fat 4g; Cholesterol 65mg; Sodium 757mg; Total carbs 26g; Dietary Fiber 4g; Protein 36g.

I hope you enjoy this heart-warming New Year's resolution-friendly recipe!

For more information, contact Erin Adams, RD, LD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, One Choctaw Way, Talihina, OK; 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6959.



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW



### Christmas holiday

Louise Amos shares canned goods and turnip greens with friend Laura Carney.

### Happy 96th birthday, Laura!

Happy 96th birthday on December 26 to Laura Carney of Smithville from son, Elton and Rozetta Carney; grandchildren, Michelle, Jerome and Heather; great-grandchildren, Derek, Clarissa and Trenton, Chasity and Summer, Brinley and Damion; and great-great-grandsons, Kamden and Dylan.



### Birthday wishes

Very happy birthday to brothers Richard Moran on December 17 and John Moran on December 24 from your sisters, Louise Thomas, Nancy Gravitt and Beverly Herring.



### Congratulations, Darian!

Darian Davis, 9, is in the fourth grade at Homer Elementary in Ada. He is the son of Sarah Davis and Joel Padilla of Ada and the grandson of Mike and Bernie Davis of Durant. Mom, Dad, big brother André, Papa and Pofi (Pokni) would like to congratulate Darian and his team, the Byng Barracudas, on their championship win in Fort Worth, Texas. Darian and his team entered "The Legends Fall Ball Baseball Championship" in Fort Worth on November 14-16. The Barracudas were one of 18 teams entered in the 10-and-under division, single elimination tournament.



They were also the only Oklahoma team in the tournament. After a long trip and a weekend of back-to-back games, the Byng Barracudas came out Champions. We would also like to congratulate Dee on receiving fourth place in the Sixth Annual Warriors Showcase Shootout All-Indian Basketball Tournament in Henryetta. Darian and the Oklahoma Shades of Red II played in the 11-12-year age division. Darian made 10 points, had some awesome dribbling skills and made some great plays. The team's season record was 109 wins-11 losses-2 ties.

We would like to tell Dee how very proud we are of him. We are your biggest fans and look forward to watching you play this next season and many seasons to come!



### Congratulations, André

André Davis, 12, is in the sixth grade at Byng Elementary. He is the son of Sarah Davis and Joel Padilla of Ada and the grandson of Mike and Bernie Davis of Durant.

Mom, Dad, li'l brother Dee, Papa and Pofi would like to congratulate André and his team, the Oklahoma Shades of Red, on their championship in Henryetta. André and his team entered the Sixth Annual Warriors Showcase Shootout All-Indian Basketball Tournament in Henryetta, November 28-29. The Shades of Red were undefeated in the tournament and won the championship against Okemah Warriors.

André was chosen as 2008 Warrior Showcase Shootout 11-12-year age division MVP. He scored 22 points, made some awesome rebounds and great assists. We would also like to congratulate André and the sixth grade Byng Pirates basketball team on an undefeated season and wish them the very best for the rest of the season.

We would like to tell André how very proud we are. We are your biggest fans and look forward to watching you play now and in the years to come!



### Happy 94th birthday to Mary Lois

Happy birthday to Mary Lois Clifford of Ada who turned 94 on November 19. Pictured with Mrs. Clifford is Aubri Lynn.



### The gang says Happy 80th!

We wish a wonderful birthday to our father, grandfather, brother and husband, Bob Fleak. He celebrated his 80th birthday on December 21. Bob is an incredible person, kind, gentle and giving. He is intelligent and sets a good example for all of us. He still loves to ski, too!



### Look who's 1!

Laura Lynn Brown celebrated her first birthday on November 19. She was born at Southwest Medical Center, weighing 7 pounds even and measuring 19 inches long. Her parents are Barrlow and Amanda Brown of Hooker. Her uncle is O'Neil Metcalf, aunt is J.J. Metcalf and grandparents are Willie and Christie Metcalf, all of Hooker. Great-grandparents are Herbert Metcalf and the late Janice Metcalf of Guymon. Cheyenne Brown is very proud to be Laura's big sister. She loves playing with and watching out for her little sissy.



### He's already 8!

His mommy would like to say happy birthday to Canyon Lane Taylor. He turned 8 years old on December 20. Canyon is in second grade at Hugo Elementary and is an excellent student! He loves football and baseball and being with friends and family. Canyon's father is Dwayne Taylor of Hugo and his mother is Becky Peters of Hugo. Grandparents are Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson, Theda and Dodson Lamb of Hugo and William and Judy Taylor of Soper. Canyon is blessed with two little nephews, Drake Stubbs and Cayden Hostetler. He has two brothers, Cody Peters and Cody Taylor, and four sisters, Amber Hagger, Tahasha Taylor, Ashley Heady and Rachel Taylor.



### Bailey celebrates third

Bailey Thorne turned 3 years old on November 29. Bailey, who resides in Tucson, Arizona, celebrated with his parents, Mike and Kristy, and his brother, Ryan. Bailey is the grandson of Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City and the great-grandson of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



### Happy birthday

Bobby Clark Holder turned 74 on January 4. Bobby lives in Dallas, Texas, and is a sergeant in the Texas Civil Defense. Happy birthday!



### Have a fantastic birthday!

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



### Coby turns 4

Happy birthday to Coby Michael Robison who turned 4 years old on December 27. He is the son of Chad Robison and Denise Robison. Grandparents include Verlon Robison and Jeannette Robison.



### Dakota has first birthday

Linda Knight of Hugo would like to wish her grandson, Dakota Lee Thomas Hood, a very happy first birthday on November 3. Dakota is the son of Christie and Thomas Hood of Hugo. He also has a brother, Tony, and sister, Judith, of Okmulgee. Dakota is the grandson of Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo and Charles and Kathy Hood of Hugo.



### Happy birthday to Katelynn and Gage

Happy birthday to Katelynn and Gage Smith. Katelynn turned 3 years old on October 12. She celebrated her birthday with brother Gage, Mom and Dad, grandparents, uncles and aunts.

Gage celebrated his birthday on December 13. He turned 2 years old.

Katelynn and Gage's parents are Cory Smith and Wendy Pugh. Grandparents are Steve and Brenda Smith of Broken Bow, Glenda Ward of Broken Bow, Jerry Pugh and Idabel and Steven Smith of Texas. Great-grandparents include Barrentine and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow.



### Two birthdays - one great day!

Great-grandson Kevin Payne celebrated his 20th birthday on December 13. He shares this special day with his great-grandmother, Cleo Johnson, who turned 80 on this spectacular day. Kevin is the son of Jessica and Ronnie Payne of Fort Worth, Texas. Cleo is the grandmother of Jessica and the loving wife of Hugh Gene Johnson of Healdton.



### Birthday buddies

Birthday buddies Eli Mayer, 14, and Rymee Mayer, 2, celebrated their special day on the lake during the Labor Day weekend. Swimming, riding in the boat, catching big catfish and camping out made for a big adventure. Family and friends were out for the big birthday bash. Eli and Rymee are both big OU fans!

They would like to thank everyone who came out and celebrated their birthday with them, all the aunts, uncles, cousins and family friends. Be ready for next year!

Happy birthday from Dad, OU Grandma Pat, PaPa Edward, PaPa Buckshot and Shannon.



### Cass, Rowe exchange vows

Donald Andrew Cass and Rebekah Lynn Rowe were married on August 18 at Grace Christian Fellowship, Riverside, California.

Becky graduated from Riverside Christian High School, Riverside, California, in 2002. She attended Azusa Pacific University in Riverside. She is a teacher at Riverside Christian High School. Her parents are Rick and Sandy Rowe of Tecate, Mexico. Her grandparents are Glenn and Janet Johnson of Corona, California, Irene Rowe of Lula, and the late Charles Rowe.

Drew also graduated from Riverside Christian High School in 2002. He attended Cal State University San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California. He is pursuing a career with the California Highway Patrol. His parents are Dale Cass of Riverside and Jodell Cass of Riverside.

The couple is making their home in Riverside.



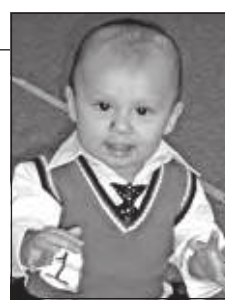
### Happy birthday

Keeley Nicole would like to wish her brother, Koda Hudson, and her grandma, Dimple Wickson, a happy birthday. Koda celebrated his fifth birthday on December 30 with a superhero theme. Grandma Dimple celebrated her birthday on December 15.



