



BISHINIK
P.O. Box 1210
Durant OK 74702

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CHOCTAW NATION

July 2009 Issue

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She is excited about her next birthday in September when she will celebrate her 104th birthday.

Billy Mills, gold-medalist in the 1964 Summer Olympic games, was the keynote speaker for the day. He belongs to the Lakota Sioux tribe and was raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He is the first and only American ever to win the 10,000-meter race. He now uses his life story and speaking skills to be a role model for young Native Americans. He is also the national

See SUMMIT on Page 3

Choctaw students in the eighth through 12th grades living in the 10 1/2 counties are eligible to participate. Currently, there are YAB chapters in Hugo, Boswell, Soper, Bennington, Atoka, Coalgate, Durant, Battiast, Broken Bow, Idabel, Clayton, Antlers, Talihina, McAlester, Red Oak, Howe, Heavener, Hodgen and Stigler. If you are interested in the Youth Advisory Board, please feel free to contact Joyce Wells at jwells@choctawnation.com

NOTES TO THE NATION

Registered Nurse says thank you



Dear Choctaw Nation,
I would like to thank Higher Education, WIA, Vocational Rehabilitation and Career Development for all the financial support during my college career. I am truly grateful for all the generosity the Choctaw Nation has invested in me. Now as a Registered Nurse, I hope to work for an Indian Health Facility and provide care to all Native Americans in need. I'd also like to give a special thanks to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Curtis Billy and Patty Mink for their support. I wouldn't be who I am today without the kindness of the Choctaw people.

Jennifer Gurley, BSN-RN

Grateful for cultural community

Dear Choctaw Nation,
This past May I was awarded a Bachelor's degree in Sales Management from Purdue University. Over the past four years, the Choctaw Nation has helped me fulfill this dream. Graduating with both high scores and recommendations has helped obtain a much-anticipated account management career opportunity, which I am so thankful for.
Since graduation, I have begun working for Custom Forms Inc., the largest woman and minority owned commercial printing company in the state of Indiana. Through this position I will help provide casinos across the United States with quality commercial printing and ad specialties.
Thank you Choctaw Nation for helping me to reach this important milestone! Enjoying the life I've always imagined would not have been possible without your support. I am so fortunate to have a strong cultural community helping me achieve my educational and career aspirations.

**Melissa Mills
West Lafayette, Indiana**

Thanks for support

Dear Choctaw Nation,
My name is Starla Lee. I am a 2004 graduate of Durant High School, the daughter of Bill and Angie Mullen of Durant, granddaughter of Jim Morris of Durant and Ruth Morris of Durant, Faye Mullen of Grand Prairie, Texas, god-daughter of Edith Soester of Durant and great-granddaughter of the late Noel and Starlia Wilson of Lane.



I recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry with a Bachelor's of Science in Dental Hygiene. I could not have done it without the support of the Choctaw Nation. The Nation was there for me in so many ways helping me with the technology, scholarships and just the support of encouragement. Everyone I came in contact with was so willing to help me in any way possible to get me where I needed to be so that I could be successful. I was blown away by the amount of resources that the Choctaw Nation has available to support college students in their efforts to gain a higher education. I received help from many different people and offices including Chief Greg Pyle, the Tribal Council, Career Development Program, in-class training program and Higher Education Program.
So I'm sending a big thank you to everyone that put so much effort into helping me reach my goals. I would like to give a special thanks to Joy Culbreath, Charlene Grunstad, Gayla Guillory, Patty Minks, Freda Nixon, Emma Prince and Larry Wade. You all have been amazing over the past few years and I am so grateful to each of you for going the extra mile for me. I am planning to work and reside with my husband, Zach Lee, in the Oklahoma City area.

Starla Lee, RDH

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,
I would like to thank Choctaw Nation for helping my family since my hours at work have been cut from 40 to 16 hours a week. Choctaw Nation came to our aid and we are very grateful for that.

Kelly Goodroe

Yakoke for the books!

The Choctaw Language Class at Bethel would like to extend a special "Yakoke" to Councilman Mike Amos for providing the books for our class taught by Instructor Kaye Choate. Achukma ho ke!

The Bethel Choctaw Language Class

<i>Gregory E. Pyle Chief</i>	The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	<i>Gary Batton Assistant Chief</i>
Judy Allen, Executive Director Vonna Shults, Web Director Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director Janine Dills, Executive Assistant Lana Sleeper, Marketing Assistant		
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The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be type-written and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive. If you are receiving more than one BISHINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you. The BISHINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation. Circulation is monthly. Article deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.		
BISHINIK® 2009		



Top row from left – Allen Clay, Sonny Winship, Tina Carney, William “Billy Bob” Hubbard, Hank Williams, Andrew Phillips, Dave Lindley and Tim Holt. Bottom row from left – Coach Tammye Baker, Courtney Wesley, Shelby Gallant, Teela Nichols, Ashton Byer and Tiffany Clay. Not pictured – Clint Baker and Daniel Rodriguez. In memory Choctaw Crew – Jimmie Williston Jr.

The Choctaw Crew

Dear Choctaw Nation,
The Choctaw Crew traveled to Creek Nation's 35th annual co-ed softball tournament held in Okmulgee which took place June 12th-14th.
Although it had rained all weekend and the fields were muddy, the Choctaw Crew played one game Saturday at 9 a.m. Sunday morning started off a winning day until noon when the winning streak ended, giving them their first loss. This led to playing games back to back with a full count and one pitch at bat. However, the Crew climbed their way back to the finals, meeting up with the team that had sent them to the loser's bracket. As the last games were being played, the Crew was getting worn out from a day full of diving for the ball, falling and running against the mud. They made great catches, both outfield and infield; they did a great job. “Unfortunately the Crew didn't place first, but it was an honor to place second out of 21 teams,” said Coach Tammye Baker.
The missing Choctaw Crew member will never be forgotten. Actually he probably was with us. In memory, Jimmie Williston Jr. passed on June 14, 2008, in Valliant after playing co-ed softball last year.
The Choctaw Crew would like to thank everyone that helped and bought Indian tacos to help support our team to travel, just to play and represent who we are – Choctaws.

The Choctaw Crew

Thanks to everyone!

Dear Choctaw Nation,
Recently, my husband and I had the privilege to attend Chief Pyle's and Bob Pate's birthday celebration at the Expo Center in McAlester. We had a great time enjoying the dinner and the entertainment and I'm sure everyone attending did also. We had an opportunity to buy tickets from the Choctaw Head Start Program for a hand-made quilt, so we bought two tickets. Imagine my surprise when they called last week and told me that I won the quilt! A very nice lady said she'd deliver it to me and she did. I don't know who made the beautiful quilt but I will treasure it and the memories of that day. Since I don't know any names of the people involved, I would just like to say thank you to all involved. Chief Pyle and Bob Pate aren't getting older, just better every year!

Jackie and Pat Nabors

Thanks again!

Dear Choctaw Nation,
I wanted to thank this opportunity to thank the Choctaw Nation for their generous support of my educational endeavors at the University of Minnesota, Morris. I am studying theatre arts with the intention of becoming a professor of theatre historiography. So once again thank you very much.

Anthony Albright

Thank you for the prayers

Dear Choctaw Nation,
The family of Cambree Fromme would like to thank everyone who sent cards, the phone calls and most of all, the prayers while she was in the hospital in Tulsa. She is doing really well now. God does answer prayers. We would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation. We could not have made it without the love and support you all have shown our family. Thank you and may God bless.

The Family of Cambree Fromme

The Simon Isaacs Indian Cemetery

The care of the Siman Isaacs Indian Cemetery has been done by several older people who are no longer able to do it. Without donations it will be up to individual families to mow their own graves. Sadly, only two or three families mow their areas. The rest of the cemetery has been over waist-high in weeds. This is not what we want for our loved ones. We have someone that will mow but would like to be paid. Donations can be sent to: The Simon Isaacs Cemetery, Shirley Lewis Rust, P.O. Box 75 Keota, OK 74941.

Thanks for your hard work!

Tribal Membership,
I wanted to thank Jeanna Gomes and her co-workers for all their hard work. Your diligence and attention to detail is important. It may not seem important, but the work you're doing with this picture will allow us to grow our family of two through adoption! Thank you for helping us give a loving home to children who need a family and to be the answer to a hurting woman's prayer. You're a blessing to us! Thank you!

John and Heather Jackson

Support for lacrosse player

Dear Choctaw Nation,
Our family will always be appreciative of the support you gave Andrew in playing in the World Lacrosse Games last year. It spoke volumes for the Choctaw Nation as some of the other Nations, whose culture is steeped in the game, did not support their boys. Andrew graduates cum laude this Saturday and will be headed off to Yale University in the fall where he will continue playing lacrosse. Our best to you all.

Lisa Cordia

OU law student gives thanks

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,
I am writing to express my appreciation to the Higher Education Program for the recent scholarship I received for tuition assistance at the OU College of Law.
This scholarship will help reduce the large financial burden of pursuing my dream of practicing law. I continue to be amazed at the generosity of the people of the Choctaw Nation and their willingness to help students further their education.
I am truly honored to be a member of the Choctaw Nation and grateful for the opportunity this scholarship will provide me as I continue to pursue a degree in law from the University of Oklahoma.

Amy Dominick-Padgett

Reaching out

Dear Chief Pyle,
I was thrilled to discover the Career Development Program was available to me since I do not live within the counties that comprise the Choctaw Nation. Most of the services provided require that and since I live in Austin, Texas, I have not been able to take advantage of the many services the Nation provides. This is the first time that the Nation provided me with any benefits and I am very thankful.
My career goals right out of high school were to get a five-year graduate degree in accounting and sit for the CPA exam. However, there were a few bumps along the way. I ended up with a four-year undergraduate degree without a CPA certification. I have now come to a point in my life that I am able to refocus on my goals, and that is where the Career Development Program came in. With their help I'm going to be able to achieve my goals and set a wonderful example for my two daughters to not ever give up on your dreams. Becky Ley has been great to work with in coordinating my benefits.
One thing that has always held me back from pursuing the CPA certification has been lack of funds to purchase the study materials and pay for the sitting fees. The total cost doesn't seem like much, but I have a 13-year-old child that has been diagnosed with Raynaud's phenomenon with the possibility of it progressing to Scleroderma and a 7-year-old with dyslexia so as you can imagine medical co-pays can add up. I will be sitting for the first section of the four-section exam to get the CPA certification in May. The certification will help me either move up in my current position with the Texas State Comptroller's Office or open up some new opportunities at other state agencies in Texas. Once I have gotten my CPA certification, I would like to go back to graduate school and complete the MBA I started in 1995.
Please continue to expand this wonderful program. I feel like I am really a part of the Nation for the first time. Thanks for expanding programs beyond the Nation's boundaries and please continue to fund the Career Development Program. It not only benefits the individuals who participate, but benefits the Nation by having well-educated members.

Katrina Keylon Burch

Do you recognize this photo?

Dear Choctaw Nation,
I was wondering if anyone could help me. This picture was taken about 1935. It is believed he is Chief Gray Horse. He was 83 and my mother next to him is 7. He is either my mother's father or uncle. My mother and her other siblings, five or seven of them, were put up for adoption. My mother's adoptive name was Elizabeth Ascroft. All I know is her real first name was Terry and she was Indian and ashamed to say anything about it. My mother's records are sealed in St. Louis, Missouri. They only told me other family members are trying to find her also. I'd just like to know of my mother's real family. Thank you.

Suzanne Buono



A blessing

Dear Choctaw Nation,
My family and I have been so blessed by the assistance we have received from the Choctaw Nation. My daughter, Hope Trent, has Type 1 diabetes. The Choctaw Nation has been providing her all the supplies she needs for the past three years. A few months ago, her endocrinologist encouraged us to try her on the insulin pump. The Choctaw Nation provided her with an insulin pump and all the supplies that go with it. Thank you so much. The Choctaw Nation continues to bless my family.

Candi Trent

Thank you families!

Dear Choctaw Nation,
The Wades from Duncan and Bray area would like to say thank you to all the family members that came to the Decoration Day Dedication. We would also like to thank the family members that we were not aware of for coming and giving us some new insight to our ancestors. We would like to hear from the relatives from Unger to learn more of their family tree. Please contact Marjie at 580-251-5701. We are anxious to hear from you!

Marjie Jenkins

Thanks for educational assistance

Dear Choctaw Nation,
Thank you so much for the educational assistance you have provided for the past seven years. In May I received a Master's of Business Administration degree from Angelo State University. The assistance you provided helped defray the cost of books and other fees associated with college. Also, I would like to thank you for the graduation gift. I will wear it with pride. I am truly grateful for your support and generosity and to be a part of the Choctaw Nation.

**Daniel R. Beaver Jr.
Mesquite, Texas**



Excited about Labor Day Festival 2009

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival will be Thursday, September 3, through Monday, September 7. Each year, it seems the fun gets better than the year before.

Just driving to the Capitol Grounds is a treat, with the buffalo grazing beside the fencing and the beautiful Choctaw village sitting on the banks of the pond full of lily pads. We have a brand new cafeteria this year, and it will seat 400 diners in air-conditioned comfort. Handicapped entrances and restrooms are a tremendous asset at this new facility.

Although the cafeteria is in the final stages of construction, the appearance blends into the grounds as though it has always belonged. The red roof matches that of the historic Capitol, and the natural rock columns look as though they could have been quarried from the nearby hills.

A “walking history path” is planned for the east side of the Capitol Building. This path will be landscaped and will have sto-

ries and history of the Choctaw people along the trail. Learning about history while experiencing the beauty of nature sounds like a great way to share information! The entire family should be able to enjoy the experience.

The ball fields always get a bit of renovation each year, and 2009 has delivered a structured canopy for the walkway, for a much-needed shade. The fast pitch tournament always has a huge crowd, and hopefully this extra bit of shade will help provide some comfort.

People frequently want to know who is going to appear in concert during the Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma. Appearing on-stage Friday are Randy Rogers Band, Billy Currington and Wynona Judd. Stars at the amphitheater on Saturday night are Neal McCoy and Gretchen Wilson. A Sunday night favorite is The Crabb Family.

A full schedule of all the planned activities will be in the next month’s BISHINIK. I hope you and your family can attend this wonderful event at our tribal grounds in Tushka Homma, Oklahoma.



Bennington third-graders tour Choctaw Nation headquarters

Third-graders from Bennington School toured Choctaw Nation headquarters for their end-of-the-year activity. They were escorted by CHR Elaine Justice, Bennington teacher Stacy Pope and Bennington principal Mary Knight. The students toured the entire complex but the highlights of their tour was meeting Chief Greg Pyle and Councilman Ted Dosh, and the tour of the Choctaw Nation Language department. In the language department, the students were amazed to find out that people all over the United States could log in to a computer and learn to speak the Choctaw language. After the tour, the children enjoyed a pizza party at the Carl Albert Park in Durant. Elaine Justice has taught the Bennington third-graders about health, nutrition and the danger of substance abuse for the last nine years. In fact, the first class she taught graduated from high school this year.

Summit

Continued from Page 1

spokesman for “Running Strong for American Indian Youth.”

Mills understood that his notoriety would endear him to others, so he always strove to be a positive role model. After winning his gold medal he realized, “With achievement comes honor and with honor come responsibility.”

Others to perform at the Youth Summit were hypnotist Johnie Fredman, comedian/magician Chris Rayman and the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Council.

Tribes represented were Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole, Citizen Potawatomi and Muscogee-Creek. Participating organizations were WIA Youth Programs sponsor, Big Five, KEDDO, state governor’s council, SOSU, Southern Workforce Board and Southeast Workforce Board.

Council

Continued from Page 1

Delmer Allen in Latimer County.

- A division order in Pushmataha County.

- Funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the purpose of construction and improvements to specific roads.

- Several highway easements and two temporary easements in Bryan County.

- Assurances regarding 2009 ICDBG American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant Application to provide residents with information concerning funds available for proposed community development and housing activities.

- Authorize use of funds from the General Fund to assure completion of American Recovery and Reinvestment ICDBG Grant Project.

- Adoption of Maintenance and Operating Plan for McAlester Community Center and commit funds for annual maintenance and operation of facility.



