



Original enrollees honored at state capitol



Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, 103, of Antlers, is one of the four incredible Choctaw Nation original enrollees still living. She is pictured at the Oklahoma State Capitol with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Chief Greg Pyle.

A special ceremony was held in the Oklahoma State Capitol April 12 as eight Native American original enrollees were honored by the state and their tribes. The group was also recognized by the House of Representatives.

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry spoke of his pride in being in the same room with the “living history” of the original enrollees of several tribes.

“It only makes sense that we partner with our own Native American nations to build this state up,” said Governor Henry.

He said that although the Dawes Act was not the proudest moment in American history, “These individuals have lived through some difficult times. They have persevered and kept the Native American culture alive. We should reach out and be proud. We should not repeat the mistakes of the past.

“We have just celebrated the state’s centennial birthday and great things are in store for our state mostly because of the wonderful centenarians that we have had.”

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Chief’s
Column
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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma original enrollee Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, 102, of Rush Springs attended the ceremony in Oklahoma City with several members of her family including her great-grandson, Daniel Ray, and son-in-law, Charles Johnson, pictured with Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Chief Greg Pyle in the Blue Room near the governor’s office at the state capitol. Unable to attend the event were the tribe’s oldest original enrollee, Dorothy Arnotte West, 105, of Antlers, and Irene Exodus Roberts Mills, 103, of Quinton.

Choctaw Tribal Council holds regular session

The 12 members of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met May 10 in regular session in the Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.

New business included an application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Tribal Resources Grant Program. The Tribal Resources Grant Program provides a variety of funding options including training, vehicles, technology and equipment otherwise not budgeted by state, local or Bureau of Indian Affairs funds. The Council Bill to approve this application was unanimously passed.

Approval was also given to apply to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the REACH (Residential Energy Assistance Challenge) grant. Councilmembers are aware of the need to provide assistance to low-income households with energy costs. The REACH program is designed to minimize health and safety risks, increase the efficiency of energy usage, and target individuals who are most in need.

Also on the agenda: a modification to the Tribal Operations FY2008 budget and three grazing lease permits, one in Bryan County, one in Pushmataha County and one in Choctaw County.



Trail of Tears Walk draws hundreds

Hundreds of participants arrived at the park in Millerton, Oklahoma, to begin the Choctaw Nation’s annual commemorative Trail of Tears Walk on Saturday, May 17. Winding through town, then through two miles of country roads and ending at Wheelock Academy, it gave participants time to reflect on the hardships that our ancestors endured as they traveled many, many miles to begin a new life in Indian Territory. More on Page 16.



Okla Chahta Princesses begin 2008-09 reign

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton participated in the crowning of the Okla Chahta Princesses during the annual California Gathering in Bakersfield. Beginning their 2008-09 reign are Little Miss Shaylah Youngdale, Head Princess Sarah DeHerrera and Jr. Miss Kylie LeBlanc. More photos of the gathering are on Page 10.

Winship among outstanding Title VI directors

The Administration on Aging held a 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Title VI Program in conjunction with its 2008 National Training and Technical Assistance Forum, held April 28 to May 1 in Shakopee, Minnesota.

A banquet held on the evening of April 30 in the ballroom of the Mystic Lake Casino highlighted the careers of four outstanding Title VI Directors. Oneida Winship, Director of the Aging Services Department of the Choctaw Nation, was one of the first advocates for the program and was honored for her 28 years with Title VI.

Oneida graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, with a degree in elementary education and a minor in physical education. She was hired as the youth coordinator for the Youth Community Conservation Improvement Project and a year later transferred to the Choctaw Nation Head Start as their coordinator. Oneida transferred to the Title VI program on September 5, 1980,



Oneida Winship is awarded for her 28 years as a Title VI director by the Administration on Aging. Also awarded were Vicki Johnson, Umatilla; Iyonne Garreau, Sioux; and not pictured, Sydney Bird, Amaha. Oneida has more years with the program than any other director.

and has been with the program since that time.

“I recall that most of our elders were of full blood, with limited income and training, limited English-speaking, existing on family members as they were not trusting of the state and federal programs for financial assistance,” said

Winship. “Today, we are faced with greater numbers of the baby-boomer group of elders who are more economically stable. By no means are they rich, but they are rich in their culture and tradition and they enjoy the fellowship and socialization provided by the tribal Title VI program,” she

said.

Oneida’s program started with two nutrition sites and has expanded to 17 sites in the Choctaw Nation’s 10 1/2 counties in Southeastern Oklahoma. In 1981, she provided 5,750 meals to 97 elders. Last year, she provided 38,170 meals to 2,008 elders.

“We are very proud of what Oneida has accomplished with her program,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “She and her staff work tirelessly to provide our elders with the best nutrition and information on staying healthy.

“The senior citizens are given many opportunities to catch a bus and visit other districts or even other states,” the Chief continued. “Different wellness programs are being enlisted at the centers, arts and crafts classes are held. I could go on and on, but the fact is that our elders are very important to us and Oneida ensures that they are very well taken care of.”

Oneida is currently the Chairperson of the Oklahoma
See WINSHIP on Page 12

NOTES TO THE NATION

Academic journey an extremely rewarding experience

Dear Choctaw Nation,

When I was hired at the Corpus Christi Army Depot in April of 1983, I dropped out of college to pursue a career in government civilian service. I had attended one semester at the University of Nebraska and several semesters at Del Mar College. Although I was a Vietnam-era veteran with college fully paid for by the Montgomery G.I. bill, I erroneously chose to disregard the true value that higher education could someday play in my future.

Over the years as my three sisters and one brother all graduated from college I began to feel the urge to return to school. I would sit at their graduation commencement exercises in total awe of their determination

and their full commitment to the pursuit of higher education. In the fall of 2001, I re-entered Del Mar College.

My G.I. Bill eligibility had lapsed, but I discovered the Hazelwood Act which financially assists veterans who are State of Texas military enlistees.

In the spring of 2003 while attending evening classes at Del Mar College, I began to take concurrent evening classes at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. In 2004, I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Del Mar with an Associate in Arts English degree. On August 4, 2007, I graduated Magna



Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and last fall I began the pursuit of a Master's Degree in Counseling at the TAMU-CC College of Education. My journey through academia has not been an easy one, but it has been an extremely rewarding experience, both intellectually and spiritually. From day one it took a wholesale commitment to the pursuit of a university degree while working a 40-hour week, raising a family, and volunteering throughout our community in various civic capacities, but many like me have discovered it can be done if one is willing to sacrifice.

**Jeffrey D Churchill,
Chaplain
Corpus Christi Army Depot**



Traditional bow shoot a success

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We would like to express our gratitude for all the help and support for our traditional bow shoot this past April 12. Although the wind was causing everyone some trouble and it was a little nippy we had a most successful shoot.

Pam served up buffalo burgers and hot dogs to a ravenous crowd of 33 shooters and another 15 family and supporters.

Special thanks to Assistant Chief Gary Batton for the opening shot, pictured at left.

All Choctaw are invited out to Tushka Homma Capitol Grounds Village for the next bow shoot. Bows, arrows and lunch provided. Or bring your own bow, handmade or storebought longbows, recurves, selfbows, but no compounds. All ages can participate.

Head Start staff earns degrees



The Choctaw Nation Head Start Center of Antlers is proud to present their degreed staff. Regina Tedder graduated from Carl Albert State College in 2007 with an Associate's of Arts Degree in Child Development. Sharon Carter graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies. Delinda Agüero graduated from Carl Albert State College this year with an Associate's Degree in Child Development.

Family receives help

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping me and my family in our time of need. The tribe has always helped me when I asked for it. This time they really stepped up to the plate. Thank you to Janie Dillard and Tammye Gwin and all the employees at Stargazer Restaurant. I have always been proud of being a Choctaw, but now more than ever. Thank you all so much.

Gene Gage and the Sexton family

Tribal member receives assistance

Dear Chief Pyle,

I wish to thank the Choctaw Nation for the privilege to see and hear again. My Choctaw heritage has given me the privilege to receive hearing aids and glasses. I cannot thank the Choctaw Nation and Chief Pyle enough for what they have done for me. I will be truly forever grateful. I am proud to be a member of the Choctaw tribe.

Dorothy Jean Smyth May

Searching for Ott relatives

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for anyone who may be related to or may know someone related to Johnnie Lee Ott. Johnnie's father was John Ott and his mother was Florence Ott. Johnnie's family used to call him "Big Man." If anyone has any information please contact me.

**Seth McDonald
2200 NW 50th, Ste 100-E
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-842-3222**

Carrying on the legacy

Dear Editor,

In 1847, halfway through the Great Famine in Ireland, a group of Choctaw Indians set a sum of money to aid the starving people of Ireland. The amount of the sum has been reported as either \$170 or \$710. The actual amount is unimportant. The act itself, from a group who only a few years before had traveled the Trail of Tears and seen their numbers reduced by nearly half through starvation and disease, is noteworthy as an immense act of compassion and empathy for people in dire need and suffering.

As Choctaws, we should be reminded that acts of kindness and generosity are a part of our heritage and we should carry on the legacy of kindness our people showed the world when they reached across a continent and an ocean to help a starving nation all those years ago. Each day there is someone we can help, a worthy cause we can promote, a word of encouragement we can speak or a smile we can share, and by doing so we can continue to demonstrate to the world that we are a compassionate and caring people.

Lucinda Blackwood

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

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

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BISHINIK® 2008

Thank you

Dear Councilman James Frazier,

This is to thank you, your social worker, Vicki McClure, and the Choctaw tribe for the donation to help with expenses during my latest illness. It certainly did help and I really appreciate it.

Harold Burris

Career Development valuable

Dear Chief Pyle,

I wish to thank you and the Choctaw Career Development Program for making it possible for me to attend the Northwest Lineman College in Oroville, California. I attended the college from November 4, 2007, through March 7, 2008. Upon completion of the Lineman College I received a certificate which will now allow me to secure a position as an apprentice lineman. Without the assistance of the Choctaw Tribe, I could not have attained this valuable training. From the moment I contacted the Career Development Program, your staff treated me with the utmost respect and they kept in contact with me throughout that time. I am now in the process of seeking employment in this field. I am the son of McDaniel and Judy Scott of Susanville, California, grandson of the late William James Dyer and great-grandson of Willy H. and Amanda Barnett Dyer, formerly of Eagletown; also the late Benjamin Scott of Madill, and Clemmer Brokeshoulder of Willcox, Arizona, all proud Choctaws/Mississippi Choctaws.

**Daniel C. Scott
Susanville, California**

Thorpe information needed

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I'm looking for information about my parents' families. My father's name is Chester Oakes, Paris. His parents' names are Rose and George W. My dad had a sister named Beulah. She married Grover Thorpe. I was specifically looking for Junior Thorpe. I'm not sure if he was a son or nephew. They lived in Hugo. If anyone has any information, please write me at the below address. Thank you.

**Donna Oakes Manning
1602 Woodcrest Lane
Carrollton, TX 75006**

Higher education is made possible

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Choctaw Nation for the college scholarships extended to me over the last four years. I would also like to thank the professional staff at the Higher Education Office for their help and support. I will be graduating in June 2008 from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Global Studies (European emphasis) and minors in Art History and Professional Writing. Thank you again for helping to make my pursuit of higher education possible.

**Stephanie Trujillo
Santa Barbara, California**

Information wanted on Mary A. Labor

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I read in the March 2008 issue of the Bishinik a notice about a reunion for the James Dyer/Malinda Labor Dyer family. I am looking for information on a Mary A. Labor, whose father was William Labor and mother was Precia (?) Gonzales. Mary A. Labor was married to Tobias Winship. They are my great-great-great-grandparents. If anyone has any information, please contact Debbie at dabbietownsend@aol.com or 233 Shenandoah St. SE, Leesburg, VA, 20175. Thank you.

Scholarship money appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,

I wanted to send a most sincere thank you out to the Choctaw Nation for the scholarship money sent to me to help with the expenses of tuition as I continue my education. As a parent, raising four children, working full-time and trying to obtain my RN degree, the funds were very much appreciated. I am thankful and proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation and to know how much help is available through them!

**Cynthia Y. Turner
Newburgh, Indiana**

Family reunion a success

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The descendants of James William Alexander Puckett want to extend our thanks and gratitude to Choctaw Nation, especially, the Bishinik staff and Judy Allen, Vicki Prough of the Genealogy Department, and Skyler Robinson of the Historic Preservation Department. The Bishinik published a Puckett family reunion notice in the January newspaper. Vickie did a record research on the Puckett ancestry. Belinda Cross and Kelly Goodroe reported Burris Cemetery to be restored to Skyler where our ancestors and his wife are buried. Choctaw Nation helped to make our family reunion a big success. This was the first Puckett family reunion with an attendance of 60 from Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia. Thank you so much for all your assistance.

Puckett family descendants



Student places in clogging competitions

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation's Student School and Activity Fund program for assistance with my clogging expenses. I was able to compete in two clogging solo competitions this year and won first at Dance Showcase USA in March and second at Nexstar National Talent in April. Without this assistance I would not have had these great opportunities. I dance with Head to Toe Dance Studio in Durant. Mrs. Lindsay is my teacher.

Macey Jade Ross

Seeking Riddle descendants

Dear Choctaw Nation,

In reading an article, I noticed the name of Riddle. It caught my attention since my maiden name is Riddle, daughter of Bartice Greenwood Riddle. Daphne Riddle Swartz's grandparents were from Bennington, where I was born in 1923. My father is buried in the Bennington cemetery.

I have lost track of the Riddle descendants. I would like to contact Daphne Riddle Swartz. Please contact me at the below address. I would like to hear from you and write you back.

**Mrs. Johnnie Wardina Riddle Randolph
2610 Kossuth Street
Lafayette, IN 47904**

Looking for family

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for any information about my grandfather, William Jesse "Billy" Robinson. My grandfather had a brother named James. He also had several half brothers and sisters. My great-grandpa was Jake Robinson and my great-grandma was Minnie Jane who later married a John Conn. I believed they lived in or around Durant. I would like to know where he might be buried and any other information about him. Thank you.

**Jackie Knight
201 N. Indiana
Greencastle IN 46135
e-mail: weaverdreamcloud@yahoo.com
or jackie_knight46135@yahoo.com.**

Veteran was proud of Choctaw heritage

Dear Choctaw Nation,

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the passing of my husband, Robert Lee Gibbs. He died on January 5, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He wanted to express his thanks to Chief Gregory Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton, who he both met personally in Dallas at a Native American Chamber Banquet, for their support and financial assistance while receiving treatment for lymphoma and leukemia at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Also, great appreciation and thanks to the Choctaw Nation Health Services at Talihina and Idabel for their expedient and professional service in providing assistance with medications needed for his illnesses.

Robert was proud of his Choctaw heritage and of being a Choctaw veteran who served his country during the Vietnam War.

Once again, I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for its support during this difficult time.

**Ulrike Gibbs
Grandview, Texas**

Thankful for tribal programs

Dear Choctaw Nation Higher Education,

We wanted to thank the Choctaw Nation for the programs that the tribe offers. My two sons have been very blessed to receive the scholarships through the last few years. Thomas Christopher Hoklotubbe is now in his second year at Harvard University's Master's of Divinity Program after graduating from UCLA. And Matthew Lawrence Hoklotubbe is now getting set to graduate from University of California, Santa Barbara, with a BA in Film Studies. The Choctaw Nation has made a difference in these two guys and we would like to THANK YOU for your assistance.

The Hoklotubbe family

Thank you for your support

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We at G Co. 700 BSB would like to thank you for the care packages filled with cough drops, eye solution, hygiene wipes and other medications that were recently sent. Maintaining good health is very important to our mission because it helps build our strength as individuals and as a unit. We appreciate your support in keeping our soldiers strong.

**CPT Eric Long, Commander
Golf Co. 700 BSB**

Group is amazing example of living history

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

It was a tremendous pleasure to meet several original enrollees recently at an event held in their honor at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Eight living enrollees have been identified in our great state, four of them Choctaw: Dorothy Arnote West, age 105; Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, age 103; Irene Exodus Roberts Mills, age 103; and Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, age 102.