### Happy first birthday

Happy first birthday to Jake Mikal Walls from parents TJ and Joanna Walls, grandparents Peggy Ludlow and Bobby Samuels of Talihina, Aunt Chey of Heavener, and Uncle John of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



### Jay Don turns 3

Jay Don Baker of Idabel celebrated his third birthday with a Ninja Turtle cake at his home. His birthday is December 7 which he shares with Uncle Edgel Samuel Jr. of California. Edgel turned 29 years old. Jay Don's parents are Kelly and Jessica Baker of Idabel. Grandparents are Keith and Kay Baker of Broken Bow. Great-grandparents are Edgel and Jane Samuel of Broken Bow. His great-great-grandmothers are Martha Jones of Broken Bow and Lilliella Willis of Battiest. Jay Don has two brothers, Keylan Bond and Sky Duane, and sister Hope is on the way!



### Chelbi turns 1

Chelbi Lynn Wallace-Luker celebrated her first birthday on December 12 in Sulphur with family and friends. She is the daughter of Hillary Wallace of Sulphur and Larry Luker of Dougherty. Paternal relatives include her grandparents, Johnny and Barbara Park and Buddy Luker; great-grandparents are Alfred and Gloria; great-grandmother is Joyce Hector Stuart; Uncle Buddy and Stacie Luker; cousins, Jordan and Jacob Luker; Great-aunt Dolores Billy and Great-aunt Wilma and Todd Nicols. Maternal grandparents are James and Rachel Wallace of Mill Creek and Scott and Colene Dodson Gorrell of Sulphur; great-grandparents, Susie and the late Bobby Wallace of Sulphur, Kenneth and Aileen Ludlow of Smithville and the late Stanley Billy; great-great-grandparents, the late Charley and Margie Billy of Sulphur. All of Chelbi's family and friends wish her a happy birthday and many more!





## Students learn the value of work without pay

By Jacque Nicholson  
Hartshorne Sun Assistant Editor

Albert Schweitzer said, "Do something for somebody every day for which you do not get paid." Students at Jones Academy share the sentiment of the famous 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner and are putting it into action.

The Academy's Learn and Serve Project is a voluntary community service project designed to help students realize the value of doing for others without compensation or reward.

"Learning to serve others without expectation of money is gratifying," said George Bishop, program coordinator. "The only way to have true happiness is doing unselfishly for others."

The Learn and Serve Project is just getting under way. Although some projects have been done, Bishop is asking for input from the citizens of Hartshorne as to how Jones students can help them.

"The students are willing, eager in fact, to be of assistance in any variety of ways," Bishop said.

"They are working to come up with ideas for things they can do to help Hartshorne and its citizens. For instance, one student suggested raking leaves for elderly people, another suggested sweeping the sidewalks, yet another suggested washing windows. Those are good ideas, and we want more suggestions of ways to help."

Bishop said he has asked Hartshorne Mayor Mark Day to make a list of projects he would like to see the students do. "Anyone who has a project they would like to have done or who has an idea for an individual or community project should call me at 918-470-5096," he said.

According to Bishop, the students tackle their projects with enthusiasm and gusto. "I've never seen kids so anxious to make a difference."



## Elementary students cast their vote in recent election

On November 4, Mrs. Martin's third and fourth grade class at Jones Academy conducted a mock presidential election. All students in grades first through sixth were given the opportunity to

cast their vote for president. Barack Obama was the clear favorite, receiving 36 votes, and John McCain received 16 votes. The students had a great time and learned a lot about the election.

## Astronaut John Herrington visits Jones Academy

Commander John Herrington, the first Native American astronaut and 2002 Mission Specialist on the Shuttle Endeavor, briefly visited Jones Academy on October 10, 2008. On his cross-country trek, called "Rocketrek," Commander Herrington is riding his bicycle on a 4,000-mile trek from Cape Flattery on Washington's Olympic Peninsula to Cape Canaveral in Florida. Rocketrek is the astronaut's effort to promote and encourage student participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). He briefly spoke to students about careers in math and science.



Event Center staff members Shanis Goodson, Jody House and Frank Deal are pictured with the Business and Marketing Class at the Durant KTC campus.

## Speaking from experience

Special guests Jody House, Frank Deal and Shanis Goodson of the Choctaw Nation Event Center took center stage at the Durant Kiamichi Technology Center's district-wide communication and marketing meeting.

House, the "voice of the Event Center," explained about how they pick entertainers for concerts.

Deal explained to KTC district staff and KTC Durant business students how the Event Center employees strive to be customer-driven.

For more information on the Kiamichi Technology Center call 1-888-567-6807 or visit the website [www.okktc.org](http://www.okktc.org).

## Group attends Wildlife Expo

The Jones Academy elementary students attended the fourth annual Oklahoma Wildlife Expo just north of Oklahoma City. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and hosted about 4,000 school-aged children. The Expo involved exhibits, outdoor activities, camp-style food, and live demonstrations. Students were able to participate in activities such as archery, fishing, kayaking, turkey calling and even petting a live crocodile!

Students were also impressed by the exhibits of life-sized preserved wildlife. The annual event is intended to promote and develop appreciation for Oklahoma's wildlife and natural resources.

## Choctaw Nation GED Classes

### CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning date and time:  
January 26, 2009

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-4:30 p.m.  
Choctaw Nation Community Center  
408 N. "M" Street, Hugo, Oklahoma

### PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning date and time:  
January 26, 2009

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1-4 p.m.  
EOSC  
McAlester Campus  
1802 E. College Ave., McAlester, Oklahoma

### McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning date and time:  
January 27, 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1-4 p.m.  
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center  
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

### HASKELL COUNTY

Beginning date and time:  
January 27, 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1-4 p.m.  
Choctaw Nation Community Center  
Highway 82, Stigler, Oklahoma

The class will meet two days a 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 Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319 or 2122. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

February 4: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).

February 11: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).

Closed February 16 for holiday.

Closed February 25-27 for inventory.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: February 2-24.

Closed February 16 for holiday.

Closed February 25-27 for inventory.

### McALESTER

February 2: Stigler 9-12 (market closed).

Market open weekdays: February 3-24.

Closed February 16 for holiday.

Closed February 25-27 for inventory.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays: February 2-24.

Closed February 16 for holiday.

Closed February 25-27 for inventory.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

**Antlers:** 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443

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

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

**Poteau:** 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

**Bethel:** Choctaw Community Building

**Broken Bow:** Choctaw Family Investment Center

**Idabel:** Choctaw Community Center

**Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center

**Stigler:** Choctaw Community Center

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

## Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes



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

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

## CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY	1	2	3 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	4 Durant 10 am-2 pm	5	6 Idabel 10 am-12 pm Broken Bow 1-3 p.m.	7
	8	9	10 Antlers by appt only	11 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt only	12	13	14 Men's Day
	15	16 Holiday	17 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	18	19	20	21
	22	23 Crowder by appt only	24 Wilburton 10:30 am-1:30 pm	25 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	26	27 Wright City by appt only Bethel by appt only	28
	29	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.					



# Harvard visit leaves lasting impression on all involved



Representatives from seven areas of education at Harvard University provide information for the students at a reception in Durant.



Chris Wesberry, Ray Stevens, Tim Boatman and Jerreck McWilliams learn what Harvard has to offer.



Baxter Holmes and his mother, Nancy Southerland-Holmes.



Matt Demand.



Joyce Purser and granddaughter Derian Dingman.



Lucille Keith and grandson Robert Keith.



## Skullyville Post 441 in parade

Members of VFW Post 441 in Skullyville participated in the first Poteau Veterans Day Parade.

Pictured are, seated, Harold Perry, Jim Fry, Bob Coleman, Billy D. Coleman, Billy J. Coleman and Milton Stephens. Standing are John Casey and Malcohm Stephens.

## Jones completes training

Pvt. Adam Joseph Jones, 19, completed Calvary Scout training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, on November 20. While he was at Fort Knox, he was assigned to the 5th Squadron 15th Calvary. Adam will be stationed at Fort Drum, New York, with the 10th Mountain Division.



He is a 2008 graduate of Prospects High School in Antioch, California. He is the son of Anthony Jones and the stepson of Bernadine Jones and the son of Tracy Jones.

Adam likes to ride motorcycles and play football. He is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Rosa Lawrence.

## Collins performs in 'The Nutcracker'

Congratulations to Chrisma Collins, 8, of Eufaula who successfully auditioned for a part in "The Nutcracker" to be performed by the Tulsa Ballet. She performed as a mouse during December.