Head Start enjoying summer

Wood Guest Ranch in Boswell, in conjunction with Project LEARN! recently hosted a field trip to the ranch for several Choctaw Nation Head Start classes on May 27. Choctaw Nation Head Start summer school classes have been enjoying a camping theme this summer. The field trip to Wood Guest Ranch gave the children an opportunity to extend the theme outside the classroom. At the ranch, the students from Atoka, Antlers and Durant enjoyed a horse-drawn wagon ride, toured an RV, went on a nature walk, had a picnic, and participated in other fun outdoor activities. Pictured are Durant students Tammy Russell, Payton Nix, Zane Ritterhouse, Makenzie Polk and Chrissy Schmitz with staff of Wood Guest Ranch.

Growth of Choctaw Nation on upswing

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

The Choctaw Nation keeps growing at a rapid pace – proof of that is on our calendar of events when we try and schedule the groundbreaking, ribbon-cuttings and grand-opening celebrations! Just recently, a fabulous Choctaw KOA park opened in Durant near our largest Casino Resort, complete with a large family center, pool and 77 pads for campers. Just down the road is the new fire department/EMS facility that the Choctaw Nation helped build and open earlier this year.

A new Child Development Center and Choctaw Community Center are nearing completion in Durant, and a Senior Citizens Housing area has just been enlarged. This



is not the only district receiving new facilities – other areas are also keeping the construction workers busy. Hugo has a new Senior Citizens Apartment Complex adjacent to their elderly independent living homes, Grant has opened a new Casino and Hotel (complete with restaurants), Wright City has turned the first shovels of dirt for a new community center and a ribbon-cutting is scheduled at the end of July to showcase the opening of new doctors homes in Talihina near the hospital.

Stringtown and McAlester

just opened their new casinos, and the McAlester Travel Plaza is totally new as well. The employees are extremely proud of their new worksites and would love to show you around if you have the opportunity to stop in. It is very exciting to be able to see the Choctaw Nation grow in facilities, services and employment. When Chief Pyle first came into office as the leader of our tribe, we had about 1,200 employees and we now have about 7,500. I am excited about the future of the tribe and have a great deal of hope in what it holds for all of us.

Key tells of growing up in Oklahoma

Dr. Ted Key recently visited the Choctaw Nation Complex in Durant with his niece, Sheila Key Brashier, and nephew, Danny Key. While there he had the opportunity to visit with Assistant Chief Gary Batton. He talked to Assistant Chief Batton about growing up in Oklahoma. He attended Goodland School and even wrote the Goodland school song when one of his teachers held a contest with a \$5 prize. After Goodland School, he attended Murray State College and played football. He then transferred to Oklahoma City University. While playing football at Oklahoma City University, he had the honor of playing the



first-ever game using flags. He and his brother also provided the half-time show entertainment. After college, he joined the Navy and served in World

War II. He holds the title of being the first Native American dentist to be president of the Greater St. Louis Dental Society.

YAB brings Chief a gift

The Youth Advisory Board Executive Committee presented Chief Gregory E. Pyle with a souvenir photo taken of the YAB students who attended the trip to Oklahoma City at the end of the school year.

Pictured with Chief Pyle are Faith Mincher of Caney, vice chair; Preston Wells of Heavener, chair; and Jessie Blackwell, Heavener, secretary.



District 9 Princesses chosen

District 9 held its princess pageant on May 25 at Durant’s Magnolia Festival. Josephine Gilmore was crowned District 9 Little Miss. Malinda Steve was crowned District 9 Junior Miss. Autumn Cooper was crowned District 9 Senior Miss.

These young ladies will represent their district for 2009-10 and they will compete with the other 11 district princesses during the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant on September 3, kicking off the annual Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma.



WILL PREPARATION CLINIC

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. (OILS) will be holding a **FREE Will Clinic** on Friday, August 14 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center 208 B Street, Poteau.

To register for the clinic call 800-658-1497. Registration is limited so call as soon as possible.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. is one of two civil legal service programs operating in Oklahoma funded principally by the Legal Services Corp. For more information regarding other legal services, please call 800-658-1497.



The Choctaw Nation STAR Program (Success Through Academic Recognition) is happy to announce that the eligibility for students has been extended to include children enrolled in any Accredited School within the State of Oklahoma.

What does this mean for your child?

This program will encourage the academic success of Choctaws by providing students an incentive to strive for the highest possible level of achievement. The STAR Program offers a certificate of excellence along with an incentive dispersed on a bi-annual basis.

The awards are granted according to the students’ educational progress: Straight A’s – \$25; A’s and B’s – \$10; Perfect Attendance – \$25.

To be eligible for this program a student must:

- Be a confirmed tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; verified by STAR staff, and
- Be in the second through 12th grade

If you are not certain your school is participating please give us a call and we will be more than happy to help your student on an individual basis.

For more information contact star@choctawnation.com or call 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2639.

WIC

Keep me safe!

As parents we want to guard against anything harming our children. Here are some simple rules to live by to help keep our children safe and happy!

- Watch your child closely when they are near or in the water. Adults should be within arm’s reach when children are around water.
- Breathing secondhand smoke can cause ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia in children and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in infants. Keep your child away from tobacco smoke.
- Carbon monoxide is an odorless and poisonous gas that can kill. It can be produced by appliances in the home that burn gas, oil or coal. Install a battery operated carbon monoxide detector.
- Use sunscreen and a hat to protect your child from sunburn.

Sunburn Quiz

What is the best way to protect babies under 6 months of age from sunburn?

- A. Keep out of direct sunlight
- B. Cover baby in comfortable clothing
- C. Use sunscreen made for children
- D. All of the above

The answer is D: all of the above

The sun is the main cause of skin cancer. Babies younger than 6 months have sensitive skin and need extra protection.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Chief
Gregory E. Pyle



Assistant Chief
Gary Batton

Growing with pride, hope and success

Children

Adolescent Family Life
Boys & Girls Club
C.A.R.E.S.
Day Cares
Child Development Centers
Women, Infants & Children
Child Care Assistance
Indian Child Welfare

Education

Education Scholarships
Adult Education
Head Start
Jones Academy
Educational Talent Search
Upward Bound
Upward Bound Math/Science
Johnson-O’Malley
Vocational Development
Vocational Rehabilitation
Program
Scholarship Advisement Program
Career Development

Elders

Nutrition/Elderly Programs
Outreach Services
Family Caregivers
LIHEAP (energy assistance)
Victim Assistance

Outreach Services

Adolescent Family Life
Community Based Social Work
Vocational Rehabilitation
Injury Prevention
Project House
Project Empower
Faith Based Counseling
Victims Assistance
Elder Advocacy
Youth Outreach
Transit
Community Health
Representatives

Housing

Housing Authority
Modular Housing

Property

Agriculture
Forestry/Firefighters
Land Title and Records
Real Property
Historical Preservation

Other Programs

Tribal Membership/CDIB
Transportation Improvement
Workforce Investment
Choctaw Color Guard
Natural Resources

Health

Health Clinics & Hospital
Hospitality House
Behavioral Health Program
Recovery Program
Mail Order Pharmacy
Community Health Reps
Environmental Health
Pharmacy Refill Center
Chj Hullo Li

Heritage

Cultural Resources
Historic Preservation
Wheelock Museum/Gift Shop
Veterans Advocacy
Genealogy Advocacy

Social Services

Social Services
Children & Family Services
Food Distribution
Emergency Assistance
Family Investment Centers
Family Preservation
Human Resources
Law Enforcement
Public Relations

Economic Development

Total Care Hospice
Choctaw Nation Book Store
Museum & Gift Shop
Economic Development

1-800-522-6172 • www.choctawnation.com

NURSERY NEWS



Baby Sara

Sara Nicole Eggleston was born on May 29, 2009, to Danny and Chandra Eggleston from La Pine, Oregon. She was 6 pounds 10 ounces and 21 inches long.

An addition to the Bohanon family

Dakota Wayne Bohanon was born May 27, 2009, at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City to Haley and Chris Bohanon. He weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 21 3/4 inches long. Dakota is a direct descendant (ninth generation) of William Bohanon Sr. and full-blood Choctaw wife. His grandmother is Darlene Bohanon Fields. Great-grandparents are Sammy Bohanon and Danuta Bohanon. Aunt Cheyenne Fields is very proud also.



Become a Choctaw Nation Foster Family

By becoming a Choctaw Nation foster family you will serve as a temporary parent to a child or children placed in your home. You will provide for their basic needs, food, shelter, clothing and safety. You will help maintain their social and cultural customs.

Basic Requirements:

- You can be single or married.
- You or your spouse must be an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- You must have the emotional, physical and financial abilities to provide for a child’s needs.
- You must reside within Choctaw Nation’s 10 1/2 counties.

What is the certification process?

- You complete a resource family application.
- A child welfare specialist will visit you and your household to conduct a home study. You and your family will be interviewed. Your home will be inspected to make sure it is an adequate place for foster care.
- You will be fingerprinted and a background check will be done on all adult members of the household.
- Four personal references you provide will be contacted and interviewed.
- You will submit a physical exam form signed by your own current doctor.
- You must attend pre-service training.

The need for Choctaw Foster Parents

Many of our Choctaw children are in need of stable homes and families. It is for these children that we need you to become a foster parent. We need your help to grow, teach and love these children. For more information on becoming a foster parent, please contact our office:

Children and Family Services
PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Lari Ann Brister
(800) 522-6170 Ext. 2635
lbrister@choctawnation.com

Choctaw Nation Food Distribution

Open 9:00 to 3:00
Monday through Friday
(We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12:00)

Warehouses & Market

Antlers Warehouse
306 S.W. “O” St.
(580) 298-6443

Durant Warehouse
100 1/2 Waldron Dr.
(580) 924-7773

McAlester Warehouse
1212 S. Main St.
(918) 420-5716

Poteau Market
100 Kerr Ave.
(918) 649-0431

Food Distribution Sites

Bethel
Chocataw Community
Building

Broken Bow
Chocataw Family
Investment Center

Idabel
Choctaw Community
Center

Smithville
Choctaw Community
Building

Stigler
Choctaw Community
Building

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays August 3-31, except for:

- August 5: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (maket closed).
- August 12: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
- Closed August 27-31 for inventory.

MCALESTER

Market open weekdays August 3-31, except for:

- August 3: Stigler 9-12 a.m. (market closed).
- Closed August 27-31 for inventory.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays August 3-31, except for:

- Closed August 27-31 for inventory.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays August 3-31, except for:

- Closed August 27-31 for inventory.

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 Adjudication and Compliance, 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.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe. For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.

Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth



Cut out the plastic

What’s good for our bodies is good for the planet and what’s bad for the planet is bad for our bodies.

We are exploring the idea that caring for the earth must include caring for our own health. Many of us already know how devastating plastic can be for the planet but most aren’t aware enough that the synthetics can harm human health too. From heating food in plastic containers to reusing plastic bottles (and perhaps even using them the first time) to scientific concerns about BPA, there’s an ocean’s worth of reasons to steer clear. Instead of throw-away plastic, choose reusable glass or metal. If you do find yourself having to use plastic, at least be sure to recycle it.

“The Green Life”



10 tips to swimming pool safety

- If your child is missing, check the pool first. If the unthinkable has happened every second counts.
- If your little one already knows how to swim they should still always be supervised. Knowing how to swim doesn’t prevent accidents from happening.
- Pool Alarms. These can be used as an added safety feature and they are made for doors and for underwater.
- Are there empty homes on your street? Do they have swimming pools? This can be very dangerous even if the pool is empty. If you aren’t sure if there is a pool, try using Google maps (satellite view) to check out your neighborhood. An empty home with a pool can be a hazard that is easily prevented by a phone call to the owner or real estate agent. Simply ask them to please place a lock on the side gate to prevent the possibility of a child wandering back there.
- Long hair and limbs can get caught in pool drains creating a risk for your young swimmers. Make sure that no pool drains are broken or missing. Even better, if your child has long hair, pin it up to prevent accidental suction. Know where your circuit breaker is for the pool/spa and label it clearly in the event it needs to be shut off during an emergency.
- Have your child wear an approved safety device at all times while you are around the pool. Arm floaties can easily slip off when a child jumps in. A flotation device that is snug and goes around the torso is a better option.
- Identify other areas besides pools that pose a threat. Things like small wading pools or plastic tubs can be enough to compromise the safety of your child.
- If you have a play date, ask if the child knows how to swim. If the answer is no, take extra precaution to lock all doors leading to the pool. If you are taking your child to a play date ask if there is a pool.
- If you are going to a park, find out if there is a pool and know where it is. Make sure that there isn’t a way that your child can get in to the area.
- Pool fences should go around the entire pool and be at least 4 feet tall. There should be a secure latch and/or lock if your child can reach the opening.

Choctaw Nation AFL Project

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

Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is our program goal. Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American Teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American.

For more information or questions about eligibility please call: Angela Dancer Project Director at 877-285-6893.

This article was written by Ashley Norris.

Are you ready to purchase a new home?

The first step in the home-buying process is attending a

Homebuyer Education Class

Come to one of our Homebuyer Classes nearest you to learn the important steps in the home-buying process. You will become more aware of the benefits and risks associated with owning your own home. We make the process fun and educational, so call us for an appointment today! To register, call Debbie Childers at 1-800-235-3087, ext. 297, for one of the following classes:

- August 4 - 4:30 p.m.
Durant Tribal Complex, South Building
- August 13 - 4:30 p.m.
McAlester Community Center
- August 18 - 4:30 p.m.
Poteay Family Investment Center
- August 25 - 4:30 p.m.
Broken Bow Family Investment Center

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Choctaw Language Phase I graduates in Sulphur

Aiikanachi Kimberly Kaniatobe announces her Choctaw Language Phase I graduates for the Sulphur community class on June 15. Pictured from left are Kody Kaniatobe, Willarene Amos, Frances “Lolo” Barrett, David Barrett, Lauren Frances, Lori Barrett and Kimberly Kaniatobe. Not pictured are Roechell “Rat” Meely, Donna Smith and Betty Brown. Great job guys!

Sitting in a little piece of family history

Nita LeFlore Baugham is a distant relative of past Choctaw Chief Greenwood LeFlore. Nita is pictured here, circa 1955, in the carriage Chief LeFlore used when he went to meet U.S. President Andrew Jackson. A fire at Greenwood LeFlore’s home destroyed everything except the carriage house. At the time of the picture, the carriage was housed in the Bank of Greenwood, Mississippi.



Look who’s one

Sierra Judd, daughter of Nathan Williams and Jamie Judd of Edmond, celebrated her first birthday on April 17. Sierra’s grandparents are Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and James and Regina Judd. Sierra’s parents planned a special birthday celebration at the Edmond Park. Her big sister, Savannah, cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles were all in attendance to wish her a happy birthday.



Happy birthday Skyler

Happy birthday wishes go to Skyler Glinn. She turned 13 on July 13. Skyler attends Durant Middle School and Grace Indian Baptist Church. Her parents are Sheran Glinn of Calera and the late Bill Glinn. Her sisters are Erica McMillan, Laci Glinn, Elizabeth Owen of Durant and her niece, Allie. Her grandparents are Harvey and Jackie Owen of Durant, Tom and Alta Glinn of San Pablo, California, and the late Atchman and Lizzie Arkansas. Skyler would also like to wish her cousin, Madison Brock, a happy first birthday on July 11.



Celebrating first birthday!!

Joren Alan Van Strien celebrated his first birthday on July 3. His proud parents and family are Steve and Tara Van Strien of Fort Worth, Texas; siblings, Cord and Mondee Van Strien of San Angelo, Texas; grandparents, David and Helene Van Strien of Fort Worth, Michael Padilla of Aztec, New Mexico, Audrey and Tammy Long of San Angelo; great-grandparents, Priscilla Padilla of Aztec, Dwain and Linda Goodson of Lubbock, Texas, Connie Durant of Tulsa; and great-great-grandmother, Louise Goodson of Lubbock.



Cousins graduate together



These two handsome Choctaw men graduated from Ada High School on May 19. Kody Kaniatobe is the son of Kimberly Kaniatobe of Ada, and Zac Short is the son of Kelly Short of Ada and Tim Short of Plano, Texas. Kody and Zac are grandsons to Ann Kaniatobe of Durant and Jimmy Washington.



Jaidyn celebrates birthday

Jaidyn Milee Renee’ Workman turns one on July 22. Jaidyn is the daughter of Robbi Betsey and Justin Workman and the sister of Tristan Hobbs of Seneca, Missouri. Her grandparents are Diane and Gary Taylor of Seneca and Lisa Highley of Salem, Missouri, and Tom and Casey Workman of Neosho, Missouri. Her great-grandparents are the late Adam Betsey of McAlester and Annie Betsey of Durant and the late Larry Zier and Judy Atkinson of Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, Betty Workman and the late George Workman of Neosho. Happy birthday baby frog!