The eldest of the living enrollees I was privileged to meet May 12th is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Martha Berryhill, age 107. Other enrollees still living include Daisy Hawley Blackbird, age 105, of the Chickasaw Nation; Eva Cheek Gilbert, age 105, of the Cherokee Nation; and Asa Glenn Purcell, age 102, of the Cherokee Nation.

As original allottees, each of these people were given land as a result of signing on the Dawes Roll prior to statehood. State Representative Jerry McPeak organized this event, saying he was motivated by the realization that these centenarians were slipping from our sight right here in Oklahoma. He, along with all of Oklahoma, wanted to give them the recognition they deserved.

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, other tribal chiefs, and the Oklahoma House of Representatives joined forces to honor these amazing examples of living history and their contributions to our state, tribes and families. The stories of our four remaining Choctaws fascinate me.

Dorothy West was born August 2, 1902, in Antlers, Indian Territory. She received an economics degree from OU. She worked as a reporter for the Anadarko Tribune, The Daily Oklahoman and the Shawnee American. She still lives in Antlers and published a book when she was 100. Dorothy was not able to be at the State Capitol on this special day, but several family members, including sister Suzanne Holloway and son Bob West, represented her.



Georgia Self was born October 21, 1904, and now resides in the Antlers Nursing Home. Georgia's health and hearing make it difficult for her to enjoy conversation since a stroke a couple of years ago. Her sister, Vivian Allen of Antlers, said that Mrs. Self still retains her home place in Antlers, where her two dogs keep vigil.

Georgia drove herself until she was 101, and the stroke took away her ability. She loved to go and loved the independence of driving herself. A longtime member of the Methodist Church in Antlers, Georgia was married to Chester Self, who is now deceased. She worked in the Court Clerks Office at the Courthouse in

Antlers before retiring.

Irene Mills, born January 31, 1905, in Quinton, Indian Territory, still resides in Quinton. Except for an eight-year span, she lived in the state her entire life. She loves to read and studies the paper every day. She recently celebrated her birthday surrounded by friends and relatives. Since Irene was not able to make the trip, she was represented by her granddaughter, Glenda Stephens, as the entire state honored the oldest living Oklahomans.

Ruby Brewer was born February 7, 1906, the oldest of 13 children. She still lives on her original allotment in a home built by her late husband in Rush Springs. She always enjoyed having a garden. Her son, John Redding, son-in-law Charles Johnson, daughter Wanda Johnson, grandchildren Phyllis, Janice and Charles, and great-grandson, Daniel Ray, brought Ruby in her wheelchair to the Capitol event.

At the ceremony, Representative McPeak said, "When you can touch and see history, it is very special." This is a statement that has been in my mind a lot since spending the morning with the lovely ladies who have seen so much happen in the past 100+ years. It was an honor to shake the hands of each enrollee present. I wish all had been able to attend.



Clapp earns master's degree

Rebecca Clapp received her Master's Degree in School Administration May 17 from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany. Rebecca maintained a perfect 4.0 gpa throughout her class schedule as a student and as director for the Choctaw Nation Head Start and Johnson-O'Malley programs. She is pictured with her daughter, MacKenzi Clapp, and her mother, Leola Lester of McAlester. Congratulations, Rebecca!

Watkins named to steering committee on heritage rights

Indigenous peoples, scholars, practitioners and policy-makers increasingly are faced with dilemmas about rights, responsibilities and access to intellectual products associated with cultural heritage, including research data and use of artifact and site images.

A new team of experts will tackle these difficult issues during the next seven years, and Joe Watkins, director of Native American Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma, will provide guidance and advice for activities, components and outcomes as a member of the project's steering committee.

"This program focuses on the lasting heritage of the archaeological record and its relationship to living peoples," said Watkins. "It integrates the perspectives of archaeologists and Indigenous people in a way never done before to discuss the impacts of academic research on living cultures. I am honored to have been asked to sit on the steering committee for such an important endeavor."

Working in collaboration with Indigenous and other communities, the project aims to identify a range of intangible cultural heritage and intellectual property concerns faced by Indigenous peoples, researchers and other stakeholders in order to gain theoretical insights on the nature of knowledge, intangible cultural heritage, and culture-based conceptions of rights and responsibilities and to generate ideas for fair and effective re-



JOE WATKINS

search practices. Nicholas and his team intend the results to assist descendant communities, archaeologists, academic institutions, scholars, policy-makers and other stakeholders in negotiating more equitable and successful research and heritage policies in the future.

Once the range of intellectual property and ethical property is identified, the team will generate ideas for norms of good practice and theoretical insights on the nature of knowledge, intellectual property and culture-based rights. Areas of particular concern are research on and access to cultural material and cultural heritage sites, cultural tourism, censorship, commercial use of rock art and other images, open vs. restricted access to information, applications in new projects, bioarchaeology and the uses of ancient genetic data, legal protections and research permissions and protocols.

For more information on the project, visit their web site at www.sfu.ca/IPinCulturalHeritage/.

What a big difference 176 years can make!

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

We are so blessed here in the Choctaw Nation today, thanks hugely to the ancestors who traversed the original long, sad march that became known in history books as the Trail of Tears. I couldn't help but compare our comfortable hike on May 17th in good weather with the horrendous journey made by our forefathers as they were forced from their homeland in Mississippi to unknown territories during the winter months.

Bottled water, fresh fruit and pastries were provided for all of us at the beginning of the walk, and the air was full of laughter and excitement. I can only imagine the meager supplies and anguished sobs that children and women would have wept as their feet left the soil of the only home they had ever known in 1831. The Nikes on my feet felt great on the two miles of the Commemorative



Trail of Tears Walk at Wheelock, making me remember Tim Tingle's story of the bloody footprints in the snow along the Trail of Tears.

What a difference 176 years can make! There is no better place to mark the success of our tribal people than Wheelock, the first school site and first place of organized Church in Oklahoma. The belief in God and education helped the Choctaws succeed in every aspect of life, and we have now grown to a tribe of almost 200,000 people worldwide.

I thank God for our ancestors' strength and perseverance. Their fortitude and survival in the wilderness now known as Oklahoma

should be highly applauded. It is great that we as a tribe honor them each year through a commemorative walk, and I encourage everyone to share the story of our history with your children and grandchildren so that they can be very proud of the people of their past.

Will you wholly follow the Lord your God?

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

I pray for good and happy summer months for you.

Our topic is taken from an Old Testament book, the book of Joshua chapters 13 and 14. The names, Joshua and Jesus, are the same. Joshua is the Hebrew name. Jesus is the Greek name.

What the history in Joshua gave the Israelites was confidence. Confidence as they saw how marvelous God undertook for them. The first verse of Joshua 13 was the Lord's instruction to Joshua: "Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

Several of the tribes had already obtained their inheritance, but other tribes had not yet taken possession of the land that was to be allotted to them. So the challenge was given, "... there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

May these words speak to our hearts. Though many of us may have known the Lord for years, I ask this question. How far have we really entered into the enjoyment of the precious things of Christ which are ours by His promise?

Have we been content to know that we are saved and we are going to heaven when we die, but we have failed to enter into the reality and blessedness of a "life in Christ" as we live on earth? Think of the great treasure committed to us in the Word of God.

Those who have given the most time to study and meditate over God's blessed Book must realize that still there remaineth very much land to be possessed.

There is much more in the Bible that we need to make ours by study in dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Paul writes in Ephesians 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

We are called upon to take possession of that which is already ours through the gift of God, by faith.

In the story of Caleb, in Joshua chapter 14, we see illustrated this faith. Caleb illustrates the truth that "... who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:12).

We read in Joshua 14:6-15:

v6 "Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea.

v7 "Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I brought him

word again as it was in mine heart.

v8 "Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

v9 "And Moses swear on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's forever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.

v10 "And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, lo, I am this day four-score and five years old.

v11 "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

v12 "Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

v13 "And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

v14 "Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

v15 "And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war."

Who was Caleb? Not much is written about him, but enough to challenge and bless us. The name Caleb means wholehearted and describes this warrior and faithful servant of God.

Caleb's father was described as "the Kenezite." Caleb was not an Israelite. He was a true son of God.

Caleb as we know (Numbers 13 and 14), was one of the two spies who brought back a minority report when the ten spies discouraged the people of Israel.

The ten admitted that the land was all God said it would be, and the grapes of Eschol was a witness to its fruitfulness, but they were terrified as they saw the walled cities, and the sons of Anak, the mighty giants, in whose sight they were as grasshoppers, so they declared it would be impossible to overcome these people of Canaan.

But Caleb and Joshua brought a good report saying, "Let us go up at once, and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it." (Numbers 13:30).

Caleb, though 85 years of age, came to Joshua to remind him of the promises that Moses had made, that because he had wholly followed the Lord he should have whatever inheritance his heart desired.

This record should stir our hearts and lead us to act as Caleb did, in faith taking possession of that which God has declared He has given to us in Christ.

The secret of Caleb's victories and success was that "He wholly followed the Lord God of Israel." Will you wholly follow the Lord your God?

Pray for America. Pray for our service men and women.



Two Choctaw law students elected to board of directors

The National Native American Law Students Association elected the 2008-09 Board of Directors at the annual NNALSA meeting held in conjunction with the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference in Albuquerque on April 11. The new board includes two Choctaw students, Brian Lewis and Stevie Nichols, pictured, seated on the far right and far left, respectively.

Brian Lewis is a third-year student at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. He has been elected to represent the Native law students in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Brian is the great-grandson of Mary Lewis and grandson of Russell Lewis, both of Silo. He is also the great-grandson of Elmer and Edith Miller and grandson of Birdie Miller, all of McAlester. His parents are Cody and Era Lewis.

Stevie Nichols, a second-year student at the University of New Mexico School of Law, was elected to represent the students in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Stevie is the great-granddaughter of Billie Ruth Turnbull Roberts of Roberta, the granddaughter of Billy Jack and Pat Roberts of Roberta, and the daughter of Tracie Falcone of Lake Jackson, Texas. Stevie also formerly worked in Choctaw Nation's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program and in the Choctaw Language Department.

Many Indian students, like Brian and Stevie, began their law school careers in the Pre-Law Summer Institute through the American Indian Law Center in Albuquerque. This "law school boot camp" is taught by renowned Indian law professors and serves to prepare American Indian and Alaskan Native students for the rigors of law school, as well as place these students in law schools throughout the country.

Choctaw Nation
AFL Project

A
Brighter
Future
in Store

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. Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, healthy relationship skills and parenting workshops.

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

For more information or questions about eligibility contact

Angela Dancer,
Director of the
AFL Project at
580-326-7758
or 877-285-6893.

Five fun ways to walk your way to fitness

A daily walk is a wonderful way to maintain a healthy weight. A 30-45 minute walk can help to lower your stress level, improve your mood, boost your immune system, and reduce your risk of disease.

• Walk and talk.

Walking and talking with a friend is good for your body, good for your heart, and good for your soul. Walking and talking with children or grandchildren is an active way to spend some quality time together. It can also be a time to discuss serious issues, like school or grades, in a less threatening atmosphere.

• Walk and listen.

Music lightens every step – and it seems to make time go faster. Pick your favorite tunes, pick up the pace, and

WIC

sing along if you want! Walking and listening to books “on tape” is another fun way to add extra value to your daily walk. Language tapes, CDs, or I-pods also make ideal walking companions.

• Walk and learn.

A new language is just one of the many things you can learn on a walk. With kids, you can count different colored cars, talk about how plants change with the season, or listen for new sounds. Wherever you walk outdoors, there are birds to learn about. Perhaps it’s time to start a list of feathered friends.


• Walk and shop.

Using your legs for transportation is a simple way to accomplish two things at the same time. Put on a backpack for your purchases and walk to the grocery store, walk to the post office, or walk to the mall. If you live too far to walk all the way from home, drive to a central location and walk from there.

• Walk and enjoy.

Enjoyment is the key to success for all fitness activities – because, over the long haul, you’ll only stick with what you like to do. Some people enjoy doing the same walk every day, while others want a different route every time they go out. Think about what kind of walk really gets you going – and just do it!

Eat Right Montana



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

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

Healthy Lifestyles

Recipe of the Month

Heart disease is the number one killer of all diabetics and women. We should all take a closer look at how we are protecting our hearts, whether we have high blood pressure or not. Some simple ways to help reduce the risk of high blood pressure are to:

- Reduce sodium in the foods we eat
- Reduce caffeine intake
- Walk a little more daily
- And enjoy tasty recipes as follows:

Very Lemony Chicken

Using skinless chicken breasts means this tangy dish is lower in saturated fat and cholesterol.

- 1 1/2 lb. chicken breast, skinned and fat removed
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup fresh sliced lemon peel
- 3 tsp chopped fresh oregano or 1 tsp dried oregano, crushed
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Black pepper to taste
- 1/2 tsp paprika

Place chicken in 13x9x2-inch glass baking dish. Mix lemon juice, vinegar, lemon peel, oregano and onions. Pour over chicken, cover, and marinate in refrigerator several hours or overnight, turning occasionally. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Cover and bake at 325° F for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 30 minutes more or until done.

- Yield: 4 servings
- Serving size: One chicken breast with sauce
- Each serving provides – Calories: 154; Total fat: 5g; Saturated fat: 2g; Cholesterol: 63 mg; Sodium: 202 mg.

Why bother with breakfast?

We’ve all heard it before: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It can be tough to get kids fueled up in time for school, child care, or a day of play. But it’s important to try.

Breakfast is a great way to give the body the refueling it needs. Kids who eat breakfast tend to eat healthier overall and are more likely to participate in physical activities. Skipping breakfast can make kids feel tired, restless or irritable. In the morning, their bodies need to refuel for the day ahead after going without food for 8 to 12 hours during sleep. Their mood and energy can drop by midmorning if they don’t eat at least a small morning meal.

Breakfast also can help keep kids’ weight in check by kick-starting the body’s metabolism. And when the metabolism gets moving, the body starts burning calories. Also, people who don’t eat breakfast often consume more calories throughout the day and are more likely to be overweight than those who skip lunch. That’s because someone who skips breakfast is likely to get famished before lunchtime and snack on high-calorie foods or overeat at lunch.

Making breakfast happen

Try these practical suggestions to ensure that – even in a rush – your kids get a good breakfast before they’re out the door:

- stock your kitchen with healthy breakfast options
- prepare as much as you can the night before
- get everyone up 10 minutes earlier
- let kids help plan and prepare breakfast
- have grab-and-go alternatives such as fresh fruit, yogurt or trail-mix on days when there is little or no time to eat

Submitted by Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles

Healthy Lifestyles

Fitness Tip of the Month

Perceived exertion

Last month’s fitness tip dealt with determining the proper intensity (how hard you should exercise) by monitoring your pulse rate and adjusting the speed, incline or resistance of your exercise accordingly. If you have trouble checking your pulse while exercising, you may want to use the *perceived exertion scale* instead.

Perceived exertion is how hard you feel you are working. The scale starts at 6 (no effort, like sitting in the recliner) and tops out at 20 (maximal effort). These numbers were not randomly selected; they are based on heart rate. If you multiply your perceived exertion number by 10, it should give you a fairly accurate estimation of your heart rate. Here is the scale and descriptions of what you should be feeling at some of the exertion ratings:

- 6 – No exertion at all
- 7 – Extremely light
- 8
- 9 – Very light (walking slowly at a comfortable pace)
- 10
- 11 – Light
- 12
- 13 – Somewhat hard (quite an effort; you feel tired but can continue
- 14
- 15 – Hard (heavy)
- 16
- 17 – Very hard (very strenuous and you are very fatigued)
- 18
- 19 – Extremely hard (you cannot continue for more than a minute or so at this pace
- 20 – Maximal exertion

It is generally recommended that beginners exercise at the 11-12 level and conditioned people (those who have exercised for a month or more) should shoot for 12-14.

Changes during your third trimester of pregnancy

DISCOMFORT	WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT
Belly and breast enlargement	Sleep on your side supported with a pillow; wear loose clothes; wear a support bra, even to bed.
Constipation	Eat foods high in fiber like bran cereal, whole grain bread and green leafy vegetables. Drink lots of liquids such as water, milk, soup, fruit and prune juices. Eat raw vegetables and fruit or a fresh salad each day. Take a walk after meals. Don’t take laxatives or enemas unless instructed by your health care provider.
Heartburn or indigestion	Eat slowly and chew your food well. Eat smaller meals, more often. Bake or broil food. Do not fry it. Avoid greasy or spicy foods. Try walking around after eating

NURSERY NEWS

Dakota Lee Thomas Hood

Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo would like to announce the arrival of their grandson. Dakota Lee Thomas Hood was born November 3, 2007, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. He is the son of Christie and Thomas Hood of Hugo. His sister is MaKayla Hood. He also has a brother, Tony, and sister, Judith, of Okmulgee. His paternal grandparents are Kathy and Charles Hood of Hugo.