Chrisma is the daughter of Rebecca Folsom and granddaughter of Gene and Icee Cokeley. Great-grandparents include Eva Logan Lanning and Ora E. Hamilton Jr. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the Rev. William F. Logan Sr. and original enrollee Laura Potts Logan. We are proud of you!

## McDonald inducted into Phi Theta Kappa

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Murray State College, Tishomingo, recently inducted 46 new members. Sherry McDonald was among those inducted during an initiation ceremony November 2 on the campus of MSC.



Phi Theta Kappa is the honor society for two-year colleges. Invitation to membership is extended to students who have achieved a 3.5 grade point average in at least 12 credit hours.

Sherry is the daughter of Nadine and the late Larry McDonald Sr. of Sulphur. A proud Choctaw, she is currently attending Murray State College to earn a degree in business management and will be graduating in May.

# Choctaw youth earn Eagle Scout rank

James Alan Reynolds, 16, a sophomore at Ada High School, received the rank of Eagle Scout on November 23. He is a member of Troop 4 in Ada. He is very active in scouting, planning on a high adventure trip with his father and other fellow scouts to the Green River in Utah. He is the son of Margaret and Brad Reynolds. His grandfather is Dan W. Holman; his great-grandfather was Bernard Raymond Holman, a graduate of Jones Academy. James' maternal great-great-grandparents were Mattie Gleason, a graduate of Wheelock Academy, and "Tuck" Dan Holman. James is an excellent student, brother to two sisters, Samantha and Sarah, son and grandson. He understands the importance of his Choctaw heritage and takes great pride in his tribe's culture, history and success today.



Kyle William Tangeman, 16, of Plano, Texas, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts.

A member of Troop 999, Kyle received his award November 22. He planned and carried out an eagle service project which benefitted a HUD Apartment Complex located in Plano. He built a handicap-accessible decomposed granite pathway with a bridge over a dry creek bed with a decomposed granite patio area with four concrete benches.



Kyle is the son of Dave and Mia Tangeman of Plano, the grandson of Noel and Linda McBee of Plano, the great-grandson of Fay Uber of Plano (formerly of Atoka) and the late Mary Armstrong Mason of Atoka.

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Guest Speaker: Jason White  
2003 Heisman Trophy Winner



# Stickball seminar held at the University of Oklahoma

Submitted by  
Monte Randall  
Native American Studies  
Graduate Student, OU



On November 8, the Jacobson House Art Center, located in Norman, held its first traditional American Indian stickball seminar. This seminar was funded by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The seminar was hosted by the Society of Native American Gentlemen, The University of Oklahoma Native American Studies Program, and OU American Indian Student Life. The seminar was initiated by an increasing student interest in the traditional game of stickball and culminated into a hands-on learning event supported by OU faculty and staff.

The Society of Native American Gentlemen invited Curtis Billy, a Choctaw craftsman, language and cultural teacher, and Kelly Bell, a Seminole/Muscogee (Creek) craftsman, to instruct the participants of the seminar in the process of

making ball sticks used in the traditional Indian stickball game. Participants of the seminar included members of the Society of Native American Gentlemen, OU faculty and staff, Oklahoma City Community College, and The College of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The instructors began by explaining the importance of maintaining culture and tradition by listening to the words of their elders and by respecting the values that have sustained their cultures for generations. Each participant was taught the proper procedures for obtaining and splitting the wood to be used. The participants were instructed and supervised on the procedures for debarking, carving and shaping the

wood into both of the distinct styles of ball sticks used by the Choctaw Nation and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Thirteen people participated in the seminar and five people were able to complete the carving and shaping process. The entire process of constructing ball sticks is a very physically demanding procedure which takes determination as well as knowledge to complete. Although the process may have been time-consuming, the participants stayed focused on the task and utilized down time to visit with the instructors and the other participants. Several people were able to continue working and complete a pair of ball sticks the following day with some added tools and materials donated by the instructors.

The traditional way of making ball sticks taught by both instructors presented the participants with traditional values which enable the Choctaw and Muscogee (Creek) people the ability to sustain their cultural identity for generations. Although not everyone was able to complete a pair of ball

sticks, the seminar was a great success. The seminar brought different cultures together and provided an outlet to discuss the similarities of those cultures. The instructors were pleased with the diligent pace of work maintained by everyone throughout the day. Everyone was pleased with the work environment and the instructional level of the seminar and agreed that more programs were needed.

The Society of Native American Gentlemen would like to thank the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities for enabling this program by providing funding for the instructors and the materials.

We would also like to thank the Jacobson House Art Center for allowing the use of the facilities, the Native American Studies Program for the added support, and we would like to give a special thank you to Walaia Carey and Shelly Wahpepah for supplying the wonderful meal and for continually offering guidance and support to the many OU Native American student organizations.



Joe Watkins, director of OU's Native American Studies Program, listens to Curtis Billy as he explains how to make a ball stick.

## EOSC names top scholars

Eastern President Dr. Steve Smith recently visited with Oklahoma State Regents Academic Scholars attending Eastern Oklahoma State College. Pictured below, from left, are Smith; Caitlin Clifton from McAlester High School who is a life science major; Colt Richmond from Stigler High School, animal science, and involved with Eastern's ag-

riculture program, and Tyler Vann from Charles Page High School in Skiatook who is a life science major and a member of the Mountaineer baseball team. These students receive a full tuition waiver, a full room waiver and a \$900 cash award from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education per semester. This scholarship is renewable as long as the

student is enrolled full time and maintains a 3.0 grade point average. Eastern students are also required to perform 30 hours of community service per semester as part of this scholarship.

Smith also visited with Eastern Oklahoma State College Presidential Scholars. Pictured at right, from left, are Smith, Courtney Clayborn of Porum, an elementary education major and a member of the Lady Mountaineers basketball team; Alyssa Ole-snevich, Harrah, general studies major and a member of Eastern's cheer squad; Kayla Slaughter Buffalo Valley, life science major and president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor's club; Sam Eden, Park Hill, agriculture education major and Student Government secretary; Erica Gantz, Purcell, animal science; Maigan Sorenson, Sallisaw, meat processing; Angel Leopard, Webbers Falls, animal science/business option major and a member of the Aggie



Club; Bethany Shaw, Buffalo Valley, pre-med major and a member of the Native American Student Association, Honors Program, and is the Choctaw Nation Peer Advisor; Justin Casey, Crowder, chemistry major and vice president of Eastern's Honors Program; Chat Anderson,

Tahlequah, animal science; Daniel Sandefur, Hartshorne, business administration, and a member of Eastern's Honors Program; Justin Klusak, McAlester, general studies, and a member of the Mountaineer baseball team; Ben Kozma, Owasso, general studies, and a member of the Mountaineer

baseball team. These students received Eastern's top academic scholarship, the Presidential Leadership Award, which is renewable for four semesters as long as the student is enrolled full time, maintains a 3.0 grade point average, and completes community service hours.



## Holmes named Outstanding Journalism Senior for 2008-09

In ceremonies during family weekend, Baxter Holmes of Tuskahoma was named this year's Outstanding Senior for the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Baxter was among the university's top 18 senior students honored, along with their parents and family members, at a private reception on October 31 hosted by OU President David Boren, the OU Parents' Association, and the respective deans of each college on the OU campus.



In his remarks, Boren recognized these students for their high marks in academics, community service, campus leadership and extracurricular activities. He also praised them for making a positive difference at OU, especially when mentoring other students. Boren encouraged the students to remain unchanged in their quests to enthusiastically bring new innovation and positive changes to the communities and world around them.

The following day, Baxter and the other Outstanding Seniors were honored on the 50-yard line prior to kick-off of the OU-Nebraska game. Friends and family members enjoyed select seating on the 30-yard line as they watched OU win.

Baxter's mother, Nancy Southerland-Holmes, states the family is extremely proud of Baxter, both in his accomplishments at OU and his successful internships during his college career. In planning his college goals, Baxter intentionally limited his downtime each summer to seek internships, which are three-month work-study programs designed to give students experience in their respective fields.

Baxter interned with The Boston Globe in Boston this past summer as the Globe's lone sports intern. The Globe, which is one of the largest and most prominent newspapers in the world, is known for its prestigious sports reporting and its highly competitive internship program. Baxter was selected from a pool of more than 500 applicants to fill one paid position.