Family celebrates birthdays



Wishing Dalton and Dallas Boehm a happy birthday from Mom and Dad. Dallas turned 20 on the 28th of June. Dalton turned 15 on June 26.



Happy birthday

Jalonda Balderas of Fort Smith, Arkansas, would like to congratulate her cousin, Kyle Meashintubby of Talihina, for graduating high school. She wishes a happy birthday to Kyle on May 23; her dad, Isidro Balderas of Fort Smith, on May 15; and her uncle, Norval Meashintubby on June 17 and his girlfriend, Austrena Ludlow on June 29, both of Fort Smith.

Happy 80th birthday

Nathan H. Benton Jr. will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 22. He is the son of original Choctaw enrollees Nathan Benton Sr. and Alice Gibson Carnes. Nathan Jr. attended Muse Elementary, Jones Academy, Bacone High School, and Haskell Institute. He served his country during the Korean War as an Army Corporal in Company A of the 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 1st Armored Division, while stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. In 1956, he launched Chilocco Indian School’s instruction for “Heavy Equipment Operation,” which he subsequently taught for 28 years. Nathan Jr. is both a current charter member of Hillcrest Bible Baptist Church of Arkansas City, Kansas, which recently celebrated its 47th year. He and his wife, Aline (Scuggins) have been married for 58 years and blessed with five children, 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Eagle Scout rank earned

Max Thomas Yardley, a member of Boy Scout Troop 331 in Edmond, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. On June 6, a ceremony to celebrate this achievement was held for Max in the St. Monica Catholic Church in Edmond. Max is the son of Rockie and Julie Trahern Yardley, the grandson of Jim Trahern of Ada, and the great-grandson of original enrollee Roy D. Trahern.



In Troop 331, Max has earned 47 Merit badges and held several positions of leadership. He is also a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow. Max has attended four Boy Scout summer camps and worked as an instructor for two years. He is also the Camp Chaplain.

Next fall, Max will be a senior at Edmond North High School. He has a 3.5 gpa and plays trombone for high school band. He was first-chair trombone for marching and concert band and the only trombone in jazz band. He was awarded the prestigious “Spirit Award” for his contribution to the band, the school and actions and conduct outside of school. For three years, he has played guitar for Spanish Mass at St. Monica.

Max received the National Basketball Association’s “Community Hero Award” for his rescue of a person trapped by debris caused by last February’s tornado that struck Edmond.

Happy third birthday

Benjamin Kelton Hobbs turned 3 on May 22, 2009. He is the son of Shelby Clemmons and Jason Hobbs of Wyndotte. His grandparents are Diane and Gary Taylor of Seneca, Missouri, and Sherry Clemons of Wyandotte. His great-grandparents are the late Adam Betsey of McAlester and Annie Betsey of Durant, Ted Nesvold and the late Gail Nesvold, and the late Phillip Clemmons, all of Wyandotte, and Donetta Stovall of Seneca. Everybody says happy birthday. Ben will be getting a baby sister this year.



Happy 16th birthday

Allison Kelley is celebrating her 16th birthday on July 20. She is the daughter of Trish Skinner and Steven Kelley and the granddaughter of Joe and Ruby Randal of Bokoshe. You make me so proud and will always be my pooh bear, from Mom.



Happy first birthday

Madison Brock turned one on July 11. She is the daughter of Mindi Brock, granddaughter of Mildred Taylor, great-granddaughter of Edna and Amos Taylor Jr., and great-great-granddaughter of Amos Taylor Sr. and the late Agnes Taylor and Lucille Gibson.



Happy birthday

We would like to wish our grandson, Craig Brown, a big fat happy birthday. His mother is Courtney Brown of Oklahoma City. His brother is Dylan and special cousin Elizabeth Ann. Craig’s grandparents are Francis and Lucretia Brown of Oklahoma City. His uncles and aunt are Steve and Karianne of Virginia and Tim of Shawnee.



Happy seventh birthday

Binker is 7 on July 7. The next “Babe Ruth” is enjoying first grade and playing T-ball in Hillsboro, Oregon. Dylan Michael Garcia’s coaches and trainers include Dad, Kevin; Mom, Elizabeth; brother, Trev, and sis, Amber. The biggest rooters are Grandpas Stan and Sam with Grandmas Nancy and Paula. Other fans are from his family branches of Choctaw descent, Spring and Oakes families of Hugo; German descent, Ashenberner family of Beverton, Oregon; Welsh descent, Brunk family of Cornelius, Oregon, and Portuguese descent, Garcia family from Hanford, California. Binker, you are batting a thousand in our scorebook. Keep it up!! Happy birthday, Slugger!



Happy birthday to Snowbird

Taylor Mae “Snowbird” Zurmuhlen is celebrating her fourth birthday in Crested Butte, Colorado. You are the light of our life. Happy birthday from Mommy and Daddy!!



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Sariya L. Clark on April 15. Sariya’s parents are Starla Taylor and John Clark Jr. Her sister is Jolie Clark.



Choctaw storyteller writes book

Storyteller Greg Rodgers, a descendant of the Rev. Israel Folsom, has released a book titled, “The Ghost of Mingo Creek and Other Spooky Oklahoma Legends.” The book, which many critics say is a must-read, is a collection of spooky tales to be enjoyed by young readers with a mini history lesson before each story.



In between his storytelling appearances and writing, he also serves as a newly elected board member for both the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance and Territory Tellers, the Oklahoma state storytelling organization. Greg is an alumnus of the University of Oklahoma’s Native American Studies Program.

Williams excelling at college

Janica Danielle Williams has been named an honor student at Murray State College. Janica graduated from Rock Creek High School in 2008. She is a freshman majoring in nursing at Murray State College. Janica would like to thank Choctaw Nation for its help and support for years past and years to come. Janica’s proud parents are Donna Williams of Bokchito and Danyne Williams of Bennington and her grandparents are Gene and Patsy Wren and the late Ruhl and Ernie Williams.



Madison dresses traditionally

Madison Glover is pictured at the Choctaw Nation Complex in Durant on May 29. She was dressed in traditional Indian clothing for a project sponsored by the “Going Green Committee” at the Choctaw Nation Head Start. Madison is the daughter of Tracy and Rhonda Glover, granddaughter of Barbara Freeman and Skeeter Lloyd, and great-granddaughter of Rex and Pat Mitchell, all of Durant.



Outstanding student

Cheyenne Cranfield is turning 11 on July 30. Her parents are Bobby Samuels of Talihina and Melissa Cranfield of Heavener. Her family would like to congratulate her on academic achievements, Superintendent’s Honor Roll, Certificate for Good Attendance, Outstanding Student Award for fifth grade, and we all want to wish her a happy birthday.



Happy 16th birthday

Preston Williams celebrated his 16th birthday on May 12. Preston will be a junior at Putman City North in Oklahoma City. Preston is the son of Joe and Camin Tecumseh Williams of Norman and Tammy Williams of Oklahoma City. His grandparents are Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Jim and Sherry Brewer and Brenda Brewer, all of Durant.



Twin brothers celebrate birthday

Jake Landon and Clay Ryan Raney turned one on May 20. They are the sons of J.L. and Vatalie Raney of Vinton, Louisiana. Their grandparents are Karen and Johnny Raney of Idabel and Carolyn and Don Johnson of Orange, Texas. Great-grandparents are Marlene Campo of Boswell, Elige Payne of Hugo, and Hulen Raney and the late Mattie Raney of Bennington.



Happy birthday

Dustin Jones turned 12 on July 2. He will be in the seventh grade at Smithville. His hobbies include playing PlayStation 2, riding 4-wheelers and his scooter. He also loves swimming. His mom will be “29” again on July 17. Donna enjoys walking and spending time with her family.



Birthdays for both!!

Wishing a happy 32nd birthday to Michael Jonathon Weese on July 28. Also, a happy second birthday to DaKoda Michael Weese on July 22. Birthday wishes from Brandi, Jordan and MyKenzee.



Sweet 16!

Jennifer Lynne Williams of Idabel celebrated her 16th birthday on May 14. She is the daughter of Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. Her grandparents are the late Arvel and the late Pauline Williams of Summerfield and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel.



Celebrating 40th!!

Daniel G. McMurtrey celebrated his 40th birthday on June 7. Dan live in Yakima, Washington, and is an employee of IHS in Toppenish. He is a proud Choctaw and enjoys seeing Chief Pyle every time he visits Portland, Oregon. Happy birthday from your wife Jennifer!



Choctaw Scholarship Program’s Top 10 Websites and Resources

According to the ongoing Pew Internet and American Life research project, the most common use of the Internet in 2008, after e-mail, was a search for information – e-mail: 91 percent; information search: 89 percent.

The World Wide Web makes finding the information you need easy and The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Scholarship Advisement Program encourages all its enrolled students and parents to be active web searchers according to Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Here are web links and resources the Scholarship Advisement Program believes can most help Choctaw students. The list is always a work in progress according to SAP staff. What follows are SAP’s favorites – plus a brief description of how they can help Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma scholars find the college information they need.

Collegehorizons.org

College Horizons is a website that features two programs that place Native American scholars in intense five-day summer workshops surrounded by representatives from some of the nation’s top schools. College Horizons gives students the knowledge they need to apply – and be admitted – at top

schools. A companion program, Graduate Horizons, helps students find the best places and paths for post graduate work.

knowhow2go.org

Know How To Go To College is a great site for middle school and high school students. It’s packed with lots of great information and is simple to understand. Note: Getting started early, in middle school is a huge advantage. This site is a must according to SAP.

Okhighered.org/okpromise

Oklahoma’s Promise targets low-income families and their students through a unique program set up by the Oklahoma Legislature. The program reaches out to eighth-, ninth- and 10th-grade students (homeschool students must be age 13, 14 or 15) and will help pay for their college education if their family’s income is \$50,000 or less at the time the student applies for the program.

collegeboard.com

College Board – This is a favorite SAP free site to learn about possible choices for colleges, scholarships and more. It includes lots of great information with separate sections for students, parents and professionals.



College Planning Timeline

What’s the most important thing a motivated student

(and parent) can do to ensure a successful college experience? Ask that question of the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program and the answer will be a quick, one-word response – Plan. SAP has developed a College Planning Timeline listing action steps for fall, spring and summer for sophomore, junior and senior years of high school. The list of action steps is based on best practices and recommendations of SAP’s staff. Many recommended activities repeat through each year – like taking SAT and ACT tests multiple times in order to boost scores. Other activities, such as scheduling college visits, are more important at specific times and grade levels. The plan also lists important opportunities that are only available to Native American students. What is the first action SAP recommends? Students and parents need to [join SAP](#). It’s free. SAP’s resources and staff are making a heart-warming difference in the lives of Choctaw students. To download SAP’s College Planning Timeline from Intranet, go to <http://www.choctawnation-sap.com/pdfs/College Planning Timeline.pdf>. To join SAP online, go to <https://www.choctawnation-sap.com/students/login.asp>. To contact SAP by phone, call 800-522-6170, ext. 2547.

Princeton Review

Not an Internet website, but a book, [The Princeton Review “The Best 366 Colleges” 2008 edition](#) is close to the ultimate source book for information on many great colleges. “The offbeat indexes along with the chattily written descriptions of each school provide a colorful picture of each campus,” says the New York Times.

OkCollegeStart.org

Oklahoma College Start is Oklahoma’s official website for information about higher education in Oklahoma for students, counselors and parents. It is designed to be the most comprehensive and current source for college planning for Oklahoma students, beginning as early as middle school. It has been developed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in collaboration with the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program and Oklahoma colleges and universities.

ctcl.org

[Colleges That Change Lives](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and support of a student-centered college search process. CTCL supports the goal of each student finding a college that de-

velops a lifelong love of learning and provides the foundation for a successful and fulfilling life beyond college.

dartmouth.edu/~nap/flyin

[Native Fly-In](#) from Dartmouth University provides high school seniors an unparalleled opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of this Ivy League College’s academic resources, student services and admission and financial aid criteria.

Program participants enjoy extensive interaction with members of the Dartmouth Native community along with a cross-section of college students, faculty and staff through a mix of information sessions, academic presentations and social events. Complimentary meals and on-campus housing are included for Fly-In guests with round-trip transportation assistance.

Questbridge.org

[Questbridge](#) is a non-profit program that links bright, motivated low-income students with educational and scholarship opportunities at some of the nation’s best colleges. The Quest-Bridge college match program connects high-achieving low-income students with admission and full four-year scholarships to 26 [partner colleges](#).



Jones Academy goes green

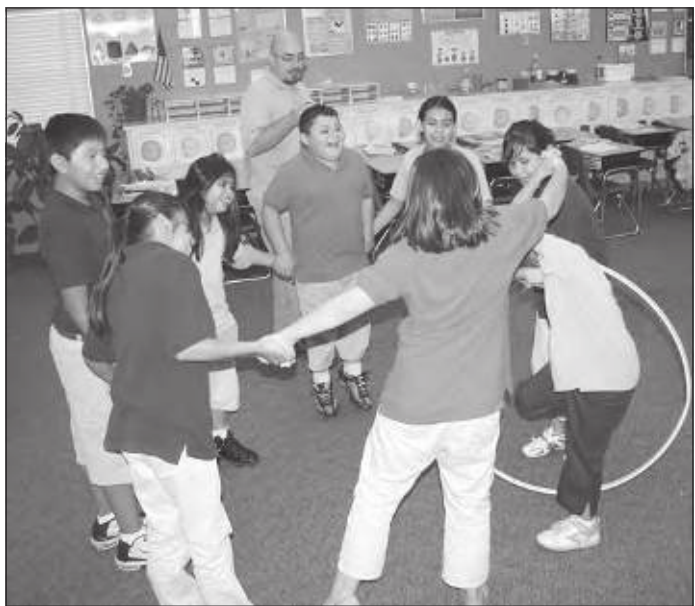
Jones Academy elementary students did their share to contribute to Earth Day, April 22, by planting pots and seedlings throughout the campus. They did a remarkable job beautifying the school grounds and *going green*. Pictured are sixth-graders Wesla Butler, Jayelin Chatlin, Cynthia Brown, Melanie Crutcher and Saul Martinez.

Jones Academy held a health fair for the elementary students on May 12.

The Choctaw Nation and Eastern Oklahoma State College sent health experts and wellness specialists to the school as presenters for the Jones Academy Health Fair. The students learned about healthy eating habits, the importance of exercise, good dental hygiene practices, peer and social team building, and saying no to drugs.

Health Fair organizer Raina Sparks, MS, RD/LD, reported that the staff and students enjoyed the fair activities and gathered a lot of good information about healthy lifestyles.

She also wanted to express her gratitude to the presenters who took time out of their busy schedules and participated in this event.



Second and third place team members in the Jones Academy Biggest Loser contest are Helathy 60 or more, Sheila Bailey, Crissy Baker and Morris Sam; and Dugan Hefty’s, Dennis Dugan, Rhonda Dugan and Patti Scott.

Picone visits Washington, D.C.

Jones Academy student Alisha Picone recently returned from a National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Alisha was nominated by the Hartshorne Junior High’s Gifted and Talented sponsor to attend an Invitational Leadership Conference, an advanced and enriched curriculum held for our world’s most promising and outstanding middle and high school students. Selection to the conference was based on academic record, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

While at the conference, Alisha received briefings about leadership, ethics, attitudes and discipline, valuing diversity, goal setting and time management. She learned that leadership is a process that requires work, development and passion. During Capitol Hill Day, Alisha was given two congressional appointments to speak with

House and State Representatives where she was allowed time to ask questions of the representatives.

Before the students came home, they were asked to challenge themselves to make friends from many different backgrounds, interests and abilities to value diversity.

Alisha is scheduled to attend the Discover Medicine and Science Conference at Johns Hopkins University this month.

She is the daughter of proud parents Vincent and Sherry Picone of Wilburton. She is the granddaughter of Wayne and Nora Scott of Panola and Alex and Judy Picone of Kansas City, Missouri.



Losing weight and staying fit

Twenty-seven employees at Jones Academy participated in a Biggest Loser contest this spring. The Diabetes Wellness Center provided two health consultants, Scott Hortsman, exercise specialist, and Raina Sparks, MS, RD/LD, community/clinical dietitian.