Michael Yuma Basura

Michael Yuma Basura was born at 5:15 a.m. on February 15, 2008, at Panorama City, California. He weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces. Michael is the son of Bruce and Melissa Basura and has his Choctaw heritage from his great-grandmother, Audie Lee Self (Boyd), who was an original enrollee in the Choctaw minors. Michael’s middle name, “Yuma,” is an Indian name meaning “Son of chief.” On May 3, Michael was brought to the Bakersfield (California) gathering for enrollment in the Choctaw tribe.



Hannah Grace Mueller

Kurt and Lorrie Mueller would like to announce the birth of their newest daughter, Hannah Grace Mueller. She was born at 2:14 a.m. on February 22, 2008, at Chandler Regional Hospital in Chandler, Arizona. She came into the world four weeks early, weighing 6 pounds 11 ounces and measuring 19.75 inches long. Her brothers and sisters are Brittany, Brent, Bryce, Korey, Haylee and Ricky. Hannah is the granddaughter of Delbert Lewallen of Las Vegas, Nevada, Patricia Lewallen of Tempe, Arizona, and the late Kenneth and Muriel Mueller. Hannah is the great-granddaughter of the late Edison Eugene Lewallen and Wanda Sudbury Lewallen.



Emma Ray Battiest

Jimmy Ray Battiest and Heather Dawn Baker are very proud to announce the arrival of their beautiful full-blood Choctaw princess, Emma Ray Battiest. Emma was born at 7:05 p.m. on March 12, 2008. She was 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 19 inches long. Emma is the first grandchild of proud grandparents Thomas Billy and Janet Baker. Emma is also the 11th grandchild of Virgil Battiest and Martha Battiest. We thank God for the blessing he has given us.



Aidan Ryan Perkins

Aidan Ryan Perkins was born at 1:36 p.m. on March 20, 2008, at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. Aidan weighed 9 pounds 3.8 ounces and measured 21.2 inches long. Proud parents are Skyelar Perkins and Candace Jackson of Durant. Grandparents are Richard and Jeanetta Jackson of Broken Bow and Ernie and Andrea Perkins of Ada. Great-grandparents are Newman and Mary Tisho of Broken Bow, Ernest and Laurel Perkins of Artesia, New Mexico, Amanda James of Broken Bow and Andrew and Ruby Ledbetter of Clayton.



Jaydan Mykayla Diehl

Jaydan Mykayla Diehl was born on April 6, 2008, at St. John’s Hospital, weighing 8.4 pounds. Very proud parents are MichaelRyan and Alyssa Diehl. Jaydan is the first granddaughter of Kimberly Hoover and the first great-granddaughter of Bill and Pat Hoover. The Diehl family is now stationed in Mississippi with MichaelRyan being in the U.S. Air Force.



Sierra Joelle Williams

Sierra Joelle Williams was born April 17, 2008, at Lakeside Women’s Hospital in Oklahoma City. Proud parents are Nathan Williams and Jamie Judd. Sierra weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Grandparents are James and Regina Judd and Olin and Bernice Williams. Sierra’s sister, Savannah, and several aunts, uncles and cousins celebrated her arrival.



DISCOMFORT	WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT
	instead of lying right down. Drink liquids between meals instead of with meal.
Leg cramps	Stretch your leg before bedtime. Eat a banana every day.
Ankle/feet swelling	Wear loose-fitting shoes or sandals. Stay off your feet as much as possible. When sitting, try to put your feet up.
Need to urinate frequently	Find the nearest bathroom and go often. Limit fluids before bedtime, but be sure to drink at least 8 glasses of water and/or juice earlier in the day.

Tire easily	Try to sleep at least 8 hours a night. Rest 10-15 minutes, several times a day. Try some gentle exercise each day.
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Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids

promoting

National Women's Day

June 16, 2008

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come out and enjoy the fun.

**Choctaw Community Center
Talihina, Oklahoma**

Relationship skills,
Communication skills training
Commitment and
Renewing fun,
Healthy relationship

Contact

Mary Ayn Tullier or Barbara Brown
918-567-3386.

Prizes will be given for those who attend.
Lunch vouchers will be provided to those
who attend the morning session.



Sponsored by
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
A.N.A. and O.M.T.
Not based on nationality or ethnicity.

‘Take time to thank God every day’

John McKinney and Julia Billy met in May 1959 at the Dixon Chapel Presbyterian Church near Byars, Oklahoma. After a few months of dating, John proposed marriage and was ready to settle down and have a home and a family. Julia said “yes” but needed time to think about it. After all, what does a 19-year-old girl know about marriage, a husband, children and taking care of a family? After much prayer, she gave John a “definite yes.” They spoke to the pastor, the Rev. Eli Samuels, who held three counseling sessions before their wedding. They were married at the Oka Achukma Presbyterian Church on October 3, 1959.

Marriage was a big step for them. They only saw each other every other Saturday, unlike today where couples see each other every day. They wanted to provide a stable and loving home, so they talked about children, where they would live and go to church, and the fact that Julia’s mother would live alone.

They decided that with the love and support of both of their families, they would make a lifetime commitment to each other, that too many couples break up and divorce. This marriage, this commit-



ment would last for the rest of their lives.

“Marriage is based on love, commitment and trust, but most important, God,” said Julia. “A husband and wife are to be committed to each other, to be affectionate, polite and courteous, loving and to be a best friend to one another. They are to encourage, support and build each other up, to take time to thank God for their food and their home every day.”

They are both members of Oka Achukma Presbyterian Church.

Family has always been a

priority. John and Julia were blessed with six children, three boys and three girls. They had many concerns and responsibilities but continue to turn to God, the source of all wisdom.

“God has blessed us with a good life, six children, 18 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren of whom we are very proud. Every now and then we hear our children talk about their employment and duties, how committed they are to their jobs, how they do their best. This makes us feel good as it shows that they are dependable, hard workers,” said

Julia.

“We travel in many directions to attend football, basketball, soccer and baseball games to watch our grandchildren, many school programs and concerts, and we have traveled with the Choctaw youth dancers because our grandchildren danced. In the early 1970s, John and our six children were all Choctaw dancers. Soon this will be passed on to our great-grandchildren.

“We have many family gatherings to have a meal, to sit and visit and fellowship with each other. We have Easter egg hunts and Christmas celebrations. We go camping, cook out, play bingo, and some nights, we build a fire to sit around and tell stories. These are memory-making times that can’t be bought.

“God has been good to us. We continue to give him thanks for the many years that he has given to us to spend time with our children, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren and their spouses and our great-grandchildren.”

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by Him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.” – II Timothy 2:15

Hugo Wild Onion Dinner



Chief Greg Pyle, Pat Pyle, Angie Batton and Assistant Chief Gary Batton enjoy some time together at Hugo’s Wild Onion Dinner on April 22.



Councilman Perry Thompson stops by to visit with Floyd and Loraine Roebuck and Mary and Marshall Smith.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton receive gifts during the appreciation dinner.

Dyer-Labor reunion

Descendants and family friends of James Dyer and Malinda Labor Dyer are meeting June 14-15 at Tenkiller Lodge, 26247 Hwy. 82S, which is located south of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. We hope everyone can arrive by 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 14, for lunch and to kick off the day. On Sunday morning, several will be attending church services at D.D. Etchison Indian Methodist Church in Tahlequah. On Monday, several family members will caravan to McCurtain County and the surrounding area to visit cemeteries, old home places, etc. of Dyers and Labors. For more information, contact Becky Dyer, 918-457-3388. There will also be several items with the reunion logo for sale. Please contact Paul King at 918-836-6252 for information concerning these items.

Lewis Armstrong family reunion

The Lewis Armstrong family reunion will be held June 14-15 at Harmony Public School in Atoka. The school is 4 miles east of Atoka on Hwy. 3 and 2 miles south on Bentley Road. For information, please call Gary or Lori at 580-889-2316. Please bring your favorite foods, recipes and pictures. If you are a musician (or just want to be), please bring your musical instruments.

Redbird Memorial Gospel Singing

The 12th annual Redbird Memorial Gospel Singing will be 7 p.m. June 21 at the Portland Avenue Pentecostal Holiness Church, 3636 S.W. 39th (South 39th and Portland), Oklahoma City. The singing will be hosted by The Master’s Touch with Carl Willis as emcee. Special guest is The Chosen. Public invited! There will be a concession. For more information or to get on the list, contact Devon Fobb at 405-721-8975.

St. Matthew’s 52nd Annual Singing

The 52nd Annual Singing will be held at 7 p.m. June 21 at St. Matthew Church, 5 miles east of Broken Bow. Emcee is Henry Battiest.



District 8 Sr. Miss Princess Rachel Boykin and Jr. Miss Princess Rebeckah Boykin sing for everyone.



Chief Pyle is pictured with Mahli and Bethanie Webster.



Youth Outreach Advisors Keosha Ludlow and Jessie Ply.



Assistant Chief Batton says hello to Dutch Crews.

Results of May 10 Bow Shoot at Tushka Homma

Age 9-13

First: Cowen Littrell; Second: Jason Bugos; Third: Tyler Smith.

Age 14-16

First: Brand Bugos; Second: Joseph Folsom; Third: Mie

Cook.

Men 20 & over

First: Justin Jackson; Second: Jamie Houser; Second: Justin Martin; Fourth: Randall Wilson; Fifth: Leo Garvin; Sixth: Al Garganus;

Seventh: Jerry Macy.

Women 20 & over

First: Raina Kingen; Second: Sarah Folsom; Third: Pam Waugh; Fourth: Cyndi Houser; Fifth: Sue Folsom; Sixth: Becky Furginus; Sev-

enth: Imogene Bugos; Seventh: Beloved Sharp.

The Bow Shoot is held at 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the village area at Tushka Homma. Sign-up is at 10:30 a.m.

Birthday wishes to Bill and Lousie Amos

The Amos grandchildren would like to wish their grandparents a happy belated birthday. Bill Amos turned 85 on May 3 and Louise Amos turned 81 on May 6. Grandchildren in picture on top row, starting at left, are Justin, Dayla, and Derrick. Lower row from left are Nikki, Zachary, and Andrew.



Hoppers welcome new family members

Walter and Cynthia Hopper are happy to announce the adoption of their two new daughters. Carlson Victoria Kaitlen Hopper, born February 6, 2005, and Melody Addison Brina Hopper, born January 26, 2007. Grandparents are Don and Sina Hopper of Harrah, Jack and Joy Wagner of Moore, and Kathy Murray of Bartlesville. Siblings are Misty Lloyd, Stormy Slimp, Naomi Utley, Dakota Hughey, Dominick Hopper, Aryann Greenhoward, Kiara Greenhoward, Shania Greenhoward and Blake Greenhoward. Many thanks to Honorable Judge Kirby for completing our family.

Thank you

Justin Arnold would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department for their help with college.

Father and daughter’s birthdays

Happy fourth birthday to Stormi Rain on June 21. Stormi is the daughter of Chad and Regina Arnold of Colbert and the granddaughter of Aubrey and Ina Arnold and Robert and Tracey Risner of Eagletown. Happy birthday wishes are also sent from the rest of the family.



Stormi, her mother, Gina Arnold, and the rest of the family would like to wish Stormi’s father, Chad Arnold, a happy belated 30th birthday on June 1.



Celebrating birthday

Happy first birthday to Reed Tyler Allen on March 30. He is the son of Jason and Rachelle Reed Allen. His paternal grandparents are Ronald and Debbie Allen, and great-grandparents are Jolene Reeves Wackerly and Evelyn Allen. His maternal grandparents are Tim and Sandra Reed, great-grandparents W.E. and Linda Lawrence, great-grandmother Sherilyn Colvard. His Indian ancestry comes from his great-great-great-grandmother, Rhoda Hancock Strickland.



Cayden attends festival

Cayden Ray, son of Marcus and Holly Ray of Fort Worth, Texas, attended the 2008 Native American Indian Art & Music Festival, held yearly in Arlington, Texas. Cayden enjoyed seeing Native American art, listening to music and meeting native dancers and performers of many tribes, including some from his own Choctaw tribe. He was in awe of the costume of Navajo tribe member and dancer Lowery Begay, shown here. Cayden is the grandson of Nathan Dollar Sr. and Jackie Dollar of Irving, Texas, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray of Fort Worth.



Congratulations

Joshua Daney, 15, received a 1 rating in solo clarinet at the district band competition held at Southeastern Oklahoma State University on February 16. On April 17, Joshua also competed at a state level at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Joshua is the son of Stella Scott and Nathan Daney of Atoka. He is the grandson of the late Alene Daily and the late Jasper and Savannah Scott, and the great-grandson of the late Walter Wilson.



Congratulations Ashley

Congratulations to Ashley Corin Keifer who graduated high school from Edmond, Oklahoma, on May 16.



Happy 18th Birthday

Birthday wishes go out to Heather Nicole on April 19. She is the daughter of Sydney and Bo Baker of Moore. She is the granddaughter of Lavada Baker and the late Madison Baker of Wright City, Patty Fry of Moore, and the late Larry Fry of Hugo. Her brother, Larry, aunts, uncles and cousins would like to wish Heather a happy 18th birthday.



50th anniversary is celebrated

Happy 50th anniversary on June 1, 2008, to Aubrey and Ina Arnold. Congratulations from Tim, Shelly, Chad, Gina, and all the grandkids.



Happy first birthday

Happy first birthday on June 18 to Carina Harp-Harlow. Birthday wishes from parents Kenny and the former Candace Harp-Harlow; grandparents Glenda Harlow and Dick and Belinda Drywater; great-grandparents Anita Lemons, Mr. and Mrs. George Drywater and Curtis and Judy Jones; uncles Glenn Brown and David Harlow and aunt Leona Harlow; cousins Chris and Fiona Harlow; and sisters Micah Jones and Kailyn Harp-Harlow. She is a direct descendant to the late Eliza Loman Bishop and Dora Corrine Holder.



Look who’s 2!

Happy belated second birthday on May 1 to Kailyn Harp-Harlow. Birthday wishes from parents Kenny and the former Candace Harp-Harlow, grandparents Glenda Harlow and Dick and Belinda Drywater, great-grandparent Anita Lemons, Mr. and Mrs. George Drywater and Curtis and Judy Jones, uncles Glenn Brown and David Harlow and aunt Leona Harlow, cousins Chris and Fiona Harlow and sisters Micah Jones and Kailyn Harp-Harlow. She is a direct descendant of the late Eliza Loman Bishop and Dora Corrine Holder.



40th anniversary

The children of Art and Pat Adamson would like to say congratulations as they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on June 15. From Chris, Missy, Garrett, Nathan, Jeff, Daniel, Tammy, Amanda, Tasha, Mowgli, Ceaira, Bayle, Michael, Shannon, Anastasia, Nicholae, and their first great-grandbaby to come.



Choctaw receives award

Gena Isom was recently honored by her employer, JCPenney with a 2007 Customer Service Champions Award. Gena and her guest were flown to Orlando, Florida, where they stayed at the Gaylord Resort. Activities included trips to Universal Studios and an elegant awards dinner ceremony, where Gena received a trophy and shook the hand of JCPenney CEO Mike Ullman. Gena earned this award by supervising the styling salon in McAlester for the top sales gain in the district. Since then, Gena has been promoted and transferred to a brand new salon in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Gena graduated high school in 1989 from Stringtown and received her Bachelor of Science from Willamette University in 1997. Isom is the daughter of the late Harold Isom and Patricia Roberts of Roseburg, Oregon. Her grandmother is Flora Isom of Daisy, Oklahoma. She has a daughter, Sapphire Kennedy of McAlester.

Sixth anniversary is celebrated

Michael and Shannon Adamson celebrated their 6-year wedding anniversary on May 25. They met 11 years ago and have been together ever since.