When Baxter called home to say he'd arrived safely in Boston in early June, the news was eclipsed by his next call stating his first reporting assignment would include an interview with basketball legends Magic Johnson and Larry Bird

on how they became close personal friends early in their careers and remained close throughout their years of fierce competition. When the Boston Celtics won their 17th NBA Championship, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers in six games, Baxter was present on the famous Causeway Street where a massive scrum of Bostonians charged and celebrated late into the summer night.

During Baxter's internship with the Globe, which is owned by The New York Times Company, he traveled New England extensively and wrote more than 70 stories, covering the Boston Red Sox, The New England Patriots, the Celtics, the New England Revolution, lacrosse, golf, tennis, racing, rowing, and even fishing.

He also contributed heavily to the Globe's 2008 Beijing Olympics coverage as well as college football and had the opportunity to learn from some of the most accomplished sports journalists in the country, like Bob Ryan and Dan Shaughnessy, both columnists for the Globe, and some of the paper's premier investigative journalists that covered the Globe's Pulitzer-Prize winning 2003 report on abuse in the Catholic Church.

Currently, Baxter is on track to graduate in May 2009 and is considering attending a graduate business school in hopes of developing an innovative business model for newspapers in the digital age.

Editor's Note: Baxter is a graduate of Tuskahoma School and Clayton High School. He is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, District 7. His family home is in Tuskahoma. Baxter and his family would like to acknowledge sincere appreciation to the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department under the direction of Larry Wade and his outstanding staff for their unwavering support.

To Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Jack Austin, the family is grateful for strong leadership and support in promoting higher education and positive youth programs at all levels, particularly for broadening opportunities for all tribal students who strive to reach their goals for college and professional careers.



Jason Campbell makes a presentation to Kathy Sturch from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

## NRCS celebrates American Indian Heritage Month

The Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) "kicked off" American Indian Heritage month on November 7 at the Chamber of Commerce building in Durant. Each year the NRCS sponsors a poster contest for American Indian artists to enter. This year's winner is Kathy Sturch, a member of the Choctaw Nation and a local artist. Kathy autographed posters for the public at this event.

Those present for the event were Dr. Carol Sturch, NRCS National Special Emphasis program manager (SEPM) for NRCS American Indian Alaska Natives; Jason Campbell, Choctaw Nation; Melanie Oliver, Oklahoma A/AN SEPM; Ann Colyer, NRCS Tribal Resource Conservationist to the Choctaw Nation; Paul May, NRCS District Conservationist, Durant; Julie Adams, NRCS Federal Women's program manager; Anderson Neal, assistant state conservationist, Arkansas NRCS; artist Kathy Sturch and her husband.



Paul May, NRCS district conservationist; Kathy Sturch, artist; and Ann Colyer, NRCS tribal resource conservationist.



# Youth Advisory Board making a difference in communities

## FCCLA Southeast District II Leadership Training

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board members Preston Wells, Danielle Adams, Vikki Rankin, Debra Tate, Nathon Jackson and Jake Burch presented to around 110 High school students at the FCCLA Southeast District II Leadership Training in Kingston. Breakout sessions presented by the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board included Self-Esteem, Team-Building, and Leadership.



## YAB volunteers time

Atoka and Coal County youth who belong to the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board volunteered their Saturday evening to help out with the annual chili supper and cake walk fundraiser. The money collected at the event is used to buy Christmas presents for local children. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is offered to local youths in grades 8-12.

For more information about YAB in Atoka, Bryan or Coal counties contact Gena Hutchings at 580-775-5349 or ghutchings@choctawnation.com

Pictured are Dakota Elkins, Shane Orr and Carrie Clem of Coalgate, Lecie Murray and Faith Mincher of Caddo.



Helping with Toys for Tots are, standing, Becca Timmons, Jennifer Fugate, Easton Crow, Faith Minche; front: Katie Maxey, Megan Parish, Haley Watson and Lecie Murray.

## Helping others

In December the Atoka County YAB group conducted canned food, toy and coat drives in their schools (Atoka Middle and High School, Tushka and Caney High Schools). They took the collected items to Victory Life Church who offered Toys For Tots to local needy families. The food collected was put into food baskets. The toys were divided up into age categories and the collected coats were given away as well.

The Youth Advisory Board students volunteered on the big day, giving out all that was collected. They humbly served those less fortunate with big hearts and smiles on their faces. What a blessing it is to help others!



## Toys for Tots

Several of Boswell's Youth Advisory Board helped with Toys for Tots over the holidays. Pictured are Bryce Dillard, KC Wood, April Mock and Dustin Harvey.



## Working with Project Fallvmichi

Local Coalgate youths are participating in the Choctaw Nation's Fallvmichi program. These students teach domestic violence awareness to the second grade students each month. The second-graders are learning that "hitting is not cool." Pictured from left are Malena Lowe, Dillon Burns, Aspen Clemens and Shane Orr.

## To the Youth of the Nation

By Easton Crow  
Atoka County YAB Secretary

It gives me great honor to write this article. First, I would like to talk to you about how awesome the youth advisory board has been. I have been amazed with what we have done.

The Washington, D.C., trip over the summer was awesome. I learned about Congress and senators; also, the memorials like the Iwo Jima Memorial. I've never seen it up close except on television.

The 2Much 2Lose Camp, an underage drinking prevention program, was fun, too. Local schools are participating in our 2Much 2Lose surveys. We are having them do these in an effort to find out more about the underage drinking problem in our county.

We have elected our representative and secretaries for Atoka County YAB – representative is Faith Mincher and the secretaries are Andria Yarbrough and Easton Crow.

Our community project for November and December was Toys for Tots, a coat drive and a food drive at Atoka and Tushka High Schools.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board is awesome. If you would like to join, contact Joyce Wells with Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles at 580-317-9335.



Mahli, second from right, plays Sunday, a member of Friday's family.



Bethanie, bottom right, Courtney and friend "Leonard the Leopard."

## Choctaw Nation members act in a nationally led production

Fraternal twin sisters Bethanie and Mahli Webster shared an unforgettable experience acting in the Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Robinson Crusoe" in mid-November.

Bethanie played the leading role of "Robby" and Mahli of "Sunday," a member of Friday's family.

The group came to Hugo on the weekend before the play. They auditioned on Monday with more than 50 kids rehearsing for hours after school for the two shows set the next Saturday.

The co-lead in "Crusoe" was played by Courtney Patterson who was offered the part in the summer camp project that Missoula offers in Montana each year. Courtney, Bethanie and Mahli were all junior staffers together at the Boys and Girls Club this year and developed the ability to work together that was apparent in this production.

"I definitely want to do more acting in the future," Mahli says

## Holiday projects

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board (YAB) were very busy this holiday season. Many individuals and organizations in Southeastern Oklahoma benefitted from the teens' volunteer work and the enthusiasm in which they set out to do their best at each task they choose. Following is a list of how each chapter helped others:

### Antlers YAB Chapter

- Held a bake sale to purchase items for Toys for Tots.
- Visited Choctaw Nation Nursing Home to hand out candy canes to residents.
- Gathered coat donations for clothes closet.

### Clayton YAB Chapter

- Held a candy gram fund-raiser at school to raise money for school staff appreciation meal/dance.
- Worked Clayton Christmas Parade, giving out candy canes in parade, serving cocoa/cookies and cleaning up.
- Served cocoa and candy canes at Christmas in the Park.

### Pittsburg County YAB Chapter

- Partnered with McAlester and Crowder schools on a Toys for Tots Drive.

### Coalgate YAB Chapter

- Helped at Councilman James Frazier's Children's Christmas.
- Visited Coalgate nursing home twice to sing Choctaw Hymns and make a craft with residents.

### Durant YAB Chapter

- Held a canned food drive and donated items to Families Feeding Families for Christmas baskets and meals.
- Visited two nursing homes to carol and make a craft with residents.

### Atoka County YAB Chapter

- Canned food, toys and coat drive items were donated to Victory Life to be dispersed.

### Bethel, Broken Bow, and Pickens YAB Chapter

- Held a bake sale, raising \$67 to purchase gifts for a boy and girl from the angel tree.
- Served food for Choctaw Nation Senior Citizens at Bethel and Broken Bow.
- Helped hand out the toys at Bethel and Broken Bow Choctaw Nation Kids' Christmas parties.
- Decorated and served food for the Bethel dinner and played "Dirty Santa."
- Served hot cocoa at Tushka Homma and assisted with set-up of the Christmas display.

### Hugo YAB Chapter

- Served hot cocoa at Christmas in the Park.
- Held a door-to-door canned food drive, donating the food to the First Christian Church in Hugo to assist with Christmas baskets. They gathered around 200 cans.
- Partnered with the Boys/Girls Club in Hugo and assisted with their canned food drive for Christmas baskets as well.

