

# Batton appointed Assistant Chief

Gary Batton has been named the new Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This position is an appointment by the Chief upon a vote of approval by the Tribal Council. The selection was approved Friday, June 1. Assistant Chief Batton has been employed by the tribe since 1987 and has served in numerous capacities, including Deputy Director of the Choctaw Housing Authority and Executive Director of the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority. In addition to his job duties, he serves as a board member for the Clayton Public Schools, Sunday School Superintendent for First Baptist Church in Clayton, member of the Eastern Oklahoma State College Foundation and has the leadership role in many tribal functions and committees.

“Gary Batton is a young man of impeccable morals and ethics,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “He is one of the finest and brightest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I am sure that this is the best choice for the Choctaw Nation.”

“It is an extreme honor to serve on behalf of the Chief and the Choctaw people,” said Assistant Chief Batton after being sworn into office. “I am very optimistic about the future of the Choctaw Nation.”

Ten members of the tribal council were present for the vote on the appointment – all ten approved the confirmation.

Gary and wife Angie live in Clayton, Oklahoma. They have two children, David and Stacy, and two grandchildren.



Council Speaker Mike Amos swears in Gary Batton as Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation.



## Broken Bow School to receive \$125,000 for track program

By the time Andrew Amos, right, is old enough to run relays, Broken Bow Schools will have a fine track facility for breaking records. Broken Bow School Board members Ralph Piper, Chad Orr and Jerry Whisenhunt joined School Superintendent Carolyn Davis at the Broken Bow Boys and Girls Club as Choctaw Nation Councilman Mike Amos announced the acquisition of \$125,000 in federal funds for the school a regulation track facility. Tribal officials Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Councilman Ted Dosh were in Broken Bow to hear the good news. The school is looking forward to holding area track meets, benefitting youth from all over Oklahoma. The students won't be the only ones to take advantage of the new field. A walking track will be available for adults, providing a safe place to get exercise.

# Pyle unopposed two terms in a row

Chief Gregory E. Pyle continues making history in the Choctaw Nation by remaining unopposed two terms in a row. During the three-day filing period, Election Board officials reported that only Chief Pyle filed to run in the 2007 Choctaw Chief Election.

Five councilpersons also remain unopposed in their respective districts. Remaining in their positions are Harrington “Hap” Ward, District

1; Kenneth “Kenny” Bryant, District 3; Charlotte Jackson, District 5; Perry Thompson, District 8, and Bob Pate, District 11.

Incumbent Councilperson for District 2, Mike Amos, has one opponent – Greene Dale Davis. The election will be held July 14 with polling places at the Choctaw Community Center, Bethel, and Choctaw Field Office, Broken Bow.

# Tribe, Literacy Council form partnership

Members of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met May 12 in Tushka Homma, approving a Council Bill to fund a partnership between the Choctaw Nation and The Durant Literacy Council.

The tribe appropriated \$5,000 to assist in the program which will help Choctaws who read below the seventh grade level to improve their reading skills.

Letters of appointment were presented for Election Board Members Clariece Chapman, Edna Loftin and notary Rita Phelps.

Also approved during the session were grant applications to DHHS for Adolescent Family Life; DOJ for Community Oriented Policing

Services Tribal Resources; Department of Education for the Safe Schools Healthy Student; National Endowment of Arts for the Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth and to the Kirkpatrick Family Preservation Oklahoma Most Endangered Historic Places.

Applications to continue the Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life Grant and the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program Grant were okayed by the Council.

Two resolutions were passed, one assuring that Finance and Procurement Policies and Procedures are compliant with federal rules and the other authorizing use of general funds to complete a CDBG grant project.



Atoka Health Clinic



Broken Bow Head Start

# Progress in the Choctaw Nation



CMDC in McAlester



Stigler Community Center



Broken Bow Casino

# Groundbreakings in four locations, ribboncutting celebrate prosperity

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Council Members, employees of Choctaw Nation, Atoka citizens and dignitaries, and a host of friends and supporters were present during the groundbreaking of the Atoka Health Care Clinic on May 24. The site is located west of Highway 69/75 on Highway 3, between the airport and the Kiamichi Technology Center.

This \$3.5 million state-of-the-art facility will be approximately 12,000 square feet in size, and is being constructed

totally with tribal funds. There will be two physicians on staff, a WIC representative, X-ray and lab services, and a pharmacy. This much-needed clinic will serve an area where obtaining health care services has always meant having to travel to another town. Tribal Council Member Anthony Dillard says, “My hope is that the Atoka facility will allow the McAlester, Talihina, Hugo, and Durant clinics some relief to better serve the Choctaw people with less travel time and distance for all.

“We are so proud to have a health clinic in the Atoka area. There are so many Choctaws that will benefit from this facility.”

On April 16, Councilman Mike Amos welcomed everyone to District 2 to celebrate the construction of a new head start facility across from the community center on Chahta Street in Broken Bow. The 7,551-square-foot center is being built with \$1.5 million in tribal funds.

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# Okla Chahta Gathering



Color Guard leads the veterans and princesses into the circle May 5 at the Okla Chahta Gathering in Bakersfield, California.



Wanda Carter and her 2 1/2-year-old great-granddaughter Destenie Saunders.



Choctaw royalty – Chief Gregory E. Pyle stands with 2007-08 Okla Chahta Princess Kelsie Strohmaier, 2006-07 Okla Chahta Princess Feather Long and Little Miss Shaifah Youngdale, 2007-08 Little Miss Ananias Lim, Choctaw Nation Jr. Miss Ashton Dinardo-Chuckluck and Sr. Miss Courtney Baker.



Okla Chahta board members Bill Harrison, Aaron Wilkins, Nancy Long, Mike Bryant, Victoria Harrison and Theresa Harrison are presented gifts of appreciation from Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle.



Five generations – 91-year-old Anna Calhoun is joined by family members Evelyn Ornelas, Theresa Flores, Samantha Ardoin and Isabel, Jayde and Bradley Ardoin.



Theresa and Bill Harrison present Brenda Hampton with an award in appreciation for all she does to help tribal members. Brenda is Executive Director of the CDIB and Tribal Membership Department.



Councilman Delton Cox, Deloris Cox and Councilman Mike Amos share bags of goodies with the California Choctaws.



Cleno Jefferson, Paul and Stephanie and children William and Aneica enjoy the gathering.



Charlotte and Jim Walker with Chief Pyle.



Donna and Bud Ray of Madera, California, are pictured with Chief Pyle.



Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Tribal Judge Lois Burton made the trip to Bakersfield.



Willie Mac Leflore Floyd says hello to Chief Pyle.

**Gregory E. Pyle**  
*Chief*

The Official  
Monthly Publication  
of the  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

**Gary Batton**  
*Assistant Chief*

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BISHINIK® 2007



Councilmen James Frazier, Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh visit with Machele Heafner of Merced, California.



Youth dancers demonstrate Choctaw Social Dancing.



Chief Pyle and Hubert Holman.



Tom Chalakee and Bertram Bobb.



# Senior Citizens Day a favorite

*From the Desk  
of Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

More than 500 elders braved a deluge of rain to attend the annual Senior Citizen Day in Durant. Bus drivers began picking up passengers from the Community Centers before dawn so tribal elders could enjoy the full day of activities in their honor. This event is one

of my favorites each year. I really appreciate the opportunity to visit with friends from all over the Choctaw Nation and surrounding cities.

The hat contest proves that imagination and talent grow stronger with our years! Each competitor who designed and decorated their own hat deserves a huge applause. It is a good thing I wasn't asked to be

a judge in the contest, because I don't think I could ever have chosen a favorite. They were all terrific. The name tag designs gave everyone another opportunity to showcase talents.

After lunch, the districts competed in a singing contest which was won by the Wright City/Antlers group. I heard that Wilburton placed a close second and the Bethel/Broken

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Bow singers were terrific at third place. All of the Tribal Council members were very proud of their centers' contributions.

The Choctaw Nation truly honors our elders, and this is just one day out of an entire year of feeling blessed that we have

a great generation of people to look up to. This administration tries to make life better for all tribal people, with special efforts made to help our Senior Citizens and children.

May God bless the elders of the Choctaw Nation and all of their families.



## Choctaw Chief presents \$5,000 to aid Talihina Rock House renovation effort

Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle presented a \$5,000 donation to the Talihina Chamber of Commerce on May 2 to assist in the renovation of the rock house that will be used as a Visitor's and Interpretive Center. The center will promote Talihina, the surrounding area and the Talimena Scenic Drive, an Oklahoma and Arkansas National Scenic Byway. The Choctaw Nation contribution is part of a huge fundraising effort by the Chamber to raise \$80,000 in matching funds for an Enhancement Grant to renovate the old house in downtown Talihina. This rock house was once used as a lodging for railroad workers and their families, and is a very important part of the area history. It is very fitting to use this building as an information center in Talihina, which is the Choctaw word for Iron Road, or railroad.

South LeFlore County Tribal Councilman Kenny Bryant joined Chief Pyle in the presentation to Talihina Chamber of Commerce Nancy Southerland-Holmes and Director Vera Nelson.



## Hugo area youth get skateboard park

The Choctaw Nation has donated to the Choctaw County Coalition's efforts to provide a skateboard park for area youth. Tribal Councilman Perry Thompson and Chief Gregory E. Pyle joined forces to help raise \$4,000 for the park. Pictured with Thompson and Pyle are Martha Bloodworth and Rhonda Rolf of the Coalition, Hugo Jr. High School Principal Darnell Shanklin, and Joyce Wells of the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Program. Thompson also made a donation to the Hugo High School basketball program on behalf of the tribe.

## Health care always a top priority for tribal leaders

*From the Desk  
of Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

The Choctaw Nation is very proud to offer excellent rural health care through the many clinics the tribe has constructed throughout the tribal boundaries in the past few years. Two new clinics are being opened in the next few weeks, one at Broken Bow and one at McAlester, both replacing older facilities with state-of-the-art medical clinics. The expansion at the Poteau clinic will also house the pharmacy refill center, and is due to open for services very quickly. Perhaps the most exciting enhancement to the health services is the first-ever clinic in Atoka. This will be a tremendous help to local Choctaws, saving travel time and expense.

I am extremely appreciative to the Chief and the Tribal Council for their unwavering support of improving health care for the Choctaw people. These clinics are built with money earned from tribal businesses. While serving the past 10 years as Executive Director of the Choctaw Nation Health Services, it has been very obvious to me that continual enhancement and growth of health care will always be a priority of this administration. I applaud the commitment of our tribal leaders.



## The message in the Bible

### Chaplain's Corner

Halito (Hello), in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus "... was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." – (John 1:1; 14). Nature tells of God (Psalm 19:1), but the message is not clear. It tells us nothing of the love and grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-10). Conscience does tell us of God, but the message is partial.

The only place we can find a clear, unmistakable message is in the Word of God, which we call the Bible.

True Christianity finds all of its teaching in the Bible. True Christianity does not deny any part of the Bible. True Christianity does not add anything to the Bible. The Bible has been the most available book on the earth. It has no hidden purpose. It cannot be destroyed.

The Bible has a magnificent heritage. The message is the same throughout, so that the 66 books of the Bible are actually one book.

The message, in every part, is straight forward. No writer changed his message to put his friends in a better light. The sins of small and great alike are frankly admitted, and life is presented as it actually is.

Many people are not aware that God chose the nation Israel to reveal to us Divine Truth and as a channel through which the Savior of the world would come.

The nation of Israel stands out as being very special in the sight of God. From ancient times, this nation has been the object of His kindness, His interest, and His blessing.

This country is not a superpower. This country is very small and very insignificant. But this nation has been chosen to fill a prominent role in the program of God.

Of all the nations on the face of the globe, Israel alone has been chosen to be in the center of God's prophetic program. The nation of Israel has been highly favored in the past, and it has a glorious future.

It is quite clear the nation of Israel is very special to God. We see this from just reading the Bible.

David, the psalmist, said in Psalm 135:4: "For the Lord has chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure."

Moses wrote in the book of Deuteronomy 32:9-10: "For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land,

and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

In Zechariah 2:8, the prophet recorded these words in reference to Israel: "... he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye."

Some of the events in the history of the Jewish nation would not seem that it was a place of favor. Ongoing tensions, the Middle East, and ancient rivalries have kept the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in a vulnerable position.

Without a homeland for many centuries, the Jews have been persecuted and scattered throughout the earth. The opposition attacks have been so fierce and so vicious upon them as a people, millions of Jews have been slaughtered throughout the ages.

God still has a special program for Israel. He has preserved them. Any other people, without God's hand of protection, would have lost their national identity long ago. And the day is coming when all the promises of the Jewish prophets about Israel's glory, prominence and security will surely be fulfilled.

As we look at what the Bible has to say about this unique and unusual people, we will see why everyone, and especially Christians, should love that people who have been chosen by the Lord to be "the apple of His eye."

We read about Abraham's call from God in Genesis 12:1-3: "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Notice that when Abraham received this special call from God, he was given some definite promises. He would become a great nation. He would be favored of the Lord. Through him the earth would be benefited. Those who blessed him would be blessed, and those who



**The Rev. Bertram Bobb  
Tribal Chaplain**

cursed him would be cursed. Abraham was chosen by God to become the father of a great nation.

The Bible centers around how God has fulfilled His promise of salvation to everyone who trusts His Son (John 3:16; Romans 10:13; Acts 16:31).

God has made many promises to Abraham, and these promises can be yours. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29)." And God has given to His people "... exceeding great and precious promises ... in His Word." (II Peter 1:4).

Remember, Israel is special among the nations of earth. That's not saying the Jews are perfect (none of us are!). That's not saying they all serve the God of the Bible (many of them don't). And that's not saying they don't need Christ (we all do).

When we see what the Lord has done for Israel in the past, and what He will do for them nationally in the future, we cannot help but recognize their unique position in the plan of God.

Do you know Christ as your Savior? Will you recognize your own sinfulness and spiritual need?

Before you can be saved, you must realize that you are lost. Before you can be forgiven, you must realize you have sinned. Before you can be converted, you must be convinced you are going the wrong way.

Will you trust Christ as your personal Savior today?

Pray for America. Pray for our men and women in Armed services. Pray for our leaders. God bless you.

# Bertram Bobb Bible Camp

# Summer 2007

Pack your bags and get ready for a great time at Bertram Bobb Bible Camp

### NEW for Summer 2007

### 2 Teen Weeks & 2 Kids Weeks

Teen Week #1:	June 3-8
Kids Week #1:	June 10-15
Kids Week #2:	June 17-22
Teen Week #2:	June 24-29

Teen weeks are for campers ages 13-18 and/or in grades 7-12.  
Kids weeks are for campers ages 8-12.

Cost is **ONLY** \$25 per week.

Check-in/Registration ~ Sundays 4:00-5:45 p.m.  
Pick-up/Camp ends ~ Fridays 9:30 a.m.

*For more information or to pre-register your camper ... call camp office at:*  
**580-981-2647**

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp is under the direction of Travis Bankester & the Christian Indian Ministries Inc. board of directors whose president is Rev. Bertram E. Bobb, Chaplain of the Choctaw Nation.

**Bertram Bobb Bible Camp**  
P.O. Box 822  
Ringold, OK 74754



# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Thank you

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

No words are sufficient to express the gratitude that is felt in our hearts for the Choctaw Nation. The assistance by the Choctaw Nation towards Stephen's funeral expenses was greatly appreciated. Saying "Thank You" seems like such a small thing in return for such a nice gift.

Stephen was very proud of his Indian heritage. He made sure his son was taught about his Indian blood line and, when his daughter gets old enough to understand, she will be taught as well.

**The family of Stephen Ray Henry  
Christie, Cody, and Angelena Henry  
Livingston, Texas**

## Proud to be Choctaw

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

My mother, Jean Marie Fisher Dearborn Gray, and I are happy to call you family and this tribe home – until the Lord comes.