Congratulations

Lashun Oakley was elected to the Oklahoma DECA Officer team at the 65th Annual DECA Career Development Conference held in Tulsa on February 26 and 27. Lashun will serve as the president for the 2008-09 school year. The first-ever CareerTech organization president from Latta, Lashun Oakley is a junior at Latta and the daughter of Arles and Stacy Oakley.



DECA is affiliated with the occupational division of Marketing Education in the CareerTech system. This national organization provides opportunities for students to develop skills and obtain experience in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. Approximately 3,000 high school and technology center students are members of Oklahoma DECA. Lahsun recently completed one term as Oklahoma State DECA Reporter.

Happy seventh birthday

The parents of Savannah Lee Harris would like to wish her a happy seventh birthday. Savannah’s parents are Jon and Lesley Harris of Broken Bow.



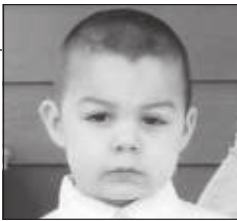
Student receives award

MeAnnda Davis was recently accepted into the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society. Nominees must have a 3.9 grade point average and be involved in cultural and school activities. She is the 15-year-old daughter of Timothy and Nora Davis of Wright City. Davis is a sophomore at Wright City High School.



Happy fourth birthday

Nicholae Adamson celebrates his fourth birthday with family and friends with a backyard firehouse party. Wishing him a great birthday are his Daddy, Mommy and his big sister.



Lillie’s story

On October 26, 1915, a great lady was born. Lillie Christine was born to Benjamin Ralphard and Maude Victoria Langston Long at Wardville, Oklahoma. She grew up in the Limestone Gap area between Wardville and Stringtown where she met and married her high school sweetheart, Jones Peeler Beal, on March 3, 1934.



After they graduated from high school, Jones worked as a cowboy for Lacy Bowen and Lillie cooked for the ranch crew. Jones worked for the Bowens until World War II. Jones was always a cowboy and spent his spare time at the rodeos. He entered every event including bull-riding, bareback bronc-riding, bull-dogging and wild cow-milking with his daughter, Virginia, and team-roping with his brother Emer. Lillie was by his side and after the children and grandchildren were born she took them to watch.

During the rough times when Jones was away working, Lillie went out and hunted squirrel and rabbit to feed her girls. Being a crack shot, she had no trouble bringing home the meat.

Lillie has lived on both oceans and near the Gulf of Mexico and traveled to most of the United States, England, Canada, and Old Mexico. Some would say her hobbies were sports, basketball, baseball and stock car racing, but this writer thinks it is the love for her family and friends that keeps her going. She was a mother, grandmother, babysitter and ran the Sale Barn Cafe in Atoka, Oklahoma. She also worked as a provider for the elderly in the county and a transport driver for those people when they were unable to drive themselves. At age 77, Lillie was doing foster grandparenting in the school at Atoka. Everyone that knows her calls her “Granny Beal.”

At age 92, Lillie is living in a nursing home outside Oklahoma City. She has a total of four children, 13 great-grandchildren, 30 great-great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great-great-grandchildren. Lillie C. Beal is loved my many.

Couple celebrates fifth anniversary

Happy fifth Anniversary to Chad and Gina from your family. They celebrated their anniversary on June 1, 2008.



Happy 14th birthday

Happy belated 14th birthday on April 14 to Christopher Harlow. Birthday wishes from parents David and Leona Harlow; grandmothers Glenda Harlow and Kathy Westlin; great-grandparent Anita Lemons; uncles Kenny Harp-Harlow, Glen Brown and Ben; cousins Kailyn and Carina Harp-Harlow; and little sister Fiona. He is a direct descendant of the late Eliza Loman Bishop and Dora Corrine Holder.



Thank you

Chad and Regina Arnold would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Vocational Rehab, and District #2 Councilman Mike Amos for helping us obtain our educations.

Happy birthday

Happy belated 10th birthday on May 2 to Fiona Harlow. Birthday wishes from parents David and Leona Harlow; grandmothers Glenda Harlow and Kathy Westlin; great-grandparent Anita Lemons; uncles Kenny Harp-Harlow, Glen Brown and Ben; cousins Kailyn and Carina Harp-Harlow; and big brother Chris. She is a direct descendant of the late Eliza Loman Bishop and Dora Corrine Holder.



Happy birthday

Aire Sequoyah Thorne turned 13 years old on April 14. She celebrated her birthday at Riverwind Casino by eating crab legs. Her parents, John Thorne and Marie Bateman, and sisters Melody and Trinity, also helped her celebrate. Aire is the granddaughter of Gene and La Homa Crauthers of Oklahoma City and the great granddaughter of the late William T. and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Happy fourth birthday

Lee and Linda Knight would like to wish their granddaughter Makayla Hood a happy belated fourth birthday on March 8. She celebrated with her Papa Lee who also celebrated a birthday on March 9.



Congratulations

Shilah Danielle Allen is graduating from Steamboat Springs High School in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She has an A grade point average and was involved in advanced placement classes. Shilah has received a Native American Scholarship and a Merit Scholarship to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She plans on pursuing a teaching degree with an emphasis in Spanish, Art and English. She wants to devote her career to helping children in need, and plans on teaching in third world countries or low income, high need areas in the United States.



Thankful for grandchildren’ education

Gloria Simmons of Arlington, Virginia, would like to thank Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation so much for providing help on college scholarships for her grandchildren, Laura Renee Graff and Christopher Perry Graff. It was very much appreciated! Christopher graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

Blan achieves Eagle Scout rank

Michael “Cody” Blan of Quinlan, Texas, has been awarded the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America. In addition to the Eagle Scout rank, he has earned the Bronze and Gold Eagle Palms, and plans to complete his Silver Eagle Palm. Blan is a member of Troop 392 in Quinlan and currently holds the position of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Troop 392’s Charter Organization is the Quinlan Volunteer Fire Department and the executive leader is Fire Marshall Steve Bowen. Blan is also a member of the Order of Arrow, the national honor society of Boy Scouts.

A minimum of 21 merits must be earned to qualify for Eagle and Blan has earned 41 badges. For his Eagle project, Blan supervised the installation of two eagle perches at the Geoffrey A. Sweeney Environmental Education Center, an outdoor education center on Lake Tawakoni, near Quinlan. The center is operated by a partnership between Boles Independent School District, Texas A & M University-Commerce, and Sabine River Authority, and is dedicated to educating students about the natural world. The perches were designed to attract the American eagle to the north side of Lake Tawakoni. Since completion of

the project, there have been exciting reports of eagles on the perches, and several new eagle nests have appeared in the area. Blan attributes the success of his Eagle project to Dr. Graham A. Sweeney, superintendent of Boles ISD; project manager, David McDowell, and crew members, Justin Kemp and Bobby Roberts, of Farmer’s Electric Cooperative, Greenville, Texas. The project took over 200 hours; and due to the area’s extreme rains, almost two years to complete. Blan is very appreciative to all other project volunteers, including his parents, Boles Environmental Science instructor Stephanie Lewis, troop adult leaders Jay Paulson, Scoutmaster Jeff McNeil and Assistant Scoutmaster Mark Smith, and scouts Brandon Clowers, James Dome, Jeffery McNeil, James McNeil and Valentino Nevarez.

Blan joined Boy Scouts in 1997 and for 11 years has been involved in hundreds of hours in area community service and scouting activities. He credits his success in the scouting program to the dedication and support of his parents and other troop leaders, and especially to Jerry Johnson, longtime troop Scoutmaster, and Jay Paulson, Committee Chair and Unit Commissioner. According to



Blan, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Paulson helped him to understand the true meaning of being a scout and always kept it fun and exciting.

Blan attends both Boles High School in Quinlan and Paris Junior College in Greenville, and will graduate with honors from both in May. Besides boy scouts, he is active in extracurricular school programs including Beta Club, Band, PALS and Phi Theta Kappa and has received numerous academic scholarships, honors and awards, including national awards. Blan plans to attend college at Texas A&M in Commerce, Texas, and is the recipient of a full scholarship in the Honors College.

Blan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Blan of Quinlan, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin R. Stell, Paris, Texas, and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Blan, Antlers.

Flintco provides \$25,000 scholarship

Tulsa-based company to also give selected students an internship

Flintco Companies of Tulsa has announced the gift of a \$25,000 scholarship to the Choctaw Nation’s Scholarship Advisement Program according to Choctaw Nation Chief, Gregory E. Pyle. In addition, students selected for this scholarship will also receive a paid internship with Flintco including a mentor to act as a company advisor.

The Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) focuses on college preparation and retention for Choctaw students. The program’s goals are to support Choctaw students and to help them set and achieve high goals and standards. Eligible students must be Choctaw, 18 years of age, and majoring in a four-year accredited university. Students must have a minimum ACT score of 25 or SAT score of 1140 and must maintain a cumulative 3.0 gpa or above. The Flintco Companies will make their Choctaw scholarship available to students interested in a wide range of study fields including but not limited to: Project Management, Field



Darryl Harris, vice president of Flintco, and Joy Culbreath, Education Executive Director, seated; Karen Hall, Flintco Human Resources director; Jo McDaniel, Director of SAP, and Dewayne Gifford, Flintco project executive.

Superintendence, Estimating, Marketing, Pre-Construction Services, Aministration/Management, Quality Assurance/Quality Control, Safety, Accounting & Finance, Information Technology, Risk Management, Scheduling, Human Resources, Equipment Operation, Crafts-Labor, Carpentry, and Cement Finishing.

To qualify for the scholarship students must have a complete portfolio on file with the Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement Program. Students can begin the profile completion process online at www.choctawnation-sap.com, and submit the required supporting documentation. For

questions or more information about Choctaw Nation’s Scholarship Advisement Program, students should contact Jo McDaniel, Director of Scholarship Advisement; jomcdaniel@choctawnation.com; phone 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2547.

Flintco is a privately held American Indian owned company now in its third generation of family ownership. With more than 700 employees and nine offices nationwide, Flintco is one of the largest contractors in the United States according to Engineering News Record and is the largest American Indian owned contractor in the world.

Congratulations

Cathleena Elizabeth VanLoan graduated from Sante Fe South High School in Oklahoma City. She is the daughter of Tina Hembree-Enslinger and Ed Enslinger of Oklahoma City and Michael VanLoan of Lake City, New Mexico. She is currently ranked 20th in her class. Her accomplishments have been receiving a superior rating at the OSSAA Regional Competition for Vocal Solo and a superior at OSSAA State Competition. She was also elected Winter Homecoming Queen. The year she was involved in Saints Chorale, Oklahoma City Community College Symphonic Choir, and the Learn and Serve Committee. She is enrolled at Oklahoma City Community College where she plans to pursue a Music Degree. Her long-term goal is to pursue Vocal Music Therapy at a four-year university.



Achievement award winner

Goldie Mae Traylor, 18, an Altus High School graduate, currently enrolled in University of Central Oklahoma and plans to become a medical examiner/forensic pathologist. Goldie was a state track team runner-up, state winner in 4 by 100 relay, earned three superior awards at the University of Oklahoma NDA camp, and earned three spirit awards. Her other awards include a citizenship award, athletic leadership award, honor roll, and two showmanship awards. She was also named Who’s Who Among American High School Students and Athletes and All Around 9th Grade Girl. She recently participated in the Miss Altus Scholarship Pageant and was awarded the Marion Wood Special Achievement Award.

She is the daughter of Kimberley Traylor of Altus and the granddaughter of Vernon and Versie Traylor of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Z.L. and Inez Andrews, the great-great-granddaughter of Julia Gardner Dunford, an original enrollee, and the great-great-great-granddaughter of Isabelle Ishcomer Gardner, an original enrollee.



Rice University graduate

The family of Jake Schornick would like to congratulate Jake on graduating from Rice University and thank Choctaw Nation Higher Education for the financial support provided for their son. While attending Rice University, he was elected and served for two years as Student Chief Justice, was awarded the John E. Parrish Fellowship which allowed him five weeks of travel/study in Ireland and Scotland last summer, founded the Rice Club baseball team and during his junior year his batting average was ranked eighth nationally. He was recently one of the few nominated for Outstanding Senior and graduated cum laude from Rice University on May 10 with a cumulative gpa of 3.76 in English and religious studies. Following graduation, he accepted a position as director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Rice, but plans to further his post-graduate work at either Cal Berkley, Nortre Dame or the University of Toronto.



McChristians celebrate 50th anniversary

Howard Cates McChristian and Hauna Ruth Moore were married on May 30, 1958, in Big Spring, Texas. The couple lived in Big Spring until 1976, when Mr. McChristian was transferred to Louisiana by Sid Richardson Carbon Black Company. The couple moved, with their five children, to Denham Springs, Louisiana, in 1976. Mr. McChristian left Sid Richardson in 1993 and went to work for Venture Transport in 1994, where he remains working at this present time. Mrs. McChristian was a housewife and full-time mother until 1986 when she put in Hauna’s Professional Answering Service in Denham Springs. She sold the business in 1996 and became a co-driver with her husband. She remains there at this present time, but only works part-time.

The couple were give a gift of a trip to Nashville, Tennessee, by their children and their families. Their children are Jimmy Howard and Donna McChristian, Jerry Jeff McChristian, Jason Lloyd and Monic McChristian, Justin Cates and Suzanne McChristian, and Johauna Leann and Donald Legé, all of Denham Springs. They are grandparents of Katrina, Kelli, Kevin, Britney, Cherie, Ben, Jarmen, Keri, Kayren, Josh, Brandi, Blake, Catherine, Jeff Mikell and Shauna. They are great-grandparents of Dawson, Dalton, Caydence, Victoria, Mitchell, Hosea and Landon.

Mr. McChristian graduated from Forsan High School in 1957 and Mrs. McChristian was in the class of 1958 at Big Spring High School. Mr. McChristian is the son of the late B.F. and Lela Cates McChristian and Mrs. McChristian is the daughter of the late Lloyd and Ruby Moore. They were all of Big Spring. They are both Church of Christ and former members of 14th and Main Church of Christ in Big Spring.

Mrs. McChristian is a member of the Choctaw Nation. Her maternal grandmother was Ada Wilson Pugh, an original enrollee of the Choctaw tribe, and Mrs. McChristian is very proud of her Indian heritage as was her mother, Ruby Pugh Moore. They are part of the Nowatima family.



OSU graduate

The family of Regina Risner Arnold would like to congratulate her for graduating from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Physical Education. We are very proud of her. Regina is the daughter of Robert and Tracey Risner, the granddaughter of Loretha Bohanan and the late Preston Bohanan of Eagletown and Vina Parker of Hots Springs, Arkansas, and the late Bob Risner of Langley, Arkansas.



Arnold graduates

The family of Chad Arnold would like to congratulate him for graduating from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Nutrition and Exercise. We are very proud of you. Chad is the son of Aubrey and Ina Arnold, the grandson of Ruth Doan, and the grandson of the late Gordon and Irene Warford of Eagletown.



Cox receives superior rating

Choctaw Tribal member William “Olen” Cox, a 16-year-old junior at Hugo High School, received a superior rating with his alto saxophone when competing in the State Solo Contest on April 15. The contest was held at the Oklahoma State University campus in Stillwater. Olen is a member of the Hugo High School Marching, Concert and Jazz bands and the Hugo High School Neon Show Choir. He has received superior ratings for the past three years at the District level and an excellent rating at last year’s State Solo Competition. Olen is the son of Choctaw Nation Housing employee Anita Lee of Grant and Layton Cox of Hugo.



Hartshorne High Reunion

Hartshorne High’s Class of 1983 is holding its 25th reunion, Saturday, July 5, at the Catholic Hall, 912 Cherokee Avenue in Hartshorne, 6 p.m. to midnight. All 1983 graduates, family, friends, and faculty are invited to attend. Please bring photos and any memorabilia that you would like to share. For more information, contact David Burch at 918-584-3418 or e-mail Hartshorne83@aol.com.

Congratulations

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Karah Kathleen Britton of Longmont, Colorado. Karah graduated in May from the Metro State University of Denver with a Bachelor of Arts with emphasis in Theater Management and a minor in Advertising Journalism. Karah is the daughter of Duane and Susan Britton and also is the granddaughter of James and Glyta Britton, all of Poteau.