### Boswell YAB Chapter

- Collected over 300 toys for Toys for Tots in Choctaw County. The YAB held a competition between Boswell school classrooms, the class that had the most toys to donate to Toys for Tots received a pizza party. The YAB used funds from car wash/bake sale to pay for pizza party and they purchased \$124 worth of toys for the tots.
- Partnered with Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach Coat Drive and collected 30 coats.

### Soper YAB Chapter

- Held a door-to-door canned food drive, the cans donated given to the Choctaw Nation to help replenish local food pantries.

### Bennington YAB Chapter

- Trick or Treat for Canned Goods – Cans donated to Bennington First Baptist Church to use for Christmas baskets for families in need.

### Heavener YAB Chapter

- Helped two days with handing out Angels on Angel Tree at Bernard's Store in Heavener.
- Volunteered at Heavener First Baptist Church to wrap Christmas presents for Toy Land.
- Visited Vista and Heavener nursing homes in Heavener, handing out candy canes to residents and staff.

### Heavener and Howe YAB Chapter

- Volunteered at Christmas in the Park.

### Stigler YAB Chapter

- Volunteered with Salvation Army to Ring the Bell at Wal-Mart.
- Nursing home visits, handing out candy canes.



## OBITUARIES

### Madeline Frazier Jessie

Madeline Frazier Jessie, 85, of Garland, Texas, passed away on November 16, 2008. She was born March 9, 1923, in Idabel to Cornelius Arthur Frazier and Roseanna "Brandy" Frazier.

She was an active member of the Dallas Indian Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. Her greatest passion in life was the Lord and her family. She loved going to church on Sundays. She would travel out of town just to attend a gospel singing. She loved to spend time with her huge family including watching them play sports. She loved to plant flowers around the house and she loved going out shopping even if it was just to browse. She loved cooking and making a place in her home for anyone who came to visit or wanted to stay. She loved to make people laugh.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Alexander Webster Jessie; her three brothers, Steven Frazier, David Frazier and Eli Frazier; her two sisters, Fannie LaSarge and Mary McClure.

Survivors include her son, Bruce A. Jessie of Garland; two daughters, JoAnn McKinney and Darlene Jessie, both of Garland; three brothers, James Frazier of Indianola, Jimmy Frazier of Broken Bow and Benny Frazier of Idabel; one sister, Anna Stephan of Idabel; eight grandchildren, Charlie Taylor, Donya Battiest, Chad Taylor, Vanessa James, Brandon Taylor, Starla Taylor, Kami Taylor and Chase McKinney; 13 great-grandchildren, Marcus Vasquez, Alexander Taylor, Courtney Taylor, Derek Taylor, John Taylor, Isaiah Taylor, Taylor Battiest, Jordan Taylor, Christian Taylor, Joseph "Bear" Taylor, Jolie Clark, Savannah Mallard and Sariya Clark.

Special thanks to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Dallas Indian United Methodist Church, and to all the friends and family.



### Carolyn Braddock

Carolyn Dovie Louise Hall Braddock, 62, of Silverton, Texas, passed away July 24, 2008, in Amarillo, Texas. She was born December 6, 1945, in Silverton to J.C. Hall and Stella Perkins Hall.

She married Patrick Norbet Braddock in Dimmitt, Texas, on May 6, 1965.

Carolyn worked for the State of Texas as a Correctional Officer for over four years.

She was preceded in death by her father and a son, Patrick Lewis Braddock.

Survivors include her husband; her mother; two daughters, LouJessica Braddock of the home and Stella Braddock of Amarillo; four sons, Hubert Braddock and wife Margie of Nazareth, Texas, David Braddock and wife Brenda of New Deal, Texas, Heath Braddock and wife Cindy of Amarillo, Coty Braddock and wife Neyla of Tulia, Texas; three brothers, Mike Hall and wife Betty of Silverton, David Hall and wife Diane of Cowetta, and Al Hall and wife Anna of Soper; a sister, Dianne Wright and husband Lyle of Sulphur; 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

### Pauline See

Pauline See, 80, of Old Hickory, Tennessee, passed away November 19, 2008.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James William and Sara Lavena Ribble Robinson; son, James L. Russell; and brothers, William Max and Clyde T. Robinson.

Survivors include her husband, Clive J. See; daughter, Sue Russell Meyer; sister, Tessie Venable; grandsons, James David and Brian Paul Fisher; great-grandchildren, Alexia Fisher and Ayden Ransdell; and several nieces and nephews.



### William Joseph 'Bill' Folsom

William Joseph "Bill" Folsom, 81, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, passed away January 1, 2009. He was born April 29, 1927, in Caney, the son of Oscar and Blanche Folsom.

He served in the army during World War II and Korean Conflict as a Sergeant in the Military Police. After his service in the army, he attended and received an undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1954. Then he worked as a mechanical engineer for General Electric for 26 years.

On June 19, 1952, he married Nan McFarland Folsom. He and Nan relocated to Harrisonburg in October 2007 after living in Waynesboro, Virginia, for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Oscar Folsom.

Survivors include his children, Brent Folsom-Kovarik and wife Christine of New Jersey, Dr. Kent Folsom and wife Karen of Harrisonburg, Keith Folsom and wife Tish of Greenville, Virginia, and Lauran Folsom of West Virginia; 13 grandchildren; three brothers, James O. Folsom and wife Stella, John B. Folsom and wife Margie, and C. Hagen Folsom and wife Ruth Ann; a sister, Mary F. Kyle and husband Ted; a sister-in-law, Laura Folsom, and a number of nieces and nephews.

### Dell Marie Whitfield Bates

Dell Marie Whitfield Bates passed away November 25, 2008, at Oak Ridge Manor, Durant. She was born September 11, 1919, near Valliant, the daughter of Choctaw original enrollee Ida Austin and John Whitfield. She was the great-great-granddaughter of District Chief Thomas LeFlore.

She attended Wheelock Academy and Valliant Schools. After living for many years in Fresno, California, Ms. Bates retired from PG&E to the central coast of California. She returned to Oklahoma in the 1980s, residing in Idabel for several years before relocating to Gilmer, Texas, and most recently to Durant. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Idabel.

She was preceded in death by husbands Harold Bates and Vern Chambers; two brothers, Sam Whitfield and Guy Whitfield; and three sisters, Johnnie Mae Portman, Sue Euston and Betty Whitfield Vedder.

Survivors include a sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Mark Eaton of Las Cruces, New Mexico; brother, Gene Whitfield of Weatherford, and many nieces and nephews.



### Leroy Murrow James

Leroy Murrow James, 82, of Poteau passed away December 20, 2008, in Tahlequah. He was born June 30, 1926, in Oklahoma City to William and Tillian Tickness James.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene; two sisters, Florence Stephenson and Mary James; two brothers, Woodrow James and Edwin James; and his parents.

Survivors include a daughter, Nancy James Stimson and husband David of Van Buren, Arkansas; two sons, Bill James and wife Elizabeth of Tulsa and Michael James of Poteau; two sisters, Ruth James of Colbert and Esther Caesar of Stigler; and four grandchildren, Allie, Andrew, Christopher and Vincent.



### Mary Etta Freeny Rains Peters

Mary Etta Freeny Rains Peters, 90, of Caddo passed away November 19, 2008, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma. She was born November 5, 1918, in Roff to Robert Clay and Mary Emma Stapleton Freeny.

She attended and graduated from Matoy Schools, continued her education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and worked in the Housing and Urban Development office in Miami, Oklahoma. She married Boyd Altus Rains on June 26, 1937, in Bryan County and later married Wesley A. Peters on March 24, 1978. After returning to Bryan County in 1978, she was very active in civic and community organizations. She was a president of United Methodist Women for many years, a member of the Caddo Civic and Cemetery Club, and was the curator of the Indian Territory Museum in Caddo.

Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband; second husband; brothers, Benjamin Stanley and R.J. Freeny; and sisters, Opal Ellis, Dorothea Smith and Claydene Cole.

Survivors include daughter, Mary Edith Blevins of Caddo; son, Boyd Altus "Wynn" Rains Jr. of Salado, Texas; daughter, Rosalie Rains McGinis of Caddo; daughter, Annette Smith of Fort Towson; sister, Bettye Ann Lester of Durant, nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 13 great-great-grandchildren; and loved by a large extended family who thought of her as their "Mamaw."