Thank you, Chief Pyle for encouraging me to persevere until I found the truth and for our picture together after the Tulsa community meeting.

**Sanine Antoinette Dearborn Brodis Holt  
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

## Letter of appreciation

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

In the fall of 1999 we met Ms. Elaine Justice when she became our next door neighbor in Bokchito. Ms. Justice later became our Community Health Representative and dear friend. She has always gone above and beyond the call of duty for her patients. We personally know of a situation where she spent her own money to buy food for a patient. One day Charles was in one of the complex offices and happened to ask the lady he was talking to if she knew Elaine Justice. She said I certainly do, she is my Dad's Community Health Representative. We believe this outstanding lady is worthy of high praise and recognition.

**Charles and Margaret Tidwell  
Bokchito, Oklahoma**

## Looking for relatives

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I am looking for relatives that I have been separated from for many years. Any information will be greatly appreciated.

**Johanna Mills Hudrall 79576  
4370 Smiley Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89115**

## Thank you Choctaw Nation for your kindness

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

In December of 2006 the Cantrell family lost a beloved sister, Mrs. Doris June Browne Cantrell. She lived in Moore, Oklahoma but was laid to rest in Memory Gardens, McAlester, Oklahoma. We, the Cantrell family would like to give a very special thank you to our Choctaw family for their kindness and thoughtfulness for providing the luncheon for our family and friends. This was provided by the generous friends in Pittsburg County, specifically McAlester area. We will always be grateful for their thoughts and prayers during our time of grief.

**Gail Painter Cantrell and the entire Cantrell family  
Pryor, Oklahoma**

## Looking for family

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

We have lost contact with my niece's father – Kennedy (or Kannady) McMiller. He was born January 15, 1962, and we believe he is of the Choctaw Nation, possibly in Mississippi or Oklahoma. His daughter was born in 2002. We have had no luck in finding him or any of his relatives. If anybody can help with any information at all, regarding Kennedy or his family, please contact Adaeze Okeke at acnokeke@yahoo.com.

**Adaeze Okeke**

## Looking for relatives

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I would like to hear from some relatives that were related to Crowders in Sterling, Oklahoma. My dad who was Carl A. Crowder took me to visit a great aunt of his, who was Fannie Crowder Wallace. I believe she was related to some Wilsons in Sterling. I would like to hear from them.

**Newona Crowder Ferrall  
Warr Acres, Oklahoma**

## Thank you for the community meeting

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

Our family would like to thank you for the most informative and enjoyable program you brought to Pauls Valley.

**The Smith family**

## Sonny goes National

Sonny Perkins joined the USA National Softball Team in 2006 and competed with the team worldwide. Sonny has once again proven himself as he has made the cut for the 2007 team. Sonny will be competing in the ISF World Cup, June 16-25 in Prague, Czech Republic. Sonny also gives a personal invitation to come cheer the team on in Oklahoma City for the American Challenge Series July 12-15. Sonny is from St. Michaels, Arizona. Sonny is currently seeking sponsorship for the 2007 season. If you are interested he asks that you email him at azsp3@yahoo.com. He will also answer any questions or comments that you might have for him. Sonny looks forward to seeing you at the games in Oklahoma City and wishes to thank the entire Choctaw Nation for their support on his journey. For more information on the 2007 Mens National Softball Team go to www.asasoftball.com.



**Kindergarten students of Pocola Elementary School.**

## Santa Shop a success

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

The kindergarten students and teachers at Pocola Elementary would like to thank you for your generous donations for our Santa Shop. The students had a great time buying gifts for their family and friends and also wrapping the gifts. The Santa Shop was more successful than we had anticipated. Students are already asking about a Santa Shop for next year. The money raised will be used for class field trips, supplies and classroom activities. Again, we greatly appreciate your donation.

**Lora Curry, Tracy Nesbitt, Sandy Wilson, Arline Quinn  
Pocola, Oklahoma**



**Pictured above is Cameron Robison alongside Mike Amos at the McCurtain County Fair.**

## Thanks for hosting such a great livestock show

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I want to thank you for hosting such a great swine show in Durant. It was my first time to attend and I was really impressed. The facilities are wonderful.

**Cameron Robison  
Valliant 4-H**

## Seeking information

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I am looking for any information on Jesse Wilson and his first wife Mary. The only dates we have for Jesse is 1819. Jesse may have been from Mississippi or Tennessee. One record has him in Pond Creek, Tennessee. There is no information on where he was born or where he died. Any information will be helpful. Please contact Hellen Blake at blakekay@yahoo.com.

**Helen Blake**

## Thank you for scholarship

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I would like to thank Director Larry Wade, Scholarship Officer Debbie Vietta, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education for the generous scholarship that you awarded me for spring term 2007. Returning to school to get my doctorate degree in Education has been a long-time dream of mine; through your generous assistance, you are helping me to make this dream a reality. I am very grateful to you for all that you do to help me and others pursue a higher education.

**Kara McFall  
Portland, Oregon**

## Thank you for your thoughtfulness

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

Our sorrow was great when we lost our loving, Glenn (Butch) Goodson. He was a good man who never complained or talked about anyone. We cannot say enough for the staff at the Talihina Hospital. They showed so much compassion for us and Butch. The hospital went out of their way to help us with the passing of our loved one. We thank the hospital staff from the bottom of our hearts and we will always pray for them and never forget them.

**The Glenn Goodson family**

## Thank you

**Dear Dr. Aaron Means, Dr. Bob Evington and  
Choctaw Nation,**

I would like to say thank you to Dr. Aaron Means and his staff. They are in the dental office at The Choctaw Medical Center in McAlester. I would also like to say thank you to Dr. Bob Evington and his family. They are in the dental office in Coweta. Dr. Evington made my partials and I am very pleased with them. I can't praise these dentist enough for their great work and for being so dependable and kind.

**Madeline Unruh (Hays)  
Park Hill, Oklahoma**

## Thank you

**Councilmen Ted Dosh, OEH Department  
and Choctaw Nation,**

Thank you for the assistance we received. We appreciated the time and effort put forth. The gentlemen who completed the project were very professional and thorough. Again thank you.

**Morris Steve & Family**

## A special thank you

**Dear Chief Pyle,  
Councilman Hap Ward and  
Council Members,**

I would like to thank each of you and the entire Choctaw Nation for your assistance in our baseball and softball project. Your donation will be invaluable in our efforts to instill pride among our Haworth students and community.

I appreciate the opportunity that you gave me to make a presentation to your Council. I also appreciate so much the assistance that the Choctaw Nation provides to schools and communities in our area. Under your leadership, our communities have certainly benefited from having the Choctaw Nation as a partner in Southeast Oklahoma. I look forward to working with you in the future. Again, thank you for your support and best wishes for the entire Choctaw Nation.

**Craig Wall  
Haworth High School  
Principal**

## Choctaw Nation Healthcare Pediatric Clinic in Talihina

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I am writing in regards to the Choctaw Nation Healthcare Pediatric Clinic in Talihina, Oklahoma. The clinic is, in my opinion, one of the best clinics I have ever taken my child to.

The staff is always smiling, willing to bend over backwards to make patients happy, very knowledgeable and personable. The facilities are always well-kept, clean; with age appropriate viewing and reading materials in the waiting rooms. The pediatric clinic is bright, with beautiful wall murals that my child loves to look at. The staff has always treated my son and I with respect and caring.

One of the best things about the pediatric clinic is the long hours. I have a part-time job that requires me to travel a lot and the early morning hours or late evening hours are a life-saver for the health and well being of my son.

I just wanted to write to you and let you know what a wonderful job that this pediatric clinic is doing, and I hope you will keep this wonderful staff in mind and let them know they are wonderful and have been consistently caring and helpful for the past four years.

I appreciate them so much. It is difficult to express in this letter the peace of mind I have knowing that my son is being taken care of by these amazingly wonderful people. Thank you for your time, I just needed to say my piece about this beautiful staff and clinic.

**Angela Gilbert**

## To a good friend

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I wanted to say some words on behalf of my friend, Ted "Bo" Thomas from Goodwater. We grew up together in Oklahoma and became the best of friends in our early elementary, junior high, and high school years. We met each other at the weekly church revivals at Hampton, Rufe, High Hill, Black Jack, Goodwater and Bob Myers that we attended growing up. This was part of the Methodist Church Circuit.

We used to hang out and drive around on the weekends. I used to go to Corrine where he lived and stay the weekend with his sisters, brothers and family. He used to come to Wright City and spend the weekend with me. I remember one time we all went over to his house and spent the night on the front porch with his sisters, Rosa and Laura Thomas, and my brother, Robert Jr. We stayed up late watching the stars.

During our junior year in high school, I decided to attend Sequoyah High School Boarding School and asked him to join me in going away from home to go to school. He agreed and we both ended up there in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His mom, Jeffie, told me that he got homesick and wanted to come home to Sobol and they went and picked him up before the end of the first semester. It was hard being alone at Sequoyah but I survived and graduated.

I want to tell his family and friends that Bo was my best friend in life, that I had the pleasure of knowing him and enjoyed his company and friendship. He would do anything for me if I asked and I would do the same for him. He used to be left handed and very good in sports such as baseball at Rattan. He used to like to go hunting and we used to go deer hunting when I got a chance to visit him.

I recently went home to visit and went by to see Jeffie at Goodwater to give my condolences to her about his passing on January 25, 2007. I talked with her about her son and my best friend and she gave me a recent picture of him that I brought back with me. I also went by Hampton Chapel to visit my amafa and granny, Hamp and Narcissa James Thompson, who are buried there. I also visited my mom, Susie Mae Polk Thompson, who is buried in Wright City.

**Anthony Thompson**

## Looking for family members

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I am looking for any family members with the last name Alexander who may have or are still living in Durant and the vicinity. Also, if you could help me at all I would like to talk with you. Please feel free to contact me at 1-330-759-9502.

**Roland Alexander**

## Thanks for helping

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I would like to say thanks to the Choctaw Nation for helping us when we needed it. Also thanks to Buckey of Boswell and Paula, a social worker in Poteau, for all the help in getting my husband's CDIB card.

**Melinda and Gary Hicks  
Panama, Oklahoma**



# NOTES TO THE NATION

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**The Glenn Goodson family**

## Thank you

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

Chief Pyle has again honored me by sending a birthday card. I am now 81 years old, born in Ada, Oklahoma, married to a wonderful lady for 51 years, evangelized, did my music and sing, did my chalk artistry in some 42 nations of this old world. I delivered Chief Pyle’s gift to the Education College in Beijing, China, where we taught in 2003. They were so interested in our Choctaw Indian Tribe.

**Thurmace York  
Corpus Christi, Texas**

## City Rescue Mission says thanks

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

Thank you so much for your recent gift of merchandise to City Rescue Mission. We are deeply grateful for your response to the needs of the homeless men, women and children we serve. We are at the end of a long cold winter. Biting winds and bitter cold characterized our weather through the winter months. Now, as we look forward to the warmth and beauty of spring and summer, we feel hopeful – relief is on the way.

When guests enter the City Rescue Mission they have little and with the help of our staff and very loving God, they begin to shake off their pain, bitterness and disappointment in life, and learn new ways to live, to cope and to drive!

Your gifts help equip these people and your personal involvement is a much-needed encouragement to our staff. Thanks again for your loving generosity.

**Richard R. Webb  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

## Thanks for program

**Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma,**

I am an enrolled Choctaw member and the grandson of Lawrence and Peggy Noel of Shawnee. I am the great-grandson of original enrollee Edmund C. Noel. I wanted to write and say thank you for providing the Extracurricular Activity Fund. I am 12 years old and a seventh-grader. I am active in Deer Creek Middle School activities. I was really excited to find out that I could apply for this fund.

**Harley Dodd  
Edmond, Oklahoma**

## Greetings and thanks from Romania

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I recently received my wheelchair which was shipped from the United States. I am writing to thank you for the assistance that you have given me. I have already been able to use the wheelchair some and found it to be a great help. It has made it possible for me to do things that before I would not have been able to do, like my recent participation in a three-day pastor’s conference in the eastern part of Romania. Thank you all, again.

**Curtis Pugh  
Bocsa, Romania**

## Thank you in my time of need

**Dear Councilman Joe Coley,**

Without your generosity and concern I would have been financially stressed as well as mentally stressed in purchasing a refrigerator. Your promptness in handling my situation was also very appreciative; it is wonderful to know that we have a Councilman of your caliber and willingness to meet the needs of your district. Thank you again so very much for assisting me and Lane in our time of need. There are no words that express how much you’re appreciated.

**Sheila and Lane Isabell**

## Greetings from Quinton School

**Dear Chief Pyle and Councilman Joe Coley,**

I cannot express enough how wonderful Joe has been to the Quinton School District. He has assisted us in many projects, not just through contributions, but with assistance, advice, and references to people who can help solve school issues. Joe, thank you again for the contribution toward making our Activity Complex safer, and Chief Pyle, thank you for directing and leading the Choctaw Nation toward continuously serving the Choctaw people.

**Sherri Prentice  
Quinton School Superintendent**

## Seeking information

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

My name is Maryn Price Goodson, a 1957 graduate of McAlester, Oklahoma. As we prepared for our 50th reunion I am doing research on some of our famous graduates. I knew that Alumnus Wallace Tucker was an astrophysicist and that he and his wife Karen (also a 1957 graduate) had written some books in that field.

However, moments ago I googled on his full name, Wallace Hampton Tucker, and found the following text: “In 1992, Wallace Hampton Tucker became the first three-time winner of the Best Play Prize of the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee, Oklahoma, for his play *Fire on Bending Mountain*; Tucker also won the first two prizes awarded by the biennial competition in 1974 and in 1976.” Further checking revealed that his first play was based on Chief Pushmataha.

Since I know that Wallace and his family were Choctaw, I strongly suspect that our physicist Wallace is also the play writer. If anyone has any information on Wallace Tucker, please contact me at mpgoodson@comcast.net.

**Maryn Goodson**

## Looking for relatives

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I am trying to get in touch with my family, friends, and loved ones. Please contact me with any information.

**Edison Jefferson 1267945  
Connally Unit  
899 FM 632  
Kenedy, Texas 78119**



**Angelia Postoak and Nate Hardy perform the “Greeting” part of a performance at the Oklahoma Native American Language Fair in Norman, Oklahoma.**



**Choctaw Nation District 12 Native Language students, front row: Neiatha Hardy, Angelia Postoak, Hunter Simpson, Jena Johnson, Angelisa Luna, and Devin Johnson; back row: Carrie Clem, Angie Young, Jeremiah Weeden, Cheyenne Simpson, Miko Daugherty, Raven Ott, Mekyla Jacobs, Nate Hardy.**

## Paxton family sends thank you

**Dear Chief Pyle and Choctaw Nation,**

Please accept our sincere gratitude for the many flowers and expressions of love and sympathy at the recent passing of our father, Dr. S. Gabe Paxton Jr. We were overwhelmed by the amount of people who stepped forward with loving hearts and helping hands to join us in celebrating his life. We thank you Chief Pyle for your exceptional leadership. You had a professional and personal relationship with Dad for many years. He respected your authority, high standards and enjoyed working with you! We thank Mike Bailey for speaking at Dad’s funeral. He spoke from personal experience about Dad’s professional work with our Indian Schools and expressed personal gratitude to the memory of our father – we thank you! We are eternally grateful for all the employees of the Choctaw Nation. Most knew Dad and some didn’t – everyone touched us with their condolences and guidance to work through the funeral process. We thank Olin Williams for the lovely and thoughtful service. He spent many hours with us and captured the legacy of our father’s life – we learned so much from him. Words cannot properly express our appreciation for your time, direction, patience and wisdom! We thank Richard Adams and all the Choctaw Nation Hymn Singers. We thank you for coming to both the viewing and the funeral services. Hearing you sing brought comfort to all who were grieving with us – we thank you for your knowledge and ability to sing Hymns in our Choctaw language! We thank the four Princesses for performing The Lord’s Prayer in sign language – it brought us to tears! Feather would like to thank Erica, Stephanie, and Elizabeth for honoring her Granddad! It was an honor to have two former Miss Choctaw Nation and Miss Indian Oklahoma with us. To all four of you: Your beauty and elegance is breathtaking! We thank Joe Coley and his piano player for the Warrior song – our hearts sang with you! Your song was so touching and a meaningful send-off for Dad. We would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council members for attending Dad’s service. You all do so much for the Choctaw Nation, and your surrounding communities, and beyond! We thank The Choctaw Nation Color Guard for their spectacular Gun Salute and Flag Ceremony. We honor you for remembering our Indian Veteran from Choctaw Nation! We thank Randy Hammonds, Mrs. Jack Austin, and all of the many, many helping hands and loving hearts from Choctaw Nation Hospital and Health Services who made the dinner at The Choctaw Nation Outreach possible. To all who organized, cooked, served, and cleaned – we are eternally grateful for your thoughtfulness and hard work. Dad really cherished the years he worked with all of you!