Woods receives Bachelor of Arts degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Christopher Michael Woods. He graduated from the University of Oregon on June 14 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Arnold earns BA

The family of Justin Arnold would like to congratulate him on his graduation from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Radio, Television and Film. Justin is the son of Tim and Shelly Arnold of Mesquite, Texas, and Terri Fields of Atlanta, Texas. He is the grandson of Aubrey and Ina Arnold, Howard and Mary Lou Williams of Eagletown, and Iva Jean Willis of Atlanta, Texas.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS
July 2: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed).
July 9: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2; (warehouse closed).
Market open: July 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28.
Closed for Inventory July 29-31. Closed for Holiday: July 4.

DURANT
Warehouse open weekdays July 1-28.
Closed for Inventory July 29-31. Closed for Holiday: July 4.

McALESTER
July 1: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed).
Warehouse open weekdays July 2-28.
Closed for Inventory July 29-31. Closed for Holiday: July 4.

POTEAU
Market open weekdays July 1-28.
Closed for Inventory July 29-31. Closed for Holiday: July 4.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSE

Antlers: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: Warehouse, 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716
Poteau: Market, 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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Amanda Ade



Elizabeth Ade



Joshua Dwayne Billie



Amanda Cervantes



April Conley



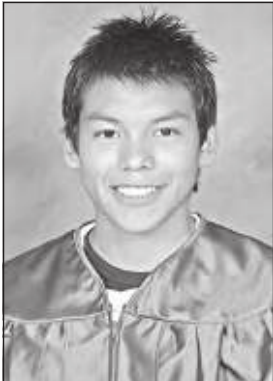
Autumn Ecoffey



Micheal Fields



Yoniyah Harjo



Abe Harrison



Frosty Herrera



Dianne Jackson



Casey Kauley



Meghan Poafpybitty



Kimberly Ramone

Jones Academy Class of 2008

Amanda Ade, 19, is the daughter of Yulonda Mathis and Christopher Ade of McAlester. She is the granddaughter of Watson and Kenneth Mathis and Shirlene and Don Ade. Amanda plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

Elizabeth Ade, 19, is also the daughter of Yulonda Mathis and Christopher Ade of McAlester. She is Amanda’s twin sister. She is the granddaughter of Watson and Kenneth Mathis and Shirlene and Don Ade. Elizabeth is interested in a business degree.

Joshua Dwayne Billie, 19, is the son of Joseph Billie II of Seminole and Retired SFC Sharon Knight, from Foley, Alabama. He is the grandson of Evans and Teresa Wise of Meeker and Celestine and the late Douglas Yearling of Foley, Alabama. Joshua plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College and major in drama.

Amanda Cervantes is the 18-year-old daughter of Alex and Jacquelyn Gibson of Pauls Valley and Alberto Cervantes Sr. Her grandparents are James and Sharon Hickman, Johnny and Deloyce Thorn, and the late Demetrio and Esperanza Cervantes. Amanda plans to attend classes at Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall.

April Dawn Dillishaw Conley, 18, is the daughter of Linda Kay Conley and Uath Conley, both of Rattan. Her grandparents

are Betty Dillishaw and Clarence Ivy Dillishaw. April plans to attend classes at the Kiamichi Technology Center and become a certified nurse’s assistant.

Autumn Ecoffey, 18, is the daughter of Dale Ecoffey Sr. and Connie Little Hawk from Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She is the granddaughter of Paul and Teresa Ecoffey. Autumn will attend classes in the fall at Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City, South Dakota. She interested in becoming an RN.

Micheal Dewayne Fields, 19, is the son of Lois Harjo and Randy Shelby of Okemah. He is the grandson of the late Henry and Judy Harjo. Micheal is scheduled to attend Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah in the fall. After completing his course of study, Micheal plans to attend Northeastern State University.

Yoniyah Harjo, 18, is the son Chamona Deere and Jackson Harjo Jr. of Okemah. He is the grandson of Margaret and Harjo Jackson and Edna and Phillip Deere. Yoniyah will enter the Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah upon graduation. His course of study will be in culinary arts.

Abe Harrison, 18, is the son of Jerry and Harriet Harrison, both of Shawnee. Abe plans on joining the Marines after graduation.

Faustine “Frosty” Herrera, 17, is the daughter of Christine Smith and Larry Herrera of Dallas, Texas. She is the granddaughter of Feliz and Jesse Herrera. After graduation, Frosty plans to work and then attend cosmetology school in the Dallas area.

Dianne Jackson is the 19-year-old daughter of Helen and Donald Jackson of Ada. Dianne plans to attend classes at East Central University in the fall.

Casey Kauley, 18, is the granddaughter of Rose Neconie of Tulsa. She plans to attend voc-tech classes in Tulsa and be gainfully employed.

Meghan Poafpybitty, 18, is the daughter of Michele Poafpybitty and Nathan Ward of McQueen, Arkansas. She is the granddaughter of Amelia James and Charles Poafpybitty. Meghan is interested in attending Cossatot Community College in DeQueen and study cosmetology.

Kimberly Grace Ramone, 18, is an honors student. She is the daughter of Edison and Grace Ramone, both of Pueblo Pineda, New Mexico. Her grandparents are Wilson Ramone and the late Mary Ramone and Johnny and Martha Sandavol. Kim is a recipient of the McCabe II Scholarship at Langston University in Langston. The Honors Program award is a four-year academic scholarship.



JA students visit Museum of Natural History

Jones Academy Junior and High School students were treated to a trip to the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman. The students gain insights into their cultural traditions including Native American art, original native dress styles as well as arrowheads dating back to the early 1800s. The students enjoyed learning about their ancestors and ancestral heritage.

Following the trip to the museum, staff provided a nice meal for the kids at Golden Corral. After lunch, the students went to the Oklahoma City Zoo where they enjoyed the rest of the afternoon looking at different animals and exhibits. This was a well-deserved break after a long year of academic progress.

Fifth-graders invited to fishing clinic

On April 23, Jones Academy fifth-graders were invited to a fishing clinic at the McAlester Youth Lake. The clinic, sponsored by the Pittsburg County Conservation District, provided different activities for the students to promote awareness for the environment and natural resources.

When the children arrived at the lake, they were assigned to five different learning stations that included Casting, Rules and Regulations, Fish Identification, Bugs and Insects (that live in the water), and Professional Angling. The students had 12 minutes at each station. When they were finished at the learning centers, the children went fishing and had a fantastic time catching perch.

The clinic provided the poles and the bait for each student. The clinic also gave away prizes for students catching the biggest fish and the most fish. Before leaving the McAlester Youth Lake, Pittsburg County Conservation District repre-



Jayelin Chatlin catches a whopper!

sentatives presented each student with a free Zebco fishing pole. Afterwards, the students sent thank you notes to all of

the volunteers who helped put the clinic together. The fifth-graders really enjoyed fishing and getting outdoors!

4-H Club participates in Oklahoma Youth Expo

Cheyenne Neal, a seventh-grader from Jones Academy 4-H Club, exhibited the second place class VIII Hampshire barrow at the Oklahoma Youth Expo, recently held at Oklahoma City March 16-20. This event is the world’s largest Jr. Livestock Show with over 4,000 market swine entries. A total of only 55 market swine qualify for premium sale honors. Cheyenne and her barrow, “Socks,” were among this very elite group selected for the honor. Cheyenne’s barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy. Other students from Jones Academy competing at the OYE are:

Nichalle Evans – exhibited a first place class I Chester Barrow (first alternate for premium sale) and a fourth class VII Cross.

Rachelle Dinardo – exhibited a fourth place class VII Hampshire Barrow.



Brandon Spears, Choctaw Nation agriculture; Jones Academy student Cheyenne Neal; and Randy Tipton, Jones Academy staff.

Jessica Sampson – Exhibited a fourth place class VI Hampshire Barrow and a 11th-place class XII Cross Barrow.

Felicia Nunn – exhibited a class VII Hampshire Barrow.

Jones Academy 4-Hers appreciate Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their continued support at livestock premium sales.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
J			1 Antlers by appt only	2 Durant 10 am-12 pm	3	4 HOLIDAY <small>Independence Day</small>
U			8 Wright City by appt only	9 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	10	11 Idabel 10 am-2 pm
L			15 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	16 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	17	18 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm
Y			22 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	23 Durant by appt only	24	25 Poteau 11:30 am- 1 pm
2			29	30	31	
0						
8						

A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.



Mr. Martin's third and fourth grade class.



Mr. Dugan's sixth grade class.

Jones Academy classes meet the challenge

The Jones Academy third through sixth grades met the challenge of State Testing in April united by T-shirts designed by three classrooms. Mrs. Martin's classes chose the slogan "We Rock," suggested by Cyrus Battiest with the names of all the testing students on the back. Mr. Sirmans' class collectively designed a bear with words to inspire the students. Mr. Dugan's sixth grade chose a design drawn by Ismial Garibay. All the elementary students, teachers, and test monitors wore the T-shirts consecutively on the days of testing.



Mr. Sirmans' fifth grade class.



Jones Academy holds Health Fair in April

Jones Academy held a health fair on April 6 for first grade through sixth grade students. Students at Jones Academy enjoyed fun activities and educational presentations that included self-esteem, drug and alcohol abuse, nutrition and physical activity.

Each student received gifts from presenters and from the Tahina hospital marketing office and Diabetes Wellness Center Happy Heart program.

On behalf of Jones Academy, we would like to thank all presenters and volunteers for making this event a success.



Everyone's a winner!

Jones Academy's first- through fourth-graders participated in the Junior Olympics held at the McAlester Ammunition Plant on April 19, 2008. Students competed in various events including basketball, tennis, and track and field. After the contests, the students enjoyed a hamburger and hotdog cookout along with cool refreshments. The participants had a great time and everybody was a winner!



Enroll now at Jones Academy

We are accepting applications for the 2008-09 school year. We have openings in grades 1 through 12.

Tour our new facilities for our elementary school!

***Come join us!
Be a part of the future!***

- Take advantage of the residential program benefits:
- Tutorial assistance for all grades (1st-12th)
 - Rewards for academic achievement
 - High school graduation expenses paid/scholarships
 - Career counseling/college and post-secondary preparation
 - Voc-tech training
 - Summer Youth Work Program
 - Medical and counseling services provided
 - Alternative Education Program
 - Traditional/cultural activities
 - Recreational activities and educational trips
 - Agriculture Program

Please call for a tour or an application at toll-free 888-767-2518 or access www.choctawnation.com or write Jones Academy, HCR 74 Box 102-5, Hartshorne, OK 74547

To the youth of the nation Safety Tips for teens in the workplace

By Erica Martinez
Choctaw Nation
Youth Advisory Board

Young workers are not as prepared and experienced as older adults when it comes to identifying and avoiding safety risks while on the job and are more apt to be injured. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2004, more than 38,000 teen workers were injured on the job and another 134 were fatally injured.

However, by the teen worker and employer adhering to laws governing teen workers, and by taking some precautions and conducting adequate training, teen workers can have a safe and productive summer. According to Department of Labor and Industries research, teens are twice as likely to suffer a workplace injury as adults. Also, teen workers often begin summer jobs with a sense of excitement and a desire to prove themselves, with little knowledge of the critical safety practices.

Work experiences can be a great benefit to teen workers, but it may also be hazardous. The following are safety tips in the workplace:

- Knowledge about the potential safety hazards in the work area that you may encounter.
- Find out who you need to ask if you have a safety question.
- Ask your employer about procedures and emergency exits.
- Ask your employer where the fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and other emergency equipment are located.
- If you are injured on the job, who is the first aid person.
- Don't be in such a hurry to perform your job duties.
- If there is something that you are not sure about then ask a supervisor or manager! Be safe, don't learn the hard way!!!

These safety tips can be a great benefit to you and your employer, regardless of where you work – restaurant, grocery store, office, retail stores, maintenance work, or on a farm. For more information about guidance on preventing injuries for teen workers in the workplace, visit youthrules.doc.gov.



Elementary students learn fun activities

Scott Horstman, SDPI Healthy Heart community activity manager, spent the afternoon recently with the Jones Academy elementary students. Mr. Horstman taught the students the importance of being physically active and how to have fun doing it.



Cynthia Brown, Jazlynn Bernal, Kayelee Chatlin, Jeromy Barker, Desma Valdez, Levi Williamson, Joseph Simpson, Sydney Moore and Jessica Sampson. Not pictured: B.J. Nunn.

Jones Academy names Super Students

Students Jazlynn Bernal and Desma Valdez, both from Mrs. Wells' first grade class, were chose the fourth nine weeks Super Students at Jones Academy. Jazlynn is the daughter of Shanna Bernal of Tulsa and Desma is the daughter of Amy Valdez of Eagle Pass, Texas.

Third-grader Joseph Simpson and fourth-grader Kayelee Chatlin were named Mrs. Martin's fourth nine weeks Super Students. Joseph is the son of Jennifer Simpson of Sulphur and the grandson of Kenny and Wanda Justice of Hartshorne. Kayelee is the daughter of Gale Chatlin of Sacaton, Arizona.

Mr. Sirmans selected Cynthia Brown and Jessica Sampson as the fifth grade Super Students. Cynthia is a "High Level" reader who enjoys memorizing poems. She is the granddaughter of R.J. and Betty Brown of Ada. Jessica has been a student at Jones Academy for

three years. She has been involved in the 4-H swine program. She found the fifth grade fun with the hands-on learning experiences. Jessica is the daughter of Christina Jones and Hal Sampson. She is from Clayton.

Jeromy Barker and Billie Jo Nunn are Mr. Dugan's sixth-grade Super Students for the fourth nine weeks. A student at Jones Academy since 2003, Jeromy is the grandson of Bobbie Johnson of McAlester. Billie Jo is the daughter of Larry and Joyce Timmons of Keota. She is a second-time Super Student this year.

Levi Williamson, son of Ronald Williamson Jr. of Caddo, and Sydney Moore, son of Marshall Moore of Philadelphia, Mississippi, were named the Jones Academy Alternative School's most notable students for the fourth nine weeks.



Bentley places in sharp shooting competition

Brayden Bentley, 9, placed third in the .22 shooting competition on May 11 at Old Settlers Day in Milburn, Oklahoma.

Brayden is the son of Aaron and Anita Bentley and the grandson of Carolyn Bates of Durant and Patti and Larry Bentley of Milburn. He is the great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Glenn of Odessa, Texas, and Janice Klasing of Altus, Oklahoma. His family would like to say "Good job!"

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

July 7, 2008

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center
219 N. Broadway,
Hugo, Oklahoma

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

July 7, 2008

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1-4 p.m.

EOSC
McAlester Campus
1802 E. College Ave.,
McAlester, Oklahoma

McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

July 8, 2008

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1-4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

HASKELL COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

July 8, 2008

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1-4 p.m.

Choctaw Nation Community Center
Hwy. 82,
Stigler, Oklahoma

The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday for approximately three months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, call 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319 or 2122. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.



Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton give new briefcases to Okla Chahta Board Members Ryan Mackay, Vice President Mike Bryant, Theresa Harrison, Nancy Long, President Bill Harrison, Victoria Harrison, and not pictured Aaron Wilkins.



Sarah Goins with Chief Pyle.

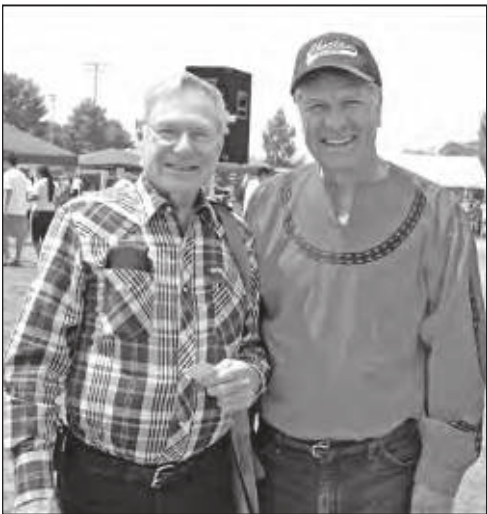
The Okla Chahta Gathering

◆◆◆◆◆

Bakersfield, California



Choctaw Color Guard is followed into the circle by all of the veterans to open the 13th annual gathering of the Okla Chahta Clan of California on May 3. The Broken Bow dancers fall in with steps to the war dance.



Bill Blythe and Chief Greg Pyle.



Paul Behill of Bakersfield plays his new flute with Choctaw Storyteller Tim Tingle.