Scott and Raina taught the employees the importance of eating healthy foods and exercising. After the contest was concluded, the employees weighed in. From the beginning of the 12-week program to the end, staff had lost more than 60 percent of their collective weight.

“Everyone was excited about the contest including the students!” I feel this program not only was a true benefit for the staff, but it also set healthy examples for our Jones Academy students to follow,” said Raina Sparks.

Individual winners

First: Sheila Bailey.

Second: Brad Spears.

Third: Keli Spears.

Team winners

First: The Healthy Amigos – Brad Spears, Dewayne Sanders, Brandon Spears.



Jones Academy Biggest Loser individual winners – Sheila Bailey, Brad Spears and Keli Spears.



Jones Academy Biggest Loser first place team The Healthy Amigos – Brandon Spears, Dewayne Sanders and Brad Spears.

Second: Healthy 60 or more – Sheila Bailey, Crissy Baker, Morris Sam.

Third: Dugan Hefty’s –

Dennis Dugan, Rhonda Dugan, Patti Scott.

Congratulations to Jones Academy for a job well done!

Come Join Us! Enroll Now at Jones Academy!



We are accepting application for the 2009-10 school year. We have openings in grades 1-12. Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms. Come join us! Be a part of the future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial assistance for all grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for academic achievement
- High school graduation expenses paid/scholarships
- Career counseling/college and post-secondary preparation
- Vo-Tech training
- Summer youth work program
- Medical and counseling services provided
- Alternative education program
- Traditional/cultural activities
- Recreational activities and educational trips
- Agriculture program

Please call for a tour or an application at toll free (888) 767-2518 or access www.choctawnation.com or write to:

**Jones Academy
HCR 74 Box 102-5
Hartshorne, OK 74547**

Congrats Christopher!

Christopher Colungo, a student at Jones Academy, recently represented his school at the State Finals of the Oklahoma Geographic Bee on April 3 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. He was among the top 101 students who qualified to move on to the state level after winning the competition through their school. This was the second year in a row for Christopher to qualify and compete.

The Geographic Bee competition consisted of eight preliminary rounds and Chris answered seven out of the eight rounds with a perfect score. He then went to a tie-breaker and was only one question away from moving on to the finals. He is an eighth-grader at Buzidragis Junior High School and the son of Michael and Christy Colungo and big brother to Alyssa Colungo, all of Ada.

Chris did an amazing job at the competition and his family is extremely proud of him. Congratulations Christopher!



Thompson now a registered nurse

Congratulations to Gaydawn Thompson Channel. She was a spring graduate of Conners State College School of Nursing, Class of 2009, in Muskogee. Her pinning ceremony was held at the Muskogee Civic Center on May 8.

Gaydawn resides in Tahlequah with her two young sons, Radek and Legend. Her proud parents are Joni Wacoche and Glen Thompson of Tahlequah. Her grandparents are the late Katie and Johnson Wacoche of Tahlequah and the late Catherine and James Thompson of Tulsa. Her great-grandparents are the late Lena and Isom Wallen of Tahlihua. Also wishing Gaydawn congrats are her brothers, Bear, Colby and Ron, and many relatives and friends.

Now that Gaydawn is an RN all her dreams will come true.



Siblings graduate

Twins Johnna and Jerrod Crowder graduated from New Castle High School

with honors on May 18. Their parents are Tommy and Robin Crowder and their grandparents are Eddie and Jehnnie Crowder. Congratulations guys!



Perfect attendance

Elizabeth Hannah, a member of the Choctaw Nation, was honored at the Chickasaw Nation Johnson O'Malley Annual Awards Banquet for 14 years of perfect attendance. She was presented with a laptop for her achievement, which was purchased with donations from both the Choctaw Nation and the Chickasaw JOM Program.

Elizabeth, a Chickasaw High School senior, is the daughter of Royce and Lisa Hannah. Elizabeth was very excited to receive such a wonderful gift.

Elizabeth and her family would like to say thank you very much for honoring her in such a magnificent way. She will really use the laptop when she attends Southwestern Oklahoma State University in the fall.

Criminal Justice student graduates

Eva Michelle Murphy is the daughter of Lloyd and Eva Murphy from Idabel. Recently she graduated with honors in criminal justice on May 21. Her dreams are to continue both her bachelor's and master's degree of criminal justice this fall at East Central State University. After graduation from CLEET she plans to become either an Assistant Chief of Police or Captain for a local police department.

Eva is also a member of Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society along with Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in which she ranks in the top 10 percent of her criminal justice class. During her spare time she volunteers with different community events including the McCurtain County Relay for Life.

Eva is active in church and she loves serving the Lord. At this time she is employed with Catfish King of Idabel where she is considered an all-star employee.



Scholarship for biology student

Jennifer Juanita Kemp, daughter of Jeff and Robyn Hall, has graduated summa cum laude from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany with a degree in biology. She plans to pursue a doctorate in biomedical science. She would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its scholarship support throughout her undergraduate education.



UCO graduate says thanks

Kari Crane Laxson graduated with honors from the University of Central Oklahoma on May 8 with a Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology. She received The Outstanding SLP Graduate Clinician Award for 2009 and was recognized for her 4.0 grade point average. She has accepted a position with Dynamic Speech Group in Edmond. Kari is the daughter of Ken and Debbie Crane of Seminole and the great-granddaughter of original Choctaw enrollee Myrtle Wallace Crane.

"I wish to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial help they gave me for my education. It is greatly appreciated."

Choctaw scholar Kaben Smallwood shoots for the pros

Choctaw Scholar Kaben Smallwood admits he is taking a long-shot in his chosen career-path. In basketball terms Kaben knows he is shooting well outside the three-point line. "But if anyone can succeed, it's Kaben," says Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "He knows what he wants, he's determined and he knows how to find resources like the CNO's Scholarship Advisement Program."

Not quite a decade ago Smallwood was a star point guard for the Muskogee Hilldale High School Hornets. With an athlete's pride Smallwood says he still ranks in the Hornets' all-time top three in scoring, assists and steals. The only thing keeping Smallwood from playing college basketball – or his ultimate dream, the NBA –was "a handicap he couldn't overcome," says Smallwood. In a game of giants, Smallwood stood 5 feet, 9 inches tall and weighed 125 pounds. Clearly there wasn't much of an athletic future past Hilldale High for the Hornets basketball star.

Now 24 years old and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma (B.S. Business Administration) Smallwood has qualified

for a unique post-graduate program at Oklahoma City University, a school to which Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisement Program has strong ties. Smallwood's Law School Admission Test scores qualified him for a scholarship to an OCU program that provides talented and motivated students the chance to earn two post graduate degrees in only two years.

"The Meinders School of Business is proud to award Kaben Smallwood a 'Love's Entrepreneurship Scholarship'. Kaben has shown extraordinary promise and we believe his years of study at Oklahoma City University will provide him a foundation for an outstanding career in business," said Dr. Vince Orza, Dean of the Meinders School of Business at OCU.

The OCU joint degree program requires nearly a full-time commitment from the former Hilldale point guard. That's why the Choctaw Nation, through its Scholarship Advisement Program, is giving



the former Hornets all-star an assist in addition to his Meinders School of Business scholarship. SAP is matching Smallwood's OCU scholarship in order to help Kaben compete in his career's biggest game: Earning both a law degree and a Masters in Business Administration in only three years.

Why the dedication to graduate degrees in both law and business? Smallwood believes he needs both degrees in order to make his love of sports his life's career. Kaben Smallwood intends to be a professional sports agent representing athletes in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Football League (NFL).

Smallwood has always enjoyed challenges. "I believe they are nothing more than springboards to opportunity," he says. "Plus I always wanted to be a sports agent with NBA and NFL clients. But Oklahoma isn't a hotbed for sports agents," Smallwood notes. "So I want to give myself a big advantage – and that's education,"

he says. Sports agents operate on information asymmetry, much like realtors, Smallwood believes. "As an agent you base everything on the fact that you know more about the subject material than the next guy. So it gets back to education again. I'm through my first year of law school and after this summer I'll have 12 hours of my MBA program completed."

Like many Choctaw Nation scholars, Smallwood has a strong support system. "I've been fortunate to have family that has put me in a position to succeed," he says. Smallwood's father and grandfather are both retired basketball coaches who later became school principals.

But Smallwood has also relied on the Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisement Program. "Jo McDaniel and the SAP have been gracious to me," says Smallwood. "They've helped me in a number of ways. Jo McDaniel even drove to Oklahoma City to meet with me," he says. "SAP is a great program. It's a way for new students to make their mark. The more you know about SAP, and use it, the better our tribe will be."

Future pediatrician graduates

On May 19, Kristie Marie McGuire graduated from Stigler High School. Kristie is the daughter of Harold E. McGuire Jr. She is also the current 2009-10 Sr. Miss District 5.

In the fall Kristie will be attending University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. She plans to major in biology and become a pediatrician.



Birthdays and graduation

Congratulations to Alex James on his graduation with an Associate of Science, Pre-Medicine, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine from Carl Albert State College in Poteau on May 8. We are so proud of you! Keep up the great work at OU!

Bree'Ann and Morgan James celebrated their birthdays on April 9 and May 15.

They are the children of Ireta and Lonnie Bond of Broken Bow. They are the grandchildren of Jonas James, Broken Bow, and the late Louise Tonihka James, Larry and Marietha Bond of Bethel. They are the great-grandchildren of the late Jesse James and Iris McLow James, the late John Tonihka and Rosie Baker Samuels.



Congrats to Latta High School graduate

Kyle White Buffalo is Choctaw/Cheyenne and is a 2009 graduate of Latta High School in Ada. He is the son of Rochelle Jr. and Galela June Hickman White Buffalo and a brother to Shana White Buffalo. His grandparents are the late Gaston Hickman and the late Anna Belle Hickman Alberson of Roff, Oklahoma, and Rochelle Sr. and Joy White Buffalo of Stratford, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are the late Abby Smith, the late Herbert White Buffalo of Detroit, Michigan, and the late Susie Sand Hill Roman Nose of Watonga, Oklahoma. Kyle enjoys playing basketball, fishing and camping. Kyle plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, majoring in media arts. Kyle has many cousins, aunts and uncles that are proud of his accomplishments.



Proud parents

Willie and Pam Wilson of Muskogee are happy to announce how proud they are of their three children; Woody, Sarah and Matthew. Son, Woody, and his wife Tashina both graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with bachelor's degrees in elementary education. Woody and Tashina both worked full-time jobs while also attending school full-time. They are currently teaching and residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with their 20-month-old daughter, Marybelle Wilson. Woody and Tashina also have intentions to further their educational endeavors in the near future.

Daughter Sarah graduated from Northeastern State University with a double major bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies and Criminal Justice. While attending school full-time Sarah sometimes worked as many as three jobs at a time. Sarah is currently employed as a Veterans Claims Examiner with the Department of Veteran Affairs at the Muskogee Regional Office. Sarah has also been accepted to the master's degree program at the University of Oklahoma's School of Social Work in Tulsa and hopes to start in the fall of 2009. Sarah resides in Muskogee with her 18-month-old daughter, Savannah Wilson.

Son Matthew graduated May 8 with honors from Haskell Indian Nations University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Matthew has already accepted a teaching position with the Kickapoo Nation in Kansas. He has plans to teach a year and then pursue another degree at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Matthew was a recipient of the National Indian Education Association scholarship as well as many other various scholarships throughout his time at Haskell.

These three children have put themselves through school with loans, grants, scholarships and the little help their parents and grandpa could give them. It's been hard but now Mom and Dad can rest easily and assured as they know their children made things happen for themselves and continue to do so. Consequently, for the young people out there thinking there's no way; we are here to say differently.

We would also like to add a special thanks to Matt Settlemeyre, Victor Wildcat, and especially Grandpa Woody Wilson.



Combrink receives Doctorate of Pharmacy

Mark Combrink, a 1997 graduate of Boswell High School, received his doctorate of pharmacy degree May 9 from Southwestern Oklahoma State University School of Pharmacy in Weatherford.

Mark was valedictorian of his high school class, graduating with honors from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology. He was inducted into Alpha Chi, a national college academic honor society, national honor organization Blue Key and Delta Tau Delta National Fraternity, of which he was academic chair his senior year.

His fraternity also recognized him with an award for being the pledge with the highest grade point average and a commendation for outstanding academic achievement.

Dr. Combrink's hooding ceremony was conducted May 8 in the Fine Arts Auditorium on the SWOSU campus. It was during this ceremony that he received his doctoral robe and academic hood. He also received one of the four College of Pharmacy recognition awards. Combrink is a member of Phi Lambda Sigma, a national pharmacy organization that recognizes outstanding student leadership in the College of Pharmacy.

Mark graduated cum laude and was on the President's Honor Roll Spring 2009 and many other times. His last year of pharmacy school was spent doing rotations in Tulsa, Claremore, Sand Springs and Tahlequah.

Mark is the son of Jerry and Linda Combrink of Durant, a brother, Michael, of Duncan and a sister, Michelle Whilite of Sherman, Texas. His grandparents are the late Q.J. and Ethel Moran of Caddo and the late Ernestine and Wilbur of Caddo. His great-grandmother is Angie Dillon Moran. All extend their congratulations.

Mark wishes to thank the Choctaw Nation for its support and encouragement and all the teachers and other individuals who encouraged him during his academic career. It meant a lot. He will be employed in Tahlequah after passing his state boards in pharmacy.

Twins graduate Kindergarten

On May 13, Caryssa and Cynthia Bui participated in Kindergarten graduation ceremonies in Shawnee. Caryssa and Cynthia are the twin daughters of Christine Bui of Kingfisher and Wiley and Jenny Bui of Shawnee. Grandparents are Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Nhan and Noreen Bui of Shawnee. The twins' big sister, Aysha, and baby brother, along with other relatives, are very happy for their accomplishments. Caryssa and Cynthia will be entering the first grade in the fall at Shawnee elementary.





Vernon and Carolyn Underwood and Betty and Bill Hall visit with Chief Greg Pyle at an Appreciation Dinner held June 25 at the Community Center in Wilburton.

Wilburton Appreciation Dinner



Twins Rylie and Kylie Mote, 5, are all smiles.



Delbert and Lahoma Hotubbee are pictured with Councilman Joe Coley.



Josephine Scott, Mariann Winlock, James Scott, Nora Scott and Wayne Scott.



Howard and Wilhemena Bryant, District 6 Jr. Princess Jayde Frazier, Cherie Southard and Junior Gonzalez.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton stops to say hello to Sequoyah Roberts and Matthew Sam.



Campbell signs with UCM

Chance Campbell, one of Bixby's brightest senior golfers, recently signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, to play golf and secure an education. Coach Tim Poe of USM states that Campbell will be an excellent addition to the UCM team and looks forward to his future with the school. Campbell, the son of Dianne and Steven Campbell, has played competitive golf since the age of 9. He is a member of both the U.S. Golf Association and American Junior Golf Association. The AJGA is designed for golfers 18 and younger. He will be competing this summer in the National Amateur Qualifier, Big I Tournament and AJGA with high expectations. Congratulations!



Ott receives electrical engineering degree

Joshua Paul Ott graduated from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, on May 16 with a degree in electrical engineering. He will attend the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, in August to begin his master's degree. He is the son of Vincent Ott and the grandson of Virgil and Louise Ott of Coalgate. Pictured are Joshua Ott, Vincent Ott and Vince's youngest son, Jacob Ryan Ott. A big thank you is sent to the Choctaw Nation for the help with Joshua's education.



French elected state FCCLA president

Lindsey French, a junior at Kingston, was elected to serve as state president of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America for the 2009-10 school year. The election took place at the recent state convention held at the Cox Center in Oklahoma City. Along with other members of the state executive council and the Oklahoma delegation, Lindsey is attending the organization's national conference in Nashville July 13-18. She is the daughter of Rodney and Linda French. Her sister, Julie Turvey, and grandmother, Helen Talbert, reside in Durant. According to Joann Carter, Kingston's advisor for the Family and Consumer Sciences Education program, of which FCCLA is a student organization, this is the first time in Kingston school history that one of its students has been elected to serve as state president. Lindsey is junior class vice-president, Student Council member, Fellowship of Christian Athletes member, varsity cheerleader, KHS band member, color guard member and a member of the National Honor Society. She is active in her church youth ministry where she sings with the praise and worship group.