### Arnold James

Arnold James, 41, of Broken Bow passed away November 27, 2008, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital, Idabel. He was born September 19, 1967, in Dallas, Texas, the son of Arvin and Imogene Ward James.

Arnold was affiliated with McGee Chapel, Broken Bow. He loved spending time with his boys, watching them play sports, watching the Dallas Cowboys, OU Sooners and barbecues.

He was preceded in death by his parents; maternal grandparents, Charlie and Sarah Ward, and paternal grandfather, Isaac James.

Survivors include his three sons, Tyler E. James of Broken Bow, Jeremy James of Idabel and Cody James of Idabel; three brothers, Marvin James and wife Rita of Grand Prairie, Texas, Darrell James and wife Carol of Duncanville, Texas, and Ronald James and wife Diane of Broken Bow; one sister, Janice Morris and husband Bobby of Holden, Louisiana; three uncles, Travis Ward, Teddy Ward and Alfred Ward; mother-in-law, Rose and husband Jim Shemwell of Idabel, and father-in-law, Lewis Battiest of Broken Bow; several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.



### Nina Mae Shipman White

Nina Mae Shipman White, 94, of Anadarko passed away November 6, 2008, in Chickasha. She was born March 20, 1914, in Milburn to James Jefferson Shipman and Ada Coffee Shipman.

She and Clyde White were married on January 21, 1929, in Kenefic. In this union were born three children. Nina was a homemaker, a wonderful cook and a seamstress. She enjoyed crocheting, needlepoint and raising a garden. She was strong-minded and worked hard her entire life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Shipman and Ada Shipman; her husband; two sons, Vernon White and Jerrell White; one daughter, Myrl Dean Sadler; and a brother, Myrl "Bud" Shipman.

Survivors include two daughters-in-law, Marie Jackson of Kenefic and Jacqueline White of Anadarko; one son-in-law, Jim Sadler of Hawkins; 10 grandchildren, Daniel Sadler, David Sadler, Diane Elkins, Doyle Sadler, Loyal White, Lonnie White, Leslie White, Lyndell White, Ricky White and Larry White; one nephew, Jim Shipman of Mustang; 17 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren.



### Thomas D. 'Tommy' Hawthorne

Tommy Hawthorne, 62, longtime publisher of The County Times in Cache, passed away December 8, 2008. He was born and raised in rural Comanche County.

Tommy graduated from Cache Public Schools in 1964 and attended Cameron College and Oklahoma State University. After a career in the mechanic profession that culminated in his owning a couple of garages, he served as a school board member for Cache Public Schools for 15 years.

He made a major career change in 1992 when he purchased The Cache Times newspaper. In 2003, the name of the paper was changed to The County Times.

Survivors include his girlfriend, Carol Blanton; children, Stacy Robinson and husband Steven, Tiffany Massie and husband Kerry, Katie Blanton and Beau Blanton; and five grandchildren, Brock Massie, Brody Massie, Lily Robinson, Sara Robinson and Mallory Massie.

### Boyd Monroe Tingle

Boyd Monroe Tingle, 82, passed away on November 15, 2008, in San Marcos. He was born on July 8, 1926, in Pasadena and was the fifth child born to Minnie Goode Tingle, an original enrollee, and Archie Daniel Tingle Sr., who was born in Macon, Georgia.

He graduated from Pasadena High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Army that same year. He was stationed in the Pacific on Siapan. He attended the University of Houston from 1946 to 1950, where he played football for the Cougars.

After graduating he began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Wharton High School, where his football team won the Texas State Championship in 1951. He went on to coach at Wharton College, where his basketball team won the National Championship in 1952. In 1956, he moved to Freeport where he taught Texas history and coached football and track at Brazosport High School. He left coaching in 1964 and moved to San Marcos to teach at Gary Job Corps. He taught physical education at Buda Elementary from 1978 to 1988. From 1968 to 1985, he owned and operated Rim Rock Boys Camp in Wimberley. Once he retired from teaching, he worked for a short time at ERA Real Estate and Hart Properties in San Marcos.

On July 11, 1953, he married Patricia Barber of Beeville. They made their home in Wharton, Freeport, San Marcos and Wimberley for 28 years. During the last two years of his life, he moved back to San Marcos to be near his doctors.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, two sisters, one niece and one nephew.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years; a daughter, Tricia Tingle-Scull and husband John; a sister, Mary; and numerous nieces and nephews, T.J. Molk, Randy Molk, Melvin Atchison, Jeanne Heitmann, Ricky Tingle, Tim Tingle, Bruce Tingle, Cynthia Sandy, Becky Elkins, Rene Wollney, Jack Tingle, Sandy Monzingo, Susan Tingle-Smith, Keith Barton and Kay Shearer; and numerous grand nieces and nephews.



### Thurman Moore

Thurman "Bear" Moore, 72, of Greenwood passed away December 2, 2008. He was born June 16, 1936, in Weathers to Nathan and Evelyn Moore.

He graduated from Haskell Indian School, Lawrence, Kansas. Upon graduation, he entered the Air Force, where he served for four years. He completed and received certification in diesel and heavy equipment from Oklahoma State Tech. He also attended Westark Community College and the University of Arkansas. He retired from Civil Service after 20 years. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. His unique personality and quick wit enticed all who knew him.

Survivors include his best friend and devoted wife of 38 years, Ethelyn Moore, and their three daughters, Rechenda BlackDeer, Evelyn Kasworm and Beverly Honaker; 11 grandchildren; and siblings, Sylvester Moore of Tahlequah, Pete Moore of McAlester, Joseph Moore of Jenny Lind, Arkansas, Carol Poston of Peoria, Illinois, Rose Chronister of Wilburton and Glenda Adkins of Tulsa.



### Charles Wayne 'Chuck' Troby

Charles Wayne "Chuck" Troby, 69, of Tower Hill, Illinois, passed away November 18, 2008, at his home. He was born November 18, 1939, at McAlester, the son of Louis and Pearl Jones Troby.

He married Janet Sue Torbeck on April 8, 1972, in Decatur, Illinois.

He enjoyed visiting with friends at Hazel Mae's restaurant in Tower Hill and at McDonald's in Shelbyville. He was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Shelbyville.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Ray Troby.

Survivors include his wife; children, Darel Troby of Smith Station, Alabama, and William Troby and wife Kelly of Janesville, Illinois; grandchildren, Ashley Troby and Shawn Troby; sisters, Mary Walters and Fern Rothley, both of Missouri; brothers, Richard Troby of Missouri and Dennis Troby of Arkansas.

### Adam Betsey

Adam Betsey, 86, a lifelong Atoka area resident, passed away November 19, 2008, at Tulsa. He was born June 25, 1922, in Bentley to Preston Betsey and Francis Willis Betsey.

Mr. Betsey attended school at Bentley. He married Annie Betsey. He worked 48 years for Brown Wyrick at Wyrick's Lumber Co. in sales and as a forklift operator.

He was a member of Macedonia Baptist and enjoyed working on vehicles, working in the yard and taking long trips just to eat somewhere different.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughters, Linda Henderson, Janie Hamilton and Funnanda Baker; grandson, Joseph Baker; great-great-granddaughter, Leslie Hamilton; and sister, Alice Ward.

Survivors include special longtime companion, Gladys Barcus of the home; children, Danny Betsey and wife Linda of Branby, Missouri, Gloria Loftin and husband Jeff of Atoka, Enos Betsey of Calera, Darlene Connell and husband Don and Diane Taylor and husband Gary, all of Seneca, Missouri, Donna Edwards of Tulsa, Tina Betsey and Billy Weir of Lehigh, and Pamela Jennings and Kennard Betsey, both of Atoka; 31 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Christina Benge of Tahlequah, Marie Baxter of McAlester and Lorretta Johnson of Oklahoma City; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many very dear and loved friends.

### Ronald M. Hutchinson

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

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

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



## Dennis Ray Baptiste

Dennis Ray Baptiste, 58, passed away December 19, 2008, in Ardmore. He was born January 9, 1950, in Ardmore to Robert Lee Baptiste Sr. and Frances Parker Baptiste.



Dennis graduated from Plainview High School in 1968 and attended Haskell Indian College in Lawrence, Kansas, in 1968 and 1969. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served from 1969 to 1971. He served as a rifleman and received his Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign Medal and Combat Action Ribbon prior to being honorably discharged.

Dennis married Mamie Davis on February 11, 1974, in Gainesville, Texas.

He went to work for the Michelin tire plant when it first opened in Ardmore, retiring from there in 2001 due to poor health. He was a member of McAlister Baptist Church and a member of the Choctaw Color Guard. He enjoyed playing softball and had a team called the Ardmore Rockets for several years. He never met a stranger because he was a friend to everyone he met.