Delton Cox and Joe Coley with Ron McGriff of Tulane and Bob Highfill of San Diego, California.



Choctaw social dancing is taught.



The kids love the corn game.



Suzanne Hewitt, Dorothy Crites and Geraldine Kerr.



Councilman Kenny Bryant is pictured with several members of the Bryant Family.



Councilman Anthony Dillard says hello to Roscoe and Chloe Arbuckle.



Melissa Gardner-McBride, Libby McBride, Eli and Olivia.



Scott and Doug Bryant, Councilman Perry Thompson and Joe Coley.



Chief Pyle visits with Darryl Branam and Jack Griffith.



Visiting Councilpersons Jack Austin, Charlotte Jackson and Hap Ward.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and wife Angie greet California relatives Jennifer Clay Jenkins, Doug Clay, Caden Clay, Shannon Clay, Cathy Clay and Clayton Myers.



Chief holds Emma Rose as he poses for photo with Ste, Eric and Kim Stafford. Kim is the great-great-granddaughter of Code Talker Calvin Wilson.



The Okla Chahta Clan honors Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Councilman Joe Coley and the Seniors of District 6 presented Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton with marble bird baths and benches during a wild onion dinner held in their honor.



Tammye Gwin, Angel Rowland and relatives Sharon Aaron and Pauline Groggins.

Wilburton Wild Onion Dinner



Ready for an old-fashioned meal of salt pork, fried potatoes and wild onions are, left, Deloris Holloway, Mildred Davis, Edith McMinn, Topsy Williams and Alice and Joe Wilson. Across the table are Betty Roberts, Donald and Vonetta Busse, Norma Coleman, Amelia Steen and Dixon Lewis Jr.



Wendell and Dora Dennis enjoy attending Choctaw events.



Brian McClain, executive director over the travel plazas, EOSC President Dr. Stephen Smith, Garrett, and Councilman Coley visit after dinner.



Mozelle Jefferson and Mary Morris get their picture taken.

ATTENTION CHOCTAW ARTISTS

If you are interested in participating in a Juried and Judged Choctaw Indian Art Show
LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please fill out the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the show which will be in Tushka Homma during the 2008 Labor Day festivities. Categories include: painting, graphics, cultural, sculpture, jewelry, pottery and basketry. To receive an entry packet, fill out the form and return to the address below.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone number _____
E-mail address _____
Artistic category _____

You must be at least 17 years old and have a membership card issued by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Return to: **Cindy Matson, HR**
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
P.O. Box 1210
Durant, OK 74702

For more information, call Cindy Matson at 800-522-6170, ext. 2481.



Assistant Chief Batton and Juanita and Ed Barker.



Mary White, the wife of the late Sidney White, was brought to the Wilburton center by her neighbor, Flying Clouds.

Cedar Baptist hosts association meeting



Norma Sam, above left; Shirley Cusher, right, and Brenda James, below left, are among the many women who worked tirelessly to provide meals for everyone who attended the meeting.



Cedar Baptist Church, located north of Red Oak in the small community of Cedar, hosted its Association Meeting April 5-6.

The Choctaw/Chickasaw Association was formed in 1892 with 16 Baptist churches – Cedar Baptist; Rock Creek, south of Red Oak; Boiling Spring, at Wilburton; New Hope, Keota; Bethel, near Stigler; Green Hill, Talihina; First Indian, McAlester; Double Spring, Arpelar; Macedonia, at Bentley; Grace, at Calera; Myrtlewood, Broken Bow; Sardis, south of Hartshorne; Faith, at Antlers; Sandy Creek, Rufe; Concord, at Ardmore; and Durwood, at Dickson.

What started as a Singing Sunday School Convention and meeting continues today as the

Association holds a two-day meeting every quarter, each church taking its turn as host.

While church services, studying and singing filled the white frame church building, members pitched in to provide meals. Pork sizzled in the cool

spring air while the aroma of homemade food poured from the door of the camp house.

This little Choctaw church is big on the true meaning of worship and fellowship, continuing to strengthen each other and all they meet.



Choctaw Councilman Joe Coley stirs a pot of frying pork as Arthur Mackey looks on.



The first church at Cedar was built around 1852. The church, a century later, is pictured in the background of the photo of Joanna Henry at left. This photo is framed and hanging in the “camp house” near the present-day church where they enjoy fellowship. Six-year-old twins Ethan and Anna Kenieutubbe of McAlester and William Thomas of Dickson, above, are pictured in front of present-day Cedar Baptist Church during the Association Meeting in April.



Merle Sam and Morris Sam add more pork to the pot.



The “Aging Out Loud” Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Chief Greg Pyle by representatives of the Oklahoma Conference on Aging. Presenters included Wes Bowman, Kim Rose and Cathy Gooding. Bowman remarked that, “Chief Pyle is among those who do something for others, not just because they can, but because they want to.”



A special presentation was made by Chief Pyle and Oneida Winship to Laura Delisantos. They gave her a beautiful red shawl which was made for her by Pat Blagg.



Betty Dixon.



Judith Perry.



Accepting the plaque for third place name tag is Councilman Anthony Dillard who is pictured with the group from District 8, above, who created the unique design. Taking first was District 10 and second place was District 3 Smithville.

In photo at right, Lillian Leflore accepts the third place singing contest award for Broken Bow and Virginia Jefferson accepts the second place singing contest award for Bethel.



The Parade of Hats begins as the ladies and gentlemen show off their creations for the annual hat contest during this year’s Senior Citizens Day, May 28. Close to 600 seniors gathered in Durant for the event, held in conjunction with May being named Older American Month.

Senior Day

Working Together for Stronger, Healthier and Supportive Communities



Councilman Hap Ward congratulates hat contest winners Walter Davis, third place, and Doris Holley, first place, both of Idabel, and Barbara McKee of Hugo, second place. Doris’ top-winner is a “Good Health” hat.



It’s time for a health check! Blood pressure and blood sugar could be checked for anyone who wished to have it done. Literature was also available on a wide array of health issues. Senior citizens today are paying closer attention to their health. A group from Idabel, below, demonstrated the exercises that they do on a routine basis at their Community Center. Also at the event, the Wellness Center showed a great way to get moving with some line dance steps and KEDDO reps presented an example of their exercise classes.



Councilman Kenny Bryant is pictured with top-place singing contest winners from Smithville.



Broken Bow singers take third place in the singing contest.



Howard and Billie Bryant.

Winship continued from Page 1

Indian Council on Aging. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Society for American Indian Elderly, is a member and past chairman of the Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging and serves as consultant for the Kauffman Associate Inc. and as consultant with ACKCO Inc. On the tribal level she serves on the Healthy Lifestyles Task Force and Victim Advocate Advisory Task Force.

Oneida lists two events among her most rewarding experiences.

“Oklahoma hosted two successful national conferences – the National Association of Area Agency on Aging and then the 30th Anniversary of the National Council on Ag-

ing, both in Tulsa,” she said.

“Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, joining in efforts with the Oklahoma Aging network on both occasions, has unified the organizations to work as one, extending our Oklahoma hospitality and that rich Oklahoma Indian culture to our visiting conference participants.”

Oneida speaks fluent Choctaw and also teaches classes on traditional Choctaw dress-making. When the President of Ireland visited the Choctaw Nation in 1995, she was presented with a traditional red and white Choctaw dress that Oneida had made especially for her. She is also a member of the Durant Fellowship Indian Methodist Church.

Oneida, or Ruthie, as she is affectionately known to many, is a small lady with a huge heart. Not only does she see to the well-being of our Choctaw elders and pitch in with summer youth camps provided by the tribe, she has opened her home to four of her friend’s children. After the passing away in 2003 of a friend and co-worker she had known for many years, she has been the full-time parent/guardian to two young women and two young men.

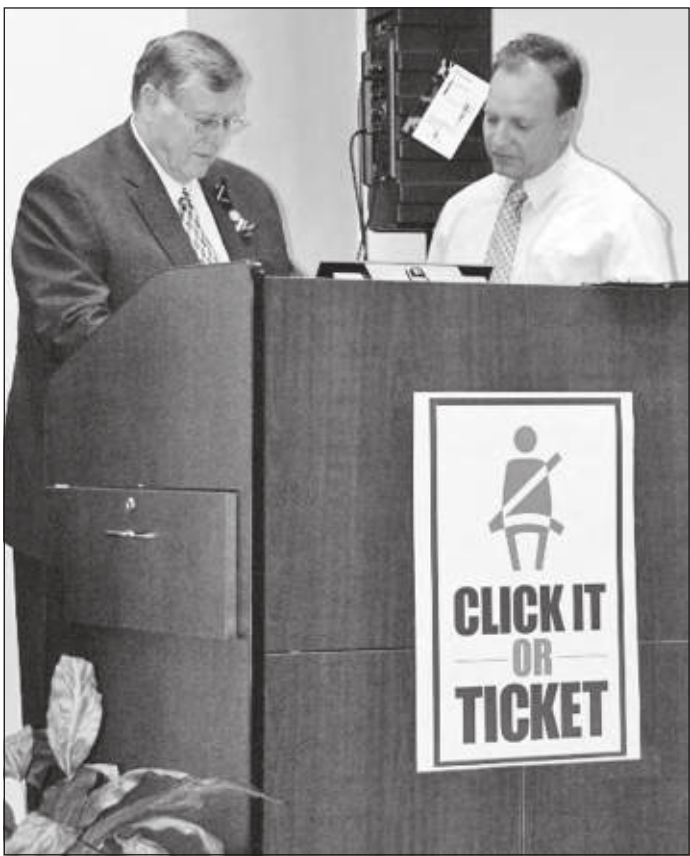
Echoing the sentiments of the Administration on Aging staff, “We thank you, Oneida, for your compassion, smiles, enthusiasm for life, and especially for sharing it with those around you.”



James Melton



Bethel wins second place in the singing contest.



‘Click it or Ticket’ campaign kicks off

On May 15, the Southeastern Oklahoma Traffic Safety Coalition (SOTSC) and Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program combined forces to kick off a Click It or Ticket campaign.

Durant’s City Manager Jim Dunegan and Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton signed a proclamation during a press conference at the Hugo Kiamichi Technology Center.

City Manager Jim Dunegan states, “It is important for leaders to step up and support our law enforcement, which I feel Choctaw Nation does.”

Assistant Chief Batton says, “It is all about saving lives.”

Following the event, a traffic stop was set up in Hugo to check for seat belt usage.



Governor’s Safe School Summit

Members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board spoke on self-esteem May 12 at the Governor’s Safe School Summit in McAlester. YAB who presented were Preston Wells, Vikki Rankin and Heather Carroll. The Youth Summit was for coalition members, community partners, educators, administrators and sixth through 12th grade students. Opening session featured nationally known motivational speaker and magician Brad Barton. The YAB did an excellent job of speaking about self-esteem.



Jeremiah Ward descendants hold reunion

Over 26 descendants of Jeremiah Ward and their families met May 10 at the Spiro Choctaw Senior Citizens Center for a family reunion. This was the first get-together for the group, but the organizers said that it will not be the last.

It was so successful that the planners want to have it each year in hopes of expanding and reaching out to other descendants of Jeremiah Ward. A renewal of old friendships, starting new ones and exchanging photographs, both old and new, were highlights of the reunion.

Everyone attending enjoyed the get-together and had a good time.

Jeremiah Ward was one of the first settlers of the Skullyville, Indian Territory, area and

his family was very prominent in the settling of this area. He was married to Eliza Leflore, a Choctaw and the daughter of Ward LeFlore and Acheyoki Pickens.

Jeremiah’s son, Jefferson Davis Ward, was the first elected mayor of the town of Spiro. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, a judge of the Choctaw Courts, and held many prominent positions and helped mold the government of Spiro.

The reunion was organized by John Fletcher Casey and Anna Denny. If anyone has any questions regarding this event you may contact John Casey at 918-962-2316 or write to John Casey, 18903 Casey Lane, Spiro, OK 74959.

Attending this reunion

were Essie Casey Carter, Laura Brogan Rodgers, John Fletcher Casey, Garlena Standridge Vickers, Johnnie Giampetro Bourne, Sue Collins, Geneva Neal, Jan Riggs, Anna Standridge Denny, Loretta Brogan Thames, Bettie Standridge Reynolds, Zachary Arnold, Traci Arnold, Sue Conrad, Kenneth Conrad, Mike Vickers, Paul Collins, Francille Collins, Candice Collins, Terry Riggs, Bob Denny, Wally Thames, Mel Reynolds, Chad Arnold, Tom Pat Swafford, Bob and Vicki Bennett, Carey Strong, Kayla Grubbs, Cliff Strong and Charlene Strong.

Some of the descendants came from as far away as Scottsdale, Arizona, to attend this first-time event.

District 4 crowns princesses

The District 4 Princess Pageant was held May 10 at the Poteau Choctaw Center.

Brianna Battiest of Poteau, the daughter of Michael and Christina Battiest, won the Little Miss Princess division. She was judged on her beauty, personality and traditional Choctaw dress. She was awarded a feather, sash, roses and \$50 from Councilman Delton Cox.

Callie Curnutt, the daughter of Bruce and Francine Curnutt, won the Junior Princess division. Callie attends school at Wister. She was judged upon her beauty and personality, traditional talent, goals as a princess and traditional dress. Callie’s talent was performing the Lord’s Prayer in sign language. She was awarded a Choctaw beaded crown, sash, roses, \$75 from Councilman Cox, and \$250 from the Choctaw Nation.

These girls will be competing for Choctaw Little Miss Princess and Junior Princess as the Princess Pageant kicks off the Labor Day Festival in Tuskahoma this fall.



Delton Cox, Councilman for District 4, is pictured with Miss Dakota Battice, outgoing Little Miss Princess 2007-08; Brianna Battiest, Little Miss Princess 2008-09 and Callie Curnutt, Junior Miss 2008-09.

Welcome home, Liz!

Liz Merritt-Tyburski just returned from a 4-month tour in Abdulah Al Mubarak Air Base, Kuwait, for the Force Protection Security Augmentee. Her tour started February 10. She is stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Liz is the daughter of Sandy Hampton and Ronnie Hampton. Grandparents are Dorothy Southerland and Gene and Brenda Hampton, all of Durant.

Liz is big sister to Brittany and Hailee Hampton. Welcome home, Liz!



SN Cody T. Reynolds

SN Cody T. Reynolds is a 2008 graduate of Great Lakes, Illinois, Naval Base. Cody is the son of Kent Reynolds of Oklahoma City and Michelle Reid of Roswell, New Mexico. He is the grandson of Norma and Sonny Prince of Pon-totoc and Doyle and Ann Reynolds of Ardmore.

Cody graduated March 28 from basic training Naval Base at Great Lakes. He will be stationed at Great Lakes until June and then be transferred to Florida for diving school to become a U.S. Navy rescue diver.

Smith completes basic training

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Addison J. Smith has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks in training, Smith studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Smith is now going through advanced technical school at Shepard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas.

She is the daughter of Chire Archey of Shady Point and Ed-die Smith of Cameron. She is the granddaughter of Edward and Doralene Smith of McAlester and the great-niece of Christine Higgins of Indianola.



Choctaw serves country

Spc Kevin Allensworth is serving with Oklahoma National Guard 45th Artillery Company C.

He is the son of Bessie Allensworth and brother to Chance Allensworth, both of Rufe, Oklahoma.



Garrard Best Play Contest announced

The Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee, Oklahoma, announces the Garrard Best Play Contest. The contest is open to all playwrights with five tribe’s heritage. Plays must reflect the culture, heritage or traditions of one of the Five Civilized Tribes.

No entry fee is required for this event and the deadline for entries is July 31. All entrants must send four copies of their play along with proof of heritage and a biography to the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, 1101 Honor Heights Drive, Muskogee, OK 74401. Plays must not have been previously produced and the copies of the plays will not be returned to the playwright.

The winner will read excerpts from their play in Muskogee on October 19. This year’s winner will be awarded \$5,000 for their play. In the event no manuscript submitted meets juror standards, the prize becomes cumulative.

The Garrard Best Play Competition is endowed in perpetuity, offered in even years, by the Mr. and Mrs. Tom Garrard Estate. It is hoped that the competition will encourage the gifted to give form to their yearning to write and bring to the art and craft of play-writing the dimension of the Seminole, Muscogee Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee.