We have always been so proud of Choctaw Nation, Chief Pyle, and now are singing praises even more. Your leadership and commitment truly drive all of Choctaw Nation and many communities to come together and honor ancestors and generations to come!

**The Paxton Family  
Dee, Nancy & family, Ron & family, and Dale  
Four Sons: Matt, Tim, John and Alex  
Grandchildren: Ryan, Scott Gabe, Adam Gabe, Jessee Gabe,  
Feather, and Tanner**

## Hard work pays off

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

It is a pleasure to inform everyone that the native language students of Choctaw Nation District 12 led by Paula Carney, along with volunteers Sharon Postoak, Shawna Johnson, and Tina Clem attended the Oklahoma Native American Language Fair at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma in Norman on April 6 and received top honors by winning the first place trophy. They worked very hard and put in a lot of extra time to get ready for the performance and we are very proud of them. The group consists of grades one through seven. They competed against students ranging from sixth grade to 12th.

We also want to thank Councilman James Frazier and the Choctaw Nation for the help they gave us to get the kids there and Milisie Postoak for getting up early to make our breakfast for the road.

## Thank you from Madill Schools

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

Madill Public Schools would like to “thank you” for all you do for our students. Throughout this school year our students have enjoyed and learned from the educational programs your staff has presented. Your participation in the 65th Annual Marshall County Livestock Show, 4-H and FFA, Premium Buyer’s Sale on March 3 was absolutely overwhelming! Your support for our students helps make the fair a continued success and we want you to know that you are greatly appreciated.

**Jon Dotson, Superintendent; Monte Womack, High School Principal; and Judy McDaniel, Federal Programs**

## Thank you

**Dear Chief Pyle and Choctaw Nation,**

Please accept my sincere appreciation for all the good work that you and the Tribal Council do. I feel privileged to be a member of the Choctaw Nation. I read every issue of the BISHINIK, appreciate my calendar which proudly hangs in my office at work and absolutely loved the Christmas ornament. Your generosity and service to the community is outstanding. I know that my daughter, Laura, sent you a thank you note but I also wish to express my excitement and certainly my appreciation. The scholarship program that the Choctaw Nation offers is very generous. I am a single working mother so the Choctaw Nation’s contribution to my daughter’s education is a huge help. When a child gets accepted at a world-renowned college, such as Princeton, it would have been very difficult for me to tell her I couldn’t afford this opportunity for her. With the scholarship, it has certainly helped to ease the burden of the college expenses. May God bless you all!

**Sandra L. Huchel  
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania**

## Searching for family

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I have been searching for relatives and children who were born from Josephine Roberts Bacon who used to live in White Sands Velvet around 1930. Her children were Cecil Bacon, Roda Bacon (deceased around 1941 after she had her daughter, Edith Kay Bacon) and Collen Bacon. We are trying to search for Collen Bacon, which would be her uncle probably around 70-80 years old. Last we learned he had moved to Oklahoma City. Please if anyone knows any information about his whereabouts or have any information please contact my son Deswood Bitsoi in McAlester, Oklahoma; his home phone number is 918-429-0450 or at my address P.O. Box 261, Chinle, AZ 86503.

**Edith Bacon  
Chimle, Arizona**

## Thanks to Higher Education

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I just want to thank the Choctaw Tribe and the Department of Higher Education for their financial support while pursuing my Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Special Education. The support I received made a tremendous difference in my college experiences and successes. Thanks again!

**Lindsey Thomas  
Mustang, Oklahoma**

## Hello and thanks from overseas

**Dear Chief Pyle and staff,**

I am a former employee of CM/SE in San Antonio and my wife, Margaret, still works there as Program Manager of the WIC Overseas Program. I left the company last year in order to be recalled to active duty. I am now serving with a medical unit of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division on the northern outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq. I wanted you to personally know how very much the support the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma provides to the soldiers is appreciated. I heard that you all donated high-speed knives to soldiers so they can cut themselves out of burning vehicles, and that you all are considering providing an ultrasound machine to our physical therapy team so they can provide better care to the wounded and injured soldiers. Hearing this made me proud to have worked for your company for over three years and that Margaret is still affiliated with such good people. Please know that your contributions to the war effort make a difference in the lives of the soldiers who put themselves in harm’s way everyday. We are forever grateful to you and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

**Larry Applewhite, PhD, LCSW, LTC, MS  
Ironhorse Mental Health Officer**

## Donated knives save lives

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I want you to know how much your donation is appreciated and needed here in Afghanistan. Because of the new tactics used on today’s battlefield, the Army stopped issuing the bayonet. The bayonet had been used for years as the knife of choice for Army soldiers. The need for a quality knife, however, has not gone away. Because of the numerous Improvised Explosive Devices that we encounter, we are forced to tie down ropes to the hood of our vehicle. The danger we face is that when it becomes necessary to get off one vehicle to “hook-up” the tow ropes to another, time is of the essence. The tie strings or zip ties must be cut away in order to hook them up to the disabled vehicle. Many of our soldiers lacked a good quality knife that could be counted on to accomplish this task if faced with this situation. We have used the knives that you donated four times now in the recovery of disabled vehicles. That number seems low, but the time it saved consequently saved lives. It is comforting to know that we have the right gear to do this job. Again, thank you sir. I believe that our future as Oklahomans is tied together now and forever. As the various tribes find new and unique ways to build industry and add jobs to our local communities, we all stand to gain and prosper.

**Kevin Roland, CPT, IN  
Commanding**

## Looking for information

**Dear Choctaw Nation,**

I am looking for the court files of the trial of Silan Lewis that took place intermittently from 1892-1894 in the old Choctaw Gaines County. His trials took place in the courthouse of that county, but the building burned in 1895. While the court dockets are available, the files with witness testimonies are not in any Oklahoma archive, nor in the National archive system. The court clerk at the time was James Culberson, who may have taken the files home with him (as was the practice in those days). If anyone has knowledge of those files, I would be thrilled to hear from you.

**Devon Mihesuah  
mihesuah@ku.edu  
University of Kansas**

## Thank you

**Dear Councilman James Frazier and Choctaw Nation,**

Tyler Bible wishes to express his thanks to Councilperson James Frazier and the Choctaw Nation for the continued help they give to the Hughes County Premium Sale. Tyler is a freshman at Moss High School and has been active in 4-H and FFA since the third grade. He is a descendant of original enrollee, Emery Goodwin Howard.

**Linda Howard Bible  
Holdenville, Oklahoma**



# WIC Tips for motivating kids to be active

### Make the activity fun!

The main reason that children take part in physical activity is enjoyment.

### Take change one step at a time.

Make small changes toward an active lifestyle such as taking a 10-minute activity break while doing homework, watching TV, or playing computer or video games.

### Become a role model!

If the whole family is involved in activity, the children will become more physically active. Take a family walk or bike ride – what a great way to spend quality time together.

### Research activities in your community or school.

Many team, club and intramural opportunities exist for children.

### Make the goal one of discovery, not fitness.

Measure your milestones by the number of new trails discovered, not pounds lost.

## PARENTS CAN HELP: GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY CHANGE!

– Find out if there is a “Safe Routes to School” organization in your community and get involved. This national program is dedicated to setting up an environment where kids can walk or bike to school safely. The national Safe Routes to School website may be found at: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes>.

– Volunteer to be involved with the School Wellness Committee at your child’s school. This group will carry out activities that support the school’s policies regarding provision of ample opportunity for physical activity and healthy eating.

Courtesy of Eat Right Montana

## Teens and eating disorders



### PART 5 OF 5

### How to help

Whether you’re dealing with mild symptoms or a full-blown eating disorder, you as a parent can make a great difference in your teen’s life simply by providing information, care and protection.

Your child will need professional help with an eating disorder, but

here are some do’s and don’ts for parents:

#### DO ...

- Offer the teen fewer choices and less responsibility.
- Maintain clear, kind and decisive communication.
- Take a supportive stand while maintaining parental authority.
- Talk with your teen about personal issues other than food.
- Expect participation with the family at mealtime, but don’t demand that your teen eat.
- Express honest, healthy verbal and physical affection.

#### DON’T ...

- Demand weight gain or berate a teen who has an eating disorder.
- React to the teen with harshness, rigidity or anger.
- Make statements such as “Your illness is damaging the whole family” or “Why did this happen to me?”
- Allow your teen’s eating problem to dominate the family’s eating schedule.

Above all, **DON’T** forget to love your child unconditionally and to let them know you do.

## Williams speaks to YAB



By Johnnie Sue Kemp  
AFL Project Outreach Worker

Kara Williams of McAlester, a participant of the Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life Project, spoke to the Youth Advisory Board on March 15 in Hugo. She was the keynote speaker on being a teen parent.


Kara has a son – 6-month-old Gage Allen. Being a teen parent and wife, Kara has learned how to manage her

time going to school and working part-time. She has also experienced enrolling her son in a child care center and the responsibility of taking him and picking him up. Kara has kept up her son’s immunizations and doctor’s appointments.

After graduating this year, Kara will train to be a welder. She has been an active participant of the AFL Project since May 22, 2006.

Kara traveled to Hugo to speak to the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board members which consist of teenagers whose focus is on current issues for teens.

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teenagers, 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 external agencies.



## Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

*Serving the Choctaw Nation at 15 sites*

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

## NURSERY NEWS

### Preston Cole Smith



Tanner and Aidan Smith are very proud to announce the birth of their little brother, Preston Cole Smith. He was born February 5, 2007, at Paris Regional Medical Center in Paris, Texas. He weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Proud parents are Jeremy and Erin Smith of Paris. Grandparents are Danny and Linda Smith of Blossom, Texas, David and Marci Estep of Hugo and Donna Estep of Rockwall, Texas. Great-grandparents include Foy and Louise Rhodes of Hugo, Gene and Sandra Oyler of Paris, Margaret Spann of Blossom, Jocquetta Smith of Blossom and Deloris Schulz of Paris.

### Mazie Rai Nagel



Marli and McKinna Nagel would like to announce the birth of their sister, Mazie Rai Nagel. Mazie was born March 6, 2007, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina. She weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mazie is the third beautiful daughter of Shelly K. Ben and Chris Nagel. Her grandparents are Linda and Jimmy Smith, the late Donnie R. Ben, and Ruby and John Nagel. Great-grandmothers are Florence Ben and Penny Nagel.

### Chayton Dee Webb and Donovan ‘Van’ Michael Adcox



April 13 was a very special day in 2007 as not one, but two grandsons were born! Chayton Dee Webb made his entrance at the Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, California, at 8:21 a.m., the son of Marine Sgt. Tyler D. and Chanda Webb of Bethany. Chayton’s grandparents are Bill and Sandy Adcox and Leann Webb, all living in Bethany. His cousin, Donovan ‘Van’ Michael Adcox, arrived at 8:41 p.m. the same day to Derek and Brooke Adcox of Oklahoma City. Van’s maternal grandparents are Michael and Susan Demetz of Fort Worth, Texas. The expected due dates for both boys was originally April 18 and to show they could keep step with one another, each came early weighing in at the same birth weight of 7 pounds 10 ounces.



### Caleb White

Robert White and Carolyn White would like to announce the birth of their third grandson, Caleb Alexander White, who was born April 13, 2007, at Poteau. Proud parents are Robert Allen White Jr. and Sarah M. White of Heavener. Maternal grandparents are Terry and Christine Lessley, both of Heavener.

### Jocelyn James



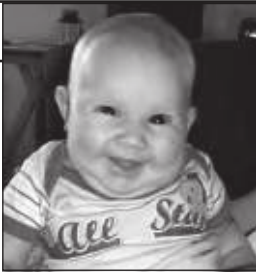
Jocelyn James was born April 24, 2007, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant. She weighed in at 7 pounds 9 ounces. Proud parents are Jerrod and Laura James of Durant. Grandparents are Pam McKinney of Idabel, Norris James of Oklahoma City and Ted and Sharon Brewer of Idabel.

### Mayla Jene Tom



Gracie and Taima Tom would like to announce the birth of their baby sister, Mayla Jene Tom. Mayla was born at 6:14 p.m. on April 4, 2007, at McAlester Regional Hospital. She weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and was 18.9 inches long. Mayla is the daughter of Brandon and Andria Tom of Keota. Grandparents are Claudia Coble-Morris of Keota, Jim Morris of Stigler, Levi Tom of Hartshorne and Glenn and Hope Bratton. Great-grandparents include the late Claud and Florence Coble of Keota, Pauline Tom of Red Oak, the late Benjamin Tom, Johnny Bratton and the late Grace Bratton. Mayla was welcomed home by her aunts, uncles and cousins.

### Liafail Janice Christian



Liafail Janice Christian was born February 25, 2007, in Oklahoma City. Her parents are Blythe and Carl Christian of Choctaw. Liafail is the granddaughter of the late Janice Apple of Oklahoma City; great-granddaughter of the late Charlene Coleman of Broken Bow; second great-granddaughter of the late Juanita and Elliott Harrison of Hochtaw and descendant of Choctaw original enrollee Joseph Colbert Harrison.

## Indian Nation’s Ministries holding summer camp

A camp for second- through sixth-graders will be held June 17-20 at Nashoba, Oklahoma. Held by Indian Nation’s Ministries, The Wild Horse Trail Camp will include a variety of activities such as a talent show, horseback riding, canoeing, volleyball, fire arms safety and fellowship and fun with purpose.

There is a \$50 registration fee. For more information, please contact 479-216-3164 or 580-244-3232. Scholarships are available.

## Study focuses on older adults with memory problems

If you are over 65 years of age and have memory problems, help may be available. You may be helped by a medical evaluation at a Choctaw Nation Health Clinic, where specialists in memory disorders see patients on a regular basis. If concerned, call the Choctaw Nation Memory Clinic at toll-free 1-866-800-6514. If you are found to have a memory problem, you may also qualify for a \$25 gift card for answering a few questions about your medical history, telling your waist size, and donating less than an ounce of blood for analysis.



# Broken Bow students taking project to nation's capitol

Whitley James and Dayla Amos are advancing to National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C., with their project, “Chahta Hina Ushi Aiyaya” (Choctaw Trail of Tears). The students placed first at district competition at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, advancing to state competition held by the Oklahoma Historical Society. They placed second at state and were each awarded a \$300 scholarship from Western Heritage International.

District 2 Councilman Mike Amos and Chief Gregory E. Pyle presented Broken Bow



history and government teacher Wanda Wood and JOM President Monica Billy with a check to assist the girls with their trip.