Smith receives NAFSA scholarship

Ashley Smith of Soper is the recipient of a Native American Faculty and Staff Association scholarship from Oklahoma State University for the 2009-10 academic year. NAFSA gives OSU Native Americans a voice in the university community by advising the OSU administration on issues affecting Native Americans. NAFSA is committed to helping Native American students complete their higher education by recognizing and rewarding their superior academic achievements, leadership and community involvement. Presenting the award to Ashley is Edward Hara, NAFSA president, at an April 9 banquet in the Oklahoma Room on OSU's campus. Ashley is a sophomore in the Honors College with a major in secondary education. She is the daughter of Rocky and Kimberly Smith.



Miller completes boot camp

Jeremy Miller graduated from Naval boot camp in Great Camps, Illinois, on May 8. He earned the "sharp-shooter" badge within the 182nd Division. He will remain in Great Lakes while attending a school learning gas turbine engine mechanics. Through his enlistment he continues a long tradition of serving his country's military as did his father in the Marine Corps and his grandfather in the Army. Jeremy is the son of Todd Miller, a native of Caney, as were his grandparents, the late Nathaniel "Jo Dean" and Frankie June Miller.

Reunions

Jim Reunion

Abbot, Emmitt, Willie Jim and Frances Jim Haney Family Reunion will be August 1 at Robber's Cave, Wilburton. Please meet at Pavilion 7 at 11 a.m. Each family is asked to bring their favorite potluck. Please bring pictures to share and your own lawn chairs. Softball players, bring your gloves! For more info call Lisa Taylor Mitchell, 405-625-1957 or snowballn8tve@yahoo.com; Lisa Jim Leal, 580-402-3319.

Terrell Reunion

The Terrell Reunion will be held 10 a.m. August 8 at Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton. Signs will be posted. Bring a covered dish and bingo prizes and plan to stay and enjoy family, food and fun. For more information, contact Leonard and Wynoka Broke-shoulder, 918-423-6170, or Henry and Lisa Byington, 918-423-7470.

Wilson Reunion

The children of Isaac Wilson Sr. and Julia Tims are hosting a family reunion at the Community Center in Smithville on September 5. A pot luck lunch will be served at noon. All relatives and friends are encouraged to attend. Please bring photos or anything that may be of interest to the group. Also, bring items for the auction that will follow the lunch. The doors will open at 10 a.m. so feel free to come early.

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning date and time:
August 10, 2009
Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
219 N. Broadway, Hugo, Oklahoma

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning date and time:
August 10, 2009
Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-4 p.m.
EOSC McAlester Campus
1802 E. College Ave., McAlester, Oklahoma

McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning date and time:
August 11, 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

HASKELL COUNTY

Beginning date and time:
August 11, 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1-4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Hwy. 82, Stigler, Oklahoma

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.

Beginning
August 17, 2009

Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
at the Choctaw Nation
Community Centers
in Bethel, Smithville
and Wright City

Mondays, Tuesdays
and Thursdays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Choctaw Nation
Community Centers
in Atoka, Coalgate
and Talihina



Hunt earns certification

Lindsay Hunt of Amarillo, Texas, would like to thank Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Director Larry Wade for their support throughout her college experience. Lindsay is a new graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Statistics: Quality Science emphasis and a minor in Business Management. She is also a certified quality process analyst (CQPA), awarded by the American Society for Quality. "Thank you for paving the way for my future. I am now sending my resumé out all over the country, seeking a position in statistics or quality assurance. I am excited to make my way into the world and be a proud representative, not only of Brigham Young University, but also of the Choctaw Nation. Please send my warmest regards and thanks to those who have sacrificed so much for me to obtain an education and secure my future."



Congratulations

Congratulations to Brandley Blaine, who has been attending Jones Academy for six years and doing an outstanding job while at Hartshorne High School. He has been an above-average student in academics, but along with his school-work he has been a member of the Hartshorne Miners football team for four years. Bradley started playing football in his freshman year and has been on the varsity team all four years, playing both offense and defense. He has played at the positions of right and left tackle along with right and left guard. He graduated from Hartshorne High School this year and plans to further his education by attending college. Bradley's siblings also attend Jones Academy. His sister, Darylene Blaine, also graduated from Hartshorne this year with Bradley.



Rayburn Taylor Jr. of Goodwater with Assistant Chief Gary Batton. In the photo below, the Assistant Chief is saying hello to the rest of Rayburn’s family – parents Rayburn Sr. and Tonya Taylor, brothers Ira and Meshach Taylor and friend Rowdy Himes.



Outreach Services Executive Director Randy Hammons is pictured with Cory Wade, Adrianna Martinez and Carmalita Martinez. Approximately 500 people attended the event that featured representatives from 28 different programs.



Kids filled plastic pails full of goodies from the different programs who had set up a booth. District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard attended the Outreach at the Beach, visiting with those who attended.



USDA accepting Farm Service Agency County Committee Member nominations

The Oklahoma Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that USDA will soon begin accepting nomination forms for eligible candidates to serve on local FSA County Committees throughout Oklahoma. The nomination period is June 15 – August 3, 2009. Almost anyone participating or associated with agricultural land and who is of legal voting age can be nominated as a candidate. Tribal members are considered landowners if their tribe has an agricultural interest in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) and they live within the LAA. All nomination forms must be received in a County FSA Office or postmarked by August 3, 2009. Voting takes place between November 6, 2009 and

December 7, 2009.

This year elections are occurring in the following Local Administrative Areas.

Atoka County – LAA 2, includes the communities of Atoka, Caney and Tushka.

Bryan County – LAA 3, the Red River Valley of Bryan County including the communities of Cartwright, Colbert, Achille, Kemp, Liberty and Yuba.

Choctaw County – LAA 3, the east side of Choctaw County from the Kiamichi River and Fallon Road to the McCurtain County line including the communities of Spencerville, Fort Towson and Swink.

Coal County - LAA 4 the eastern half of Coal County from Hwy 75 east including the communities of Cotton-

wood, Cario, and Parker.

Haskell County - LAA 4, the eastern half of Haskell Co including the communities of east Stigler, Tamaha, Keota, and McCurtain.

Pittsburg Counties – LAA 3, the south western portion of Pittsburg County including the communities of Stuart, McAlester, Savanna, Pittsburg, Kiowa, Blanco, and Ashland.

McIntosh Counties – LAA 5, the northern portion of McIntosh County including the communities of Pierce, Council Hill, Hitchita, Onapa, Texanna, Checotah, Rentiesville, and Shady Grove.

LeFlore County – LAA 2, the lower portion of the north half of LeFlore County including the communities of Milton, Walls, Latham, Cameron, Rock Island, Williams, Poteau, Fanshawe, and Monroe.

McCurtain County – LAA3, the southern most portion of McCurtain County including the communities of Idabel, Foreset Grove, Denison, Haworth and Tom.

Pushmataha County – LAA-4, the east side of Push county from Hwy 271N to Clayton and Hwy 2N to the Latimer County Line and McCurtain County line including the communities of Rattan, Nashoba and Tuskahoma.

For more information about the election or to obtain an election map you can contact one of your local FSA offices in Atoka, Coalgate, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau or you can contact the Bryan County FSA office in Durant (924-4131ext. 2) who serves as the contact office for the Choctaw Nation.



Outreach staff attend Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon

Choctaw Nation Outreach Service staff attended the ninth annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in Oklahoma City on April 26. Youth Outreach, Victims Services, Project Empower and CBSW employees represented Choctaw Nation well. All 12 employees participated in the 5k walk and all finished the walk in an hour and 20 minutes. The annual memorial had over 19,000 participants. The employees would like to thank Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Randy Hammons and Linda Goodwin for allowing them to attend and participate in this very rewarding and humbling experience.

CHOCOTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

AUGUST 2009

A Vocational Rehab 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Poteau 11:30-1:00	5 Durant 10:00-2:00	6	7 Idabel 10:00-12:00 Broken Bow 1:00-3:00	8
9	10	11 Antlers By Appt.	12 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	13	14	15
16	17	18 Talihina 10:00-2:00	19	20	21 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	22
23	24	25 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	26 Atoka 10:00-2:00 Coalgate 10:30-1:30	27	28	29
30	31 Crowder By Appt.					

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! TeleCognitive Research Study


Do you have a good memory?
Or know someone with a memory problem?

Here is an opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research using telemedicine-based memory testing!

The Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic in Talihina is examining the feasibility of using telemedicine or videoconference technology to study different ways of testing memory and other cognitive abilities. This research may help bring new diagnostic services to rural and underserved populations and aid in the development of new memory-testing procedures, so WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Volunteers must be willing to travel to Talihina to participate. We need people with and without memory problems over the age of 50. The study takes approximately 2 hours and those who complete testing will receive a \$25 WalMart gift card.

For more information, please call

1-866-800-6514
Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic



Choctaw Nation Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, September 5

First 12 teams accepted
Maximum 10 players per team
Entry fee: \$125 (non-refundable)

Team Name _____

Team Captain _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

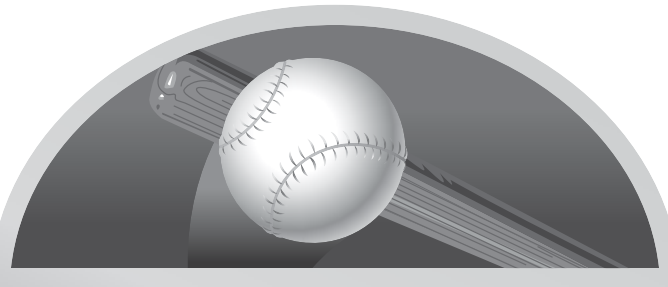
Form of payment:
Cashier's Check or Money Orders Only
No personal checks accepted

Mail entry to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Co-ed Volleyball Tournament
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702
Attn: Rebecca Hawkins

Deadline for entries:
4:30 p.m. August 22, 2009

USA Volleyball Grass Rules enforced

For more information:
580-924-8280, Ext. 2212 or 2258



Labor Day! FAST PITCH

SEPTEMBER 4-6

**at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds
in Tushka Homma, Oklahoma**

\$150 entry fee – money orders only
made out to Choctaw Nation Fast Pitch

– Deadline for entry is August 14, 2009 –
For more information, please call 580-924-8280
or toll-free 800-522-6170, Ext. 2224, or fill out
the application below and return to our office

Name of team _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please circle one:
Men's team or Women's team

and return to:
Larry Wade
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival 5k Run

**Race Begins at 8 a.m.
September 5
Tushka Homma, Oklahoma**

Race day registration is from 6:30-7:45 a.m.
in front of Crossroad Cafe
on U.S. Hwy. 271, 5 miles north of Clayton.
Pre-registration is \$10.00.
All entries must be postmarked by August 31, 2009.
Race-day registration is \$12.00.

Age Categories and Awards

Age 12 & under • 13-15 years • 16-19 years
and succeeding 5-year age brackets
up to 70 and older for women and
75 years and older for men.

Top three finishers in each age bracket for men
and women will receive medallions.

RACE DIRECTOR
Neal Hawkins – 580-924-8280, Ext. 2319
Race Coordinator – Glen's Road Race

I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I also know that although police protection will be provided, there will be a possibility of traffic on the course. I assume the risk of running traffic. I also assume any and all other risks associated with running this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including extreme cold and wind, and the conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Furthermore, I agree to yield to all emergency vehicles. I also am fully aware that baby strollers and wheels of any kind (except competitive wheel chairs), animals (aside from canine participants in canine and human race) and head phones are strictly prohibited and I agree not to go back onto the course after finishing. Knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, and waive and re-lease and discharge any and all race sponsors, race officials, volunteers, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma employees and volunteers, tribal police including any and all of their agents, employees, assigns or arising out of, or in the course of, my participation in this event. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind of nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown. The undersigned further grants full permission to sponsors and/or agents authorized to them to use any photography/videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose.

Please Print

Name _____

Signature _____

Waiver must be signed Date _____

Applications for minors accepted only with a parent's or guardian's signature.

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Age as of September 5, 2009 _____ Sex (M/F) _____

Check one T-shirt size only
(Adult) S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Detach and send entry form and fees to:

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Attn: Neal Hawkins
5KM Road Race/Walk
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210**

6th Annual Art Show

Saturday, September 5,
at 10 a.m.
on the second floor
of the Choctaw Capitol Museum.

Quilt Show

Entries need to be dropped off at the
Information Center
from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, September 4,
and picked up by noon Monday, September 7.


Checkers & Domino Tournaments

Sunday, September 6, 2009

Registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria

DOMINOES begin at 1 p.m.
CHECKERS will immediately
follow the championship game
Youth Tournament is for 13 and under.
Adult Tournament is for 14 and up.

For additional information contact
Brenda Gabbart 580-924-8280 or 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2204,
or bgabbart@choctawnation.com



3-on-3 Basketball

September 5

Team Name _____

Contact _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone _____

Category / Division

- Kids Co-ed 10-13
- Teen Co-ed (HS only)
- Men - Young Guns
- Men - Old Timers

Mail entry form + \$40 Cashier's Check or Money Order
by August 28, 2009, to:
Labor Day 3-on-3 Basketball
P.O. Box 1909, Durant, OK 74702
*ALL PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE RETURNED
– NO EXCEPTIONS*

Princess Pageant

7 p.m. on Thursday, September 3
at the Amphitheater, on the Capitol Grounds
6 p.m. Entertainment by Samantha Crain

7TH ANNUAL CHIEF PYLE LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNEY

Date: Sunday, September 6th, 2009

Team Cash Prizes

1st Place _____

2nd Place _____

3rd Place _____

Individual Prizes

Closest to Pin _____

Longest drive _____

- Hosted by Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton, OK
- 18 hole 4 man mixed scramble
- Teams selected by Handicap, True Blind Draw
- **No requests for playing partners this year!**
- First Group of Teams tee off at 9:00am, 2nd group at 1:30
- 18 Teams, 36 Golfers for each start time.
- \$50 Entry Fee/ Mulligans: 2 for \$10 (includes cart rental, Golf shirt, and Goodie Bag)
- Door Prizes will be given. (must purchase mulligan tickets to be eligible)

**Deadline to Enter: August 15th
First 72 Registered Golfers Will be Accepted**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, ST, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Handicap: _____ Shirt Size: _____
(Valid Handicap Card required)
Mulligan Purchased: Yes or No (circle one)


Mail Entry Form to **Kevin Gwin, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702**
Enclose Money Orders or Cashier's Check Payable to: **7th Annual Greg Pyle Labor Day Golf Classic**
For More Information call Kevin Gwin 580-775-3982 or Brad Clay 580-775-1096



12th Annual Labor Day

POW WOW

**September 4
on the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds
at Tuskahoma**



SCHEDULE

2 p.m. Gourd Dance
5 p.m. Break
6 p.m. Gourd Dance
7 p.m. Grand Entry
Registration closes

MC – Chance Rush
Arena Director – Bill Takeshorse
Head Man – Jay Roberts
Head Woman – Celia “Redbird” Shadden
Host Gourd – Yellow Hill
Southern Drum – Bear Claw
Northern Drum – To Be Announced
Color Guard – Choctaw Nation

ADULT CONTEST • YOUTH CONTEST

TINY TOTS CONTEST

All Contestants must be in Grand Entry and participate in Inter-Tribal dances.
Must be in regalia to receive prize money..

For information: Willard Polk 580-924-8280, 2349/cell 580-380-5370
or Sue Folsom - Special Projects 580-924-8280
Public welcome, free admission, bring your pow wow chairs.
All drums, princesses are invited.
Call Willard for booth information. Booth fee is \$20.
NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WILL BE TOLERATED



Iti Fabussa

Have you ever had a question about traditional Choctaw culture, lifeways, or history? This month's issue of Bishinik introduces what will be a new feature for the publication, "Iti Fabussa." Each month, the column will be answering written letters from readers who want to know about anything within these subject areas. The purpose is to begin a visible conversation between Choctaws young and old, from all walks of life about the things that make Choctaw people Choctaw. Together, we can strengthen our Choctaw identities and increase our knowledge about the Choctaw past, and in this way develop a more informed and culturally grounded understanding of where we are headed as a people in the future.

The writers of "Iti Fabussa" are excited about the possibilities this column offers, and cordially invite anyone who has a question about Choctaw culture, lifeways, history, food, clothing, famous people, stories, games, artwork, or anything else traditional, to write it and send it in to the Bishinik this month. Next month's column will feature the answers to selected questions from our readers.