For more information on this and other events, please contact the Five Civilized Tribes Museum at 981-683-1701 or toll-free 877-587-4237. E-mail 5civilizedtribes@sbcglobal.net.

Congratulations to Rattan athletes

Seniors Glen Davidson, Kyle Billy and Tiffany Clay were selected to play in the Native American All-Star Classic which was held in Tulsa. Coach Michael Clay of Fort Towson was selected to coach the South boys’ team which Kyle Billy and Glen Davidson were on. Tiffany Clay played on the South girls’ team. Also, Kyle and Tiffany were selected as the MVPs of the MC-6 Conference this season and both were named to the All-State teams to be played in July at



Oklahoma City. They plan to attend college after graduation. The community of Rattan would like to wish these kids

best of luck in the future. It has been fun watching these kids play basketball, baseball and softball these last four years.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Lee Baker Jr.

Joseph Lee Baker Jr., 23, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and formerly of Sherman, Texas, passed away April 13, 2008, at Coalgate. He was born May 7, 1984, at Sherman, Texas, to Joseph Lee Baker Sr. and Funnanda Joye Betsey Baker.

Joseph attended school at S&S at Southmayd near Sherman. He was a supervisor at OK Industries Inc. He was a member of Harvest Time Church in Sherman.

He was preceded in death by his mother and aunts, Linda Henderson and Janie Hamilton.

Survivors include a son, Dakota Baker of Muskogee; brother, Jimmy Lee Baker of Atoka; sister, Jolee Baker Battice of Durant; his father of Huntsville, Texas; niece, Candis Battice of Durant; nephews, Cameron Battice of Durant and Dairyn Chavez of Durant; companion, Theresa Urias of Fort Smith; grandparents, Annie Betsey of Durant and Adam Betsey of McAlester; uncles, Danny Betsey of Granby, Missouri, Enos Betsey of Durant and Kennard Betsey of Atoka; aunts, Gloria Loftin of Atoka, Darlene Connell of Seneca, Diane Taylor of Seneca, Tina Betsey of Coalgate, Pam Betsey of Atoka, and Donna Edwards of Tulsa; grandmother, Betty Smith of Sherman; and numerous other relatives and many dear and loved friends.

Joyce Ann Folsom Campbell

Joyce Ann Folsom Campbell, 75, of Cumberland passed away April 19, 2008, at her home in Cumberland. She was born March 17, 1933, in Madill to Leonidas E. Folsom and Mae Buchanan Folsom. Joyce was raised in Madill where she graduated Madill High School in 1951. She married Glen Edward Campbell on July 31, 1954, in Madill.



Later she lived in Ardmore and Norman and she lived in California from 1960 to 1974. Joyce lived in Denver for 26 years before moving to Cumberland where she lived the past four years. She enjoyed family, sewing, quilting and loved to read.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Robert Scott Campbell; a brother, Lee Folsom; two sisters, Mildred Flemming and Fay Damron.

Survivors include her husband of the home; a son, Bill Campbell of Bakersfield, California; daughters, Kathy Henderson of Pleasant Grove, Utah, Kim Stolley of Greenwood Village, Colorado, Karen Owens and Jenny Brewer, both of Englewood, Colorado; sisters, Bonnie Stowers of Mead and Evelyn Griffin of New Braunfels, Texas; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Bonny Lee Wooley

Bonny Lee Wooley, 46, of McAlester passed away April 10, 2008, in McAlester. She was born January 30, 1962, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Robert Samuel and Loretta Jefferson Wooley.

Bonny graduated from McAlester High School in 1980. She worked as a telephone operator for Southwestern Bell and also as a beautician. Bonny was a member of the Baptist faith.



She was preceded in death by her father and two brothers, Sam Wooley and Roger Lynn Stone.

Survivors include her mother; a son, Jayson Knight; daughter, Bretton Webb; and granddaughter, Jaya Rose Knight, all of McAlester; sisters, Iris Hallbert and husband Chuck of McAlester and Carol Siebole and husband Joe of Wichita Falls, Texas; aunts and uncles, Otis Jefferson, Tommy Jefferson, Ulis and Lela Jefferson, Cleo and Clara Jefferson, Ruth Jackson and Jay Whintsworth, Alice and Keith Hays, Jack and Sophia Wooley, Cassel and Billie Lawrence; numerous nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

Edward Donald Murphy

Edward Donald Murphy, 56, of Gore passed away April 28, 2008, at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born June 27, 1951, in Redfork, Oklahoma, the son of Emmanuel Don Murphy Sr. and Louise Jane Rotthammer Murphy.

Edward married Wanda Marie Fann Murphy on February 17, 1995, in Miami, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife of the home; a daughter, Michelle Dawn Murphy; two grandchildren, Travis and Michelle; two brothers, Ralph Rotthammer of Turley, Oklahoma, and William Nygro of Gore; several other nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

Jimmie Hunter

Jimmie Hunter, 69, of Hugo passed away April 27, 2008, at Choctaw Memorial Hospital, Hugo. He was born February 8, 1939, in Idabel, the son of Charles Edward "Buck" Hunter and Pauline Rogers Hunter. He had lived all of his life in Hugo.

He married Barbara O'Neal on June 14, 1958, in Hugo.

Jimmie enjoyed playing golf, cooking beans for his family, and he liked to fish and play dominoes. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Military serving in the Army for three years and the Navy for two years during the Vietnam War. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion, the DAV and VFW. He served as DAV Commander and Finance Officer for the American Legion and was a Veterans Service Officer for over 40 years. He enjoyed working with other veterans to help them with their different needs.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Eric Hunter; and two brothers, John Hunter and Charles Edward Hunter Jr.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Hunter; a son, Ricky Hunter and wife Jan of Hugo; four daughters, Karen Wyrick and husband David of Hugo, Kathy Berryman and husband James of Ardmore, Christye Seymore and husband Allen of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and Cindy Porter and husband Tony of Broken Arrow; two sisters, Pat Thompson and Judy Campbell, both of Hugo; five brothers, Doyle Hunter, David Hunter and Jerry Hunter of Hugo, Bill Hunter of Stringtown and Howard Hunter of Garland, Texas; 11 grandchildren, Jenny Speer, Jacob Hunter, Jimmie Wyrick, Hollie Whitbeck, Dana Webster, Brian Campbell, Courtney Regan, Britney Shoemake, Andy Shoemake, Chris Porter and Hunter Porter; three great-grandchildren, Ma-leah Webster, Hannah Webster and Easton Wyrick, along with many other relatives and friends.

Keta LaVonne Garcia

Keta LaVonne Garcia, 42, of Purcell passed away April 17, 2008, at her home. Keta was born May 9, 1965, in Purcell, the only child born to Billy Junior Kennedy and Sue LaDon McCann Kennedy.

Keta moved around as an Air Force brat during her early childhood. After high school, she worked as a cook and manager for the Libby's Restaurant in Goldsby. She cherished her family, especially parents. She was a caring and devoted friend, known by those who loved her as "Pee Wee." She enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, camping, four-wheeling and mudding with friends. She was a wonderful daughter, granddaughter, niece and friend to all.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Parks Kennedy and Dixon and Ola Jane McCann; two aunts, Irene Hantsche and Bobbye Mullins; and an uncle, Donnie McCann.

Survivors include her parents of Purcell; grandmother, Berniece Gilbert and husband Jim of Lexington; aunts and uncles, Fredia Donathan and husband Wade of El Paso, Texas, Carolin Kennedy of Purcell, Charles Kennedy and wife Carolyn of Purcell, Bob Kennedy of Gold River, Oregon, Peggy Gilley and husband Ronald of Purcell, and Corky Mullins of Memphis, Tennessee; fiancé, Charles Anthony Cornett of Purcell; best friends, Torri and Wayne Frederick of Purcell; and many cousins and a host of friends.



Dewey Lee Johnico

Dewey Lee Johnico, 83, of Talihina passed away April 19, 2008, at Talihina Manor Nursing Home. He was born January 16, 1925, in Talihina to Grant Johnico and Isabell Bohanon Johnico.

Mr. Johnico had worked as a laborer.

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

Survivors include his wife, Alma of Talihina; daughters, Michele Johnico of Talihina and Betty and Joe Ward of Durant; stepson, Sammy Polk of Alaska; brother, Franch and Nora Johnico of Talihina; eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Frances Louise Smith Downs

Frances Louise Smith Downs, 93, of Crowell, Texas, passed away April 20, 2008, at the Wilbarger General Hospital in Vernon, Texas. She was born on January 4, 1915, to the late Joel Hinton Smith and Dora Mae Moss Smith in Lebanon, Oklahoma. Her mother was an original enrollee and Louise was the oldest of 14 children.



Mrs. Downs was raised in Lebanon where she attended the Lebanon schools and the Choctaw Nation Wheelock Girls Academy at Millerton. She married Alva David "Jack" Downs on October 5, 1933, in Madill and to this union were born three children. He preceded her in death on September 19, 1982.

She and Jack ran businesses in Greer County, Oklahoma, and Qunah, Texas, until 1955 when they moved to Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Downs worked for Loma Industries for 25 years, retiring in 1981. Following retirement she did home health care and designed and made her own line of creations for craft shows in the Fort Worth area until 2001 when she moved to Crowell. She was a longtime member of the Rendon, Texas, Church of Christ and a current member of the Crowell Church of Christ. Mrs. Downs was voted "Rendon Citizen of the Year" in 1995 and given a commendation award dinner for her services to the community.

She was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, Vernon Joel, Barney Folsom, Victor Dick, Maurice June and Charles Clinton Smith; two sisters, Dixie Mae Smith and Adley Imogene Key; and her son-in-law, J.P. Mitchell.

Survivors include her daughters, Alva Joy Mitchell of Walters and Anna Ruth Whitley and husband Ace of Crowell, Texas; son, Joel David Downs and wife Joanne, Hurst, Texas; sisters, Kitty Pitson of Lebanon, Marge Farris of Marlow, Flo Stewart of Lebanon, Rebecca Dunston of Dallas and Delnia Crum of Canton; brother, George Smith of Iowa Park, Texas; grandchildren, Jay Mitchell, Karen Mitchell McCoy, Jack Whitley, Don Mitchell, Paul Whitley, Joel H. Downs, Aaron Downs and Tiffni Whitley Herrera; 11 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Velma Joyce Oakes

Velma Joyce Oakes, 80, of Yuba passed away April 16, 2008. She was born January 23, 1928, in Lockney, Texas, to Truman Cecil and Mable Eunice Anderson Love.



Velma married Gilbert E. Oakes, the son of original enrollee W.N. Oakes of Hugo, on July 7, 1945, and they began their family. She retired from MEPCO Electra in Mineral Wells, Texas, where she had worked for 30 years as a Quality Control Inspector. She moved to Bryan County in 1998 from Poolville, Texas. Velma enjoyed her family, friends, traveling, gardening, sewing, and making quilts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one brother, two sisters and one grandson.

Survivors include her son, Gilbert E. Oakes Jr. and wife Linda of Rosser, Texas; daughters Joyce Poole and husband Robert of Yuba and Lois Cumming and husband Neville of San Jose, California; one grandson, Russell Poole of Yuba; one sister, Mrs. Francis Tedford and husband Dean of Fort Stockton, Texas; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Marceline Brock

Marceline Brock passed away April 16, 2008. She was born April 18, 1929, in Mullin, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her father, Clifton Rex Brock, and her mother, Eunice Estelle Hurst-Brock-Cloud.

She is survived by Rexine Brock-Brewer and her husband, Charles; their children, along with a son, daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be missed.



Linda DeLeon

Linda DeLeon, 58, of Tishomingo passed away April 4, 2008, in Tishomingo. She was born July 13, 1949, in DeQueen, Arkansas, the daughter of the late Henry Frank Samis and Mary Jane Wilson Samis.

A homemaker and a member of the First Indian Baptist Church, she lived in various parts of the country before moving to Tishomingo in 1980.

She married Albert DeLeon on August 25, 1967. He preceded her in death on April 16, 1983.

She was also preceded in death by two sisters, Bobbie and Kathy Samis.

Survivors include five daughters, Shelia DeLeon, Peggy Pitman and Donna Ghaemmaghami, all of Tishomingo, Susan DeLeon of Pauls Valley and Debbie DeLeon of Sapulpa; two sons, Albert DeLeon of Pauls Valley and Waylon DeLeon of Tishomingo; five sisters, Dorothy Morris of Elgin, Rose Samis and Betty Southerland, both of Tishomingo, and Raynell Serna and Paula Samis, both of Ada; four brothers, Roy Samis of Choctaw, Buddy Samis and Edward Samis, both of Sherman, Texas, and Dewey Samis of Tishomingo; nine grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Victor Morton Porter

Victor Morton Porter, 89, of Lawton passed away February 21, 2008, in Lawton. He was born January 16, 1919, in Hennepin, Oklahoma, to Thornton and Nancy Sam Porter. He grew up in Eastern Oklahoma and joined the military in 1941. Following retirement, Victor lived the remainder of his life in Lawton.



Victor enjoyed sharing vivid stories of his youth at Jones Academy, where he was an acclaimed athlete in boxing, basketball and track. He set the state record in the One Mile in McAlester. In addition to his school days, Victor played football and won a Golden Glove as a boxer during his 30-year career in the Army. His memoirs of the Battle of the Bulge and many other recollections of the war will forever be passed down. Victor enjoyed all sports, especially the Sooners or any team his grandchildren played for. He enjoyed reading, reminiscing and laughing. He will be remembered as a hero by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Josephine Smith; two brothers, Walter and Eli Porter; a daughter, Linda Dodd; and a grandson, Tal Allen.

Survivors incude his wife of 65 years, Ruth Porter, of the home; three daughters and sons-in-law, Vicky and Troy Allen of Richmond, Virginia, Susan and Brock Wilkinson of Cache and Tammy and Rick Rollins of Lawton; his sister and brother-in-law, Edna and William Jimmy of Oklahoma City; eight grandchildren, Blake Allen, Tory Dolecek, Jeremy Dodd, Guy Ambrose, Jennifer Scott, Ragan Rollins, Matthew Gainfort and Adrienne Rollins; 11 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

George Herman Burnett

George Herman Burnett, 61, of McAlester passed away April 1, 2008, at his home. He was born May 2, 1946, in McAlester to D.C. and Ruth Beatrice Ward Burnett.



He served in the National Guard. He worked for many oil companies as a roughneck. He enjoyed fishing and camping and the Wolf Spirit. He was a member of Victory Park Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parent; a brother, Steven Burnett; and an aunt, Ruby Anderson.

Survivors include a son, George Herman Burnett III of Texas; a daughter, Amber Burnett of Texas; other family and friends, including dear friends Billy Wilson, Howard Pope, Dianne Sam, Vincent Baker, Rick Battiest and Rick Schessow.

Jimmie Paul Moon

Jimmie Paul Moon, 72, of Maize, Kansas, passed away April 26, 2008, with his loving wife of 56 years at his side in St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, Kansas. He was born October 11, 1935, in Tuskahoma, the son of Lena Irene Henderson Moon and Paul Eugene Moon. He grew up in Buffalo, Oklahoma.



He married Elvina Ann Stark on February 10, 1935, in Wichita. They had 10 children. The family will remember him as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved the outdoors and was a great fisherman and hunter.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife of the home; sons, Jimmie Moon of Newton, Kansas, Jerry Dale Moon of Maize, Ronald Gene Moon of Wichita, and Kevin Lee Moon of Hillsboro, Kansas; daughters, Sandra Sue Nightingale of Jay, Shelly Ann Sheffler of Catoosa, Sharon Kay Soth of Newton, Kansas, Elvina Unruh of Colcord, Rita Faye Blanton of Wichita and Samantha Jo Leinbach of Newton; brothers, Dennis Moon of Clearwater, Kansas, Jerry Moon of Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma, and Terry Moon of Maize; sister, Nancy Patterson of Wichita, and Hazel Seal of Clearwater and Patricia Collens of Topeka; 25 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Robbie Dee Ladd

Robbie Dee Ladd, 89, of Oklahoma City, formerly of Tupelo, passed away March 21, 2008, at an Oklahoma City hospital. She was born December 6, 1918, at Tupelo to Robert and Elizabeth Ellen Harkins Callaway.