“Chahta Hina Ushi Aiyaya” will be on display during Labor Day weekend at Tushka Homma.

Both juniors at Broken Bow, Whitley is the daughter of Gary and Pam Birge and Dayla is the daughter of Mike and Vicky Amos of Broken Bow.



## Take a hike!

The Talihina third grade and Albion third/fourth grades recently went on a nature hike at the Kerr Arboretum on the Talimena Scenic Drive with the Choctaw Nation Wellness/REACH 2010 Department. The hike is the field trip for the kids at the conclusion of the school wellness program. The program provided the kids with education and hands on activity, while teaching the five components of physical fitness on a monthly basis during the school year. The hike and presentations were led by staff of the Ouachita National Forestry. The children enjoyed educational sessions on the life cycle, poisonous and non-poisonous snakes (with live snakes displayed) and played predator and prey games. The Wellness/REACH staff would like to thank the Talihina and Albion schools and staff, parent volunteers and the Ouachita National Forestry staff for making this hike possible.

## WIC staff honors mothers



The Choctaw WIC program hosted its first Mother's Day Celebration on May 10 at the Durant facility. Director Clauden Williams welcomed everyone to the event themed “Nutrisize with Good Nutrition and Exercise.”

Choctaw Princess Courtney Baker presented the Lord's Prayer in sign language. Southwest Regional Food and Nutrition Services Director Sondra Ralph spoke to the WIC families and later read to the children.

Activities included a photo session for Mother's Day cards, exercise center, “Jump for Joy” story time, recipe and WIC food sharing, planting a “surprise garden” and a car seat safety session.



## Language students have end-of-year program

The School of Choctaw Language held its end-of-year program on May 2, with students being based in to Durant from all over Southeastern Oklahoma. Distance learning through One-Net is now in approximately 35 high schools within the Choctaw Nation and in two colleges, Carl Albert Jr. College, Poteau, and Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton. Classes are also taught at Southeastern Oklahoma State College, Durant, and in community classes in numerous locations not only in Oklahoma, but in Texas, Arkansas and California as well. In addition to learning how to read and write in the native language, the students are learning the history and culture of the Choctaw Nation. Above, students from Adeline Hudson's class in Antlers sing “God Bless America.” Looking on are Executive Director of Education Joy Culbreath, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Language Director Terry Ragan.

## Progress continued from Page 1

Later in the day, on the south side of town, tribal members and Broken Bow residents gathered to celebrate the expansion of the Choctaw Casino. A festive ribboncutting kicked off a week of exciting promotions and events at the 20,500-square-foot casino on Hwy. 70. The expanded site provides employment for 216 people in the McCurtain County area.

“This is an exceptional day,” Councilman Mike Amos said. “Both of these facilities benefit everyone. More jobs are being provided which in turn will boost the economy in this area.”

Shovels turned in McAlester on April 17, breaking ground for a new 90,000-square-foot building at Choctaw Manufacturing and Development Corporation (CMDC). The new building will provide manufacturing and office space for production for the U.S. Marine Corps Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement Trailer (MTVR-Trailer) Contract as well as other military contracts. The size and scope of this ongoing project will ensure long-term development of the region's economy.

In Stigler, Chief Pyle, Councilmember Charlotte Jackson, employees and area citizens came together on May 11 to break ground for a much-anticipated community center. The new 6,200-square-foot facility will be located east of the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic on Hwy. 9.

Councilmember Jackson was all smiles as she greeted the crowd packed in the current center. “We appreciate the efforts of Chief Pyle and the Council in making this possible.”

### Airman 1st Class Liz Merritt

Congratulations to Liz Merritt who was promoted to Airman 1st Class on May 17. She is stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, as an information manager. Liz is a 2006 graduate of Durant High School. She is the daughter of Sandy Hampton and Ronnie Hampton of Durant and the granddaughter of Dorothy Southerland and Gene and Brenda Hampton, all of Durant. She has two sisters, Brittany and Hailee.



### Sergeant Joseph R. Wilson

Sergeant Joseph R. Wilson, 23, was presented a Meritorious Service Award with V honors for showing superior skills and initiative in combat in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. While serving as a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in support of Operation Matador, then a Lance Corporal, Wilson was conducting house-to-house raids in Ar Ramdi when he became involved in a heavy engagement with enemy forces. He came to the aid of a corpsman and a wounded Marine. Seeing the two taking fire from a small group of enemy insurgents, he quickly and tactfully engaged the small enemy force with his M16 rifle and M9 pistol. While coming under small arms fire himself, Wilson returned fire, killing four enemy insurgents and wounding another. Despite small arms fire still in his immediate area, without hesitation, Wilson ran across an open area of 20 meters to assist another Marine providing security for the corpsmen and wounded Marine. While providing security, Wilson remained calm in spite of the constant threat of small arms fire, allowing the corpsmen to provide life-saving medical aid. Wilson's quick thinking saved the life of his fellow Marine and contributed greatly to the overall mission success. His selfless acts are a great credit to himself and are in keeping in the highest Naval traditions. Wilson is presently stationed at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, and was promoted to the rank of corporal and then sergeant. Joseph is the son of Ronald and Laura Wilson of Lenexa, Kansas and the great-grandson of original enrollee Robinson William Wilson who served in World War I.



### LCPL Kevin A. Colbert

Happy belated birthday to LCPL Kevin A. Colbert who turned 20 years old on March 31. He joined the U.S. Marines in 2005 and is currently serving in Iraq. Happy birthday from Mom, Grandma, Heather, Le Anne, Stacy, Phillip, and your niece and nephews.



### LCPL Tony Dobson

LCPL Tony Dobson left Northside School to become a U.S. Marine. He is in Iraq and due home on leave this month. He will return to Iraq to finish his tour. Tony is the son of Anthony Dobson of Fort Smith, Arkansas.



### Nancy Harkins and Danielle Gregory

The Blue Star Mothers of Southeastern Oklahoma recently held their first meeting at the National Guard Armory in Poteau.

What is Blue Star Mothers? In November 2002, a local radio station started talking about the need for a support group for mothers who had sons or daughters being sent to war. The response was overwhelming. At the first meeting, several hundred of not only moms, but fathers, family members and friends of those serving in the military gathered to learn more about becoming a member of Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. military support group.

In March 2003, the first chapter was chartered in Oklahoma. Although it was based in Tulsa, the decision to name it Oklahoma Chapter 1 was made so people throughout Oklahoma would have a chapter to join if there wasn't a chapter in their area. The main focus of Oklahoma Chapter 1 is to send Freedom Boxes to troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and on any hostile foreign soil. The boxes are a small way to say “thank you for your sacrifice and patriotism to our nation” and to let the troops know there will always be people back home thinking about them and praying for them.

Membership to Blue Star Mothers is open to any mother with a son or daughter currently serving in the armed forces. The membership includes Blue Star Mothers, fathers, family members and friends of servicemen in any branch of the armed forces who are currently active or have been honorably discharged. Mothers pay a \$10 annual membership fee and all others are free. All military mothers are encouraged to attend the meetings not only for the military but as a support network for other mothers.

For more information on this program or if you would like to join, please contact Nancy Harkins at 918-649-0449 or 918-839-3342 or Evelyn Butler at 918-963-4694 or 918-658-9100.

## NASA aircraft given Choctaw name

The inventory of research aircraft at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center has grown by one with the acquisition of a Predator B unmanned aircraft system adapted for civilian missions. Built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) of San Diego, NASA took possession of the new aircraft last November, and it is due to arrive at the NASA center at Edwards Air Force Base, California, this spring.

The aircraft has been named “Ikhana” (ee-kah-nah), a Native American word from the Choctaw Nation meaning intelligent, conscious or aware.

“The name perfectly matches the goals we have for the aircraft,” said Brent Cobleigh, NASA Dryden's project manager for Ikhana. “They include collecting data that allow scientists to better understand and model our environmental conditions and climate, increasing the intelligence of unmanned aircraft to perform advanced missions, and demonstrating technologies that enable new manned and unmanned aircraft capabilities.”

The aircraft, designed for long-endurance and high-altitude flight, will be used for multiple roles. NASA's Suborbital Science Program within the Science Mission Directorate will be Ikhana's primary customer, using the vehicle for Earth science studies. A variety of atmospheric and remote sensing instruments, including duplicates of those sensors on orbiting satellites, can



NASA Dryden Flight Research Center Photo Collection  
<http://www.darc.nasa.gov/Gallery/Photos/index.html>  
NASA Photo: EDB07-0C38-067 Date: March 5, 2007 Photo By: Tony Landis  
NASA's Ikhana unmanned science demonstration aircraft, a civil variant of General Atomics' Predator B, lifts off from Grey Butte airfield in California.

be installed to collect data for up to 30 hours. The Suborbital Science Program uses manned and unmanned aircraft to collect data within the Earth's atmosphere, complimenting measurements of the same phenomenon taken from space and those taken on the Earth's surface.

The aircraft has a wingspan of 66 feet and is 36 feet long. More than 400 pounds of sensors can be carried internally and over 2,000 pounds in external wing pods. Ikhana is powered by a Honeywell TPE 331-10T turbine engine and is capable of reaching altitudes well above 40,000 feet. This aircraft is the first production Predator B equipped with an upgraded digital electronic engine controller (DEEC) developed by Honeywell and GA-ASI that will make Ikhana five to 10 percent more fuel efficient.

### WWII vets make trip to Washington, D.C.

Fifty World War II veterans from LeFlore and Sequoyah counties traveled to Washington, D.C., in May to visit the National World War II Memorial. Their expenses were paid from \$84,000 raised by state Senator Kenneth Corn and Representatives Bud Smithson and Neil Brannon. Corn says donations came from schoolchildren, fire departments, community leaders and private individuals in the two counties and from the Choctaw Nation. He said the men are now mostly in their 80s and 90s and otherwise may never have had a chance to see the memorial.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Stricklands visit tribal headquarters

Edmond James Strickland of Livingston, California, son Wesley Strickland and grandson Justin Strickland visited the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters in Durant. The three spent a month in the area traveling by RV. Edmond also attended a class reunion at Madill where he once attended school. The Stricklands are Chief Jefferson Gardner’s great-nephew, great-great-nephew and great-great-great-nephew, respectively.



Locke family birthdays

The Locke family has three birthdays in May. Trace (Dad) will be the BIG 39, Taylor became a teenager and last but not least, McKenna will be four. – From your little sis and favorite Aunt Lisa Byington.



“Happy” turns 80

Emeline “Happy” Carney is accompanied by Miss Indian Oklahoma at her 80th birthday party in McAlester. The celebration was held at the community center on April 28th.



Rodriguez honored at birthday celebration

Henry Rodriguez of Hugo, turned 70 on May 14. Family and friends were present to wish him a happy birthday at a celebration dinner in his honor. We wish him many, many more years.

Father and son have June birthdays

Sgt. Stewart “Doc” Jones turns 32 on June 15 while serving in Afghanistan as a combat medic for the Army National Guard. Stewart’s wife and three children want him to know that they are very, very proud of him and to have a GREAT birthday.



Stewart’s son, Gil Antonio M. Jones, turned 9 on June 1. He loves to play sports. His favorite basketball team is the Hornets and he is pictured here attending one of the games. Antonio’s favorite football team is the OSU Cowboys.

Turning 95 in July

Lacin Durant of Bennington will be 95 this July! Lacin attended Tuskahoma Girls Academy, Wheelock Academy and Pine Valley Academy when she was younger. She had two daughters who have since gone to be with the Lord, two granddaughters, Tina and Harolyn, and eight great-grandchildren. Lacin, wife of Johnny Durant, loves to sing Choctaw hymns and tell stories of the good old Choctaw days.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Cephus John of Killeen, Texas. Cephus turned 66 on April 18. He is feeling fine and with God’s help will have many more birthdays. He would like to tell his friends, “Hello and God is good.”



Happy Father’s Day

The family of Van Richard Thomas would like to wish him a wonderful Father’s Day. This Father’s Day wouldn’t have meant anything to us if it wasn’t for you. Smile for us Daddy, it makes our day – Solan, Soraiyah, Seiyannderiah, Landon and your wife.

Watch out!

Watch out everyone! Lakota Cheyenne Byington turned Sweet 16. If you see her coming, it’s best to get off the road!!! Happy birthday!



Look who’s 18

His mom would like to wish Cody Lynn Peters a happy 18th birthday on June 25. Cody also graduated on May 15 from Hugo High School and he will be attending OU. Cody is the son of Becky Peters of Hugo and Cary Peters of Broken Bow. His grandparents are Samuel and Wynona Peters of Hugo and Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson. He has done many great things for the Choctaws and the youth. He will go a long way in life.



She finally made it!

Her proud mom would like to wish Amber Nichole Hagger a happy 21st birthday on June 17. Amber has become a wonderful young lady and a great mother. It’s time for her to start a journey with her beautiful baby, Drake, one full of laughs, tears, love and memories. She is the daughter of Becky Peters of Hugo and Walter Dodd of Valliant and the granddaughter of the late Harvey and Cora Dodds of Valliant and Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson.



Brown-eyed angel

Pops and Grams would like to wish our sweet baby boy, Cayden Lee Hostletler, a happy first birthday on June 3. Cayden’s mother is Tahasha Taylor of Hugo. His grandparents are Dwayne Taylor and Becky Peters of Hugo and Mary Ward of Hugo. We can’t believe how fast you’ve grown! You bring so much joy to all of us – Pops, Grams, Uncle Canyon Taylor, Uncle Cody Ward and Aunt Tarra Ward.



Look who’s 18

His mom would like to wish Cody Lynn Peters a happy 18th birthday on June 25. Cody also graduated on May 15 from Hugo High School and he will be attending OU. Cody is the son of Becky Peters of Hugo and Cary Peters of Broken Bow. His grandparents are Samuel and Wynona Peters of Hugo and Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson. He has done many great things for the Choctaws and the youth. He will go a long way in life.



Happy birthday sister

Nashoba and Emily wish their sister, Meghana Rachel Austin Santhanam, a happy birthday! Meghi turns 15 on June 19. She will be graduating from Western Middle School on her birthday and looks forward to attending Greenwich High School in the fall. Meghi plays trombone in the band and jazz band and loves writing, acting, and art. Meghi is the daughter of Margaret and Sanjay Santhanam of Greenwich, Connecticut. She is the granddaughter of Sandra and John Riley of Gilmer, Texas, and the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Ida Austin.



Haskin celebrates birthday

We would like to wish Norma Haskin a very happy birthday on June 1. She is the granddaughter of original enrollee Thomas Going – Teddy, Carla, Dallas, Dalton, and Dillon Boehm.



Stevy is a teenager

Stevy Carr turns 13 June 25. We wish you a happy birthday.



Birthday wishes

Kyle Clements turned 3 years old on June 17. He is the son of Michael and Deborah Clements of League City, Texas, and the grandson of Bill and Stella Mullens of Durant, and Karen Clements and the late Silas Clements of Cascilla, Mississippi. He celebrated his birthday while on vacation in Branson, Missouri, and during a visit to his grandmother in Mississippi.



Celebrating 56 years

Congratulations to Ken and Barbara Bowman Davis who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on April 25.



Happy anniversary

Carla Boehm would like to thank Teddy Boehm for the best 19 years of her life and here’s to many more. Happy anniversary on June 27!

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to our sons – Dallas on June 28 and Dalton on June 26 – Carla and Teddy Boehm.



Happy anniversary

Jimmy and Carla Grimmatt are celebrating their ninth wedding anniversary. Jimmy, Carla and family reside in Ashdown, Arkansas.