While future additions of "Iti Fabussa" will be dedicated to answering our readers' questions, in this first month's column will answer a sample question:

"What is 'Iti Fabussa,' and why was the phrase chosen as the name of this column?"

"Iti Fabussa" is a Choctaw phrase meaning "pole," or more literally, "long, slender piece of wood." As some readers are aware, one particular pole has a great deal of importance to traditional Choctaw people.

Choctaw communities traditionally kept a record of our history through oral stories that were passed down from elders to youth. Some of these stories explain how the Choctaw people came to exist. According to one of the two main versions of the origins account, the Choctaw originally lived far in the west. Life became difficult and the Choctaw and Chickasaw, were directed by a prophet to journey together to make a new home. Every night, the prophet placed a sacred pole in the ground and, by morning, a supernatural force would have caused it to lean in the direction they were to travel that day. Every morning for months, years according to some accounts, the pole was found to be leaning to the east, and so journeyed the group. Finally, in what is now Winston County, Mississippi, the pole remained upright all night, indicating that the people had arrived at their new home. This general area became the homeland of the Choctaw people.

The writers of this column have chosen the name "Iti Fabussa," both to honor the pole that was used to guide Choctaw people on our original journey, and because of the symbolism the pole provides. Every morning on the original Choctaw journey, the end of the pole in the ground pointed in the direction that the people had come from, towards the past. The top end of pole pointed in the direction they would be headed in the future. It is hoped that through the traditional information presented and shared in this column, Choctaw people will be able to connect with our Choctaw pasts and together create a uniquely Choctaw future.

Please mail your questions to Iti Fabussa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.com with "Iti Fabussa" in the subject line.

Editor's Note: Due to the volume of the response to this column our writers will prioritize the questions according to topics and space availability. We will publish as many as possible in future issues of the newspaper.

Head Start class at headquarters

Maria Brown, a student at Choctaw Nation Head Start in Durant, plants a tree on the lawn of the Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Below, DeAnna Moore reads "The Stomachache Tree" to the Head Start class.



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Bow Shoot results for June

5 & under – 1st: Weston Davis; 2nd: Aidon Stephens.

6-8 years old – 1st: Andrew Amos; 2nd: Waylon Davis.

Women 20 & over – 1st: Beloved Sharp; 2nd: Pam Waugh; 3rd: Beck Gurganus

Men 20 & Over – 1st: Al Gurganus; 2nd: William Waugh.

Youth Advisory Board Labor Day Schedule

Members of the Youth Advisory Board will be on the playground during the Labor Day Festival weekend. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the puppet shows and arts and crafts sessions.

Saturday, September 5

8:30-9:30 Craft

10:00-10:30 Puppet Show

11:00-12:00 Craft

Lunch 12:15-12:45

1:00-1:30 Puppet Show

2:00-3:00 Craft

3:30-4:00 Puppet Show

4:30-5:30 Craft

Saturday, September 5

8:30-9:30 Craft

10:-10:30 Puppet Show

11:00-12:00 Craft

Lunch 12:15-12:45

1:00-1:30 Puppet Show

2:00-3:00 Craft

TOUGH. TOUGH CHOCTAW



Saturday, September 5
on the
Council Chambers lawn

Registration at 5 p.m. • Contest starts at 6 p.m.
Prizes awarded for first and second places.

– No entry fee –

Anyone under 18 years of age must have parent sign waiver. Free T-shirts to participants.

For more information call Jeremy Loper at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2407, or e-mail jloper@choctawnation.com.



CHIEF PYLE'S YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS CHALLENGE

Friday, September 4 on the Council Chambers lawn

Event is for youth 8 to 18 years of age

Testing participants in several activities including

• 40-yard sprint • Vertical jump • Standing long jump • Shuttle drill

Registration at 5 p.m. – Contest starts at 6 p.m.

A T-shirt will be given to each participant who finishes the challenge.

For more information, call Jason Campbell at 800-522-6170, ext. 2787



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Order Total				<input type="text"/>

Labor Day Festival



Choctaw Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and the employees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma would like to seek your assistance in helping furnish food pantries in Southeastern Oklahoma.

Canned food donations will be accepted September 4-7 on the Capitol Grounds during the Labor Day Festival at Tuskahoma. Drop boxes will be placed at the entrance of each parking area.

Thank you for helping feed our hungry neighbors in the Choctaw Nation! We hope you enjoy this year's Labor Day Festival!

Sponsored by the Employee Teambuilding Committee

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

OBITUARIES

Edna Lucille Montgomery Loftin

Edna Lucille Oakes Montgomery Loftin passed away peacefully on June 5, 2009, after a very brief illness. She was born March 7, 1917, in Atlas, Oklahoma. Her parents were Edgar Omega Oakes, an original enrollee, and Annie Marie Rives Oakes. She was the second child of nine.

She spent her early years near Soper and graduated from Soper High School. She married Henry Alexander Montgomery on July 14, 1936, in Hugo where she lived the remainder of her life. She has one son, Roy Wood Montgomery. After Henry's death, she married Ralph Loftin. Edna worked as a bookkeeper for various businesses including those owned by the family, Montgomery Brothers Meat Market, Hugo Sale Commission and Montgomery Feed. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and served on the Choctaw Election Board for many years, most recently serving as the Election Board President. She also served on the Kiamichi Soil Conservation Board until her death. She was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Hugo. Edna was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Edna also leaves behind many close friends with whom she enjoyed traveling, quilting, and visiting.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Thomas, Edgar and Jack; sisters, Wilma, Nadine and an unnamed infant girl; husbands, Henry and Ralph; great-grandson, Dustin Jackson, and various aunts, uncles and cousins.

She is survived by her son, Roy Wood Montgomery, and his wife Jan; granddaughters, Kim Shawhart, Christy Ray and husband James, Dee Jackson and husband Scott; great-grandchildren, Benton Ray, Kelsey Shawhart, Katlyn Shawhart, Nate Jackson, Morgan Ray, Makenzie Jackson and Hunter Ray; one great-granddaughter, Jazlyn Randal; sister, Betty Lyles, and brother-in-law, Roy Lyles; brother, Roberts Oakes, and sister-in-law, Connie Oakes, and several nieces, nephews, cousins and special relatives, Helga, Christa and Lisa Loftin.



Silas Lamar Kaneubbe

Silas Lamar Kaneubbe, 90, passed away May 16, 2009, in Santa Ana, California. He was born in Goodland to Hampton and Sue Kaneubbe, employees of the Goodland Orphanage.

He attended high school in Okmulgee and graduated from Bacone College where he studied art under Woodrow Crumbo and has had his artwork displayed at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. He was attending the University of Wichita in Kansas when Pearl Harbor happened. He had been a member of the Army's 45th Division, but as war broke out through odd circumstances he became a Marine Master Sergeant serving in the Solomon Islands and Guadalcanal. He came back to the El Toro Marine Station in California where he met a female Marine and they married in Los Angeles in January 1945. After the war, he stayed at El Toro for 37 years in a Navy Supply government job. On retiring, he devoted his time to his church and neighborhood. He often gave presentations at elementary schools to teach students the culture and pride of the American Indian.

He leaves many beloved friends and was a good husband, father and grandfather. He leaves his wife, Doris; four children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.



Michael Anthony Lopez

Michael Anthony Lopez passed away on April 4, 2009, at Baylor Medical Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born on October 1, 1960, in Los Angeles, California, to Cealis Carterby.

He graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with two BA degrees, one in design and the other in drafting. He was employed by Lockheed Martin of Fort Worth until his illness, and greatly enjoyed his job. He also enjoyed rodeos, ranch work and tribal pow wows.

Survivors include his mother, Cealis Carterby of Ardmore; a sister, Michele Carterby of Ardmore; a brother, Manuel Carterby and wife Belinda; nephews, Russell Rodriguez and Juan Rodriguez of Corsicana, Texas, Cody Carterby of Caddo Mills, Texas, and Christopher Carterby and his friend, Samantha Davis, of Healdton, and numerous cousins. He also will be missed by his family, coworkers, the Spradling Family and special friend, Kevin Spradling.

James 'Jim' Wietelman

James "Jim" Wietelman, 53, passed away on May 22, 2009. He was born on September 16, 1955, to Bill and Newanna Wietelman.

He was a disabled American veteran from the Army National Guard. Jim enjoyed fishing, boating and hunting with his family.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Carl A. and Nellie Crowder; half-brother, Carl Richard Ferrall; and aunt, Dourece Nel Miller.

Survivors include his wife, Rhonda; his mother; his brother, Billy; sister, Neshia; sons, Jeremy, Chris and Nick; and their children who called him Papa Jim.

Anna Mae Wilkins

Anna Mae Wilkins passed away on May 28, 2009, in the Ardmore hospital. She was born September 9, 1913, in Provence, Oklahoma, to Wallace and Nettie Jack Sewell.

Anna had lived her entire life in Ardmore, and had attended school at Provence. She was owner of the Wilkins Cleaning Services, a commercial business cleaning company. She was a member of the Northeast Baptist Church. Anna married Luther I. Wilkins on February 29, 1936, in Ardmore.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two sons, Gary Wilkins and Jimmy Wilkins; grandson, Eddie Ray Hill; granddaughter, Christie Wilkins; great-grandson, Mark Allen Cryer; brothers, Guy and Ed Sewell; and sister, Josphine Cantrell.

Survivors include her daughters, Maxine Stevens of McCleary, Washington, Mamie Shockley and Joyce Bruce, both of Ardmore, Pat Greenwood and husband, Jimmy of Moore; son, Roger Wilkins and wife, Carla of Ardmore; daughter-in-law, Carol Wilkins of Ardmore; 19 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; 35 great-great-grandchildren; brother, Leroy Sewell and wife Robbie of Sand Springs; sister, Mary Wall of Ardmore; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Brenda Joyce Taylor Samuels

Brenda Joyce Taylor Samuels, 50, passed away on May 17, 2009, at her home in Oklahoma City, after a six-month battle with cancer. She was born February 17, 1959, in Bentley to Howard and Jo Ann Jim Taylor.

Brenda was raised in Bentley by her grandmother, Virgie Peters, for the first nine years of her life. While being raised by her grandmother, she was taught to speak fluently in her native tongue. At a young age, Brenda accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. God blessed her with a beautiful singing voice which she used to praise his name every chance she got. As a teenager, Brenda used her beautiful gift and became part of the "Taylor Indian Family" gospel singing group. She traveled all over the United States spreading the Word of God through song and music. Brenda was proud to be a Christian, first, and Choctaw, second.

Brenda was a CMA at South Park Health Care Center for 15 years. For the last 10 years of her life, she taught the Choctaw language at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Community Center and was employed for the last seven years at the University of Oklahoma teaching the Choctaw language. She also taught the Chahta Ulla Utheha children's class at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, which traveled all over Oklahoma, was in the Centennial Parade and placed several times in the Native American Language Fair held in Norman. She enjoyed teaching her native language and sharing her native culture. Brenda was a member of Victory Baptist Church for many years. She taught Sunday School, Awana's and Children's Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Norris of the home; one son, Joel Samuels of Oklahoma City; two daughters, Lisa Mitchell and husband Jakie of Norman, and Stephanie Taylor of Oklahoma City; stepson, Arden "Sonny" Samuels of Midwest City; stepdaughter, Carol Sulphur and husband Saweke of Shawnee; three brothers, Howard Taylor of California, Rodney Taylor of Oklahoma City and Michael Taylor and wife Maleya of McAlester; two sisters, Sherry Carpenter and husband Mike of Moore, and Deborah Taylor of Kiefer; three granddaughters, Shoshana and Faith Mitchell of Norman and Veronica Roberts of Oklahoma City; three stepgrandchildren, David and Asa Samuels and Rainey Sulphur, all of Shawnee; one step-great-grandchild Alex is Samuels; special aunt, Rosie Jim of Southgate, California; special uncle, Lester Jim of Stringtown; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends. Brenda will be missed by all of her family and friends, especially her granddaughters who were her pride and joy!



Warren Vincent Vilott

Warren Vincent Vilott, 89, passed away April 28, 2009, at his home north of Alamogordo, New Mexico, surrounded by his family. He was born December 18, 1919, in Oklahoma City to Trevor Vilott and Rebecca Nelson.

He retired from the Air Force after 28 years of active duty around the world, starting before World War II in the Army Air Corps. He worked as an aerial reconnaissance photographer during and after WWII. He was involved in the very beginnings of the space age of weightlessness with photographing the effects of various experiments while in the belly of specially lying aircraft. Upon retirement from the Air Force, he went to work for the U.S. Post Office in Alamogordo. He made many friends there and many remember him from that position. He was past master of the Sacramento Lodge No. 24 in Alamogordo, and belonged to the Masonic Lodge for all of his adult life. He also worked with young men through the DeMolay group helping to develop a stronger youth. Warren was an avid bowler and played in many state leagues over the years, where he and his wife Laura, were members of many leagues.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2004.

Survivors include his son, Gary Vilott and wife Helen of Mary Esther, Florida; two daughters, Vivkie Rought and husband Mike of Alamogordo and Katy Jarman and husband Mike; grandchildren, Ken Rought and wife Cherrie of Peoria, Arizona, Cherrill, Jennifer Clark and husband Jason of Gardendale, Alabama, and Nathan Jarman and wife Lacey of Orlando, Florida; and two great-grandchildren, Lauren and Justin Clark of Gardendale..



Anna Lea Iker

Anna Lea Iker passed away on May 1, 2009.

She was preceded in death by her father, William T. Peters; mother, Myrtle Beatrice White Calvert; two sisters, Betty Joe Cogburn and Linda Sue Peters; brother, Wayne Edward Caldwell; sister-in-law, Joy Tudor Caldwell, and son-in-law, Chuck Burkes.

Anna is survived by her husband of 54 years, Alvin E. Iker of Whitesettlement, Texas; two sons, Gary and Ruby Iker of Whitesettlement and Chet Iker of Amarillo, Texas; two daughters, Kay and Freddy Rios of Fort Worth, Texas, and Barbara Burkes of Coalgate; siblings, Delores Vechnak, Harlen Peters and wife, Connie of Antlers, William and wife, DeAnna Peters, Dennis Don Peters, Ted Allen Peters, Jerry Lynn Peters, all of Clayton, Velton Caldwell and wife Sharen of Tushka, and Lynn Calvert of Lehigh, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends.



Jimmie Wade Butler

Jimmie Wade Butler, 83, of Poteau passed away February 2, 2009, in Talihina. He was born on November 15, 1925, in Williams to Wylie H. and Ida Ella Victor Butler.

He was a teacher, a lifelong Baptist and a veteran of the U.S. Army earning the Occupation Ribbon for Japan, the Korean Service Ribbon with two bronze stars, and the United Nations ribbon. He was a member of Moshlatubbe Lodge #13 of Cameron for over 60 years. He married Nancy Coggins on June 7, 1947.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Billy W. Butler; three brothers, Billy H. Butler, Arthur Butler and Fred W. Butler and two sisters, Mildred Covey and Muriel Gould.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Cloyis Clay of Poteau; three brothers-in-law, Sam Coggins and wife Barbara of Arizona, Bill Coggins of Santa Rosa, California, and Frank Gould of Michigan; three sisters-in-law, Bea and Lee Barton of New Mexico, Mattie and Kenny Williams of Texas, and Katie and Bob Ross of California, and numerous other relatives, friends and loved ones.

Dorothy May Samis Morris

Dorothy May Samis Morris, 61, beloved wife of Monty Maurice Morris Sr., passed away on May 14, 2009, in Lawton after a sudden illness. She was born September 22, 1947, in Clebit, Oklahoma, to Henry and Mary Wilson Samis. She was the oldest daughter of 12 children.

She grew up in Texas and Oklahoma, attending local schools. She lived in Elgin, Oklahoma, for the past 20 years. Dorothy and Monty were married on March 8, 1968, in Rattan. She drove a school bus for Lawton Public Schools for 10 years. She was a homemaker, loved her children and grandchildren very much, and enjoyed making Native American crafts. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and she looked forward to setting up her craft booth at the Labor Day festival in Tushka Homma every year.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her only son, Monty M. Morris Jr.; three sisters, Kathleen Samis, Bobbie Samis, and Linda Deleon.