Mrs. Ladd was raised at Tupelo and graduated from Tupelo High School. She was employed at the Oklahoma City Greyhound Bus Station where she was manager of the cafeteria and gift store. She retired in the 1980s.

Her husband, Cecil Ladd, passed away in 1963.

She was also preceded in death by a son, George Ladd; and two sisters, Jewell Davis and Ruby Smith.

Survivors include three sons, Robert Ladd of Odessa, Texas, David Ladd, Oklahoma City, and Larry Ladd and wife Sherrie of Blanchard; a daughter, Elizabeth Capshaw, Oklahoma City; three grandchildren, Emily Capshaw, Wayne Wilson and Gus Capshaw; and a niece, Sharon Corcoran; and many friends and relatives.

OBITUARIES

William Creilly Shofner Jr.

William Creilly Shofner Jr., 85, passed away April 21, 2008. He was born the only child to William Creilly Shofner and Ella Davis Shofner on February 23, 1923, in Sulphur. The family moved to Wayne in 1927.

Shof or W.C., as he was known by friends, attended Wayne schools and graduated in 1941. The day after graduation he headed for Denton, Texas, to work as a wagon drill operator for Public Construction Company.

In 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Force. He qualified as an Aviation Cadet and remained in service until the end of World War II when he was placed on inactive duty. It was during this time he returned home to Wayne and married Elwanda Halbrook of Zion, Arkansas. They began having their family by having two sons, Bill and Keith.

He was placed back on active duty in the U.S. Air Force in 1947 and continued to serve until 1953 when he was honorably discharged with a rank of Captain. Honors received include WWII Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nation Service Medal, Air Medal, American Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. Shof's experience with the Air Force created a love of flying that remained throughout his life.

He returned to Wayne to work the family farm with his father. The family continued to grow adding two daughters, Annette and Sandra, and one son, Mark. He remained active in the community serving on the Wayne School Board and was elected County Commissioner for District I for several terms.

As a father and husband, we saw a man with a strong sense of duty, patriotism and love of family. His strong work ethic was evident as he continued to work the farm as much as possible, never retiring. We're proud he was our dad and we'll miss him.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Elwanda Shofner; three sons, Bill Shofner and his wife, Dorothy, of Tulsa, Keith Shofner and his wife, Linda, of Lawton and Mark and Tonya Shofner of Purcell; two daughters, Annette Burk of Wayne and Sandra Kennedy and her husband, Rudy, of Wayne; 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



JoAnn Long

JoAnn Long, 75, of Hanford passed away May 2, 2008, at her home. She was born in Gerty, Oklahoma, the daughter of William G. Pusley and Mary Coker Pusley. She was a housewife and mother who will be remembered for her loving nature, her family and her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Lahoma Pusley Nickel; and brothers, Bernice, John C. and Lawrence Pusley.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth Long; a daughter, Vickie Alexander; five sons, Tommy and Debbie Long, David Long, Kerwin Long, Galen and Cindy Long and Bruce Long; five grandchildren, Nicole Caetano, Kyle Hastings, Dakota Long, Sara Long and Shawna Oxford; and one great-grandchild, Ethan Caetano.

Johnny Lee Ensey

Johnny Lee Ensey, 53, of Boswell passed away May 12, 2008, in Boswell. He was born August 2, 1954, in Boswell, the son of Emmett Bruce and Minnie Viola Payton Ensey. He had lived in this area all of his life.

Johnny had worked in the commercial construction business. He loved working as a mechanic building race cars.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include one daughter, Chrissy Lanette Ensey of Madisonville, Texas; two brothers, Ronnie Ensey and Kenneth Ensey, both of Boswell; five sisters, Faye King of Soper, Vicky Ensey of Hugo, Patsy Mitchell of Durant, Norma Brown of Guyman and Gail Scheetz of Sydney, Montana; and two grandchildren.

David Wayne Rankin

David Wayne Rankin, 55, of the High Hill Community outside of McAlester passed away February 23, 2008, at the McAlester Regional Health Center, McAlester. Born September 3, 1952, in McAlester, he was the son of Wilson Homer and Wanda Hattie Holt Rankin Sr. He grew up in High Hill and attended school there to the eighth grade, then attended Haileyville High School.

In 1970, he joined the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam for two years before receiving his honorable discharge in 1972. He then returned to High Hill where he had lived virtually all his life, except for a couple of years in Hugo.

Upon his return from Vietnam, he worked for Pittsburg County for a couple of years. He then went to work for Western Farmers Electric Coop in Hugo for a number of years until he became disabled.

He married Julie RaNell Stewart on March 17, 1973, in Oklahoma City. He was of the Baptist faith.

He was preceded in death by his father; a sister, Patsy Evelyn Jones; a brother, Wilson Homer Rankin Jr.; and nephews, Eddie and Steven Jones.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Michael Wayne and LaTasha Rankin of High Hill and David Allen Rankin of the home; one daughter, Patricia DaNell Lance of McAlester; his mother of Hartshorne; two grandsons, Alexander Jude Rankin of Hartshorne and Nicholas Aaron Lance of McAlester; and many nieces and nephews.

Joe Allen Smith

Joe Allen Smith passed away April 13 at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born December 5, 1942, at Holdenville to Alcidean Choate and Bonds Allen Smith. His grandfather was original enrollee William Dave "Bill" Choate and Bell Dora Towery Choate.

Joe was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy and after serving two separate terms, he received a citation for professional achievement and superior performance of his duties while serving as nuclear pipe coverer on board USS Dixon (AS37).

Joe participated in rodeos and trained horses as a younger man and still loved horses and the cowboy way of life.

He was preceded in death by both parents.

Survivors include a very special friend and caregiver, Debbie Evans, of Fort Smith; a daughter, Dusty Jo Smith, and granddaughter, Natasha Samples, both of Oregon; a sister, Billie Dead Self, and her husband, James Hershel Self, of Bowlegs, Oklahoma; a brother, Palmer Leon Smith, and his wife, Judy Smith, of Prague, Oklahoma; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Robert Lee Gibbs

Robert Lee Gibbs, 68, of Maypearl, Texas, passed away January 5, 2008, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born January 4, 1940, in Glover to Ollie and Louise Gibbs.

During the Vietnam War, he served in the Armed Forces from 1965-1968 in Germany. During that time, he received a Letter of Appreciation from the Army's 205th Transportation Battalion commending him on his highly instrumental part in recovering a crash-damaged CH-34 helicopter from Wendelstein Mountain near Bad Toelz, Germany, during September 1968.

He married his wife, Ulrike, in Geislingen, Germany, in 1969.

Robert was also a great believer in education and served on the Maypearl ISD School Board of Trustees from 1993 to 1996. He loved all sports, but his favorite was basketball and he made it a point to attend all the games (the referees always hated to see him in the stands).

He loved gardening, fishing, horses, traveling, music and dancing. But most of all he loved spending time with his grandchildren. He was proud of his Choctaw heritage and attended all their festivals in Oklahoma whenever possible.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ollie and Louise Gibbs; two brothers, Ollie Gibbs and Perry Gibbs; two sisters, Caroline Ruth Gibbs and Elva June Gibbs.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years; two sons, Michael Gibbs and wife Jennifer of Midlothian, Timothy Joyce of Talladega, Alabama; two daughters, Alexa Gibbs of Maypearl, Darla Hurst of Lincoln, Alabama; two brothers, James Gibbs of Valliant and Carl Gibbs of Glover; two sisters, Angie Thompson of Kilgore, Texas, and Lavetta Morgan of Broken Bow; four grandchildren, Landon, Allyson, Cole and Blake; several nieces and nephews and many, many friends.



Antlers Head Start students tee off at golf course



The students at the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Antlers recently took a field trip to the Antlers Springs Golf Course. This climaxes their yearlong study of golf. "Count on Golf," "The ABC's of Golf," and "Consider it Golf" are books that Mrs. Susan Greene donated to every child in the program. The books are valued at \$14.95 each. Mrs. Greene travels with the PGA. Mrs. Robyn Benson brought her golf cart to school for the children to drive. Clubs, putters and balls were donated so that every child had their own equipment. Butch and Denise Morris also hosted the children, putting their skills and knowledge to the test. Everyone enjoyed the day at the golf course and we may see some of these golfers on tour one day.



Arts and crafts class held at Durant Center

John Smith of Alaska visited Durant's Community Center May 21, giving an arts and crafts demonstration to the senior citizens. John is the son of Mary Elizabeth Dunn Smith, grandson of Susie McCoy Dunn, and great-great-grandson of Vina McCoy Thompson Ellington. He is also the nephew of Juanita Estes. If anyone has any family information and would like to visit with John, please call 907-345-6587.

Antlers Valentine King and Queen

Congratulations to John and Dovie Underwood who were crowned Valentine King and Queen at the Antlers Center.

The Underwoods raised the most money for their senior citizen fundraiser.



Football players honor elders

After being announced, Flora Krummen, her son and her two grandsons walked to the center of the field at a varsity homecoming game. Her two grandsons play junior varsity and varsity football at Alhambra High School in Martinez, California.





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2008 Trail of Tears Walk held at Wheelock Academy



Chief Pyle is pulling Aec’lee Fraklin in her wagon as Karen Logan walks with them.



Tre and Macy Moore have fun by the Wheelock Lake. They attended the walk with their mother, De Moore, and grandmother, Sharon McGee.



Ashayla Williams and Kendon Hutchinson find a tree made for climbing while waiting for the Trail of Tears Walk to begin at Millerton Park.



Chief Pyle has a picture taken with a group from Wright City – Baylie May, Ashlyn Hess, Emillie Hess, Kayla Myers and Montana Helms.



These three sisters, pictured with Chief Pyle, came home to Oklahoma to participate in the Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk. Kasey Jernigan has a Master’s in Public Health from OU and now works at Harvard. Meghan Jernigan has a Master’s in Public Health from Columbia and Valerie Jernigan has a PhD in Public Health from Berkley. Their dad, Don, lives in Tulsa.



Henry Battiest, Bertram Bobb and Luke Battiest.



David Samuel, Abigail Smith, Tara Hunter, David Samuel Sr. and Toni Smith took their lunch and ate by the lake.



Walkers pass the old Rock Church.

Eschkunolubbee’s story

By Stella Long

There was once a settlement of Choctaw people living at a small quiet community in the pristine woods of southern Mississippi. They had little contact with others and knew very little of happenings on the outside. They had no cause to leave their land of paradise. Living there was Eschkunolubbee, a tall, good-size fellow, a good hunter and a hard worker. One could imagine him as a fierce warrior type, in every sense of the word. A warrior he was, in his own way.

Eschkunolubbee was alick-che, a doctor, with knowledge of herbal medicinal healing and a counselor to his people. To be alone at the river was his special place in restoring his energy for the purpose he was placed on earth.

One evening, Eschkunolubbee went to the river and didn’t return. After three days, Elias, his close friend, became concerned. He never stayed away for not more than two days. Elias called his dog and started up the river path to search for his friend when he saw Eschkunolubbee coming slowly down the trail. He appeared to be carrying an unseen object so heavy that his shoulders slumped. As Elias came closer, he noticed his friend wasn’t carrying anything. Instead, his hands appeared to be crossed over his heart.

Elias, called out, “Eschkunolubbee, I got worried ‘bout you and I come to check on you.” Eschkunolubbee answered, “I have bad news. I must call a meeting tonight.”

That evening, Elias called the people and they gathered inside the old Council House to hear what Eschkunolubbee had to say.

“My children, I stand before you with great sorrow with a message I’ve just received from the good spirit world. There will come a time when darkness shall spread throughout the land for the Choctaw. We will be forced to leave our homeland to travel to another land far away to the west. There will be much grief, suffering, and sorrow during this time. But when you walk this path of darkness, go forward with courage to face whatever happens. Birds sing after a storm has blown away their nest. You should do the same. Go as peacemakers and speak your truth quietly and clearly. Most important, listen to others, they too have a story. I don’t know when the darkness will come. I can only say, be prepared.

“On this journey, a spirit guide shall walk with you. The story of our lives of the past and

the present should always be told to the children from this day forth. To know the past is to know who we are and where we have come from. It is to know our ancestors.” Finished with these words, Eschkunolubbee walked out with nothing left in his heart.

In 1831, many years after the death of Eschkunolubbee, when the people had almost forgotten his prediction, his words came to pass. Darkness began to spread over the land of the Choctaw when strangers came to tell them they must leave their home and to leave their livestock behind. They took what they could carry and, of course, it was the little children. They walked to the point of exhaustion and rested for the night. They did not have the proper clothing for the cold, nor did they have enough food to eat, but they kept walking day after day with their heads held high, looking straight ahead.

The owls gathered and warned the people of their destiny in their most unusual way when something terrible is about to happen. The elder and the very young began to die along the way. On a dark and moonless night while the people were resting their weary bones, a withered old man cried out into the night.

“I have walked my last mile! Into the night, I have watered my eyes with tears that never stop. The strength in me is gone. All my bones are out of joint. I have walked for miles with arrows struck deep into my heart. My face now touches the dust of death.”

Just before dawn, it all ended for this old man. He died while still clutching the lifeless body of little Sarah, a 4-year-old, his granddaughter.

More victims of the trail of death followed. When it came to the point they thought they’d never reach their destination. They stood on the bank of the Mountain Fork River, where nearby would be their new home of Eagletown, Okla Homma, in Indian Territory.

The late afternoon sunlight shimmered across the clear water of the river, while the people crossed. Many fishes surfaced while fat turtles along the riverbank stretched out their necks to watch the people.

The Choctaws reached the other side of the river and they stood in awe of the pure beauty of the wilderness. The tall black pine trees whispered their welcome while the leaves of the old spreading cottonwood trees clapped like little green hands as if they’d been expecting the people.

The four-legged people of



Assistant Chief Gary Batton greets everyone, welcoming them to Wheelock Academy. Batton informs the audience of the tremendous growth within the Choctaw Nation, which is “growing with pride, hope and success.”



Jo Begay and Cathy LaVallee visit the museum in LeFlore Hall. Jo’s mother and grandmother were students at Wheelock.



The Broken Bow Youth Dancers presented several Choctaw Social Dances for the enjoyment of onlookers.

the forest peeped from behind the bushes while the curious feathered ones quietly looked down as the people gathered firewood and went to the river to fish before the sun went to the other side.

Following a nice meal of fish, an elder of the tribe called them together for a prayer meeting for having survived the difficult journey and added, “It is still a beautiful world. Strive to be happy.”

When the sun was about to go behind the thick forest foliage, making its final curtain call for the day, they sang the haunting Choctaw death song, Uba Ish Taloa 112. It is a song of mourning for the loss and at the same time, celebration for a new life for those who had been left behind in shallow graves along the trail. A chorus of night insects joined the song of the Choctaw.

Following the song, golden moon lifted itself from behind the mountain and there stood a gray wolf atop a distant ridge. The wolf lifted his face toward the full moon with a long howl and the song of the wolf echoed between the mountains. The silence was broken when Ruthie, a 9-year-old girl, tugged at her mother’s skirt and with a big smile, whispered to her mother, “Nashoba mut hina ma mentu tu. Ammunopuli tu,” she said excitedly.

“Ruthie, you say the wolf walked with you and talked with you. What did the wolf say to you?”

“He said for us to stay together and help each other as a family. That’s how they survive. He said we are relatives, Momma, what did he mean we are relatives?”



Colton Don Wilson is enjoying the day with his grandpa, Councilman James Frazier.

“Well, baby, we are relatives of all things of nature. Birds and animals tell us things by their sounds and behavior. The wolf is our teacher.”

The people returned to their family camps for a much-needed rest. After they had bedded down, a mysterious fog slowly emerged from the earth and came upon the Choctaw people like a soothing salve mending their bruised bodies. The people understood and responded to this powerful medicine of nature. Their wounded spirits left their bodies to be replaced with a peace that passed understanding.

A soft wind blew in and caressed and lulled the people into a deep and restful sleep. Insects sang in soft muffled voices for the rest of the night. There was absolute quietness among the talkative owl people. The roaring river was silenced to a ripple.

Following a restful night, the Choctaws were up at dawn and anxiously proceeded to building their homes.

The Choctaw people continue even now to have their own government, businesses, health care and educational institutions. They care for their own – like the Wolf.



Williston Wesley waves to fellow walkers.



Ernest Hooser, above, and Rylee Yandell, below.



All ages enjoyed the beautiful day.