Golden anniversary

Joe and Mona Weaver were married on December 31, 2006, in Union Gap, Washington, where they reside today. They celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 31, 2007, at a reception hosted by their children. Joe was born in 1932 in Colorado. Mona was born in Scipio, Oklahoma, in 1936 and is a descendant of enrollees Lavina Brown Motes and Mattie Motes McElhaney. Joe is a retired truck driver and Mona has recently retired from Del Monte. They have four children, Linda Boomer and Sherri Weaver of Richland, Washington, John Weaver of Hayward, California, and Jack Weaver of Des Moines, Washington. Jack’s son, Jerad Weaver, is their only grandson. They also have several granddogs and grandkitties! Congratulations!



April birthday girls

Happy birthday to Monica Diaz who turned 31 on April 4 and her sister, Jackie Yellowfish-Hernandez, who turned 25 on April 7. They both reside with their husbands in Dallas and Mesquite, respectively.



They are the daughters of James and Andrea Yellowfish of Mesquite. Their grandfather is Creston Watson of Antlers. Their grandmother is the late Susan Watson of Idabel. Monica and Jackie both celebrated their birthdays at the mall with a little money their parents gave to them as they have gotten too big for ice cream and cake and skate land.

May birthdays

Leroy and Lois both celebrated birthdays in May. Leroy turned 70 on May 21 and Lois is still “29 and holding.” Leroy wishes her a happy birthday from Smithville. Lois’ birthday is May 6.



Sisters celebrate birthdays

Louis Brown and sister Billie Stearns are celebrating birthdays in the month of June. Louis will turn 89 on the 28th and Billie will turn 82 on the 21st. Happy birthday to the both of you!



60 years strong

My parent’s, Oscar Vernon and Esther Marion Torno, had their 60th wedding anniversary on May 9, 2007. We had a surprise luncheon, May 11, for them at Catfish King in Livingston, Texas.



Oscar is the grandson of Nora Gray, an original enrollee. His great-grandmother was Levina “Vinie” Gardner who married George Gray. Levina’s parents were George and Phebe Gardner. George Gardner’s parents were Isaac and Rebecca Johnson Gardner. Isaac Gardner was one of the five Gardner brothers that came to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. Oscar is very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

Chance and Emma have birthdays

Chance Wafford celebrated his seventh birthday on November 22. Emma Wafford celebrated her fifth birthday on January 15. They celebrated with family and friends. Parents are Scott and Katrina Wafford of Fort Gibson. Grandparents are Mike and Jo Ann Scantlen of Stigler, Martha Shipley of Fort Gibson, and Dan Wafford of Fort Gibson.



Happy birthday Swayde

Christopher Swayde Hilburn turned 11 on May 29. He is the son of Lisa Hilburn of Red Oak, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Wilma and the late Chris Hilburn, great-grandmother Faola Hilburn all of Red Oak. His great-great-grandmother was original enrollee, the late Lottie West. Swayde enjoys playing sports. Also having a birthday on May 29 is Swayde’s uncle Bo Hilburn. He is turning 37.





‘Reflections of Goodland’

Volumes I and II of “Reflections of Goodland” are now available at the Wheelock Gift Shop. Price is \$17.50 each or \$30 for the set of both Volume I and II. Please include \$2.75 for shipping and handling for each book. Mail orders can be sent to Wheelock Academy, P.O. Box 5, Millerton, OK 74750; or you may call 580-746-2139 for more information.

51st Annual Gospel Singing

St. Matthew Indian Presbyterian Church is holding its 51st Annual Gospel Singing at 7 p.m. on June 16. Featured guest singers include Charles Johnson, Plainsmen Quartet, Battiest Indian Family and Tribesmen, plus many more. Henry Battiest is emcee. A concession will be open at 6 p.m.

The church is located five miles east of Broken Bow on Hwy 70. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your lawn chairs.

Williams Reunion

Family of the late Emma Jean and Dennis Williams Jr. would like to extend an invitation to all family members, descendants, and friends to a gathering on June 30 for the ninth annual family reunion at the Stagren “W” Ranch, home of Nathan and Donna Williams of Idabel, one mile east of Road Runner off Hwy. 3 on Williams Way. Come and enjoy a full day of fun, games and activities for all ages with good Indian cuisine. For more information, call Nathan Williams or Bertha Bason at 214-748-6167 or Donna Williams at 580-286-5276.

Haskell Reunion

Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma announces the Annual Fall Reunion, October 26-28, at the Radisson Hotel in Tulsa. The Radisson Hotel is located at 10918 E. 41st St.; phone 918-627-5000 or 800-333-3333 for reservations. For more information, contact Loretta Burgess Bradford, 918-341-5532, e-mail dushkut@cox.net, or Flo Tanner Spotted Bear, 918-948-2505.

Wade, Togue and Mullins Reunion

A family reunion of Wade, Togue and Mullins families took place on April 7 at Kearney Park, Fresno, California. Some of the older ones grew up between Stonewall, Oklahoma, and Tupelo, Oklahoma, at Debs Community. Among the attendees were a brother from Florida, Matt Wade; another from Ada, Carl M. Wade Jr.; a nephew, Jim and Barbara Wade of Maine. Everyone had a good time just catching up on family.

Pebworth/ Pebsworth Family Reunion

The Pebworth/Pebsworth Family Reunion is scheduled for July 13-15. Due to the Lake Texoma Resort being sold and remodeling going on, it has been decided to move the reunion into Durant. There will be a high demand for rooms in Durant, so please book early!!! We have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn, Durant. Reference Pebworth/ Pebsworth Reunion. Excess rooms will be released March 31. No minimum night stay. Please let us know your thoughts on lunch. Todd has called several of you and you all suggested to go to one restaurant, and also just to pair up and go wherever. We would like your input on this. Contact Todd and Robin Pebsworth, 505-309-6982 (cell) or e-mail todd.pebsworth@brookeagent.com. For events, shopping, entertainment and additional lodging, visit the www.durantchamber.org or www.choctawnation.com websites.



Will Holmes helps Chief Greg Pyle and staff with door prize drawings during a community meeting at Henderson, Nevada. He was awarded a baseball and glove for his effort.

Henderson, Nevada



Eleven-month-old Gavin Mounger accompanied his parents, Jessica and Chris, to the meeting.



Vanessa Schornick, Brad Ward and two-year-old Donovan Ward.



Gilbert children – Victor, Brandon, Ashley and Colton.



Chief Pyle is pictured with Dawn and Tom Williams in Henderson.



Oneida Winship, Kay Jackson and Sue Folsom greet visitors at the registration table.

A tale of two friends ...

My ancestral great-grandfather, William Roebuck, who was the chief accountant for the Choctaw Nation for many years, traveled over the Trail of Tears in 1831, with his mother, father, and two younger brothers, when he was 12 years old.

The family lost their husband and father, Ezekiel Roebuck, to cholera during the hardship-filled trip to Indian Territory. William’s mother, Little Blue Hen, demanded that the soldiers leave her, and her sons, with her dying husband. They left her and the children with only one day’s supply of rations and one blanket, then drove away.

After Ezekiel died, about 24 hours later, William and his 10-year-old brother, Benjamin, along with their mother, dug a grave for their father and buried him near the banks of the Ouachita River in Arkansas. Little Blue Hen and her two older sons made a sling from her shawl, to carry her 6-month-old baby on her back, then they all swam across the icy cold river.

After building a fire, they dried their clothes and warmed themselves, then walked alone to the Army post in Little Rock, a nine-day trip. The little family settled near Soper, Oklahoma.

William later attended college in Kentucky, thanks to his

mother’s resourcefulness and the help of his great-uncle, Col. David Folsom.

One summer morning, while on vacation from his studies, William took his hunting dogs and his shotgun to hunt deer. The dogs were soon hot on the trail of a huge buck that had such a rack of antlers that they resembled the branches of a tree.

As deer are known to do when being chased, he ran straight to Roebuck Lake and began to swim for the other shore. William’s dogs were seasoned hunters, so they immediately split company and raced for the other shore to cut the deer off. When the buck realized that the dogs would be waiting on the other shore for him, he turned and began to swim back the way he had come, apparently not nearly as concerned about the human hunter, as the dogs.

William stood waiting for the buck to get within range of this shotgun.

Two Choctaw girls, who were fishing on the lake in their boat, watched the hunting drama unfold. One girl took her bow and arrows from the bottom of the boat, notched an arrow and let it fly toward the buck’s head. But the arrow became tangled in the massive antlers and the deer was not harmed. When the buck

was in range, William shot it, and then waded into the water to pull it out. The girls rowed to the shore of the lake just as William hauled the huge buck out onto the ground. He reached into the midst of the antlers and retrieved the arrow to return it to the girl who had shot it.

As he looked at the arrow, he knew immediately that it was one of several that he had made for a classmate years earlier, while they were attending school in Mississippi, before the removal.

“Who does this arrow belong to?” he asked.

“It is mine.” One of the girls replied, “My name is Polayah Homma.”

“Well, it is nice to see you again, Polayah Homma. I am William Roebuck!”

The two friends rekindled their friendship that day and were later married. A portrait of the two of them once hung in the museum in Tushka Homma, and hopefully, after some restorative work and cleaning, it will be able to hang there once more.

This story, and others, about the life of William’s mother, Elsie ‘Little Blue Hen’ Beams, Roebuck, Hart, Walker, are included in a manuscript written by Brenda Fails Ivie, which she hopes to get published soon.

Good Guy Dan Smith wins big

Dan Smith of Wilburton won an air compressor and pneumatic framing nail gun kit, complete with a supply of nails, in a drawing on April 14. The kit’s value is estimated at approximately \$700. The equipment was donated to the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program last spring and it was decided to draw a winning name from the names of “Good Guys” who were involved with the Head Start children for the 2006-07 school year.

When Policy Council President Kyle Francis, who also serves as the president of the Wilburton Good Guys group, and president of the Wilburton Head Start Parent Committee, drew his good friend Dan’s name from a sack full of names collected during the year, he couldn’t have been happier, or more surprised.

As Kyle’s mother watched, as he prepared to reach into the sack, she said, “Go on, Kyle, maybe you’ll get Dan’s name.” Sure enough, Dan’s name was



Brenda Ivie, Head Start Family Services Coordinator; Dan Smith; DeAnn Rowe, Wilburton Head Start Center Supervisor; and Kyle Francis, Head Start Policy Council President.

the first one out of the bag!

When the kit was delivered to Wilburton on Wednesday, Dan had no idea he had won. Wilburton Center Supervisor DeAnn Rowe called and asked Dan if he could come sign some papers to get him to the center without his being suspicious.

“I can’t believe this!!!” Dan kept saying, as he opened the huge box of equipment. Then he laughed and said, “Now I won’t have any excuse not to build on

the room that my wife has been wanting!”

Dan is an involved grandfather who has had two grandsons in the Wilburton Head Start Center. Although he won’t have any grandchildren in the center next year, he said, “Oh, I’ll be back next year to help out, just like always.”

Choctaw Nation Head Start wants to say “Congratulations!” and “Thank You!” to Dan “The Man” Smith!

NRCS holding heritage poster contest

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognizes and celebrates the many different cultures to which we have the opportunity to offer our services and programs, including American Indians. November has been designated as American Indian Heritage Month. This provides an opportunity to make people aware of the history of American Indians and their contributions to the world.

One of the ways NRCS celebrates American Indian Heritage Month is by distributing a poster created by an American Indian artist. Each year an artist has the opportunity to exhibit his/her talents and heritage on a national level, and the South Central Region of the American Indian/Alaskan Native Employees Association (which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas), has been chosen for 2007.

Below is information for American Indian artists who may be interested in submitting their artwork. Only one piece of artwork will be selected to become the 2007 American Indian Heritage Month poster. Details are as follows:

- All Tribal artists are invited to submit their artwork.
- The theme for the artwork is “We are all one family dedicated to protecting Mother Earth.”
- The story behind the artwork must accompany the poster to the address given below.
- Each artist is to notify Leota Burnett at 918-542-4771, Ext. 107, or email leota.burnett@ok.usda.gov, or Carol Crouch at 405-527-3241, Ext. 108, or email Carol.Crouch@ok.usda.gov, by June 29, 2007, if they will be submitting their artwork for this purpose.
- The artist will provide one original artwork, size 18” x 24”, acrylic or oil on canvas, ready for reproduction. The artwork is to be delivered to:

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
ATTN: Jasper Parker, Acting Public Affairs Specialist  
100 USDA, Suite 206  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655 (Tel. 405-742-1243) by July 10, 2007 (no exceptions).

- A Heritage Poster selection committee will judge the artwork and select a winner no later than July 12, 2007.

- NRCS will purchase the artwork for the poster from the artist for \$2,000.
- NRCS has the right to reproduce and distribute copies of the artwork at its discretion.
- NRCS and the artist will sign a contractual agreement to set forth terms of procurement and rights of both parties.

Many posters have been prepared in past years by American Indian artists from tribes nationwide. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service to see an example at the NRCS Tribal Office, 16<sup>th</sup> & Locust, Durant, OK Phone number is 580-924-8280, Ext. 5134. You may also contact a local NRCS office located in the county you live.

This will be an excellent public awareness opportunity for the artist and the Tribe. Copies of the poster will be distributed to all NRCS offices nationwide for local exhibition.

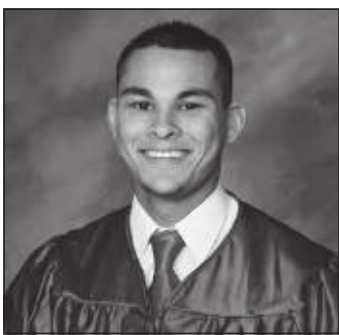
We hope many talented Tribal artists will take advantage of this opportunity to promote and share their heritage. If there are any questions, please contact Leota Burnett at 918-542-4771, Ext. 107; email leota.burnett@ok.usda.gov, or Carol Crouch at (405)527-3241 Ext. 108; email carol.crouch@ok.usda.gov.

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



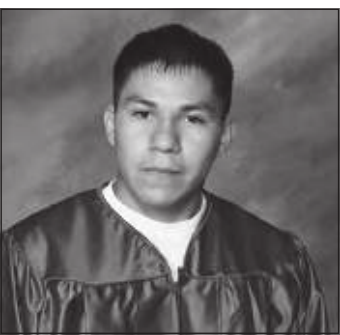
# Jones Academy Class of 2007



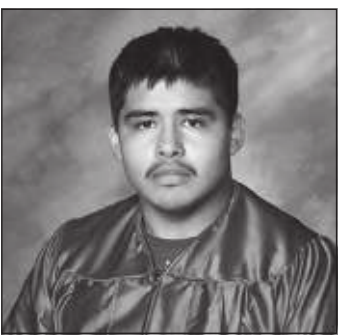
**Alberto Cervantes Jr.**, 19, is from Pauls Valley. His tribal affiliation is Choctaw. Alberto is the son of Alex and Jacquelyn Gibson of Pauls Valley and Alberto Cervantes Sr. His grandparents are James and Sharon Hickman, Johnny and Deloyce Thorn and Demetrio and Esperanza Cervantes. He plans to attend Tulsa Welding School to pursue a degree in welding.



**Johnny Cervantes**, 18, is a member of the Choctaw Nation from Pauls Valley. He is also the son of Alex and Jacquelyn Gibson of Pauls Valley and Alberto Cervantes Sr. His grandparents are James and Sharon Hickman, Johnny and Deloyce Thorn and Demetrio and Esperanza Cervantes. Johnny is scheduled to attend classes in the fall at Eastern Oklahoma State College.



**Christopher Cruz**, 18, is the son of the late Sharon Kay Wallace. He is the grandson of Susie Wallace and the late Bobby Wallace. Chris is from Sulphur and is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. After graduation, Chris will attend Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada. His course of study will be in automotive services.



**Kristopher Harjo** is the 18-year-old son of Jacqueline S. Olivas of Lawton. His tribal affiliation is with the Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma. Kris plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.