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

Survivors include his wife of the home; three daughters, Emily Morgan and Jolene Morgan, both of Ardmore, and Jackie Morgan of Oklahoma City; three sons, Spencer Davis, Ricky Davis and Jerome Morgan, all of Ardmore; three brothers, Robert Lee Baptiste Jr. and Lonzo Baptiste, both of Ardmore, and Thomas Baptiste of Tulsa; two sisters, Stella Baptiste and Myrtle Choctkey, both of Oklahoma City; five brothers-in-law, J.D. Davis, Claude Davis, Mond Davis, Glen Davis and Randy Davis; two special friends, Stefanie Johnson and Allie Franklin; a host of nieces, nephews and friends; and his special companion, man's best friend, No Nose.

## Billy Shelton Curtis

Billy Shelton Curtis, a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, passed away October 29, 2008. He was born May 18, 1933, in Waurika.



Bill was a graduate of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. He had an extremely successful career as an athlete excelling in the high hurdles, holding the Oklahoma High Hurdles Record for over 30 years. He tried out for the 1956 Olympics and missed qualifying by one place. Bill worked in education for 35 years as a teacher, coach, and as an administrator. He retired in 1992 after 15 years as principal of Euless Junior High School in Euless, Texas.

Bill was a devoted Christian and a longtime member of Bethel Temple Church of Fort Worth, Texas.

He was preceded in death by a son, Chuck Cain Curtis.

Survivors include his loving wife of 44 years, Mona Lee; son, Todd Shelton Curtis and wife Jennifer and their children, Mollie and Karly, all of Fort Worth; daughter, Rebecca Katherine Carney of Tulsa; grandson, Jeff Goebel and wife Jennifer; great-grandsons, Austin and Grant of Magnolia, Texas; granddaughter, Megan Renee Carney of Tulsa; sister, Lillie V. Kirkwood of Tulsa; sister-in-law, Royce Welch of Austin; many nieces and nephews, a loving Bethel Temple Church family, and many close friends.

Bill was the grandson of Louis Shelton Hutchinson and Lillie Hodges, from whom he received his Indian heritage.

## Ruby Charnelia Ross

Ruby Charnelia Ross passed away December 18, 2008. She was born August 8, 1921, in Cobb, the daughter of Edwin M. and Valentine Marshal Skaggs.



She was raised in Cobb and graduated from Cobb High School in 1939.

Ruby married Brook G. Ross on July 26, 1940, in Durant. They were married 35 years and had two sons. She will be greatly missed by her family and special friends Elaine Justice and Faye Nichols.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; sister, Pearl Brumley, and brother, Virgil Skaggs.

Survivors include her sons, Charlie B. Ross and wife Deborah; John E. Ross and wife Annesia of Durant; grandchildren, David Ross and child Donovan of Valliant, April Moon and husband Nathan and children Trevor and Tanner of Fort Worth, Texas, Christie Burwick and husband Jason and children Jaxon and Lexi of Durant, Amber Thomas and husband Josh and children, Zachary, James and Luke of Durant; Alisha Ross and fiancé Horst Severini of Norman and Chara Ross of Norman; sister, Mary Belle Tomlinson of Midland, Texas; brothers, Lowell Skaggs and wife Mary Francis of Colleyville, Texas, Edwin Skaggs and wife Rita of Duncan and Paul Skaggs of Texas.

## Edith Claydean Pistubbee

Edith Claydean Pistubbee, 63, of Boswell passed away December 11, 2008, in Paris, Texas. She was born December 2, 1945, in Darwin to Emezhiah Durant and Elency Wesley.



Edith was a certified nurses aide at the Baptist Village in Hugo. She enjoyed fishing, gardening, sewing, and her Choctaw hymns. She was of the Methodist faith She was devoted to her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Raydean Pistubbee; sister, Doretha Herrera; brothers, Terry Durant and Smallwood Durant; and grandson, Terry Westmoreland.

Survivors include her husband of 45 years, Raymond Pistubbee; three sons, Darrell Pistubbee of Soper, Arnold Pistubbee of Boswell and Jose Pistubbee and wife Rebecca of Grant; five daughters, Teresa Westmoreland and husband Jack of Boswell, Elena Pate of Oklahoma City, Priscilla Acuna and husband Sammy of Elk City, Doretha Barrett and husband Jimmy of Boswell, and Sherrie Manous of Boswell; two brothers, Mitchel Durant and wife Dorothy of Boswell and Jimmy Wesley of S. Mayde, Texas; three sisters, Molly Billy of Dallas, Texas, Richender Samis of Paris, Texas, and Erma Hargrow and husband George of Bonham, Texas; two aunts, Pauline Welsey of Paris and Rosie Ludlow of Wilburton; one uncle, Elam Wesley of Detroit, Texas; 28 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

## Raymond Johnson Sr.

Raymond Johnson Sr., 73, of Honobia passed away November 5, 2008, at the McAlester Regional Health Center in McAlester. He was born November 20, 1934, in Honobia, the son of Samuel and Lucy Frazier Johnson.

Raymond married Thelma Bacon on April 20, 1954, in Hugo and had a happy marriage for 54 years.

Raymond enjoyed life. He liked going to church, singing Choctaw hymns and fishing. He enjoyed his grandchildren and family gatherings.

Raymond was a member of the National Guard and Ready Reserve. He finished barber school and cut hair for many years. He was well-known for his skills as a handyman and carpenter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and one brother.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two daughters, Sherri and Mark Carshal of Wister and Cathy and Clifford Ludlow of Tuskahoma; one son, Raymond Jr. and Deborah Johnson, also of Honobia; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members and friends.

## May Ola Herring

May Ola Rosenthal Herring, 91, passed away August 31, 2008, at her home. She was born February 21, 1917, in Rattan to Jacob and Birdie Earthman Rosenthal.



She was extremely proud of her Indian and Jewish heritage. May Ola was educated at Goodland Indian School in Hugo and Southeastern State College in Durant. A dedicated teacher, she taught in the Fort Worth ISD for 40-plus years.

She was a member of North Richland Hills Baptist Church and the SonShine Sunday School class where she had many friends.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Coy Rosenthal and wife Daisy, and George Rosenthal and wife Pauline; and three sisters, Sybil Davis and husband Walter, Gladys Brannan and husband R.A., and Velma Baldwin and husband William.

Survivors include a daughter, Patricia Herring Price; sons, Wayne and Kenneth Herring; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

## Lloyd Randall Kerns

Lloyd Randall Kerns, 51, passed away November 9, 2008, in Mansfield, Texas. He was born August 12, 1957.

Survivors include his son, Billy Randall Kerns; mother and stepfather, Lee and Tommy Harmon; brothers, Stanley and Darrell Kerns; sisters, Sandy Nixon and husband Ronnie, and Angela Jones and husband Edwin; nephew, John Humphrey and wife, Mandy; nieces and nephews, Katie, Paige, Austin and Natalie Jones and Kaela Humphrey; numerous uncles, aunts and cousins; and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Billy Edward Kerns.

## Timmy Wayne 'Slick' Robinson

Timmy "Slick" Wayne Robinson, 49, passed away December 21, 2008, in Andrews, Texas. He was born on June 21, 1959, in La Mesa, Texas, to Rex Nathanel and Bobbie Jo Collins Robinson Sr.



He married Rhonda Taylor and had lived in the Hugo area for several years before moving to Andrews. Timmy had worked as a welder, carpenter, painter and many other things.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rex Robinson Sr.; one sister, Rita LeBlanc; and one nephew, Jeremy Robinson.

Survivors include a son, Toby Wayne Robinson; his mother, Bobbie Jo Robinson; two daughters, Mary Kaye Robinson and Robin Christine Robinson; two brothers, Rickey Robinson and wife Lisa of Durant and Rex Robinson Jr. and wife Yvonne of Soper; one sister, Lori McLeroy and husband James of Detroit, Texas; five grandchildren, Kaylee Folsom, Brendan Robinson, Cayden Robinson, Trinity Larkins and Draven Robinson.

## Leland Benjamin Pierce

Leland Benjamin Pierce, 66, of Panama, passed away June 9, 2008, in Talihina. He was born August 5, 1941 in Panama.



Benjamin was a farmer, an oil field worker and a veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Korea.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hughes Harrison Joseph Pierce, and a sister, Shirley Moore.