Survivors include her husband, Monty; two daughters, Rebecca Tolley of Elgin, and Angela Stanley of Norman; four brothers, Roy and Judy Samis of Ada, Buddy and Joyce Marie of Sherman, Texas, Edward and Vicki Samis of Sherman and Dewey Samis of Tishomingo; two stepdaughters, Kathy Robertson and Theresa Brazell, both of Mississippi; four sisters, Rose Samis of Tishomingo, Raynell "Pinky" Serna of Ada, Betty Southerland of Tishomingo, Paula Samis of Tishomingo; grandchildren, Corey Morris, Mikayla Tolley, Myranda Stanley and Jacynnda Stanley, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



Rosemary Anderson Joseph Kauffman

Rosemary Anderson Joseph Kauffman passed away March 3, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease. She was born November 17, 1933, in Pittsburg to original enrollee Osborne B. Anderson and Iva Peal Weathers Anderson.

She was a very lovely person and enjoyed life to its fullest. She shared with family and friends an incredible adventure. She will always be remembered and missed dearly. She was the youngest member of a family of eight children. She worked 25 years with Hughes Aircraft as Production Layout Coordinator in Fullerton and Los Angeles, California. After retiring she and husband Bernard Kauffman moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, a place they both loved. They both were members of the Elks Lodge and traveled across the United States and Canada. After her husband's death in 1998, she moved to Las Vegas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Osborne Lee, Otis Roy, Ben Bernie Anderson and husband, Bernard Kauffman.

She is survived by sisters, Ruby May Layne of South Carolina, Rosetta Jean Staley of Morena Valley, California, Ruth Joan Crain of Henderson, Nevada, and Rowena Patsy Meder, Westminster, California; husband, Robert Joseph; son, James Joseph of San Antonio, Texas; daughters, Vickie Miller of Solvang, California, Robin Gwin of Hemet, California, Shelley Pittman of Little River, California; stepson, Adam Kauffman of Japan; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Leona Hickman Wylie

Leona Hickman Wylie passed away on January 21, 2009, in Talihina. She was born January 18, 1918, and was the last surviving child of original enrollee Austin Hickman and Mary Tennessee Manley Hickman

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John Wylie; son, James Alan Wylie; granddaughter, Eva Marie Wylie; siblings, Elmer Hickman, Arlie Hickman, Harlan Hickman, Alva Daniels and Hazel Heavener.

She is survived by her son, Rosser Eugene Wylie and wife Bertha; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Clarkie Hickman and Alma Hickman, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.



Billy Mont Lawson

Billy Mont "Tom (Tommy) Jack" Lawson passed away on February 24, 2009, in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was born March 2, 1954, in Antlers to Iva Logan Tubbs and the late Mont Lawson Jr.

Tom had a great zest for life and adventure. He loved to get on his bike and travel the country. He loved surprising his family by calling them on special days or by dropping in from Alaska. He was a former resident of Albion and attended both Albion and Talihina Schools. He had proudly served in the U.S. Navy.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mont Lawson Jr. of Albion; brother, Durand Essman of Oklahoma City; maternal grandparents, Laura Potts Logan and the Rev. W.F. Logan Sr. and paternal grandparents, Mont Lawson Sr. and Bertie Lawson of Albion/Talihina.

He is survived by his mother, Iva Tubbs, and stepfather, Buddy Tubbs, of Oklahoma City; his brother, Benny Lawson; sister-in-law, Jennifer and their daughter, Shelby of Anchorage, Alaska; son, Kelly Lawson of Fairbanks, Alaska; aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Harold Darcy 'Bugs' McConnell

Harold Darcy "Bugs" McConnell, 58, passed away on April 25, 2009, at Cape Fear Medical Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina, surrounded by his family. He was born July 24, 1950, in Roseburg, Oregon, to the late Houston Leo and Juanita Smith McConnell.

Harold graduated from New Caney High School, in New Caney, Texas, and was currently employed at Showcase/DKI Construction Company as a carpenter, like Jesus. He married Clementine Owens on December 10, 2002, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His greatest enjoyment was sharing the gospel. He served in the Cumberland County Jail Ministry since 2001 and many outreach ministries. Besides sharing the gospel, Harold enjoyed hunting, gardening and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

He was preceded in death by his father and his brother, Jimmy Dennis McConnell.

Harold is survived by his wife; his son, Jimmy Wesley McConnell of Houston, Texas; his mother, Juanita McConnell Nicholas of Atoka; siblings, Eddie Jean McConnell of Nashville, Tennessee, Theresa Ann McClain of Buffalo Valley and Cynthia Diane McNeil of Hartwell, Georgia; four nephews, two nieces and three grandchildren and a numerous other relatives and friends.



OBITUARIES

Linda Sue Black

Linda Sue Black, 61, passed from this life on June 5, 2009, in Antlers, Oklahoma. She was born on November 24, 1947 in Bars to Elbert Allen and Betsy Ann Amos Phillips.

Linda enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren, going to garage sales, riding, and going to church.

Linda was preceded in death by her husband, Glynn Dale Stone; infant son, Glynn Dale Stone Jr.; parents, Elbert and Betsy Phillips; grandparents, Bennett and Cornelious Amos and Albert and Myrtle Phillips; brothers, Billy Dewayne Phillips, Ralph Edward Phillips, Johnny David Phillips and Clarence Edward Phillips; sisters, Betty Jeane Gipson, Kitty Levearn McCauley and Dorthy Wanell Phillips and one grandchild.

She is survived by her children, Glenn Phillips of Paoli, Herman Lee Black Jr. of Wynnewood, Eugene Craig Black, Christopher Allen Black, Jimmy Dale Stone, Glynn Dale Stone III and Raymond Wayne Stone, all of Antlers; brothers, Jerry Jim Phillips of Pauls Valley, Benny Allen Phillips of Ringold, Tommy Joe Phillips of Wynnewood; 22 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Sylvia Beatrice Reeves-Shepard

Sylvia Beatrice Reeves-Shepard passed away on May 22, 2009. She was born on July 18, 1919, in McAlester to Claude and Matilda May Ditzler. She married Louis Reeves in 1934 and they were blessed with four children.

The couple moved from Oklahoma to Southern California early on where she was employed by Newberry's before arriving back in her home state in 1997. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother enjoying various hand crafts. In her later years, she loved coming to Rave Review Movie Club to meet the many customers there.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Louis Reeves in 1971; her second husband, Ted Shepard; eight sisters and brothers; and a granddaughter, April Gillham Hall.

She is survived by two daughters, Gertrude Root and husband Robert, Allie Gillham and husband Ronald; two sons, Louis Reeves and wife Kim, Anthony Reeves and wife Janet; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Vencil Ratliff ‘V. R.’ Barnett

Vencil Ratliff “V.R.” Barnett, 88, of Roswell, New Mexico, passed away on February 22, 2009. He was born April 26, 1920, in Hagerman, New Mexico, to Levi Barnett and Lottie Ratliff Barnett who have preceded him in death.

V.R. was from a pioneer Hagerman family who farmed in the Pecos Valley and Hagerman for more than 50 years. V.R. served on the Hagerman School Board, Hagerman Canal Board, the board at Security National Bank, Hagerman Gin Co-op Board and Farmers Home Administration Board. He was a deacon at Hagerman First Baptist Church. He owned and operated Barnett Feed Yard in Hagerman and ranched in the Datil, New Mexico, area. He later opened Barnett Industries, an auto and industrial supply business in Hagerman.

He is survived by his children, Kaye, Carolyn and John; 11 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Cleburn M. Harrison

Cleburn M. Harrison, 84, of Marietta, Texas, passed away on May 24, 2009, in Daingerfield, Texas. He was born on January 9, 1925, in Boswell.

He was a retired plumber, a Catholic, a Mason, a member of United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters, and American Legion. He was a World War II Army veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Harrison of Marietta; son, Ulmont M. Harrison; two granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; and a number of other relatives.

Jewell Loeta Ulmer

Jewell Loeta Ulmer, 84, of Arkoma passed away on June 4, 2009, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was born in Williams to Henry and Emma Seahorn Darneal. She was a member of Arkoma First Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one sister, Lorene Furr; and four brothers, Leon, Edward, Leonard and Richard Darneal.

She is survived by two daughters, Freda Parker and husband Jack of Pryor and Virginia Cook of Gladewater, Texas; one son, Billy Bulter of Spiro; three sisters, Doshie Butler and Bertha Tackett both of Panama, and Betty Jean Detamore of Spiro; six grandchildren, Amy Cox and husband Mark of Spiro, Cathy Miller and husband Billy of Kileen, Emily Gist and husband Jason of Spiro, Brad Webb and wife, Judy of Fort Worth, Texas, and Gary Webb of Longview, Texas, and four great-grandchildren.

Billie Wayne James

Billie Wayne James, 74, of Tahlequah passed away February 2, 2009, at his home with his family at his side. He was born December 22, 1934, in Shady Point to Jacob Jackson and Edna Ila Calhoon James.

He lived in the Tahlequah area for 36 years having moved from Hugo. He was of the Christian faith attending the Nazarene Church in Tahlequah. He was a member of the American Legion. He served in the Korean War as a staff sergeant with the motor pool in the U.S. Army. He enjoyed fishing, being with his family and always found humor and the best in every situation. He was retired form the Claremore Indian Hospital as a security guard. He lived his life unselfishly, always seeing to the needs of others. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He loved his family and country. He will be missed by all who shared his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents; half-sister, Ada McGee, and three brothers.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude of the home; daughters, Cheryl and husband Leo Washington of Calera and Lisa Wolbert of Sallisaw; stepdaughters, Christina and husband Darrell Carey of Tahlequah, Ruth Ellen Garcia of Calera; sons, Derrell James and David James, both of Okmulgee; stepson, Stephen and wife Cleta Huntly and many friends.



Jack Stamper

Jack Stamper, a longtime Oklahoma journalist and newspaper owner, passed away on June 24, 2009, in Clinton. He was 90. He was born on October 27, 1918, in Sumner. He owned the Hugo Daily News from October 1951 until January 1980. Prior to moving to Hugo, he worked for newspapers in Portland, Oregon; Tulia, Texas, and in Clinton and Anadarko. He purchased the McCurtain County Gazette in 1968, converted it to a daily newspaper and built a new printing plant in Idabel. For many years, he also was a co-owner of the Antlers American.

During World War II, Stamper served as an intelligence officer in the Army Air Corps and later the U.S. Air Force. He retired from service in 1946. Stamper served as President of the Hugo Chamber of Commerce and Hugo Rotary Club and was co-founder of Hugo Cablevision. He was named by Governor Henry Bellmon to lead an Oklahoma delegation in the study of water issues. He was appointed by Governor David Boren to the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission and later as Director of the Oklahoma Department of Charities and Corrections. Stamper also was recognized by the South Korean Minister of Culture for humanitarian contributions to children and orphanages in that country.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie.

He is survived by two daughters, Dr. Cindy Wright and Suzanne and husband Dr. Keith Berry, all of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; two sons, Steve Stamper and wife Karen of Clinton, and Stan Stamper and wife Judy of Hugo; one sister, Helen Wyatt and husband J.T. of McAllen, Texas; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

William Ed Myers Sr.

William Ed Myers Sr., 68, of Wright City passed away January 15, 2009, in his home. He was born on October 2, 1940, at Rufe to Edgar and Pearlne Myers.

William married Quay Gibson on June 19, 1961, in Hugo. He was a member of the St. John Presbyterian Church in Rufe. He retired from Dierks Lumber Company and Weyerhaeuser after 39 years of service. He served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard. He enjoyed traveling to various states for church meetings, fishing, camping activities and giving rides in his boat. He also loved spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Johnny L. Myers Sr., Gilbert H. Myers, and infant brother, Gordon Myers; baby sister, Kathy L. Myers; and son, Baby Boy Myers.

William is survived by his wife; aunt, Ella F. Dorsey of Choctaw; four sons, Orlando S. Gibson and Audie D. Gibson, both of Wright City, William Myers Jr. of Milburn and Dorsey B Myers of Helena; two daughters, Greta M. Myers of Hugo and Dawn R. Walls of Idabel; 18 grandchildren; 11 grandchildren; one niece and several nephews and a host of friends.

Winnidell Gravitt Wilson

Winnidell Gravitt Wilson, 88, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2009, at her home in Eagan.

Winnidell was born and raised in McAlester in Southeastern Oklahoma where her Choctaw ancestors located after surviving the infamous “Trail of Tears” Indian removal. She was a direct descendant of Choctaw Chief Nita-oshe and grew up proud of and involved in her Native American heritage. After graduating from Oklahoma College for Women in 1943, she moved to San Antonio, Texas, to participate in the war effort. There she met and married the handsome and dashing U.S. Army Captain John Wilson. After the war, the Wilsons migrated to Minnesota where they lived for the next 60 years. Winnie had a career teaching social studies at junior high schools in the Bloomington and Edina school systems. She was a long-time member and supporter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) where she developed many lifelong friendships. She loved to travel, read and play bridge. She was a staunch feminist supporting women's rights and causes. She was also an ardent shopper, and many of her friends considered her to be a fashion advisor extraordinaire.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents, Andy and Winnie Gravitt, and brothers, Jack and Joe Gravitt.

She is survived by her daughter, Joanne (Duane) Lindahl of Amelia Island, Florida; sons, Murray (Rebecca) Wilson of Eagan, Minnesota, and Ross (Margo Squire) Wilson of Bethesda, Maryland; six grandchildren; two step-grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Jerry George Noley

Jerry George Noley, SMSgt USAF (Ret.) of Wilburton passed away on February 11, 2009, following a prolonged illness. He was born on November 2, 1934, in Quinton and was named for his great-grandfather and grandfather, Jerry Folsom and George Carney.

A 1954 graduate of Wilburton High School and former high school athlete, Jerry continued playing football in the Air Force until his early 30s. Jerry also had an Associate of Arts Degree from Eastern Oklahoma A&M (now Eastern State) College. Jerry enjoyed all spectator sports, especially football, and liked to talk politics. He tinkered with mechanical and electronic gadgets of all types as hobby and enjoyed photography throughout his life. In his youth, he was an artist of note although his work was mostly for his own enjoyment and relaxation. Jerry was a proud veteran of the U. S. Air Force. He retired in 1982 after a 26-year career, including more than 100 missions over North Vietnam. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and took great pride in his service to his country during which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and two air medals in addition to numerous other medals of recognition. He visited and served in many countries including Thailand, Russia, China, Guam, Korea and locations in Europe. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Jerry served the State of Oklahoma as a park ranger for 15 years with assignments at Robbers Cave, Lake Tenkiller and Keystone State Parks. His loyalty to family and country was unequalled. His apt attention to others while in conversation, his subtle sense of humor, his practical outlook on life and his love for the Choctaw Nation and his country makes his loss especially notable.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Grayson B. Noley Sr. and Anna Mae Carney Noley; his brother, Lamont, and one infant brother.

He is survived by three brothers, the Rev. Homer R. Noley of Wilburton, James Marvin Noley and wife Joyce of Wilburton, and Grayson Noley Jr. and wife Sharon of Norman; one sister, Sylvia A. Carver and husband Jim of Vian; two children, Jeri Lynn Masteller and husband Dale of Ulster, Pennsylvania, and Jeffrey Charles Noley of Pennsylvania, three grandchildren, numerous cousins, nephews and nieces. He will be missed by many.

Joe Morris Nowlin

Joe Morris Nowlin, 40, of McAlester passed away on May 27, 2009, in Butler, Missouri. He was born on July 2, 1968, to Morris and Barbara Barcus Nowlin.

He attended school and graduated from Pittsburgh High School in 1986. He later attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton and received an associate degree in criminal justice in 1995. He married Kelli Urrutia in 1994 and they had two children.

He also had a daughter from a previous marriage. He was employed with the Department of Corrections, where he spent 12 years at the Oklahoma State Prison in McAlester. For the last several years he was the chief of security at NOCC in Vinita. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles and four-wheelers, and spending time with his kids, family and friends.