**Melissa Himes** is the daughter of Billy Himes of Tahihina and Cynthia Gibson of Fort Smith, Arkansas. She is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is registered to attend classes at Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall.



**Angelina Ibarra**, 18, is the daughter of Rebecca Martinez of Shawnee and the granddaughter of James and Pat Roubidoux. She is a member of the Sac and Fox Nation. Angelina plans on attending classes at Eastern Oklahoma State College. She has expressed an interest in the field of social work.



**Jordan Kochamp**, 18, is the daughter of Regina Morris of Carson City, Nevada. She is the granddaughter of Thomas and Genevieve Morris, also of Carson City. Jordan is enrolled with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. She plans to attend classes at Western Nevada Community College in Carson City this coming fall.



**Dustin Mathis**, 19, is the son of Randall Mathis of Wilburton and Cynthia Adams of Columbus, Mississippi. His maternal grandparents are Rotha and Daniel Adams. His maternal grandmother is Linda Martin. Dustin is a registered member of the Choctaw Nation. After graduation, he plans on being gainfully employed. He also wants to pursue a career as an artist.



**Buddy Roy**, 18, is a member of the Navajo Nation of Chinle, Arizona. He is the son of Elsie Howell of Lukachukai, Arizona. Buddy will enter the Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah upon graduation. His course of study will be electrician apprentice.



**Willard Rhoades**, 18, is the son of Gwyn Cavanaugh of Winnebago, Nebraska. He is also the grandson of the late Arthur and Ethel Cavanaugh. Willard is affiliated with the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe in McDermitt, Nevada. Willard plans to receive training at the Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah as an electrician apprentice.

## Parents Day enjoyed by everyone



Jones Academy Administrator Brad Spears visits with Ruth Lynn Hooper of Oldsburg, Kansas, who brought her friend, Augustine, and Board Member Suzanne Heard during Parents Day May 12. Ruth's great-grandfather, Edward Hayes Wilson, was superintendent of Wheelock during 1894-1898. Suzanne is the granddaughter of Peter James Hudson, the first superintendent of Tuskahoma Academy for Girls.



Felicia Nunn, a tenth-grader at Jones, and B.J. Nunn, a fifth-grader, enjoy seeing their mother, Joyce Nunn of Keota.



Dylan Webster, a ninth-grader, hugs mom Lillie Watson of Idabel and sister Anastasia Watson, who is a student at South-eastern Oklahoma State University, Durant.



A few minutes for some hoops.



Naomi Going of Oklahoma City, Wynona Goodblanket of Clinton, Brooke-Linn Goodblanket of Clinton holding her picture, Lahoma Goodblanket of Clinton and Erin Beareagle of Oklahoma City.



Dustin Mathis, a 2007 senior, shows his artwork. The library was filled with displays of student creations for all the visitors to see. Dustin is the son of Randall Mathis of Wilburton.



Hay ride fun.



A water slide is one of several outdoor games set up for the kids' enjoyment.



Lisa Ketcher travels from Philadelphia, Mississippi, for her daughter, Audra Ketcher. Audra is holding her little sister, Savannah.



Alicia Moore, April Washee, Allyssia Brown and Darylene Blaine.





## JA students prepare lunch

The Jones Academy Alternative School Family Living class showed off their practical skills on April 26 by preparing a lunch of Indian tacos for their classmates. Pictured above, Jobie Howell, a master of fry bread at home, led the effort with Meghan Poafpy-bitty as an able apprentice. Sidney Moore, Alicia Moore and Dakota Pond baked brownies and cookies for dessert. Jordan Kochamp and Sidney Moore served and cleaned up. The Jones Academy Alternative School teachers are Kim Sanders and Kathy Luker.

### Congratulations

Kellee Marie Williams would like to say congratulations to her Daddy, Joshua Lynn Williams. Josh graduated from Rock Creek High School on May 17. He is the son of Donna Williams of Bokchito and Dannye Williams of Bennington. Josh is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wren, Durant, the late Don Sweeney and the late Ernie Williams.



### Graduate of Antlers Class of 2007

Mickel Joshua Wright will graduate in May 2007 from Antlers High School where he has attended school all his life. He is the son of Mike and Mildred Wright. He is the big brother of Heather Wright. Grandparents are Vetis and Hershel Bates of Antlers and Grandfather Justin Greenwood of Mesquite, Texas. He enjoyed playing football from pee wee to high school. He has been active in Ag and FFA. He showed hogs the last two years and enjoyed every moment of it. He has worked full time and attended school. Welding is what he likes best. He will be moving to Tulsa in August and attending Tulsa Welding School. We are proud of him and all his accomplishments. We want to say “Great job, Josh. Congratulations and may God bless you. Keep it up.”



### Morgan is 2007 graduate

Congratulations to Kevin Morgan of Red Oak who will graduate this year. He is the son of Bob and Barbara Morgan. His parents are very proud of him!

### Baxter earns BA degrees

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Zachary Wayne Baxter of Fayetteville, Arkansas. He graduated with honors from The American University in Washington, D.C., on May 13, earning a Bachelor of Arts in both International Development and Political Science. While attending school in Washington, Zachary interned for Arkansas Senator Mark Pryor and spent a semester studying in Nairobi, Kenya. After graduation, Zachary will spend seven weeks traveling to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and return to live and work in Washington, D.C. He is the son of Gerald and Audrey Baxter of Fayetteville and the grandson of Marie Baxter of McAlester. Zachary thanks the Higher Education Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for their important role in his education.



### Lobdell graduates from University of Arkansas

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Lynsey Diane Lobdell of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Lynsey graduated in May from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Education, emphasis in communication disorders and minor in Spanish.

### McLish earns nursing degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jessica Marie McLish who graduated in May from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



### Atchison to graduate from UC Davis

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Coty Atchison of Antelope, California, on his upcoming graduation from UC Davis. He is majoring in linguistics.

### Taylor receives master’s

Congratulations to Kimberly Taylor on receiving a Master’s of Science degree from Cameron University. Kimberly is the mother of Shy and Goldie and the daughter of Vernon and Versie Taylor of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of the late Inez and T.L. Andrews, the great-granddaughter of Julia Gardner Dunford, an original enrollee, and the great-great-granddaughter of Isabelle Ishcomer Gardner, who was also an original enrollee. Her family and friends wish her the best.



### Atoka graduate to attend MSC

Amber Lang of Atoka graduated May 14. She is continuing her education and is going to Murray State College. She is studying to become a wildlife conservationist. She is the daughter of Alan and Brenda Durant and has two brothers. Her parents are very proud of her. Congratulations, Amber!



### Congratulations

Teddy and Carla Boehm would like to congratulate Dallas Boehm, who graduated from Ingleside ISD. Congratulations Dallas!



# Come join us at Jones Academy!

Jones Academy is accepting applications for the 2007-08 calendar school year. Openings are available in grades 1-12. Take advantage of these residential program benefits:

- Tutorial assistance for all grades
- Rewards for academic achievement
- College and post-secondary preparation
- Career counseling
- Vo-Tech training
- High school graduation expenses paid
- Scholarships
- 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](http://www.choctawnation.com) or write to:

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

Representatives from Jones Academy will be at the Family Investment Centers this summer. Please contact your community centers for the dates and times.



## Field trip



Jones Academy fifth and sixth grades went on an educational field trip to the Omniplex in Oklahoma City on April 27. The enthusiastic students explored many hands-on activities that had been studied with text books in the classroom this year. The field trip commenced with an out-of-this-world experience in the planetarium which gave students an opportunity to visit the sun, planets and moons in the solar system. Cheyenne Neal was among the students who enjoyed blowing big bubbles and learning about surface tension of liquids. Stephanie Wallace enjoyed the model of the offshore oil drilling rig. Jeremiah Warledo eagerly entered the air force flight simulator and pretended to fly high in the clouds using high tech navigation and monitoring equipment.



# Do ACT’s define who we are? TO THE YOUTH OF THE NATION

By Preston Wells  
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Statistics show that students who make higher scores on their ACT will have a better chance of success in college. Recent studies show that students with an ACT composite score below 18 would have a small chance of success in college. With a 22 or above, research shows students would have a greater chance of success in college. Do these stats really tell us who we are? If I or anyone else decides to attend a vocational technical school for two years and learn a trade who’s to say they’re not successful? Just because their paycheck isn’t above \$50,000 doesn’t mean they’re not happy. I believe that if a person wants to do something, and will enjoy whatever this something is, then that’s what they should do. Regardless of what research shows, if you’re not happy with what you want to be, then who cares what somebody else thinks. Yes, it is true that if you make a higher score on your ACT then you’re more likely to be successful, but I don’t think that success should be measured by how much money you make. It should be measured by how happy you are.

Other studies show that no matter what your ACT score, if students take challenging courses in high school such as trigonometry, calculus, advanced math, chemistry, and physics, they will have a better chance to succeed in college. Also students that are involved in extracurricular activities and community involvement do well in college.

My view on the subject is that if students set their goals high and try hard to achieve those goals, they will succeed. Setting goals low and not believing in yourself will not get you anywhere. Students starting to think of what they want to do with their life in middle school and early high school years is very important. It gives them a view of what all they can see themselves doing. Not being prepared once you get into college is not good. You might end up staying in college way longer than you expected because you don’t know what you want to do. Students might even end up getting a degree in something they’re not even interested in.

To solve the problem, students should set standards high and have a good work ethic. With or without the ACT score, students should strive to any goal set for their college career. Study hard and apply yourself and you will definitely have a successful college career.

## Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Career Development Program

*Within today’s global economy, finding and keeping a job require higher skills levels than ever before. Employers want workers with documented skills based on “real world” experience. The Choctaw Nation’s vision for the development of the Career Development Program is to create a pipeline to quality career and technology training as well as career service for the Choctaw people.*

### WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

Career Guidance  
Assessment Testing  
Academic Remediation  
Financial Assistance for Quality Training  
“Career Readiness Certificate”

### NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL ENROLLMENT

Call 800-522-6170 for more information  
and to begin the application process.

### Choctaw graduates as a Razorback

Elizabeth Leeann Harris graduated this spring from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, with a degree in communications and as a member of the Kappa Delta sorority. Elizabeth is the daughter of Joan and Robert Cullen Harris of Irving, Texas. She is the great-granddaughter of Dulska Askew, an original Choctaw enrollee. Elizabeth is also the granddaughter of Joyce and Ben Cullen Harris. She is proud of her Choctaw heritage.



### Dodd included in Anthology of Poetry

Harley Dodd has been notified that his poem, “Can’t Have a Date,” was chosen for publication in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. Young authors are selected based upon their work’s originality, rhythmic sounds, rhymes and audience appeal. Harley is a student at Deer Creek Middle School, Edmond, and began writing poetry as a 12-year-old. He is the son of David and Monique Dodd, Edmond, and the grandson of Lawrence C. Noel and Peggy Noel of Shawnee and Johnny and Carla Dodd of Guthrie. Harley is the great-grandson of original enrollee Edmund C. Noel.



## Jefferson is state champion

Tishomingo High School Senior Joe Jefferson competed in the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association State Powerlifting Championship held on March 10 at McLoud. Jefferson entered the competition ranked number one in the heavyweight division after becoming the HWT Regional Champion at Holdenville with a combined total lift of 1,455 pounds. At the state meet, Jefferson lifted 600 pounds in squat, 330 pounds in bench press and 575 pounds in the deadlift competition for a combined total of 1,505 pounds, enough to claim the 2007 OFBCA Powerlifting State Champion HWT Title. As a result of the state meet, Joe was invited to compete as a member of the Oklahoma All Star team in the unequipped division at the NASA National High School Powerlifting Championship. The event was held April 1 in Oklahoma City. His total of 1,460 pounds contributed to the team's national runner-up position and earned him the individual title of High School National Champion in the SHW division.

In addition to the national title and trophy, he earned an invitation to the World Cup Championship to be held in August. Joe Jefferson has been a member of Tishomingo's Indian Iron Powerlifting team for three years. He has qualified for the state competition every year. He is a full blood Native American with Choctaw and Sioux heritage. He plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University. His parents are Joe and Teresa Jefferson of Tishomingo and grandparents are Silas and Lorene Blaine of Durant and Clara Jefferson of Broken Bow.



## University of Oklahoma Press releasing books on Choctaws

The University of Oklahoma Press is announcing two books to be released this fall.

"The Choctaws in Oklahoma: From Tribe to Nation, 1855-1970" is by Clara Sue Kidwell, the director of the Native American studies program at the University of Oklahoma.

The second book, "Choctaw Language and Culture: Chahta Anumpa. Volume 2," by Marcia Haag and Henry Willis, follows the first volume published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 2001.

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**  
**Week of Language**  
**July 23-27 • 9 a.m.-12 noon**  
**at the OK Choctaw Alliance**  
**5320 S. Young's Blvd., Oklahoma City**  
*Learn Choctaw language, songs, dances, games, stories, crafts*  
Starting at 5 years to 12 years.  
For more information contact:  
Brenda Samuels 405-672-5653; Brenda.J.Samuels-1@ou.edu

**2nd Annual Butterfield Stage Run/Walk**  
**– June 30 –**  
On-site registration begins at 7 a.m. at the Red Oak Senior Citizens Center and the run begins at 8 a.m. in the community of Boggy. Early-bird entry fee is \$10 and all entries receive a T-shirt. Entries after June 15 will cost \$18. To register call Dru Kauk at 918-465-6717 or email jodiektc@yahoo.com. Entry forms are at the Red Oak Branch Farmers State Bank, Red Oak City Hall, Traditions Home Health, Red Oak Library. Many other activities are planned. The race is USATF Sanctioned/Certified.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
**ANTLERS**  
**July 3:** Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).**July 5:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).  
Closed for Tribal Holiday July 4.  
Closed for Inventory July 30-31.  
**Warehouse open:** July 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.  
**DURANT**  
Warehouse open weekdays July 2-27.  
Closed for Tribal Holiday July 4.  
Closed for Inventory July 30-31.  
**McALESTER**  
**July 2:** Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).  
Warehouse open weekdays July 3-27.  
Closed for Tribal Holiday July 4.  
Closed for Inventory July 30-31.  
**POTEAU**  
Warehouse open weekdays July 2-27.  
Closed for Tribal Holiday July 4.  
Closed for Inventory July 30-31.

**CHOCTAW NATION**  
**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday  
We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon  
**WAREHOUSES**  
**Antlers:** Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443  
**Durant:** Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773  
**McAlester:** Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716  
**Poteau:** Warehouse, 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431  
**FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES**  
**Bethel:** Choctaw Community Building  
**Broken Bow:** Choctaw Family Investment Center  
**Idabel:** Choctaw Village Shopping Center  
**Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center  
**Stigler:** Choctaw Community Center

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# National conference to spotlight tribal archives, libraries and museums

American Indian librarians, historians, tribal leaders and others interested in tribal cultural preservation will gather at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Oklahoma City from October 23-25 for a national conference of tribal archives, libraries and museums. The 2007 event builds on two previous conferences that were held in Arizona during 2003 and 2005.

This year's conference, "Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways: Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums," is hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries with support from the Oklahoma Museums Association, Red Earth Inc., and tribal representatives from throughout Oklahoma. An envisioning committee, made up of leaders from throughout the nation, is providing guidance on

issues of critical importance to tribal cultural entities.

The two-and-a-half-day conference will provide 56 concurrent sessions, keynote presentations with renowned speakers, hands-on workshops, and a variety of networking opportunities. A series of day-long pre-conference workshops are scheduled for Monday, October 22. Major funding for the conference is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and the Western Council of State Libraries.

For registration, exhibitor, sponsorship, or other information on the Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference, visit [www.tribalconference.org](http://www.tribalconference.org) or phone the conference office at 405-522-3515.