Survivors include his mother, Vernia Pierce; brothers, Bobby Joe Pierce of Panama and Richard Lee Pierce of Poteau; sons, Gary Hall of Tulsa, Mike Pierce of Texas and Joe Pierce of Florida; daughters; Tracy Radican and Ruby Martinez, both of Point Blanks, Texas, Stephanie Palmer of Serepta, Louisiana, and Jennifer Pierce of Houston; 13 grandchildren; and numerous other relatives, friends and loved ones.

## Julius Oliver Hogan

Julius Oliver Hogan, 72, passed away on November 7, 2008. He was born May 18, 1936, in Sulphur to original enrollee Julius Hogan and Minnie Hogan.



The family moved to Phoenix, Arizona, in the 1940s where he married Barbara Stonebridge.

J.O. was a retired employee of the Roosevelt School District. He was also a locksmith for 30 years. J.O. was a big sports fan. He loved to play pool and attend pool tournaments. He was very proud to be a Native American and part of the Choctaw Nation.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Alvin Hogan; three sisters, Dorothy Hogan, Edith Burke and Ruby Pauline Porterfield; and one brother, Calvin Hogan.

Survivors include one son, Cecil Hogan and wife Diane of Phoenix; three daughters, Bobbie Jo Smith and husband Rick of Phoenix, Cathy Koen of Phoenix, and Tina Weber of Tuba City, Arizona; several grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

## Anna Harjo

Anna Harjo, 74, of Atoka passed away December 1, 2008, in Atoka. She was born February 2, 1934, in Pauls Valley, the daughter of Doyle and Beauty Dixon Smith.



She attended and graduated from Carter Seminary in Ardmore. A homemaker and housewife, she was a member of the Choctaw Presbyterian Church at Boswell.

Anna married Curtis Harjo on February 18, 1989, at First Central Nazarene Church in Oklahoma City.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Ray Smith Sr. and Austin Smith; sister, Minnie Smith; and a daughter, Catherine Louise Nelson.

Survivors include her husband of the home; sons, Wayland Anthony Nelson and Timothy Wayne Nelson; daughters, Virginia York Brown, Cynthia Ann Stewart and Cheryl Maria Nelson; and grandchildren, Alex Ferrell, Jordan Ferrell, Amera Ferrell, Sundance Ferrell, Macala Ferrell, Apollo Ferrell, Cameron Stewart, Mozella Stewart, Gregoria Pecheo, Robert Nelson, Hill Pecheo, Shania Estes, Joe Nelson, John Nelson, Casey Nelson, Kaitlyn Doyle, Michael Chlien, and Davide Schlien.

## Rosella Hightower

Rosella Hightower, an Oklahoma born ballerina who became a leading figure in the European dance world and founded a major ballet school in France, passed away November 4, 2008, at her home in Cannes, France, at the age of 88. She was born January 10, 1920, in Ardmore, the only child of Charles Edgar and Eula May Flanning Hightower. The family moved to Kansas where she studied ballet in Kansas City.

Ms. Hightower was one of five American Indian ballerinas from Oklahoma who had received special honors in the state. She traveled to France in 1937 and eventually became a member of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

In 1947, she joined de Cuevas Ballet, named for the Chilean-born Marquis George de Cuevas. She also was involved with the Marseilles Ballet, La Scala Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet.

Ms. Hightower opened the Ecole Superieure de Danse de Cannes in 1962, and it became one of Europe's leading ballet schools.

The French government created her Chevalier, then Officer and finally Commander of the Légion d'honneur. She last appeared on stage in 1991 in "Harold and Maud," and retired from teaching in 2000. A documentary, "Rosella Hightower," was created in 1991 by Francois Verret.

She was married briefly to dancer Mischa Resnikov in 1938 and to Jean Robier from 1952. Their daughter, dancer Dominique Monet Robier, survives her.

## Jack Ray Atwood

Jack Ray Atwood, 81, of Hodgen, passed away October 26, 2008, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born November 21, 1926.



Survivors include his wife, Patti; three daughters, Diana Stedman, Barbara Deneault and Tonya Greiner; a stepdaughter, Kathy Butler; three sons, Michael, Ron and Larry Atwood; three stepsons, Charles, Richard and Boyce Hust; a brother, Clyde D. Atwood; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Regina Glorine Cooper

Regina Glorine Cooper passed away November 3, 2008, at Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas. She was born April 10, 1960.



Regina loved life and lived it her way. If you wanted to see her smile, just let one of her four grandbabies walk in the door. She worked at Southern Pointe Nursing Home in Colbert. She loved her job and really cared for the residents and her fellow employees.

Regina married her best friend and soul mate, Larry Cooper, on March 6, 2002.

Survivors include her husband of Cartwright; son, Dustin Wimpee and wife Dana of Durant; daughter, Meloni Jacobs Wimpee of Colbert; two stepdaughters, Misty Cooper of Calera and Kristina Cooper; her parents, Bucky and Glenda Cummins of Colbert; mother-in-law, Ann Cooper of Durant; two grandsons, Hunter Wimpee of Durant and Timothy Iker of Calera; two granddaughters, Areil Love of Colbert and Brittany Cooper of Calera; six brothers and sisters, Len Cummins and wife Donna of Talihina, Mark Cummins and wife Aundrea of Cartwright, Brian Cummins and wife Tonya of Platter, Stu Kemp and wife Linda of Denison, Raylene Robinson and husband Robert of Colbert, and Michelle Nelson and husband Mike of Colbert; many nieces and nephews and a host of family and friends.

## Geraldine Hays Moore

Geraldine Hays Moore passed away August 22, 2008. She was born August 22, 1922, in Gerty, one of 10 children born to Jeff J. Hays and Evelina Pusley Hays.



She told of growing up on a farm with all of her siblings and how she had to chop wood, work in fields, how she enjoyed riding "bucking" horses and how the family traveled by covered wagon around Pauls Valley.

She met and married Joe Lawrence Moore and was blessed with six sons, Vernon, Jimmy, Donald, David, Jerry and Billy. Her husband, Joe, and three of her sons, Vernon, Jimmy and Donald, preceded her in death. Of the 10 siblings, six preceded Geraldine in death.

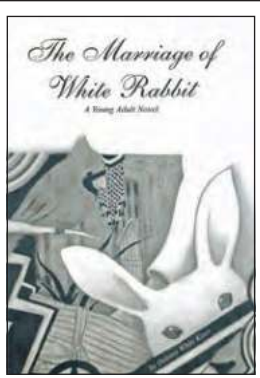
Geraldine had nine grandchildren and one of which, Tracy Moore, preceded his Grandma in death. She also has 16 great-grandchildren, three of which preceded her in death.

She lived in Boron, California, from 1953 to 1998. During some of the early years she picked potatoes in Bakersfield. She enjoyed being a homemaker staying home with her boys. She then moved to Tooele, Utah, in 1998 to live with one of her sons and his wife, staying there until 2007. She felt like she needed to be near her two other sons in Ridgecrest, California, so she moved there in 2007 and was there until her death.

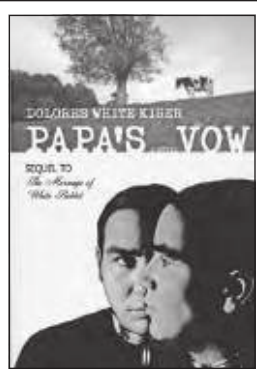
She is missed by all of her family and friends.



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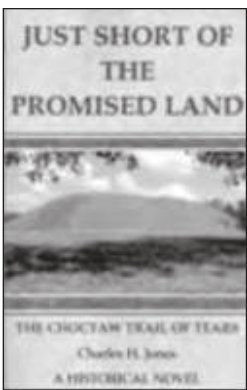
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## Christmas in the Park at Tushka Homma

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Christmas in the Park at Tushka Homma! The efforts of Choctaw Nation employees resulted in a successful first-time event at the tribal capitol, one that is greatly anticipated for the next holiday season. Favorite displays decided by the votes of those who drove through are:

- 1st Place Overall Winner:**  
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- 2nd Place:**  
Cultural Events
- 2008 Children's Favorite:**  
Travel Plaza
- Honorable Mention:**  
Tribal Membership, Casino, Law Enforcement, Elder Care & Nutrition, and Education departments



Heather Griffiths, Cherish Wilkerson and Jessica Rose bring flowers to Mamie Spearman, Choctaw, at Walnut Grove Nursing Home for Thanksgiving.



Choctaw Language Teacher Rhoda Anderson teaches the youth at McAlester Choctaw Center. Olivia Rolland is pictured to the right of Rhoda.