He also had an impressive military career as a member of the 445th Military Police Company for 10 years and then the Oklahoma Air National Guard where he was currently serving in the 219th Engineering and Installation Squadron in Tulsa. He was a veteran of Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait and served two tours with Operation Enduring Freedom in both Iraq and Afghanistan with some time in Turkey. During his military career, he was presented with the following awards and decorations: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forced Expeditionary Medal Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, AF Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, AF Longevity Service, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1'M' Device, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Rifle), Army Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Government of Kuwait, Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal, Oklahoma Active Service Award Ribbon, Oklahoma National Guard Long Service Ribbon and Oklahoma Good Conduct Ribbon.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Floyd and Ada Nowlin, and maternal grandmother, Artie Reyes.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Shipley and husband Al of Calera; his father, Morris Nowlin of Haileyville; two daughters, Alyssa Nowlin of the home and Felicia Dawn Humphreys of Wetumka; son, Cayden Nowlin of the home; two brothers, Eugene Nowlin of Wilburton and Alan Nowlin of Lexington; two sisters, Lawana Nowlin of Denton, Texas, and Priscilla Nowlin of Dallas, Texas; mother of Cayden and Alyssa, Kelli Nowlin of Alderson; mother-in-law, Patti McCullar of McAlester and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Sharon Delores McKenzie

Sharon Delores McKenzie, 63, passed away on May 6, 2009. She was born in San Angelo, Texas, to Faye and Elmer McKenzie on December 19, 1945. After her parents passed away, she was raised by her sister, Ruby.

In her youth, she worked as a model before studying and finding employment in the field of cosmetology. For the last two decades, she worked for Verizon in Irving, Texas, where she lived with her daughter and two granddaughters.She was a longtime member of the Plymouth Park Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. She weathered many storms and enjoyed many blessings during her rich and full life. She loved the ministry, her family and cooking meals, not only for herself but for her many friends and family.Sharon's life was one of self-sacrifice and caring for others. She learned of the truths of God's Word because of her mother's interest in spiritual things. She made the truth her own and was baptized in declaration of her dedication on December 12, 1959. Her true vocation was the ministry and she loved her God Jehovah more than anything else in this world. She made regular preaching a focus of her life every month for many years and continued giving a fine witness right up until the time of her death.

She was preceded in death by grandmother, Maggie Pistubbee Pittman of Bennington, who was an original enrollee of the Mississippi Choctaws, Toles, Mississippi; parents; brother, Elmer McKenzie Jr.; cousin, Claretta Gatlin, and nephew, Bert “Pacer” Aschenbeck.

She is survived by daughter, Pam Garcia; granddaughters, Chelsea and Brooke Garcia; great-grandson, Xavier; sisters, Helen and Bert Aschenbeck and Ruby and Bill Tingle; three aunts; two uncles; Mary Parris, and Ula and Don Foote of Durant, Clara and J.T. Gatlin of Silo, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Riley Franklin Hamilton

Riley Franklin Hamilton, 75, of Mangum passed away on May 13, 2009, at the Mangum Community Hospital. He was born on May 7, 1934, in Erick to Hafford Riley and Odessa Harkins Hamilton.

He was a graduate of Plainview School and valedictorian of his senior class and was known as “Plainview Hotshot Hamilton” for his basketball skills. As an active member of his community, he was a member of the Farm Service Agency County Committee for 38 years and a member of First Baptist Church of Mangum. Some of his favorite things to do were bowling, traveling, especially to Red River, New Mexico, coin collecting, watching sports and playing dominoes. But spending time with family and friends was what brought joy to his life. On February 27, 1954, he married Nola Atwood and she preceded him in death on February 7, 1971. To this union, Beverly and Ronnie were born. On April 24, 1974, he married Kaye Wileman, in Mangum, where he lived until his death.

Riley is preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Kay of Mangum; four children, Beverly Uecke of Burns Flat, Ronnie Hamilton and wife Cindy of Mustang, Kendal Young and husband Jeff of Yukon and Richelle Froage and husband Jason of Gage; six grandchildren, Janie Selman and husband Travis, Jason Uecke and wife Krystle, Shelby Hamilton, Madison Young, Jackson Young and Gunner Froage; three great-grandchildren, Jarrett Selman, Jaxon Selman and Tanner Uecke; six sisters, June Tramel and husband Darrell of Prescott, Arizona, Betty Nippert of Mangum, Jimmie Ruth Boyd ad husband Clyde of Cleburne, Texas, Thelma Pender and husband Buddy of Fort Worth, Texas, Nina Turner and husband Dan of Altus and Sherri Govett and husband Mark of Oklahoma City; three brothers, Wayne Hamilton and wife Norma of Mangum, Bob Hamilton and wife Barbara of Pauls Valley, and Arleigh Hamilton and wife Pat of Chandler, along with other relatives and friends.



Tribal Chaplain shares memories

Some months ago from this date, April 4, 2000, I had mentioned a little about my memories of my own personal early life to my dear lovely grandchildren, Deborah Estelle Bobb (born 3/30/90), and Bertram Edward Bobb II (born 4/23/91) in lieu of a bedtime story.

Tonight, little Bertram requested I continue some of the stories or history of my life. This brought me to thinking back to many years ago, and further, and now I am attempting to put it in writing as a story of my life and as a history of my family tree.

My parents were the late Reverend Johnson Wilson Bobb and May Estelle Edwards. They were attending the Folsom Training School (FTS), Methodist Episcopal Church South, Smithville in northern McCurtain county Oklahoma when I was born on March 30, 1924. I want to note here that my granddaughter was born on March 30, 1990. She was my lovely birthday gift. My grandson was my birthday gift from God also; he was born on April 23, 1991.

My father graduated from Folsom Training School soon after I was born and was ready for any service the Lord had for him. I was pictured in a class picture. One of the reminders of an incident a few years after my father's graduation from FTS was my cutting paper dolls out of his diploma.

The Lord used Reverend Johnson Bobb mightily among the Choctaws and others he

came in contact with the Gospel message. He presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ, teaching and preaching the Word of God to the uneducated and the educated, to any nationality, with tears streaming down his cheeks. I remember on one occasion, a newspaper reporter in Antlers, Oklahoma, approached him, testing him with some difficult questions, only to receive Bible answers. Then the reporter said, "I thought you were just a country preacher." My father replied, "I am just a country preacher."

Johnson Bobb served as pastor to three rural Choctaw churches, then advanced to the position of Presiding Elder of the Indian Missionary Conference until he went home to be with the Lord on August 23, 1943.

I was serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve in transit from Bremerton, Washington, to Miami, Florida, when my father passed away. His body was held over until September 16, 1943. That's how long it took me to travel by train from Bremerton to Miami.

My father was buried at the High Hill Indian Methodist Church cemetery near Spencerville, Oklahoma. I want to inject here that I was a member of the High Hill Church until my graduation from the Northeastern Oklahoma State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in July of 1952.

My church membership was transferred to the W.U. Witt Memorial Methodist Church, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, in Tulsa. The pas-



tors at Witt Memorial Church while I attended the church were Reverend James Yeager, Reverend Robert Pinezaddley and Reverend Tony Hill.

It was at Witt Memorial Church in 1954 when I was licensed as a local preacher in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, and later in 1956 I was ordained as elder in the Methodist Church by Bishop Angie W. Smith. During this period it was my privilege to labor with a Cherokee preacher, Reverend Jess McLemore.

Reverend McLemore and I organized a church among the Cherokee Tribe in Collinsville, Oklahoma, north of Tulsa.

It was a great experience and privilege to labor among the Cherokee people. Brother McLemore said, "Bobb, preach in English and I will interpret in Cherokee."

The Lord continued to use this team of Bobb and McLemore to organize a church in Claremore, Oklahoma. In Claremore, Reverend Edgar Tims, a Choctaw,

who lived in Claremore with his family, joined us in weekly home Bible studies which led to organizing the Claremore Community Methodist Church. Reverend Tims was instrumental and active in the beginning and was active in the Claremore Church until he went to be with the Lord. The church in Claremore is still active today in 2009.

The Cherokee people are similar to the Choctaws in their spiritual and physical background. They both have a rich heritage in Christian background and principles. I remember another Cherokee man, Alex Rider, asked me, "Brother Bobb, I would like for you to come and preach to our Cherokees 'You Must be Born Again.' I was converted under your preaching listening to 'You Must be Born Again' in Tulsa at the Witt Memorial Church."

Reverend Johnson W. Bobb's first appointment as pastor was the Bokchito Church, Idabel, Oklahoma of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in the mid 1920s. Reverend Zadoc Anderson was the Choctaw Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, a ten-county area of the Choctaw Nation. Reverend W.U. Witt was the General Superintendent of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference at this time.

After finishing studies at the Murray State Junior College, Tishomingo, I moved to Antlers. I was married to Mary Ann Greenwood, Ant-

lers, on September 9, 1948 and was employed with Oklahoma State High Commission and was the Boxing Coach for Antlers Public Schools in 1948 and 1949.

I am a 1949 Charter Member of the Reverend Johnson Bobb and Reverend Kennedy Myers Memorial Church (Bobb-Myers Memorial Methodist Church of Antlers). I am the only charter member of this church that is still living as of May 28, 2009.

I had the privilege of organizing a Charter Member of the Dallas United Methodist Church of Dallas, Texas, in 1960. There are many Choctaws living in Dallas among some 50 tribes from across the United States.

I attended the Dallas Bible and the Dallas Theological Seminary, both in Dallas, and founded the Christian Indian Ministries, Inc. now of Antlers, formerly of Dallas.

Today, May 28, 2009, I am the Director of the Christian Indian Ministries Inc. of Antlers, sponsoring the Bertram Bobb Bible Camp of Ringold, Oklahoma, also serving as Missionary/Evangelist. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Native American Bible Ministries Inc. of Ringold sponsoring the Native American Bible Academy, a Bible teaching school.

Another privilege that I am blessed with is to have been appointed in September 1996 as Chaplain of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma by Gregory E. Pyle, Chief, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

‘But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus’

It is a privilege and a joy to labor in a gospel ministry among our Native American people. Of course my contacts are not only for our Indian Communities.

Many come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and their lives have changed as they trust Jesus Christ and Him alone for salvation. Will you pray for their spiritual growth?

Let's look at the first chapter of First Corinthians. We read verses 26 and 27: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

Paul has tried to show us that if we want to be useful to God we must commit our life completely to Him. We must come to the place of yieldedness.

Many of us have a desire to be well known, but God does not use a person who is controlled by such desires. He has made the wisdom of the world ineffective and has elevated what the world calls foolish, that is, the simplicity of the preaching of the gospel, in order that He might save the lost.

Paul said that God has chosen those whom the world calls foolish in order to confound, or put to shame, the wise. This is God's plan.

God has chosen that which the world considers weak so that He might confound that which the world calls mighty. This is the thought of this portion of scriptures in First Corinthians.

Paul used these words in verse 28: "And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."

He has done this in order to show God's purpose and plan.

When God speaks of foolish things He does not necessarily mean that they are really

foolish, but they seem foolish to the people of the world. For instance, the Gospel is very clear, and it seems nonsense to the world.

In First Corinthians 1:28 Paul uses three expressions: "Base things of the world," "Things which are despised," and "Things which are not."

In the sight of the world these are the base things, the despised things and the things regarded as nothing.

Read this chapter again and again until you understand it and you are willing to become what God want you to be. Then He can use you. You may be a person whom the world despises. You may be regarded as nothing, as far as the world is concerned, but God can use you if you let Him.

God wants to show us that the efforts of men and the strength of their organization are useless, because He has chosen to use that which the world has despised. Why has He done this? We read in verse 29: "That no flesh should glory in his presence."

Because God uses those who are regarded as nothing to accomplish His work, people cannot say that it is done in the power of the flesh. They must admit that God has done the work, and they must glorify only Him.

God has said that He uses only that which the world considers worthless; the base, the despised, the weak and the foolish. He does this so that no man might ever boast of the accomplishments of the flesh in the presence of God.

If you are a Christian, you draw all your life from Jesus Christ. Paul emphasized this when he said in verse 30: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus."

Your life is in His life-giving power. Your life comes from Him and you are a part of the body of Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. What we

are in the sight of God is only what we are in Christ Jesus. When God looks at us, He does not see us, He sees His son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul continues in verse 30 that God has made Christ unto us "wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." Jesus Christ has become these things for us once and for all. Once we are in Christ Jesus, the matter is settled and we benefit from the results.

Jesus Christ has been made unto us "wisdom." Wisdom is more than knowledge. Knowledge is something that is gained from books, observation and experience. We have decisions to make and we need wisdom in making them. That kind of wisdom is not found in books; it must come from God. Christ is made unto us this wisdom.

Christ is also made unto us "righteousness." The righteousness which God sees as we stand before Him is not our own. Christ has become our righteousness.

Christ has become our "sanctification." Sanctification means "separation unto God." It is a relationship to God which is entered into the moment a person places his faith in Christ as Savior.

Christ has also become our "redemption." To redeem means "to deliver by paying a price." Christ is the only one who could deliver us by this method and He was willing to "...taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

God the Father is in Heaven. He has given to us a wonderful plan of salvation through His only begotten son. Jesus paid the penalty for sin on the cross.

Will you confess, agree with God, that you are a sinner and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior today?

Remember to pray for America and for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in service.

◆ ◆ ◆ Choctaw history ...

The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek
Treaty With The Choctaw, 1830
September 27, 1830
7 Stat., 333.
Proclamation, Feb. 24, 1831.

A treaty of perpetual friendship, cession and limits, entered into by John H. Eaton and John Coffee for and in behalf of the Government of the United States, and the Mingoes, Chiefs, Captains, and Warriors of the Choctaw Nation, begun and held at Dancing Rabbit Creek on the 15th of September in the year 1830.

Preamble
Whereas the General Assembly of the State of Mississippi has extended the laws of said state to persons and property within the charged limits of the same, and the President of the United States has said that they cannot protect the Choctaw people from the operation of those laws. Now, therefore, that the Choctaws may live under their own laws in peace with the United States, and the State of Mississippi, and have, accordingly agreed to the following articles of treaty:

Peace and friendship.
ARTICLE I. Perpetual peace and friendship is pledged and agreed upon, by and between the United States, and the Mingoes, Chiefs and Warriors of the Choctaw Nation of Red People, and that this may be considered the treaty existing and inconsistent with provisions of this are hereby declared null and void.

Country to be conveyed to Choctaws.
ARTICLE II. The United States, under a grant specially to be made by the President of the United States, shall cause to be conveyed to the Choctaw Nation, a tract of country West of the Mississippi River in fee simple, to them and their descendants, to ensure to them while they shall exist as a Nation, and live on it, beginning near Fort Smith, where the Arkansas boundary crosses the Arkansas river running thence to the source of the Canadian fork; if in the limits of the United States, or to those limits; thence due south to Red River, and down Red River to the West boundary of the same to be agreeable to the treaty made and concluded at Washington City in the year 1825. The grant to be executed, so soon as the present treaty shall be ratified.

ARTICLE III. In consideration of the provisions contained in the several articles of this Treaty, the Choctaw Nation of Indians consent and hereby cede to the United States, the entire

English	Choctaw	pronunciation
Food	illimpa	il-leem-pah
Water	oka	oh-kah
Eat	impa	eem-pah
Drink	nahn ishko	nahn ish-ko
Corn	nanchi	tahn-che
Plate	ampo	ahm-poh

country they own and possess, east of the Mississippi River; and they agree to move beyond the Mississippi River, early as practicable, and will so arrange their removal, that as many as possible of their people not exceeding one half of the whole number, shall depart during the fall of 1831 and 1832; the residue to follow during the succeeding fall of 1833; a better opportunity in this manner will be afforded the Government, to extend to them the facilities and comforts which it is desirable should be extended in conveying them to their new homes.

Country ceded to United States
Self-government secured to Choctaws.
ARTICLE IV. The government and people of the United States are hereby obliged to secure to the said Choctaw Nation of Red People and their descendants: and that no part of the land granted them shall ever be embraced in any territory or state, but the United States shall forever secure said Choctaw Nation from and against all laws, except such as from time to time, may be enacted in their own national councils, not inconsistent with the constitution, treaties and laws of the United States; and except such as may and which have been enacted by Congress to the extent that Congress under the constitution are required to exercise a legislation over Indian affairs. But the Choctaws, should this treaty be ratified, express a wish that Congress may grant to the Choctaws the right of punishing by their own laws, any white man who shall come into their Nation, and infringe any of their National regulations.

For further reading of the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty go to www.choctawnation.com then click on History, and then click on Pre-removal, next you will click where the sentence begins with, "Click Here to view a complete list of all history articles. Then your final click will be on 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.

If you prefer, call toll-free 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2138, ask for Brenda Wilson, and ask for the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. We will happily mail you a copy.

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