Mike Amos, Tribal Councilman for District 2, receives an award from the Native American Club at Lukfata School, Broken Bow, for all the help he has given them this school year, including helping with a trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## Cultural Enrichment Day held at Broken Bow

The Outreach Services and CHR departments participated in a Cultural Enrichment Day on April 13 at Broken Bow Schools. The turnout was tremendous with the students, teachers and people from the community participating. It was a fun-filled day. CHRs Juretta Noahubi, Carrie Ward and Margaret McKinney, along with Paul Roberts of Outreach Services, registered 559 going through the booth.

The Outreach Services and DHR departments would like to thank Idabel Smoke Shop, Casino, Broken Bow Travel Plaza, Hugo Housing Authority and Brian McClain for their support.



## Amerman awarded for artwork

An accomplished bead worker, Roger Amerman is inspired by the history and traditions of southeast tribal peoples. His work draws on the strong, fluid movement and stunning symbolism which are typical of southeast-style designs, using sun, stars, serpents, mythical animals and cultural heroes in his colorful pieces.

The Southeastern Association of Indian Arts has awarded this skill by naming Amerman as one of six recipients of its 2007 Fellowship awards.

Amerman has won multiple awards including Best of Show at the Choctaw Nation Arts Show in Tushka Homma twice. He plans to use his fellowship monies to produce a full length Choctaw hunting coat, a project that for him will be akin in magnitude to Michelangelo's "Sistine Chapel," as it requires traveling to require buckskins and five different types (with over 30 colors) of beads, as well as researching to learn about and replicate traditional designs.

Amerman holds a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from the University of Oregon and two master's degrees, one from Washington State University in Natural Resource Science and another from the Colorado School of Mines of Geology.

### Spirit Seminar

A Choctaw Spirit Seminar will be held July 6 and 7 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw, Mississippi. Registration is \$100 and includes one free traditional Choctaw meal. The seminar will be on "Indian Language, Culture and Tradition: Keys to Survival" and precedes the annual Choctaw Indian Fair on July 11-14. For more information, call 601-775-8254 or 601-663-7644.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
JULY	1	2	3	4 HOLIDAY	5	6 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	7
	8	9 Antlers by appt only	10 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	11 Durant 10 am-12 pm	12	13 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	14
	15	16 Wright City by appt only	17 Durant by appt only	18 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	19	20 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	21
	22	23 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	24 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	25	26	27 Bethel by appt only	28
2007	29	30 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	31	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.			



Choctaw Nation CARES Project recently provided outreach activities for the third grade students of Bennington Elementary School. The activities were held at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds at Tuskahoma. The objectives of the activities were to educate youth in the areas of alcohol abuse, substance abuse, team building, and Native American culture with a fun and interactive approach. Choctaw Nation CARES project would like to say "thank you" to all the individuals who were involved in making the outreach a success. Your hard work and dedication was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

**Choctaw Nation**  
**MEMORIAL BRICK SIDEWALK**  
**Wheelock Academy Museum & Gift Shop**  
*Alumni/Families/Friends of Wheelock Academy*  
It's not too late to purchase your Memorial Brick for the Memorial Walk in and around Wheelock Academy. Come look and see how nice they look.  
**For tax deduction make check payable to:**  
**CHAHTA Foundation, Wheelock Academy**  
or stop by  
**Wheelock Academy Museum & Gift Shop**  
on Hwy. 70 East, Millerton, Oklahoma, and while there ...  
*visit our gift shop and see the assortment of gift ideas on hand!*  
– [wheelock@valliant.net](mailto:wheelock@valliant.net) –  
**Open Monday thru Friday • 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**  
**Hwy. 70 East 580-746-2139 Millerton, OK**



# Trail of Tears WALK



John Barry posts the U.S. flag during the May 19 ceremony dedicating the Choctaw Nation Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony followed the Trail of Tears Walk at Tushka Homma.



Members of the Color Guard stand with Choctaw Jr. Miss Ashton Dinardo-Chuckluck in front of the impressive new gate at the Veterans Cemetery. Pictured are Melvin Tom, Terry Cole, Nellie Hunter, Audie Gibson, Eugene Branam, John Burleson, Ashton, Herbert Jessie, Alto Battiest and Shirley Mantaghi.



Choctaw Princesses sign the Lord's Prayer. Shown at left are Little Miss Emily Rowell and Sr. Miss Courtney Baker. Walking with Chief Pyle are Shareece and Charlene Columbus and Delia and Williston Wesley.



Dan James of Cookson, left, eats an orange before he begins the walk. Amber Kuta, Sara Chang and Kari Kuta find a new friend, Donatello.



A quintet from Fort Sill plays several memorable songs during the dedication ceremony.

## Counseling and Faith-Based Services for Crime Victims in Indian Country host community training

The Choctaw Nation Counseling and Faith-Based Services for Crime Victims in Indian Country recently held a one-day training for faith leaders and service providers at the Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center in Broken Bow.

Darryl Brown, Faith-Based Counselor/Victim Advocate, was emcee for the event. The main topic was on collaboration between Victim Service Providers and the faith community. Other topics discussed were "What is Historical Trauma?" and "What is a Victim?"

Faith leader Rosa Baker opened the training with a prayer and spoke about faith and community, and Choctaw Nation Tribal Law Enforcement officer Thomas Williston spoke about Tribal Law and the community. The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance Program and the Choctaw Nation Transitional Housing Program/Project House spoke about their programs and the services they provide to victims of crime. Nowita Martin, victim-witness coordinator, from the district attorney's office was the keynote speaker. Ms. Martin spoke about victims of crime and the importance of National Victims' Rights Week.

The purpose of the Choctaw Nation Counseling and Faith-Based Service in Indian Country is to restore the balance and harmony in our lives, and to heal our victims of crime and their families. To do this, we must heal the whole person which includes addressing spirituality. Our program has compiled some faith leaders, volunteers of faith, and traditional leaders in our communities to be a

resource of outreach for Faith-Based Counseling. In our Native communities, we must all be connected. Help through our Religious and Spiritual organizations will create a circle of trust in hope that our Native people will heal and be whole again.

For more information about the Choctaw Nation Faith-Based Counseling Services or if you are interested in becoming a Volunteer of Faith, please contact Vicki Perez or Darryl Brown at 1-877-285-6893. You may also email Vicki Perez at [Vperez@choctawnation.com](mailto:Vperez@choctawnation.com).

## Victims of Crime Program held at County Courthouse

National Crime Victims Rights Week began on April 22 to 28. All across the nation, various organizations held different types of observances in honor of Crime Victims. The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance Program, the McCurtain County District Attorney's office, and SOS for families joined together to sponsor a program to honor Victims of Crime. The theme for this year's National Crime Victims Rights Week was *Victims Rights: Every Victim, Every Time*. The purpose for Crime Victims' Rights Week is to make sure that people are still aware and it is an annual reminder that crime victims' have rights, many are mandated by law. That is why the week of April 22 to 28, 2007 was set aside to remind the community and the nation that the victims must not be forgotten.





# COMMUNITIES GET TOGETHER



## McAlester birthday bash

On April 17, the community of McAlester gave a huge welcome to Governor Brad Henry and state, local and tribal dignitaries from around the state as they celebrated the birthdays of Chief Greg Pyle and their Councilman, Bob Pate. Approximately 1,000 people filled the Expo Center, including Alla Himmita Jr. Princess DaNetta Wilkerson, Adriana and Ariana Byington, and at the table above, Lori Jernigen, Bert and Buck Durant, Vivian and Eugene Sweet, and Kylie and Megan. Chief Pyle's birthday is April 25 and Councilman Pate's is April 22. The celebration followed a groundbreaking for a new addition to Choctaw Manufacturing Development Corporation at the McAlester Industrial Park.



Councilperson Charlotte Jackson is pleased about the plans for a new community center for District 5 senior citizens.



## Walker excels at basketball and track

Anyone attending a Coalgate High School basketball game is sure to have heard of Mallory Walker, pictured above with Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The 6'1" junior excels at basketball and track, while maintaining her grades at Coalgate High School. Her extreme hard work has paid off as she has received numerous awards that include 2007 Ada Evening News All Area Basketball Team Player of the Year, 2006-2007 Basketball Offensive Player, and 2007 Lady Cat Track MVP of Field Events. Her most recent and most exciting news is that she competed in the Henryetta March Madness All-Indian Tournament and was selected as one of eight girls to go to Denver to represent Oklahoma in the All West Native American Classic of 2007. The girls from Oklahoma represented us well as they brought home the first place trophy by defeating South Dakota in the championship game. Mallory is the daughter of Deanna and Bob Ward, granddaughter of Raymond Cole of Coalgate and granddaughter of Naomi LeFlore of Atoka.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Anthony Dillard and Gary Batton show off a rendering of the new clinic to be built in Atoka.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle is pictured with Sydney, Morgan and Taylor Markham at Stigler.



Junior Clay and Lester finish eating their catfish dinner at the Atoka groundbreaking.



Bill and Shirley Cummings visit with Gary Batton. Shirley was a Housing Authority Commissioner for 13 years. Her dad was R.W. Fitzer.



Citizens gather at the Broken Bow Community Center to hear about the new Head Start Center being built across the road, the construction of a new health clinic close by and the grand opening of a new casino south of town.



Sisters Delores Holloway, Amelia Steen and Launa Medlock attend the groundbreaking for Stigler's new Choctaw community center.



Chief Pyle accepts a gift from Lyman Choate during a dinner at Broken Bow with Councilman Mike Amos.



Councilman Amos has a fun moment with Audrey Roche and Kevin Jennings Jr.





## Healthy Marriages?

Franch “Red” and Nora Johnico are lifelong residents of Talihina. They have raised eight children together. They have endured a lot of situations, like many families do, but they have always managed to rely on each other.

Upon losing a daughter to a car accident, without hesitation they began caring for their two young grandsons who they cherished as much as their own children. Unfortunately, the oldest grandson, Michael passed away at the age of 9 due to health problems. This made their other grandson, Miko, even more precious. Miko is now in the Navy stationed at San Diego, California.

Although, losing family members is emotionally traumatizing, they have faced other situations such as their home burning in January 1991. It was a total loss. They had been unable to get insurance because of the age of the home.

The very next month, in February, Franch had quadruple bypass heart surgery. After his lengthy hospital stay he was able to come home and they stayed with family.

During these trying times the family always came together and they received outstanding support from their friends, Choctaw Nation and basically the whole town of Talihina.

Although they both worked while raising their family, the family was not neglected in any way. The oldest helped out and took care of the youngest. Each of their children attended school and each one graduated, some going on to college and others starting right to work. They made sure that their children received an education. Tears and laughter were shared but the most important lesson is that faith and love are never-ending.

Now they own a home next to the land of their original home. They are both retired and enjoying life.

They have always shown support for their community and the school. Whether it was cheering at a game or buying chances to help in a fundraising event, they try to help out.

Franch and Nora are both of Choctaw heritage. Nora is full-blood Choctaw and both are very proud of their Native American heritage. They have passed this pride on to each generation of their family. Among their children they now have 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren with another due any day.

Whatever the situation may be, they always have each other to depend on.

Through their strength, love, dependability, trust, faith and respect, they have found a great combination because they just celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in February of this year.

## ‘How Children see Healthy Marriages’

We conducted a poster project to elicit children to portray their idea of:

### What a Healthy Marriage means to you.

There were many good posters returned but we would like to share the winners with you.

**Emily Banning** from Pocola Middle School art class of Fonda Clopton, won first place and received \$100 gift certificate to Walmart.



**Casidy Billingsley** from Pocola Middle School art class of Fonda Clopton, won 2nd place and received \$50 gift certificate to Walmart.



**Kaleb Needham** from Pocola Middle School art class of Fonda Clopton won third place and received \$25 gift certificate to Walmart.



The judges did not know what school the posters came from and what the age of the children were. It was interesting they all came from the same class. We think the teacher Fonda Clopton needs recognition for encouraging these students. It was her first year to teach art.

A good marriage is good parenting; there are many ways to encourage your children;

- Create a safe, open environment
- Encourage them to help others
- Introduce them to people of excellence
- Nurture them with good food, good word, and good fun
- Delight in their uniqueness
- Appreciate their individuality
- Help them become a expert at something
- Thank them
- Delight in their discoveries

Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project  
918-567-3386, call to find out about the next PREP class!

### Choctaw Nation

#### Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project

Invites you to attend

#### Retreat and 12 hour workshop for Couples.

The course is PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program)

**July 6-7, 2007**

Registration Fee \$65 to hold the room, will be returned upon completion of PREP (Room and meals are provided)

**Retreat agenda:** Check in time: 12:00 noon, Friday July 6, 2007  
July 7th workshop continues 8:30 to noon then fun begins on the Cherokee Queen for 2 hours

**Where:** Stonebrook Inn, 10400 Hwy. 59 North Grove, OK 74344 877-868-9799

**Who can attend:** Couples who want to build a better relationship or couples who are planning to marry.

**2 hour cruise on the Cherokee Queen included, and door prizes**

#### Registration Form

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Years together \_\_\_\_\_

Fax form to 918-567-3917 For more information call 918-567-3386

Topics covered: Communication - How to talk safely without fighting, preserving fun and friendship, Maintaining commitment and trust, Learning and identifying danger signs and avoiding common pitfalls

### Choctaw Nation

#### Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project

Invites you to attend

#### PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program)

**June 23rd, 2007**

**No Registration Fee**

**When:** Saturday, June 23rd 10:00am to 4:00pm (lunch provided)

**Where:** McAlester Choctaw Nation Community Center

**Who can attend:** Couples and or individuals who want to build a better relationship.

#### Door Prizes will be given

#### Registration Form

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fax form to 918-567-3917 For more information call 918-567-3386

Topics covered: Communication - How to talk safely without fighting, preserving fun and friendship, Maintaining commitment and trust, Learning and identifying danger signs and avoiding common pitfalls

# Senior Citizens Day 2007



Chief Pyle welcomes those that enter at the 23rd Annual Senior Citizens Day.



Lee Wesley and Robert Thompson enjoy some laughs before the start of the program.



Veterans stand as they are recognized.



Bertram Bobb and Gary Batton examine a picture of Bertram’s aunt, Ida Turner Lewis, that is proudly displayed on the cover of the book “Salt of the Red Earth: A Century of Wit and Wisdom from Oklahomas Elders” by M.J. Alexander.



Councilman Anthony Dillard with Pat Wood. Pat is from Atoka and is one of the ladies that helped design and produce the name tag that won first place.



Winners of the women’s hat competiton, from left, Delores Dye - first place, Elenor Caldwell - third place, and Barbara McKee - second place.



Winners of the men’s hat competition, from left, Andy Johnson - first place, Carl McBrayer - third place, and Bill McCord - second place.



Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Mike Amos and James Frazier accept the name tag award for their respective districts. Atoka placed first, Broken Bow placed second and Coalgate brought home third.



## OBITUARIES

### Robert Roy Bohanan

Robert Roy Bohanan, 78, of Bethel passed away January 31, 2007, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital, Idabel. He was born October 15, 1928, at Honobia, the son of Impson and Incey James Bohanan.

Robert was a member of Kulli Chito Presbyterian Church, Bethel, and spent a great amount of time reading his Bible. He was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. He also loved watching local sports and watching his grandson race dirt track cars. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Margaret Ludlow; son-in-law, Wendell “Bear” Ludlow; brothers, Earl Bohanan, Isaac Bohanan and Cecil “Cicero” Bohanan.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Melissa Bohanan of the home; two sons and daughters-in-law, Virgil and Carolyn Bohanan of Wright City and Herb and Marvada Bohanan of Battiest; seven daughters and five sons-in-law, Eunice and Kenneth Bohanon and Mary Bohanan, all of Battiest, Linda and Austin Jefferson and Lois Bohanan, all of Bethel, Emmylou Baker and Andy Sanchez and Betty and Jimmy Tom, all of Broken Bow, and Brenda and Tony James of Hugo; 39 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

### Lueda Roberson

Lueda Labor Roberson, 89, passed away March 28, 2007, in Antlers. She was born April 9, 1917, in Belzoni, ten miles east of Antlers.

Lueda attended grade school at “Friendship” and the first half of her freshman year at Rattan High School. She then transferred to Goodland High, a Presbyterian supported Indian boarding school, where she graduated in May of 1934. Lueda graduated from Murray State College in 1936, then attended one year at Oklahoma A&M, now known as OSU. She was certified on a “one year certificate” renewable each year. Her teaching career began at Briar Branch near Finley, and then continued at Ethel School east of Antlers. During this time she had continued to attend A&M each summer to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree, which allowed her to receive her Life Teaching Certificate.

After graduation in June of 1941, Lueda married Harold Roberson, which they kept secret for a year since he was in the U.S. Army and she was teaching in the Antlers Public Schools.

In 1944, she taught at Rattan Elementary School then substituted there until 1947. From there she went on to teach at Sugar Loaf School for a year and then to Kellond School until 1950.

After her two children were born, she returned to Antlers Public School where she remained until her retirement in 1979.

Lueda enjoyed working in the Presbyterian Church of Antlers, with Eastern Star, the Pushmataha County Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion Auxiliary, Pushmataha County Historical Society and being a housewife and grandmother.

Preceding her in death were Lueda’s parents; her husband; brothers, Thorton, Raymond and Olen Labor; sisters, Leona Labor, Ethel Labor Dale and Willie Donohoo.

Survivors include a son, Ellis Roberson and wife Carolyn of Coffeyville, Kansas; a daughter, Harolyn Mallett of Antlers; niece, Janey Dale of Arroya Grande, California; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

### Ralph James

Ralph James passed away April 19, 2007. He was born October 31, 1925, in Kanima, Oklahoma, the son of original enrollee Daniel James and Della James. He was raised in Bokoshe.

Mr. James was a retired petroleum engineer. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. Ralph enjoyed his trips to Tuskahoma and always wore his Choctaw Veteran jacket with pride. He was buried at the Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

Survivors include his daughters, Debbie of Torrance, California and Jennifer and Claudia, both of Broken Arrow; son, Donald, also of Broken Arrow; ten grandchildren; brothers, Joe of Broken Arrow and Dan of Cookson; sisters, Helen of Tulsa and Mary of Phoenix, Arizona.

### Billy E. Beal

Billy E. Beal, 72, of Amarillo, Texas, passed away January 26, 2007. He was born February 16, 1934, in Utica to Charles and Minnie Beal.

He married his best friend and the love of his life, Shirley Laurie Beal, on August 6, 1977. Bill was employed as a plumber, owning and operating Billco Plumbing for many years. He loved sharing the outdoors with family and friends and was a longtime member of Panhandle Boat and Ski Club. He was a member of Hillside Christian Church and the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union. Bill was an Army veteran, serving from 1957 to 1959. He had a strong faith in God and a love for his family and his country that was reflected in all he did and said.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley; his parents; five brothers and a sister.

Survivors include four daughters, Cindy Jenkins and husband Ted of Victoria, Gayle Phillips and husband Mike and Debbie Green, all of Amarillo, and Laurie Levitt and husband Mike of Clinton; a son, David Beal and wife Lynn of Amarillo; a brother, Earl Beal of Amarillo; two sisters, Ethel Cookson and husband Art of Amarillo and Ruby Brewer of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### Barbara Ann Valle

Barbara Ann Valle, a lifelong resident of Wichita, Kansas, passed away April 23, 2007. She was born July 23, 1946, in Talihina to Joe and Bertha Noah Daney.

She was a member of the Wichita Indian UMC and enjoyed Southern gospel music, bowling and rock and roll music, especially anything by Elvis Presley. She graduated from Wichita High School West in 1963.

Though she did not know much about the traditions and customs of the Choctaw Nation, she was proud of her Choctaw heritage. Barbara Ann’s smile, enthusiastic personality, her gentle spirit and sense of humor made everyone she met an immediate friend.

Her parents and a sister, Joyce Daney, preceded her in death.

Survivors include numerous cousins, friends and loved ones.

Barbara Ann will be missed by all who knew her.

### David Russell Roberts

Beloved “Husband, Daddy, Papa and Brother” David Russell Roberts, 61, of Maumelle, Arkansas, passed away March 4, 2007.

David proudly served in the U.S. Air Force and was a Vietnam veteran. Upon return from Vietnam, he earned a degree in history from East Texas State University (now part of Texas A&M) in Texarkana, Texas. During this time he also met and married his wife of 37 years, Carolyn Marie Lamkin. He was a loving and dedicated husband. He was also an excellent father to his two daughters, Stephanie and Emily. He took great pride in caring for his “girls.” He took the responsibility of family very seriously and never ceased in his dedication to his wife, daughters, grandchildren, or siblings. In retirement, he enjoyed woodworking, gardening, reading, and listening to music. He also was extremely proud of his Choctaw heritage.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Zuleika Roberts Todd, and a brother, Don Roberts.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Stephanie Collins and husband Lee and Emily Evatt and husband Rob; sisters, Gloria Hodgen and husband Will, Melba Bray and husband Larry, Carolyn Foshee and husband Lavee, and Sharon Wade and husband Kevin; grandchildren, Logan and Clayton Collins, Ellen and David Evatt, and mother-in-law, Ellen Lamkin.

### Leroy Jackson Ishcomer Sr.

Leroy Jackson Ishcomer Sr., 68, of Fort Towson passed away May 8, 2007, at Durant. He was born April 11, 1939, in Sunkist, Oklahoma, the son of Daniel Ishcomer and Josephine Steel Ishcomer.

He married Ethel LeFlore on December 7, 1957, in the Blackjack Methodist Church, Sobol. Mr. Ishcomer was a logger by trade. He was a lay preacher for about 30 years and coached the summer baseball and softball leagues in the Rattan Schools for eight years. His favorite team was the St. Louis Cardinals. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, going to rodeos and church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Rita Ishcomer; a granddaughter, Marissa Faith Ishcomer; and a sister, Barbara Taylor.

Survivors include his wife; five sons, Leroy Ishcomer Jr. and Glenda Little of Ada and Robert Ishcomer, Johnny Ishcomer, Julius Ishcomer and Neil Ishcomer, all of Sobol; four daughters, Linda Cannon and husband Harold of Antlers, Lena Priddy and husband Jean of Fort Towson, Mary Jo Woody and husband Turner II of Ashdown, Arkansas, and Sarah Kuykendal and husband Donald of Horatio, Arkansas; three brothers, Curtis Ishcomer of Altus, Melvin Ishcomer of Eldorado and Nathan Ishcomer of Quanah, Texas; four sisters, Carolyn Logan of Harrah, Freda Ishcomer of Amarillo, Texas, Anita Hanson of Seiling and Edna Ishcomer of Los Angeles, California; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren along with many other relatives and friends.

### Lois McAlvain Pugh

Lois McAlvain Pugh, 95, passed away on May 9, 2007, in McAlester after a lengthy illness. She was born February 14, 1912, to Jay and Edna Turner McAlvain.

Prior to moving to McAlester she resided in Heavener after her retirement from Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. She enjoyed the Choctaw Senior Citizens in Poteau and was a big part of their organization. She had been active in saying Grace at all their Choctaw dinners which were held each Wednesday.

She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and had the finest things to say about Chief Gregory E. Pyle and all that he had accomplished for the Choctaw tribe.

Survivors include her two sons, Bill Cooper and wife Dorothy of Clovis, New Mexico, and Curtis Pugh and wife Janet who are currently serving as missionaries in Romania; daughter, Betty Over and husband Jack of Albuquerque, New Mexico; one brother, Alton Freeman of Anaheim, California; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins and friends.

### Jeanne Francis Owens

Jeanne Francis Owens, 38, of Cherokee passed away May 9, 2007, at Integris Bass Baptist Health Center. She was born April 12, 1969, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the daughter of James E. Owens and Cynthia Jean Guillory McTyre.

She was raised and educated in Spiro, graduating from Spiro High School with the class of 1987. She attended barber college and worked as a hair dresser in Fort Smith. Jeanne attended the University of Arkansas, later transferring to Carl Albert State College where she was pursuing a degree in journalism. She then moved to the Oklahoma City area where she continued her education. Jeanne owned a consignment business and recently moved to Cherokee where she started a radio station. At the time of her death, Jeanne had returned to her love of education as a full-time student at Northwestern University in Alva. She was a published author and had been working on several novels at the time of her death.

Survivors include her husband, Ben Matthews of the home; two sons, Jared and Jordan Curran, both of the home; mother, Cindy and stepfather Ricke of Mountainburg, Arkansas; stepson, Vince Matthews of the home; brother, Dr. John and wife Treena Owens of Miami, Oklahoma; a sister, Jackie and husband Cody Williams of Pocola; three nieces and one nephew.

### Olivia Denise Longoria

Olivia Denise Longoria passed away on April 29, 2007, at her home in Laredo, Texas, with her family around her. She was born May 1, 1956, in Dallas, Texas, to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Williams Jr. She graduated from W.H. Adamson in Dallas. She enjoyed bowling, shooting pool, reading and spending time with her grandkids.

Her parents and a brother, David Williams, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Mike Longoria; son, Marc Lucas “Buddy” Longoria; and daughter, Tenayah Longoria, all of Laredo; daughter, Sonja Wallace and husband Craig of Ardmore; five grandchildren, Craig Jr., Kyla and Nicholi, all of Ardmore, and Alex and Alexia of Laredo; three stepchildren, Annette, Mike Jr. and Lisa, all of Terrell, Texas; three sisters and three brothers, Jean Noahubi and Bertha Bason, both of Dallas, Jacqueline Davis of Noaitah, Edson Williams and James Williams, both of Dallas, and Nathan Williams of Idabel; numerous nephews and nieces and a host of friends, all who will miss her.



### Raymond Pope

Raymond Pope, 80, passed away April 12, 2007, at Ardmore. He was born February 15, 1927, at McAlester to Laman and Elsie Lishbrook Pope.

He married Ramona Marie Dyer on January 26, 1957, at Tahlequah. She preceded him in death June 14, 1988. He was also preceded in death by a son, Roger; brothers, Chester and Gilbert, and a sister, Marie Scharpf.

Mr. Pope served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He worked for 35 years as an assistant manager at Carter Seminary and also worked at several boarding schools. He had worked at Wal-Mart for eight years before retiring. He was a Mason and a Shriner.

Survivors include a son, Bryan Pope of Shawnee; brother, Laman Pope of Meyers, Arizona; and special friends, Janet Lindsey and Doris Freeman.

### Edward R. Locke

Edward R. Locke, 82, passed away May 10, 2007, at Purcell Municipal Hospital. He was born March 23, 1925, in Messer, Oklahoma, the tenth of 11 children of Wilson and Susan Hampton Locke.

Ed was very proud of his Choctaw Indian blood and was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation. He attended school in Hugo until World War II at which time he joined the Army and was assigned to “The Bushmaster,” the 158th Regimental combat team. He made his first landing in Leyte, Philippines. Ed was a Rifleman 745 and carried the Browning automatic rifle, the BAR. While in battle at Luzon he was injured and awarded the Purple Heart along with the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, three Bronze Service Stars, Philippines Liberation Ribbon, Bronze Arrowhead, Good Conduct Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon.

He returned home to Hugo and assumed his father’s profession of carpenter and woodworker. On June 1, 1948, he married Dessie J. Wade in Paris, Texas. Eight years later, they had one child – Edwina. Ed was a self-employed home builder until his early retirement in 1984. He also farmed and raised cattle.

In 2002, by act of the State Legislation, he was awarded his long-deserved high school diploma from Supt. M. Wayne Maxwell and Rep. Art Schofield of the Oklahoma Department of Education. Ed became a Purcell High School graduate, in cap and gown.

He enjoyed traveling to his East and West Army Reunion to visit with his comrades in arms. On November 11, 1995, he marched with hundreds of World War II veterans down Fifth Avenue in New York City in remembrance of the 50th anniversary.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents and nine of his siblings.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, 11 months and eight days, Dessie; daughter, Edwina; her partner Rocky Walter; grandson, Edward Myers and wife Crystal; one great-granddaughter, Kira; and one sister, Ernestine Locke.

Edward will be loved and missed dearly until we can all meet again in Heaven.

### Mary Rosamond

### ‘Rosie’ McCurdy

Mary Rosamond “Rosie” McCurdy, 91, of Purcell passed away April 28 at Norman Regional Hospital surrounded by her sons and other family members. She was born September 15, 1915, in Chandler, the daughter of longtime Oklahoma political leader and newspaper owner James C. Nance and Ayleene Carr Nance.

She graduated from Walters High School and the University of Oklahoma, where she was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority.

Rosie and Maxwell McCurdy of Purcell would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 23 of this year. She, Maxwell and their son, Tom, are former publishers and owners of The Purcell Register. She was active in various civic and social organizations in Purcell, including the Chamber of Commerce. She also served on several committees of the Oklahoma Press Association.

Rosie loved her role as business manager of The Register and the wonderful, exceptional employees of the newspaper. She took pride in the updating of the record-keeping and subscription lists of The Register and welcoming the old and young customers.

While she enjoyed her professional life so much, it was her family and her loving husband, Maxwell, who were her priority. Rosie was involved with her children and their school and sports activities and later as “Mimi” to her many grandchildren. She and Maxwell were so proud that their three boys attended the University of Oklahoma on athletic scholarships and the fun they had being at the home and away games. Rosie and Maxwell loved watching the Sooners on TV and they were avid fans of the Atlanta Braves.

They loved to travel, especially to the many OU bowl games, Hawaii, Canada, Ireland and Scotland where in 1989 they attended the “Gathering of the McCurdys” on the isle of Bute.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, James C. Nance Jr. and an infant brother; a great-granddaughter, Brittany Usry; and an aunt, Winnie Hunter and husband Horace.

Survivors include her husband; three sons, Tom McCurdy of Purcell, Dr. Rick McCurdy of Goldsby and Mike McCurdy and wife Debbie of Norman; a sister, Betty Langdon of Shawnee; grandchildren, Lisa Bajema and husband Steve of Chesterfield, Missouri, Lynn McCurdy of Mission Viejo, California, Tom-Tom McCurdy and wife Betsy of Purcell, John McCurdy and wife Pam of Purcell, Dr. Jay McCurdy and wife Caren of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Mia McCurdy of Norman, Marcy Usry of Miami, Florida, Jeremy McCurdy and Megan McCurdy, both of Norman; Grant McCurdy and wife Sydney of Fort Worth, Texas, Mikel Nance McCurdy of Austin, Texas, Amy Hutchinson and husband Adam of Norman, Becky Rodgers and husband Mark of Norman and Warren Bunch of Norman; great-grandchildren, Stevie Bajema of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Brian Bajema of Chesterfield, Jade McCurdy of Purcell, Jordan Sheehy, Jacob Sheehy, Kaitlyn Sheehy and Abby Rose Sheehy, all of Purcell, Savannah McCurdy of Norman, Tara Tyler and husband Josh of Purcell, Tony Shobert of Purcell, Morgan, Jack, Skye and Ben McCurdy, all of Colorado Springs, Lexi Troxell of Norman, Jake and Sam Usry of Norman, Chase and Parker Hutchinson of Norman, Jack Rodgers of Norman and James Conner McCurdy of Fort Worth; great-great-grandchildren, Khia Tyler and Jett Tyler, both of Purcell; nieces, nephews and many friends.

